

KIRKLEES EARLY YEARS SERVICE

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO CHILDCARE SUPPORT FUNDING IN KIRKLEES

This leaflet tells you about the different types of help which may be available to support you with your childcare costs. There are lots of organisations which can provide assistance. The information given below will signpost you if you need further guidance.

Kirklees Children's Information Service will also be able to give more information about all sorts of childcare services available in your local area. Please call 01484 223041/2 to find out more.

1. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Colleges and universities are developing childcare through the Government's National Childcare Strategy to provide a range of support for those students with children who are in education or training.

Student support for 16 -19 year olds planning to go to/already at sixth form or college.

- **Care to Learn**

Young parents going back to learning can now get more help with childcare. Students under 19 who have children can qualify for £155 per child per week to pay for registered childcare and any necessary travel costs to get them to and from their childcarer. The money will be paid directly to the childcarer for the childcare and to the course provider to fund the travel costs.

Any personal or family benefits that you have been receiving will not be affected. You do not have to be on benefits to claim Care to learn.

Further information from Helpline **0845 600 2809**, Kirklees Children's Information Service 01484 223041/2 cis@kirklees.gov.uk or visit www.dfes.gov.uk/caretolearn

- **Learner Support funds**

These funds are available in colleges and school sixth forms to help towards the costs that you may have when starting or following your course. Childcare and associated transport costs are included and are available at colleges through the Student Support or Welfare Officer or if at sixth form through your year tutor, the Student Awards or Student Support Officer at the Local Education Authority (LEA).

Further information from Helpline **0800 100 900** or visit www.support4learning.org.uk

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- **New Deal for Lone Parents**

The New Deal for Lone Parents scheme is available to lone parents who are on income support, whose youngest child is under 16 and are either not working or are working under 16 hours per week and who want to gain qualifications, training and experience in preparation for work. NDLP will cover the costs of the course and can also pay for registered childcare costs during study/training up to £100 per week for one child and £150 per week for two or more children. Your Personal Advisor at the local Jobcentre Plus will be able to advise on how much you qualify for.

Further information from Helpline 0800 868 868 or visit

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Customers/New_Deal/New_Deal_for_Lone_Parents/index.html

- **Career Development Loan**

If you are over 18 and planning to do a vocational course you can use a CDL to pay for registered childcare. A CDL can range from £800 to £8000 and offers funding for two years or three if the course requires one year off in work training. During the course the government pays the interest on the loan, you have to pay the loan off beginning a month after your course finishes which is when you begin paying interest on the loan. A CDL may affect your benefit entitlement, seek advice from your benefits officer.

Further information from Helpline 0800 585 505 or visit

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/CareerDevelopmentLoans/DG_10033237

- **Child Tax Credit**

This is help for families with children. How much you get depends on your circumstances and your income. It is paid to parents regardless of whether they are working or not. Student loans and grants will not be regarded as income when Child Tax credit is calculated. If you qualify for the maximum amount of CTC you should be entitled to free school meals for your children, unless you receive Working Tax Credit. You may be eligible for help with childcare costs if you work part-time whilst you study (working 16 hours or more per week) through the Working Tax Credit.

Further information from Helpline 0845 300 3900 or visit

www.hmrc.gov.uk/menus/credits.htm

- **Education trusts and charities**

If you are receiving funding but are still finding it difficult to meet childcare or other costs, there are other types of funding that you may be eligible for. Education Trusts and charities can offer limited funding for childcare costs. Speak to the Welfare officer or Student Support at your college to find out what options are available to you.

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They may include:

Elizabeth Nuffield Education fund – offers bursaries, grants and funds to student parents, particularly for childcare costs.

Contact 020 7636 4612 or visit www.nuffield.com

Hardship funds / Bursaries

Some colleges have their own funds to help students facing financial difficulties. These are usually one off payments which you do not have to pay back. They can be used for childcare as well as towards books, travel and equipment.

Trusts and Funds

The college library may stock the Educational Grants Directory, the Grants register or the Charities Digest.

The Education Grants Advisory Service will search through them for you to identify those for which you may be eligible.

Further advice and help from 02072546251 or visit www.egas-online.org/fwa/index.html

- **Local Education Authority (LEA) awards**

You may be eligible for a discretionary award from your local LEA. You can contact Kirklees local authority via Children's Information Service Tel: 01484 223041 or visit the website www.kirklees.gov.uk

Student Support for over 19s planning to do / already doing an FE course either in an FE college, a training institution or an HE institution.

- **Childcare Support Funds**

FE colleges administer CSF for student parents on low income which can help to pay towards the cost of registered childcare and study costs. The fund could either be paid directly to the parent to pay for care they have identified or in the form of a free or subsidised place at a college nursery. This fund can be applied for through the Student or Welfare Officer at your college.

Further advice on helpline 0845 602 2260 or online at

www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/moneytolearn

- **New Deal for Lone Parents**

See above.

- **Access and hardship Funds**

See above

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Student Support for over 18 and planning to do/already doing HE undergraduate course.

- **Childcare Grant Package**

Available to full-time students with children under 16 to pay for registered childcare in the form of a grant, not a loan, so does not need to be paid back. The grant offers up to 85% of childcare costs during term time and short holidays and up to 70% during the long summer holidays with up to £135 for one child and £200 for two or more children per week. The grant will not be considered when calculating income for benefit purposes. You apply through your Local Education Authority.
Call the Dfes Student Information line on 0800 731 9133 for more details.
- **Adults Dependent Grant**

A non-repayable grant for adult members of your family who financially depend on you, (usually your husband, wife or partner). How much you get depends on your income and any income your dependents earn. You apply for this from your LEA.
- **Parents Learning Allowance**

Full time student parents may also be eligible for a Parents' Learning Allowance in addition to the Childcare Grant. It aims to help with course related costs, including childcare and can be worth up to £1300 depending on your circumstances. It is usually paid in three instalments and does not have to be paid back.
For more information contact the Student Support or Welfare officer at your college or university.
- **Child Tax Credit**

See above
- **Help with tuition fees**

In most cases you would qualify for these in full. You apply for this from your LEA.
- **Access to Learning Funds**

This fund offers additional help to students on low income, students with children, especially lone parents, are a priority group for this fund. Unlike other grants or funds it can be used towards family/child related costs or informal childcare. The college will be able to tell you if your course qualifies. Postgraduate students can also apply for help from this fund. You will not have to repay this fund, to get it you should apply to the student college services department.

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- **Student Loan**
This can be applied for as anyone else and should be done through your LEA.
- **Career development Loan**
See above

2. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

If you are employed by the National Health Service then you may be aware that each NHS trust aims to have a childcare co-ordinator who will act as an advisor to parents. Part of their role will be to co-ordinate nursery places for young children and find places for school-age children to meet the needs of NHS staff and their families.



Top tip for parents working for the NHS

Contact your local childcare co-ordinator to discuss your childcare needs.

To find out more contact:

01422 224 794 - Calderdale & South Kirklees Childcare Co-ordinator

01924 212 766 - Dewsbury & North Kirklees Childcare Co-ordinator

www.doh.gov.uk

Student Support for those planning/doing a Health Professional Course (e.g. nursing, dental hygiene, physiotherapy)

- **Bursaries**
These students on courses with the NHS can qualify for a bursary. This includes a maintenance grant to cover childcare costs, day to day living, equipment, books and travel costs. Mature students over 26 who are lone parents or have dependants can qualify for additional funding. None of this funding is repayable.
For more more information call the NHS Student Grants Unit on 01253 655655.
- **NHS Childcare allowance**
This is new, you could be eligible if you:
 - a) are an existing or new NHS Bursary funded student
 - b) have dependant children aged 15 or under, or 17 and under for children with disabilities or special educational needs.
 - c) Use registered or approved childcare.

You may qualify for up to 85% the costs of approved childcare up to a maximum amount. The amount you receive depends on your

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circumstances. For more information call the NHS Student Helpline on 0845 009 3559 or visit www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk

- **Child tax Credit**
See above.
- **Career Development Loan**
See above.

Health care Professional thinking of returning to the NHS?

- **Return to Practice**

The national return to practice initiative for nurses and midwives commenced in 1999. In 2001 the initiative was extended to allied health professionals and healthcare scientists. There are separate schemes for GPs, medical consultants and dentists. Between February 1999 and March 2004 over 18,500 former nurses and midwives had returned to work in the NHS as a result of the initiative.

From 1 April 2004, responsibility for the provision and funding of return to practice programmes was devolved to local NHS organisations. Many NHS employers continue to offer a returner's package which can include:

- refresher training Free
- A minimum of £1,000 financial support whilst retraining [£1,500 for midwives]
- Assistance with childcare support of up to £135 per week for one child and £200 for two or more children
- Assistance with travel and books
- Any former healthcare professionals considering a return to practice should contact either NHS Careers or their local Strategic Health Authority return to practice co-ordinator.

Contact details are available from NHS Careers on 0845 60 60 655 or at

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/nhs/comingback.html (opens new window)

3. KIRKLEES EARLY YEARS SERVICE

Kirklees Early Years Service
The Business Support Team
01484 223030

KIRKLEES EARLY YEARS SERVICE

Local authority funding for free part-time early education places for three and four-year olds

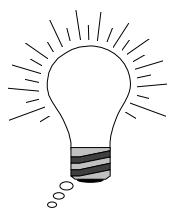
Kirklees Early Years Service provides funding for children from the term after their third birthday until they reach compulsory school age, providing the child is attending an early education place within a Kirklees setting.

The local authority pays Nursery Education Funding to childcare providers which covers a minimum of 38 weeks of the year.

Funding is available at the rate of £8.40p per session. Each child is entitled to a maximum of 5 sessions per week, a session lasting a minimum of 2½ hours. Two sessions may be taken in one day, provided they are separated by a lunch break of at least one hour.

Children can access a place in any category of provider listed below who is included in the LEA's directory to receive funding:

Local authority reception/nursery class
Local authority day nursery
Private day nursery
playgroup/pre-school
Independent school.



Top tip for parents

Contact your Children's Information Service on 01484 223041/2 and ask about free part time early education places in Kirklees.

To find out more contact:

Kirklees Children's Information Service 01484 223041/2
cis@kirklees.gov.uk

Special educational needs

All childcare providers who receive the Nursery Education Grant must have a special needs policy and a special needs co-ordinator. Funding is available to help provide childcare services for children with special needs.

To find out more contact:

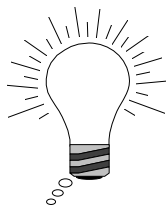
Kirklees Children's Information Service 01484 223041/2
cis@kirklees.gov.uk

4. EMPLOYERS

Kirklees Early Years Service
The Business Support Team
01484 223030

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One in 10 employers help staff in some way with childcare although this is more likely to be childcare information that childcare places or financial support. However, employers are becoming more interested in working with local childcare providers. They may be able to offer employees help through Childcare Vouchers schemes, worth up to £55 per week (£243 per month) and saving the employee tax and NI payments on that amount, or reserving places for staff in a childminder network/holiday playscheme etc or even provide workplace childcare provision themselves in which the parent saves Tax and NI on the whole of the childcare costs not just the first £55 as part of their plan to balance people's work and personal life.



Top tip for parents

As your Personnel Dept or Human Resources Dept at work for any help or advice they can give on childcare support.

To find out more contact:

www.daycaretrust.org.uk (Follow links to Help with childcare costs)

Accor Childcare Vouchers 020 7887 1246

www.ACCORservices.co.uk

5. PARENTS SEEKING WORK

NEW DEAL FOR LONE PARENTS

New Deal is a Government strategy to help get people back into work. One particular strand of the new deal programme is New Deal for Lone Parents. This aims to help lone parents move into work, tackling any barriers which may be making this difficult. It can help with funding by:

- Offering a subsidy, in some cases, to childcare providers who employ someone on the New Deal scheme (up to £60 a week for six months for a person aged between 18 and 24 and up to £75 for a long-term unemployed person aged 25 or over)
- Offering young people the chance to work in the voluntary sector for six months
- Providing free full-time education and training for up to a year (up to £750 towards training a young person aged between 18 and 24)
- Helping with childcare costs for single parents who want to return to work or take up training courses.



Top tip for parents on New Deal Schemes

**Kirklees Early Years Service
The Business Support Team
01484 223030**

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Talk to your Lone Parent Advisor about childcare advice and financial assistance with your childcare costs.

To find out more contact:

The New Deal Lone Parent Advisor on 0800 868 868

7am to 11pm, seven days a week.

www.newdeal.gov.uk

Kirklees Children's Information Service 01484 223041/2

cis@kirklees.gov.uk

6. WORKING PARENTS

WORKING TAX CREDIT AND CHILD TAX CREDIT

Since April 2003 existing tax credits have been replaced by two new tax credits – Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Child Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit is the way families receive money for their children up to 16 years old and for those children from 16 to 18 in full-time non-advanced education. Entitlement is based on the family's income and parents can claim if they are responsible for one or more children. Child Tax Credit will provide support for:

- A child until 1st September following his or her 16th birthday
- A young person aged 16-18 who:
 - Is in full time education
 - Has left full time education but does not have a job or training place and has registered with the Careers Service or Connexions
 - Is not claiming Income Support or tax credits in his/her own right
 - Is not serving a custodial sentence of four months or more imposed by a court.

Working Tax Credit

Working Tax Credit (WTC) is a payment to top up the earnings of working people. There are extra amounts for working households in which someone has a disability. It is available to employees and self-employed people and can include support for the costs of qualifying childcare.

People who are responsible for a child or young person can claim Working Tax Credit if they are aged 16 or over and work at least 16 hours per week.

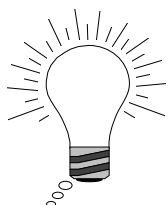
As part of Working Tax Credit, parents may qualify for extra help towards the cost of registered or approved childcare. This is known as the **childcare element** within WTC. Parents must work at least 16 hours per week.

Up to 80% of childcare costs can be paid for each child, up to £175 a week and £300 a week for two or more children. So, the maximum childcare element that can be claimed is either:-

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- £140 a week (£175 x 80%) for one child or
- £240 a week (£300 x 80%) for two or more children.

The final amount the family can receive will depend on the family's income. Payment is made directly into the bank account of the main carer. You can get a claim pack from the Inland Revenue or apply on-line. Alternatively, employers are now paying WTC directly into employees' wages.



Top tip for parents

Go online at www.hmrc.gov.uk/childcare to check your eligibility. If you qualify you will be able to make your claim online immediately.

To find out more contact:

Tax credit helpline 0845 300 3900

Tax credits childcare providers helpline 0845 300 3941

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc5.htm

Kirklees Children's Information Service 01484 223041/2

cis@kirklees.gov.uk

7. OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Learndirect – Information on training and education courses including financial help.
0800 100 900 www.learndirect.co.uk

Student Loans Company Ltd – Financial support for students
0800 405 010 www.slco.uk

Career Development Loans – Financial support for students
0800 585 505 www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/cdl

Scholarship Search UK – Information on other sources of funding for students
01508 480 327 www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Educational Grants Advisory Service (EGAS) – Advice for FE and HE students
020 7249 6636

Day Care Trust – The National Childcare Charity
www.daycaretrust.org.uk