



HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS

*A GUIDE
TO SOURCES OF FUNDING
TO SUPPORT PARENTS
WITH THE COSTS
OF CHILDCARE*

Contents

	Page
Introduction	4
Sources of help with Childcare Costs For Parents	5
• Assisted Places contingency fund Scheme (0-14 years)	5
• Assisted Places: Playgroups	5
• Assisted Places: Special Needs Referral Schemes (0-3 yrs)	5
• Assisted Places: Special Needs Referral Schemes (4+ yrs)	6
• CPCKC	6
• CPCKC Helping hands	6
• Child Benefit	6
• Child Support Agency	7
• Child Maintenance Bonus/Premium	7
• Child Tax Credit	8
• Community Childminding Network	8
• Daybreak	8
• Disability Allowances	9
Disability Living Allowance	9
The Carer's Allowance	9
The Carer Premium	9
• Direct Payments	9
• Education Welfare Benefits	10
• Family Fund	10
• Guardian's Allowance	10
• New Deal	11
• New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP)	11
NDLP Childcare Assist	12
NDLP Childcare Subsidy	12
• Sure Start Maternity Grant	12
• Working Tax Credit	12
• Working Tax Credit New Tax Breaks	13
• Widowed Parent's Allowance	13
Sources of help with Childcare Costs For Student Parents	14
• Assembly Learning Grant	14
• Career Development Loans	14
• Financial Contingency Fund (FCF)	14
• Genesis Cymru Wales Childcare Assistance	15
• Individual Learning Account (ILA) Wales	15
• Jobseeker's Allowance	15
• Help available from your Local Education Authority (LEA)	16

- Adult Dependants Grant **16**
- Childcare Grants for Students **16**
- Parents learning Allowance **16**

Help Available for NHS Students **16**

- NHS Bursaries (Wales) **16**
- NHS Childcare Scheme **16**
- NHS Dependants Allowance **16**
- NHS Single Parent Addition **17**
- Students and Child Tax Credit **17**

Useful Contacts **19**

Useful Websites **21**

Childcare Funding Officer **22**

Introduction

The aim of this Guide is to bring together sources of financial help available in Wrexham County Borough to support parents with childcare costs.

Accessing funding for childcare costs generally depends on parents'/families' individual circumstances. This means that parents need to find out which sources of funding are relevant and can be accessed by them. Contact details are provided in the Guide to help parents to find out more information.

To enable users to quickly find sources of funding that may be relevant to them, the Guide is split into two sections: -

- ◆ Sources of Funding to help parents with childcare costs
- ◆ Sources of Funding to help student parents with childcare costs.

There is also a list of useful contacts and websites to enable parents to choose how they wish to search for this funding.

Finally, my contact details are given to enable parents to contact me, Lynne Mort (Childcare Funding Officer), for help and advice with childcare funding issues.

Sources of Help with Childcare Costs for Parents

The following information provides sources of help with childcare costs available to all parents for 2007/2008. Only basic information is given, as eligibility depends on circumstances and income. Parents therefore have to liaise with the contacts given to access this financial help.

Assisted Places Contingency Fund Scheme

Provides funding for children and families with exceptional need. It enables children between the ages of 0 – 14 years (16 if the child has a disability) from disadvantaged backgrounds whose social and emotional development is at risk to benefit from the experience of regular attendance at a childcare setting

- ◆ Children with social/behavioral problems
- ◆ Children whose parents are terminally or seriously ill
- ◆ Children from families where there is considerable family stress
- ◆ Children with severe disabilities

Placements may be provided at an out of school club (breakfast club, after school club or holiday club) with a childminder, playgroup plus, children's centre or day nursery.

All children in receipt of an assisted place from the Contingency Fund must be referred by a Health Visitor, Social Worker, Education Worker or other Professional working with special needs children.

For more information please contact:

Lynne Mort (Childcare Funding Officer), Children's Information Bureau, Ty AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham LL11 1ND. Tel: 01978 298340, E-mail: lynne.mort@wrexham.gov.uk

(07/07)

Assisted Place in Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin

Wales Pre-school Playgroups and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin can make an application for an assisted place in the group for a child whose family is in receipt of one or more of the following:

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Jobseeker's Allowance
- ◆ Invalidity Benefit

For families on any of the above benefits, 2 sessions per week will be funded at the setting.

For more information please contact:

Lynne Mort (Childcare Funding Officer), Children's Information Bureau, Ty AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham LL11 1ND. Tel: 01978 298340, E-mail: lynne.mort@wrexham.gov.uk

(07/07)

Assisted Places Special needs Referral Schemes (0-3years)

Wales PPA/Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin.

Support workers are subsidised for Playgroup age children whose families require help and who are referred to this scheme by Early Years Practitioners. These needs are specified as:

- ◆ Social/emotional behavior

- ◆ Developmental delay
- ◆ Sensory impairment
- ◆ Physical impairment

For more information please contact:

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (MYM) Development Officer, Caia Park Community Council, Cartrele, Cefn Road, Wrexham, LL13 9NH. Tel: 01978 363279

Wales Pre-School Playgroups Association (Wales PPA) c/c Mrs Yvette Bracewell, (Assisted Places Administrator), Calot Farmhouse, Brynford, Hoywell, CH8 8LE. Tel: 01352 712440

(07/07)

Assisted Places Special needs Referral Schemes (4+ years)

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC).

CPCKC have funding from Cymorth to provide an assisted places scheme to enable children aged 3-14 years who are experiencing difficulties, where attendance at a local Out-of-School has been identified as alleviating these difficulties, and who would not otherwise be able to access a place.

Difficulties include:

- ◆ Parent's terminal illness
- ◆ Disability or chronic health problem for child or other family member
- ◆ Child with behavioral difficulties
- ◆ Family stress
- ◆ Risk of social exclusion

(07/07)

CPCKC Helping Hands Scheme.

A "1-1" Support Playworker will be funded at an Out of School Club where the child receives 1-1 support at school.

For more information please contact:

Clubiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC), C/o Sandra Thompson, (Out of School Childcare Development Officer) 5 Silverbirch Drive, Gresford, Wrexham, Tel: 01978 856746

(07/07)

Child Benefit

This is a benefit for people bringing up children. It is paid for each child and is not affected by income or savings.

You are eligible for Child Benefit if you can answer 'yes' to one of the following criteria.

Are you bringing up a child who:

- ◆ Is aged under 16.
- ◆ Is aged under 19 and studying full-time up to A level, Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education or equivalent.
- ◆ Is aged 16 or 17 years old and has left school recently, and has registered for work or training with the Careers Service.

You do not have to be the child's parent to get Child Benefit. You may get Child Benefit if you pay towards bringing up a child who does not live with you and no one else is claiming the benefit for them.

You can claim Child Benefit as soon as your child is born or comes to live with you. The current amount of payment per week is:

- ◆ £18.10 for the eldest child who qualifies (as of 10th April 2007)
- ◆ £12.10 for each other child (as of 10th April 2007)

You can claim Child Benefit online, using the website details given below or by calling the helpline or

For more information please contact: 0845 302 1444 (lines open 8am – 8pm 7 days a week) or visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit

(07/07)

Child Support Agency.

The Child Support Agency provides Child Support Maintenance to help with the cost of bringing up a child. To be eligible to apply, you must be bringing up a child who has a parent living somewhere else in the UK, or is working abroad for an UK based employer.

If you are claiming Income Support or Job Seeker's Allowance you may be **required** to make an application for Child Support Maintenance, (you may not have to apply if there is a risk of harm or undue distress to you or children who live with you).

Even if you do not claim Income Support or income-based JSA, you may still be able to get Child Support Maintenance.

The amount you get will depend on the income of the parent who does not live with the child.

For more information please contact: National Enquiry Line, Tel: 08457 133133 Or visit: www.csa.gov.uk

(07/07)

Child Maintenance Bonus / Child Maintenance Premium.

You may be eligible for either Child Maintenance Bonus or the Child Maintenance Premium if you are claiming:

1. Income Support / Jobseeker's Allowance
2. Child support maintenance

- ◆ If your claim for Child Support Maintenance was calculated after 3rd March 2003 under the new rules, you will be allowed to keep the first £10 of any maintenance paid for your child(ren). This is called the **Child Maintenance Premium**.
- ◆ If your claim for Child Support Maintenance is currently assessed under the old rules, you may be eligible to get a cash bonus if you take up work that lifts you off benefit. This is the **Child Maintenance Bonus**.

You must claim Child Maintenance Bonus within 28 days of your benefit stopping.

For more information please contact: Child Support Agency, National Enquiry Line:08457 133133 or visit: www.dwp.gov.uk

(07/07)

Child Tax Credit.

This is a payment to support families with children. You do not have to be working to claim. Students with children are eligible to claim.

Child Tax Credit is paid directly into the bank of the person in the family who is mainly responsible for looking after the child/children. It is paid in addition to Child Benefit and any Working Tax Credit.

You can claim Child Tax Credit if you are responsible for one child or more. It will provide support for:

- ◆ A child until 1st September following his or her 16th birthday, or
- ◆ A young person aged 16 to 18 who:-
 1. Is in full-time education, up to and including 'A' levels and NVQ level 3.
 2. Has left full-time education but does not have a job or a training place and has registered with the Careers Service.
 3. Is not claiming Income Support or tax credits in his or her own right.
 4. Is not serving a custodial sentence of four months or more imposed by a court.

If you qualify for Income Support or Income based Job Seeker's Allowance you will be entitled to the maximum amount of Child Tax Credit for your children.

For more information please contact: Tax Credits Helpline Tel: 0845 300 3900 Or visit: www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk (See also 'Students and Child Tax Credit').

(07/07)

Community Childminding Network.

The Community Childminding Scheme in Wrexham is funded by CYMORTH - The Children & Youth Support Fund. It is available for Children between the ages of 0 and 10 years and aims to provide a quality assured service to **children and families in need** for a maximum of 6 months.

The Network Childminders have received additional training and their service is regularly monitored against NCMA's "Children Come First" Quality Standards. There is also regular monitoring of the placements.

For more information please contact: Linda Jones (Network Co-ordinator), NCMA, First Floor Milwood House, Coed Aben Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL13 9UH. Tel: 0845 8801316.

(07/07)

Daybreak.

This is a service offering short breaks to parents of disabled children and their siblings where at least one child is between 5 years and 16 years of age, by funding childcare provision for up to 8 hours per week during the school holidays.

A disabled child is defined as a child in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. Priority will be given for children whose condition or disability requires one to one support in order to participate in a childcare scheme.

The fund can be used for services such as:

- ◆ Childminding fees
- ◆ Fees for Out of School Clubs, Playgroups, or activity schemes
- ◆ Hourly pay and expenses
- ◆ Transport costs
- ◆ Provision of special equipment

For more information please contact Tricia at DYNAMIC, Tel: 01978 263656.

(07/07)

Disability Allowances.

The Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

DLA is the main benefit for disabled children and disabled adults (who can claim this for themselves). DLA is not means tested and has two parts. The care component is paid at three rates and helps with personal care. The mobility component helps with mobility and is paid at two rates. If your child or relative is eligible for the higher rate of the mobility component, you may be entitled to a Blue Badge for disabled parking and road exemption.

Getting DLA is very important because it may help you to qualify for extra amounts on other benefits such as Income Support, Job Seeker's Allowance and Housing or Council Tax Benefit. If you are getting Child Tax Credit and you apply for DLA (or if the level of DLA is increased), you should tell the Tax Credits Office that you are doing this. This will protect your right to any backdating of tax credits.

A free information leaflet is available from Contact a Family: Tel 0808 808 3555 Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

The Carer's Allowance.

If you provide a minimum of 35 hours of care to a severely disabled child or adult who receives the middle or highest rate of the care component of DLA, you may be entitled to receive The Carer's Allowance as well. There is an upper limit on what you can earn (after deducting childcare costs) and you cannot study for more than 21 hours a week.

You can't usually be paid the Carer's Allowance if you are receiving Incapacity Benefit, Maternity Allowances, Jobseeker's Allowance or the State Retirement pension. But a claim for the Carer's Allowance may still help you, because it can help you to qualify for other means tested benefits such as Income Support.

The Carer Premium.

The Carer Premium is an extra amount which is added to the means tested benefits set out above. A carer premium is included in the calculations done around your entitlement if you are paid or have claimed the Carer's Allowance and the only reason you are not getting it is because you are getting another benefit instead.

For more information please contact: Benefits Enquiry Line, Tel: 0800 882200 or Website: www.direct.gov.uk

(07/07)

Direct Payments.

You can ask your local authority for a Direct Payment if you are the parent of a disabled child, a disabled young person aged 16-17, or a disabled adult. Direct payments are cash payments from your local authority with which to purchase your own services. These payments can only be made after an assessment.

Direct payments can be used to provide extra help for your child in a nursery or other setting or pay for somebody to come to your house and provide care or transport. Some families use Direct Payments to enable their disabled child to attend a leisure centre or a holiday play-scheme whilst they study.

For more information please contact: Becky Davies, Direct Payments Co-ordinator, Ty AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND. Tel: 01978 312556.

(07/07)

Education Welfare Benefits in Wrexham 2006/07.

School Uniform Grants are available in the form of vouchers to parents/guardians of pupils who will be in secondary schools within Wrexham from September 2003. They will be available for pupils whose parents/guardians receive:

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Immigration and Asylum Seekers Allowance
- ◆ Income Based Jobseekers Allowance,
- ◆ Child Tax Credit with income below the set limit of £14,495 **but do not** receive **Working Tax Credit**.
- ◆ Pension Credit

For more information please contact: Student Support Section, Ty Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham LL13 8AZ, Tel: 01978 297480/297467. Alternatively, application forms are available from Secondary Schools (or Primary Schools for Year 6 Pupils).

Free School meals are available in the form of vouchers to parents/guardians of pupils who will be in secondary schools within Wrexham from September 2003. They will be available for pupils whose parents/guardians receive:

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Immigration and Asylum Seekers Allowance
- ◆ Income Based Jobseekers Allowance,
- ◆ Child Tax Credit with income below the set limit of £14,495 **but do not** receive **Working Tax Credit**.
- ◆ Pension Credit

For more information please contact: Support Section, Ty Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham LL13 8AZ, Tel: 01978 297493/297492.

(07/07)

Family Fund.

The Family Fund is dedicated to helping families with severely disabled or seriously ill children enjoy ordinary life. The fund helps families with many different items. Items requested by the family must be for help that is not the responsibility of a statutory agency. The fund can consider applications from families whose gross earned income is less than £25,000 excluding overtime and bonuses.

Some of the ways the Family Fund has supported families:

- ◆ Holidays or leisure activities so everyone in the family can have a break
- ◆ Washing machine or tumble drier because of constant bedwetting or dirty clothing
- ◆ Bedding and clothing to cover the expense of wear and tear because of the child's disability
- ◆ Bed if a replacement is needed because of the child's disability
- ◆ Driving lessons for the child's main carer if there is a car available
- ◆ Transport costs if the child does not get the higher rate of mobility component of Disability Living Allowance but still has difficulty getting around
- ◆ Fridge freezer if the child's disability makes shopping difficult
- ◆ Hospital visiting costs such as long distance journeys for NHS treatment
- ◆ Telephone if this is essential for medical/social reasons
- ◆ Play equipment if this is related to the child's special needs

For more information please contact: Family Fund, Unit 4, Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, Hutton, York. Tel: 0845 130 4542 E-mail: info@familyfund.org.uk or visit: www.familyfund.org.uk

(07/07)

Guardian's Allowance.

This is an allowance for people bringing up a child because one or both of their parents has died. You must be getting Child Benefit for the child.

To be eligible to apply you must be:

Bringing up a child whose both parents have died.

Or, where one parent has died and:

- ◆ The parents were divorced (certain conditions apply)
- ◆ The surviving parent cannot be traced or is in prison with a minimum of 2 years left to serve, or is detained in a mental hospital by order of a court (certain regulations apply).

You do not have to be the child's legal guardian to get Guardian's Allowance.

You may be able to get Guardian's Allowance if the child's parents were never married.

For more information please contact: Guardian's Allowance Unit, Tel: 0845 302 1464, or visit:
www.hmrc.gov.uk

(07/07)

New Deal

New Deal is a Government programme that aims to give unemployed people the help and support they need to get into work. It aims to break down all barriers to employment, which can include help with childcare costs.

Everyone on New Deal gets a personal adviser who is their point of contact throughout the programme. The personal adviser takes the time to understand you - your experiences, interests and goals, so a plan can be prepared to get you into a suitable job.

For more information please contact: New Deal Employment information line, Tel: 0845 606 2626 or, visit:
www.newdeal.gov.uk

(07/07)

New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP)

New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) is a service to help lone parents find a job or suitable training to bring their skills up to date. It is available to all **lone parents who are not working or who are working less than 16 hours per week and whose youngest child is under 16 years old.**

If you take part in NDLP a personal advisor will help you through the steps of finding and applying for suitable jobs and helping you with expenses to attend meetings, job interviews or training they arrange for you, including fares and registered childcare costs. Some colleges provide crèche facilities and help with fares – your personal adviser can help you to find out what is available locally.

As part of Working Tax Credit, you may qualify for extra help towards costs of registered or approved childcare. If you have been claiming Income Support or Jobseekers' Allowance you may also be entitled to Back to Work Bonus and Child Maintenance Bonus. Your personal adviser will help you apply for any in-work benefits or tax credits you may be entitled to.

Taking part in NDLP will not result in the loss of benefit.

NDLP Childcare Assist

Jobcentre Plus has set up a fund that will be available to all Lone Parents who are participating in New Deal. This allows for the payment of formal childcare during the week before the lone parent starts work. This aims to:

1. Provide assurance that their child(ren) would settle into formal childcare with the chosen provider;
2. Assist lone parents to undertake activities required in the preparation of starting work ;
3. Encourage parents to use formal, registered childcare.

Payments will be made directly to the Childcare provider who will be asked to invoice Jobcentre Plus. Requests for Childcare Assist must be made in advance of the Childcare provision being agreed with the provider.

For more information please contact: New Deal advisor, Jobcentre Plus, 15-17 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, LL11 1BW. Tel: 01978 316500.

(07/07)

NDLP Childcare Subsidy.

This is available to some Jobcentre New Deal for Lone Parent participants, who move into part-time work of less than 16 hours per week. It is not available to lone parents who are already working.

Help may be available towards the cost of childcare, while a lone parent is working, up to a maximum of £67.50 per week for one child and £100 per week for two or more children. A Jobcentre adviser, prior to the job starting, must give approval for the childcare subsidy. If approved, the childcare subsidy is paid for a maximum period of 52 weeks from the date the lone parent first starts the part-time work, and is paid directly to the childcare provider.

For more information please contact: New Deal for Lone Parents Freephone: 0800 731 9849 (local) /0800 868868 (national) or visit: www.newdeal.gov.uk

(07/07)

Sure Start Maternity Grant.

There is a grant of £500 available to help you to give your baby a positive start in life. The grant is from the Social Fund and you do not have to give it back. You may be eligible for this grant regardless of any savings you have, if you or your partner are claiming:

- ◆ Income Support;
- ◆ Income based Jobseekers' Allowance;
- ◆ Pension credit;

- ◆ Working Tax Credit where a disability or severe disability element is included in the award; or
- ◆ Child Tax Credit which includes an amount higher than the family element.

The grant must be claimed before your child is three months old.

For more information please contact: Jobcentre Plus, 16 Lord Street, Wrexham. Tel: 01978 316500

(07/07)

Working Tax Credit.

This is a payment to top up the earnings of working people on low incomes. It includes support for the costs of qualifying childcare and is paid in addition to any Child Tax Credit you may be entitled to.

Extra help towards the costs of registered approved childcare is known as the 'Childcare element' within Working Tax Credit.

You can only get this if:

- ◆ You are working at least 16 hours a week, or,
- ◆ If you are part of a couple, both you and your partner must each work at least 16 hours unless one of you is unable to work due to incapacity.

If you are entitled to the childcare element of Working Tax Credit, it will be paid directly to the person who is mainly responsible for caring for the children in the family, alongside any payments for Child Tax Credit.

Working Tax Credit can pay up to 80% of registered approved childcare costs. All childcare for children under 8 has to be registered by CSIW (Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales). Details of registered childcare providers are available from the Children's Information Bureau (CIB), Tel: 01978 292094.

Out of School hours childcare for children over 8 provided on school premises or other local authority premises is 'approved' childcare for the purposes of claiming the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. Also included is childcare provided by foster carers who are approved by a local authority or fostering agency (excepting care provided by the foster carer for his/her foster child).

Working Tax Credit New Tax Breaks.

People on maternity/paternity/adoption leave who meet the qualifying conditions for Working Tax Credit can claim the child care element to help with the costs of eligible childcare for their **new baby/child** as well as for other children in the family.

A first-time parent can claim Working Tax Credit including the childcare element from birth/adoption of their child provided he/she worked at least 16 hours a week before the maternity/paternity/adoption leave began

Employees can receive up to £55 a week of childcare, free of tax and National Insurance, where their employers either contract with an approved childcarer or provide vouchers for the purpose of paying an approved childcarer. The first £55 a week of contracted childcare or vouchers will be tax-free and the National Insurance exemption's aligned with this.

For more information please contact: Tax Credits Helpline, Tel: 0845 300 3900 or visit:
www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk

(07/07)

Widowed Parent's Allowance.

If you are a woman who has been widowed and are bringing up a child, or children, or are expecting your late husband's baby, you may be eligible for this allowance.

For more information please contact: Bereavement Benefit office. Tel: 0845 608 8605, or visit:
www.dwp.gov.uk

(07/07)

Sources of Help with Childcare Costs for Student Parents.

From September 2006, The Welsh Assembly Government will be responsible for statutory student support to Welsh students.

- The **Assembly Learning Grant**, paid to Welsh domiciled students in further and higher education can get a maximum of £2,700 to help with student's maintenance costs such as books, travel, equipment and childcare.
- Also with effect from 2006-07, students undertaking a first year degree will be able to defer their tuition fees by taking out a fee loan – no student will have to pay up-front fees in future. From 2007, Welsh domiciled students who choose to study in Wales will also receive a fee grant of up to £1,845 a year to meet the additional costs of higher fees to be introduced that year. This is also available to part time students.

The fee grant will be available irrespective of income.

- **Maintenance loans** will continue to be available to support students' basic living costs while they are studying. In addition, student parents may be eligible to apply for specific help through the Parents Learning Allowance and Childcare Grant (see page 20) which will also be available from the Assembly Government.
- The **Education Maintenance Allowance Wales** scheme will provide a maximum allowance of £30 per week to students who have a responsibility for a child of their own and who meet the criteria. In the first year of the scheme (2006-07) EMAs are available to eligible students aged 16 - 18 years.

For more information regarding help from the Assembly Government please visit:

www.studentfinacnewales.co.uk or contact Student Finance Wales Centre on 0845 6028845

(07/07)

Career Development Loans (CDLs)

A CDL can help to fund up to two years vocational (job-related) training or education, plus up to one year if the course includes practical work experience. Study can be full-time, part-time or distance learning. If you cannot get any student support through your LEA or any other funding to help pay for the course you want to do, a CDL could help towards the costs of **childcare**, books, stationery, travel costs, equipment, tools, materials, protective clothing and any costs associated with a disability. You can also apply for living expenses if you work less than 30 hours per week. You will pay no repayments during the period of training and for up to one month afterwards.

For more information please contact: CDL Information Line, Freephone: 0800 585 505

(06/06)

Financial Contingency Fund (FCF).

This fund is available for both **full-time and part-time students** aged 16-18 years old (who have been resident in the UK for the whole of the past 3 years prior to the start of their course, and whose household is in receipt of Benefits, Working Tax Credit or on a low income) and for Assembly Learning Grant (ALG) recipients who need assistance with childcare and/or transport. In certain circumstances, Further Education students over 18 years may also be eligible. It is also available for students not covered by ALGs.

Please note: this fund will not pay for, or contribute to course fees.

Assistance is available for:

- ✓ Childcare for both ALG and FCF recipients.
- ✓ College organised trips, (which must be applied for separately by the FCF recipient).

- ✓ Books and equipment.
- ✓ Transport, where appropriate, for both ALG and FCF recipients.
- ✓ Disability assistance, where appropriate.
- ✓ Travelling expenses to interviews (e.g. for HE, auditions, work placements etc) which must be applied for separately by the FCF recipient).

The FCF will be paid termly from the College by cheque, on receipt of good attendance and standard of work.

For more information please contact the Colleges student welfare section at which you are studying.

(07/07)

Genesis Cymru Wales Childcare Assistance

This is a European funded project which aims to break down barriers to enable parents to return to training and employment. It can provide help towards the costs of childcare subject to no other source of funding being available and subject to sufficient finances being available. The Parents' Advisor can also provide support, guidance and advice. Eligibility criteria apply. The funding is available until March 2008.

For more information please contact: Lynda Jones, Genesis Parents' Advisor, Children's Information Bureau, Ty AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham LL11 1ND, Tel: 01978 298341/292094

(07/07)

The Individual Learning Account (ILA).

The Individual Learning Account in Wales (ILA Wales) is targeted at people aged 18 and over with no or low qualifications. It aims to appeal to individuals whose highest prior learning achievement is level 2 or below, and those who may face difficult financial barriers.

Learn direct has independent advisers who can help you to find the course that suits you. As well as Colleges and Universities there are now many more learning places throughout Wales, in shopping centres, sports clubs, libraries and community centre's, or you could choose to learn at home using distance learning.

If you receive any of the following and are a British Citizen, EU national or a person entitled to live in the UK and live in Wales, then you may be eligible for a grant from ILA Wales.

- ✓ Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Job Seeker's Allowance (income based)
- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Housing Benefit
- ✓ Council Tax Benefit

If you don't qualify, Learn direct will be able to provide you with advice and booklets detailing other possible funding opportunities for the courses you wish to study.

For more information please contact: Learn direct Tel: 0800 100 900 Or, visit: www.ilawales.com

(07/07)

Jobseekers' Allowance.

If you're out of work and studying part-time you may well still qualify for Jobseekers' Allowance, as long as your course is less than 21 hours a week and you can show you're still available for work.

If you're over 25 and have been out of work for two years or more, you can do a full-time course linked to specific employment, without losing your allowance. In addition, full-time students may qualify for Jobseekers' Allowance during the summer vacation if they are responsible for a child.

For more information please contact: Jobcentre Plus, 16 Lord Street, Wrexham LL11 1LH. Tel: 01978 203400

(07/07)

Adult Dependants Grant

This is available for **full-time students** with adult dependants. If you have a husband, wife, partner or other adult member of your family other than an adult child who depends on you financially you may be eligible.

The amount of the grant depends on your income and that of your dependants. The maximum grant is £2,395 a year. You do not have to repay this help.

For more information please contact: Wrexham County Borough Council (Education Department), Ty Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham LL13 8AZ, Tel: 01978 297467.

(07/07)

Childcare Grants for Students.

This is available for **full-time students** with dependent children in registered / approved childcare and a low household income. This includes students who are lone parents and students married to other students.

If you have children under 15 (or 17 if your child has learning difficulties or is registered as having special educational needs), the grant will pay a set rate of 85% of your actual childcare costs throughout the whole year.

The grant will not affect the amount of Income Support or Housing Benefit you receive.

For more information please contact: Wrexham County Borough Council (Education Department), Ty Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham LL13 8AZ, Tel: 01978 297467.

(07/07)

Parents Learning Allowance.

This provides help with course related costs for **full-time students** with dependent children who receive Childcare Grant. The amount awarded is means tested.

As the grant is for course related costs only, it will not affect your income related benefits.

For more information please contact: Wrexham County Borough Council (Education Department), Ty Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham LL13 8AZ, Tel: 01978 297467.

(07/07)

Help available for NHS Students

NHS Bursaries (Wales).

NHS bursaries are available for full-time or part-time pre-registration courses in a range of subjects. To be eligible for a place, students must be accepted for an NHS-funded place. Once a University or College has offered a provisional training place, the Student Grants Unit will send an application pack with guidelines on how to complete an application form and useful information about the Bursary Scheme.

(07/07)

NHS Childcare Scheme.

This scheme for NHS funded students helps students with childcare costs during their study. It will be paid as a supplement to the existing NHS funded bursary. If you are a parent and are interested in training as a nurse, midwife or physiotherapist the NHS can contribute up to 85% of childcare costs.

Entitlement:

- ✓ For one child maximum payable amount is £114.75 a week;
- ✓ For two or more children maximum payable is £170 a week.

Students are eligible to apply for dependant children aged under 15, or aged over 17 for children with special education needs, on the first day of the academic year. Every childcare allowance is calculated individually and the amount awarded will depend on a student's circumstances and the income available to their family. Childcare must be provided by a registered or approved childcare provider.

Childcare Allowance cannot be claimed in addition to the childcare element of Working Tax Credit.

NHS Dependants Allowance.

These are payable to students for people who are wholly or mainly financially dependant on them during their time in training. Husbands/wives (or unmarried partner in the case of a student aged 25 or over on the first day of the academic year), children and other adults can be counted. The income of all the students' dependants is taken into account in deciding eligibility for extra allowance.

NHS Single Parent Addition.

This allowance is currently payable to single students with a dependant child or children.

For more information about these grants please contact:

NHS Wales Student Awards Unit, 2nd Floor, Golate House, 101 St Mary's Street, Cardiff, CF10 1DX, Tel: 029 2026 1495

Alternatively, contact the Student Grants Helpline: 0845 358 6655, Or visit: www.nhs.uk

(07/07)

Students and Child Tax Credit.

Child Tax Credit is a payment to help with the costs of raising children. You can claim Child Tax Credit if you are responsible for one child (or young person) or more.

You do not have to be working to claim, and **Full-time and part-time students** can apply. The amount of Child Tax Credit awarded depends on your circumstances and income.

Students who receive the maximum amount of Child Tax Credit should be entitled to free school meals for their children, unless they receive Working Tax Credit.

Child Tax Credit is paid into your bank account direct from the Inland Revenue every week or every four weeks. The Inland Revenue Website enables you to check how much you could get and to make your claim on-line.

Students and Working Tax Credit

This is a payment to top up the earnings of working people on low incomes. To claim this at least one parent has to be working 16 hours or more. It is paid in addition to any Child Tax Credit you may be entitled to.

Childcare element of Working Tax Credit

Extra help towards the cost of registered approved childcare is known as the "Childcare element" of Working Tax Credit. From April 2006, the maximum proportion of childcare costs covered by the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit increases from 70 per cent to 80 per cent. You can only get this help if:

- ✓ You are working at least 16 hours a week, or,
- ✓ If you are part of a couple, both you and your partner must each work at least 16 hours a week unless one of you is unable to work due to incapacity.

For young parents in school, if the grandparents are in work they can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit in respect of their grandchild.

The childcare element is paid directly to the person who is mainly responsible for caring for the children in the family, alongside any payments for Child Tax Credit.

*For more information please contact: Tax Credits Helpline, Tel: 0845 300 3900 Or visit:
www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk*

(07/07)

Useful Contacts.

Benefits Agency

15 – 17 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham
Tel: 01978 316500

Bereavement Benefit Office

Tel: 0845 6088605

Children's Information Bureau (CIB)

C/o Lynne Mort
Ty AVOW, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham LL11 1ND.
Tel: 01978 298341/292094

Child Benefit

National Enquiry line: 0845 3021444
www.direct.gov.uk

Child Support Agency

National Enquiry line: 08457 133133

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs

C/o Sandra Thompson
Out of School Childcare Development Officer
5 Silverbirch Drive
Gresford
Wrexham
Tel: 01978 856746

Direct Payments

C/o Becky Davies
Ty AVOW
21 Egerton Street
Wrexham
Tel: 01978 312556

Disability Benefits Enquiry Line

Tel: 0800 882200

Family Fund

PO Box 50
York
YO1 9ZX
Tel: 0845 130 4542

Genesis Cymru · Wales

Children's Information Bureau
Wrexham Library and Arts Centre
Rhosddu Road
Wrexham
LL11 1AU
Tel: 01978 298341/292094

Guardian's Allowance Unit

Tel: 0845 302 1464

Jobcentre Plus

16 Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LH.

Tel: 01978 203400

Learndirect

Tel: 0800 100900

Local Education Authority

Wrexham County Borough Council, Education Department, Ty Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham, LL13 8AZ.

Tel: 01978 297467.

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (MYM)

Development Officer, Caia Park Community Council,
Cartrefle, Cefn Road, Wrexham, LL13 9NH

Tel: 01978 363279

National Childminding Association (NCMA)

C/o Linda Jones (Network Co-ordinator)

Wrexham Childminding Network, Office 2, Caia Park Partnership,
Prince Charles Road, Wrexham LL13 8TH

Tel: 01978 314433

New Deal

Information Line: 0845 606 2626

Wales Pre-School Playgroups Association (Wales PPA)

C/o Mrs. Yvette Bracewell,

Calcot Farmhouse, Brynford, Holywell CH8 8LE

Tel: 01978 712440

Yale College: -

Student Financial Support Manager

Tel: 01978 311794

Useful Websites

www.csa.gov.uk: Child Support Agency

www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport: Higher Education Student Support

www.dwp.gov.uk: Department for work and pensions

www.familyfund.org.uk: The Family Fund

www.ilawales.com: Individual Learning Account Wales Student support

www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.com: Inland Revenue

www.learning.wales.gov.uk/students: Student support

www.newdeal.gov.uk: Support for the unemployed to return to work

www.nhs.uk: NHS Students grant support

www.support4learning.org.uk: Student support

Childcare Funding Officer.

For further information and support, please contact:

Lynne Mort
Childcare Funding Officer
Children's Information Bureau
Ty AVOW
21 Egerton Street
Wrexham
LL11 1ND
Tel: 01978 298343/292094
E-mail: lynne.mort@wrexham.gov.uk

Lynne's main role is:

- ◆ To support childcare providers in identifying and securing sources of funding to ensure long term sustainability.
- ◆ To produce:
 1. 'A Guide to Sources of Funding for Childcare Providers'.
 2. 'Help With Childcare Costs', A Guide to Sources of Funding to Support Parents and Student Parents with the costs of childcare.
- ◆ To signpost providers to local specialists who can provide in-depth business/management support.
- ◆ To manage the Sustainability Grant Scheme, Childminder Start-up Grant Scheme and Assisted Places Contingency Fund Scheme .

If you require any help or advice regarding childcare funding issues please do not hesitate to contact Lynne, contact details above.