

### **Proposed changes to the provision of home to school/college transport for post 16 students.**

#### **New bursary scheme for 16-19 year olds – press notice from Department for Education**

The Government today announced a new £180 million bursary scheme to help the most vulnerable 16-19 years olds continue in full-time education.

The scheme is made up of two parts – a guaranteed payment to a small group of the most vulnerable, worth more than anybody got under the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), and a discretionary fund for schools and colleges to distribute:

- Around 12,000 16-19 year olds will be given guaranteed bursaries of £1,200 a year. This group is made up of children in care, care leavers and those on income support. Income support is paid to young people such as teenage parents, young people with severe disabilities, teenagers living away from their parents and young people whose parents have died. This is more than they would have received through EMA.
- Schools and colleges can distribute the rest of the money to support any student who faces genuine financial barriers to participation such as costs of transport, food or equipment. They will have the freedom to decide the scale of the bursaries; to pay weekly, monthly, or annually: and link to behaviour or attendance.

The current discretionary fund is £26 million. In future the fund will be worth £180 million. Even after the guaranteed bursaries have been paid to the most vulnerable 12,000, colleges will still have £165M for the discretionary pot.

There will also be additional transitional arrangements to help those who are part-way through their studies and are currently receiving EMA. The transitional arrangements consist of two parts:

- First, all students who first successfully applied for EMA in 2009/10 will continue to receive payments at the same level until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.
- Second, young people now in their first year of post-16 study who were in receipt of the maximum weekly EMA payment of £30 will be eligible for £20 for each week they are in education or training until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.