



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

**L&W** LEARNING AND  
WORK INSTITUTE

# Clarifying the rules for Young Adult Carers claiming Carer's Allowance

## The benefits system and education

- The Government thinks it is right that people in full-time education should be supported by the educational maintenance system, via its range of loans and grants. This is a long-standing policy.
- But for those undertaking part-time study, there is support available through the benefits system.
- Young Adult Carers can claim Carer's Allowance as long as they don't engage in more than 21 hours supervised study per week.
- Supervised study includes time spent in lectures, seminars, or any other work that is required to complete the course. The study doesn't have to be undertaken in the presence of the tutor, but it must be study directly related to the course involved.

## The problem

- There is some complexity around the rules for study and claiming Carer's Allowance, largely because of:
  - Commissioner's Decisions which have:
    - a) broadened the definition of supervised study;
    - b) emphasised the importance of the 21 hour rule; and
    - c) meant differing rules for universities and other educational establishments.
  - Some educational establishments define courses as full-time when the study hours are as low as 16 hours per week.
- So there is a situation where CA is not allowed if someone is studying full-time at university regardless of the advertised hours of supervised study, but can get CA if they are studying at college for less than 21 hours per week, even if the course is advertised as full-time.

# The products

- So DWP worked with the Learning & Work Institute on some communication leaflets (below) and posters (next slide) to help make things clearer:

**L&W** LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE

Department for Work & Pensions

**Did You Know That You Can Study and Claim Carer's Allowance?**

Are you over the age of 16?

Do you have less than 21 hours of supervised study per week?

Are you caring for someone for 35 hours per week or more?

If you have answered yes to these questions, you may be eligible for Carer's Allowance. To find out more about Carer's Allowance and how to apply, go to

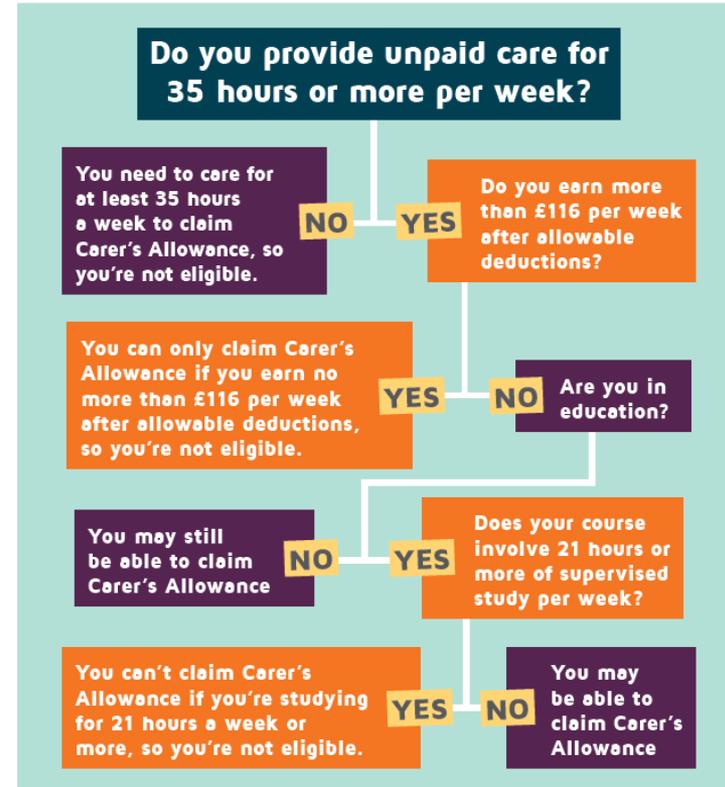
[www.gov.uk/carers-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance)

or telephone the Carer's Allowance Unit on

**0345 608 4321**

## Not sure if you might be eligible for Carer's Allowance?

Follow the chart below to find out:



## The products



**L&W LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE**

In partnership with **Department for Work & Pensions**

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## The outcomes and next steps

- DWP and the Learning & Work Institute have developed a strong working relationship and continue to keep in touch about how the communication products are working.
- The posters and leaflets will be updated for the coming academic year to reflect an increase in the CA earnings limit.
- The plan is to accompany this update with some data gathering to see whether they helped Young Adult Carers understand the rules.
- As a result of this work, DWP operational colleagues have simplified the questions on the CA digital application form to make the question about the 21 hour rule more prominent.
- DWP will also explore further opportunities to explain the rules about the benefits system and Full Time Education (FTE) in more detail to a range of stakeholders.