

Key College Learner Welfare and support Policy

Department: Ke	y College
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Approval Route: Lifelong Learning Committee

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Version	Date Approved	Reason for Update

Table of Contents:

Policy statement

Associated Procedural Guidance:

- 1. Attendance and Punctuality
- 2. Tutorial/review
- 3. 16/19 learner bursary



Policy statement

YMCA Key College helps learners to achieve qualifications as well as supporting them to raise their aspirations and self-esteem by developing employability, self-awareness and life skills. The aim of this policy is to ensure that every learner is supported to achieve their full potential throughout their programme of study to achieve their learning aims and progression goals.

There are many ways that we do this including but not limited to;

- · Attendance and punctuality monitoring
- Tutorial and learner review support
- Access to learner Bursaries
- Providing sound careers advice and guidance
- Offering a programme of enrichments

Attendance and Punctuality

YMCA Derbyshire Key College believes that good attendance and punctuality are essential if learners are to learn effectively and reach their full potential. Everyone in YMCA Key College strives to provide a welcoming, caring and safe environment where every student feels valued.

YMCA Derbyshire Key College aims to achieve good attendance and punctuality by working collaboration with learners, parents, carers, guardians and relevant external agencies.

All staff in YMCA Key College set rigorous targets for attendance and have high expectations for punctuality. The protocols and monitoring procedures used ensure high expectations set for learners. A systematic approach is used to gather and analyse attendance related data. Individual attendance is closely monitored, and targets are reviewed regularly. The importance of good attendance and punctuality is supported by celebrating positive attendance.

Where individual learners have identified problems, these will be handled with care and sensitivity to support the student and the family.

The Attendance Policy links closely to the Teaching and Learning Policy, Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies.

Tutorials

Tutorial support is an essential element of a learner's journey whilst at YMCA Key College as it supports their personal and academic development. YMCA Key College is committed to providing a high-quality learner review entitlement. It seeks to ensure that all learners have access to the advice and support they need during their programme of study.



The tutorial programme is designed to ensure that learners are given sufficient support and challenge to enable them to succeed on their programme of study. It provides all learners with a personalised programme of learning, informs, and develops learners' wider skills and ensures that they are supported in their vocational programme of study.

The tutorial programme covers a wide range of essential topics aimed at learner growth and development. It is delivered via a mixture of timetabled sessions and online content.

Every learner has:

- a **named course/personal tutor** who will be responsible for supporting the progress and personal welfare of the learner, encouraging and helping them to participate in the life of the YMCA Key College.
- access to a **personal and academic development programme** which will include a taught element and an academic progress/pastoral support element.
- an individual learning agreement and progress targets which will be maintained and regularly updated by the course/personal tutor in discussion with the learner and recorded on Cognisoft.

Tutorials are part of each learner's timetable and will run on a rolling programme on a four-week cycle:

- Week 1 Group tutorial
- Week 2 Individual learner reviews
- Week 3 Individual learner reviews
- Week 4 Individual learner reviews

Group tutorials will cover a wide range of topics which will help to develop learners' life skills, self-esteem and knowledge for the workplace and wider world. Examples of this could be:

- British Values
- Environmental responsibility.
- Recycling.
- Keeping safe.
- Healthy eating.
- Careers guidance.
- Team building.
- Dealing with conflict.

Individual learner reviews are offered on a one-to-one basis at a designated time. They will complement and support the learner review procedures.

Fundamental to the policy are the following:

- Learner Reviews are everyone's responsibility. Induction, planned learner reviews, advice and support are a shared responsibility across all of the Key College staff.
- The entitlement is not an addition to the main programme of study. The induction, review and personal learning planning process that sets and monitors



individual's learning aims, goals and progression routes will be experienced by the learner as a seamless process integrated into their main learning programme.

- Learners will be placed on the right programme. After recruitment to a programme tutors will meet with learners to discuss the course structure, content and progression opportunities. This activity will ensure that before the initial sixweek period has been completed the learner will be on the right programme of study. Learners will be given advice and support to ensure that they are on the right programme at the right level and transferred as soon as possible if a different programme is identified and agreed.
- Each learner will have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). This will be used
 as a structure for learners and staff to set, record and monitor agreed targets to
 ensure successful achievement of the programme of study and qualification. In
 order to ensure access for all learner's consideration will be given to individual
 needs.

The advice and support form part of YMCA Derbyshire's commitment to increase and widen participation in learning, to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to promote the quality of learning opportunities for all learners regardless of individual differences.

16 to 19 Bursary Fund summary

YMCA Key College will ensure all learners are made aware and given access to apply for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund should they be eligible for this. The 16-19 bursary fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups
- discretionary bursaries which can be awarded to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

YMCA Key College is responsible for managing both types of bursaries within the context of its ESFA contract. Students who want to apply for support from either bursary fund will make an application through the centre administrator at their main delivery site.

Eligibility criteria is clarified within the bursary procedures along with processes for applying for and receiving funding.

Careers information, advice, and Guidance



Key College commits to ensuring that students of all ages and abilities have access to impartial careers information, and guidance and that there are appropriate and meaningful opportunities and encounters for students to develop the knowledge, skills and self-awareness needed to make successful choices and manage their own choices and careers. By these means we aim to increase the individual's chances of leading a happy and fulfilled working life, contributing to the health of the economy and of society.

Our key aims and commitment are to;

- Build confidence in our students
- Help students to identify their goals
- Motivate and inspire students to raise aspirations
- Inform students about the full range of education, training and employment opportunities available to them.
- Promote the best interests of students
- Provide our service in an impartial manner
- Provide meaningful encounters within the workplace, working environments and employers.
- Provide an embedded programme of careers education and guidance
- Ensure inclusivity of service for all students
- Encourage parental input
- Provide a range of tailored resources to support our learners

Enrichments

A broad balanced timetable of enrichments will be offered to all learners to access whilst at Key College. These will be linked to their programme of study but will also support their personal development and well-being.

Learners will be consulted regarding enrichments they would like to access, as well as being offered a programme that is responsive to their needs and working with local partners to offer a range of opportunities.

This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment, and it may be amended at any time.

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier in the event there is a change in legislation or for reasons of good practice.



Key College Attendance and Punctuality Procedure

Department: Key College

Approval Route: Lifelong Learning Committee

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Version	Date Approved	Reason for Update
V1		Transition from policy to procedure

Table of Contents:

Registration
Tracking attendance
Absences
Holidays during the course
Interventions
Punctuality
Monitoring and evaluation
Role of the Key College administrators
Monitoring and review of procedure



Registration

Attendance is registered at the beginning of each session. A student is late for a session if they arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of the class.

Tracking attendance

The Training and Education Monitoring Administrators track and monitor attendance and punctuality. Relevant managers are informed of arising issues on a weekly basis and a formal report submitted to the Training and Education Management Team monthly. Tutors and Managers monitor attendance on a weekly basis.

All actions taken to track attendance are logged so that they can be used as supporting evidence as required.

Absences

All absences will be followed up.

Daily absences for identified learners are followed up within one and a half hours of the start of the session on the first day of absence. The most appropriate and effective means of communication is used e.g., text, phone, email.

If administrators and managers are unable to make contact or have received no explanation for absence after 3 days a formal letter will be sent home.

Authorised and unauthorised absences

All unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised. The relevant Manager will judge whether absences that are explained can be judged to be authorised or unauthorised. All absences explained by the learners must be confirmed by a parent/carer/appropriate responsible adult. Examples of the type of explanation that cannot be authorised:

- Waiting for a maintenance person to visit the home
- Routine doctor's appointment
- Routine dentist's appointment
- Driving lessons
- Any non-urgent appointment that could be arranged for another time

Holidays during the course.

YMCA Derbyshire Key College discourages learners from going on holiday during their time of study other than during designated holiday periods.

Learners should formally request additional holiday if required at least two weeks in advance and it is at the discretion of the relevant Manager whether or not this is approved.

Interventions.

Learners who are identified as needing targeted intervention work could be highlighted through several routes and for a number of reasons. These could be from tutors, support tutors, coordinators, or managers. It could be for a variety of reasons such as safeguarding, past history of poor attendance etc. each students needs will be looked at individually by the managers working with their tutors and appropriate support put in place.

Punctuality



Key College sets high expectations around punctuality as it is viewed as an important life skill for our learners. However, staff recognise that for some of our learner's sensitivity and an individual approach needs to be taken to support them to develop this skill. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Manager to make appropriate interventions for individual learners to improve punctuality.

A student is late 15 minutes after the start of a session. An appropriate member of staff will contact the learner and/or their family/carer/guardian at the earliest opportunity to establish reason for lateness, check the safety of the learner and encourage attendance if feasible. The tutor responsible for the session will decide an appropriate time for the student to join the class. In practical environments such as catering this may mean that the student has to wait on the grounds of health and safety, for a convenient break in the session.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Key College targets are set at the beginning of the year (August 1st).
- Any student who falls below 85% will follow the appropriate intervention process.
- Individual student targets will be set within 2 weeks of their start.
- Key College Administrators will monitor progress on a weekly basis and report to relevant manager.
- The relevant manager or tutor is responsible for ensuring that registers are completed on a daily basis.
- Any concerns around attendance and/or poor punctuality will be escalated through the relevant manager.
- Attendance is an agenda item at all team meetings and at the Lifelong Learning Leadership meetings.

Role of the YMCA Key College Administrators

- Design and set up electronic registers and support and train relevant staff on the use of the registration system.
- Produce weekly cumulative attendances for all learners and email these to the relevant manager.
- Produce monthly reports showing actual attendance against target attendance for all learners and forward these to the Director of Lifelong Learning and Key College Managers on the 1st working day of each month.
- Each month produce a report showing actual attendance and punctuality for groups and for the whole department and forward to all Key College Managers by the 1st working day of each month.
- Carry out appropriate analysis of attendance data in line with the requirements of the Education Inspection Framework
- Review and develop electronic register processes at least twice a year.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF PROCEDURE

This procedure will be reviewed every two years or earlier for reasons of good practice





Key College Tutorial/review Procedure

Department: Key College

Approval Route: Lifelong Learning Committee

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	Transition from policy to procedure
	Date Approved

Table of Contents:

Tutorial and review delivery
Responsibilities
Monitoring and review of procedure



As part of their Study Programmes learners will be entitled to receive one to one reviews at the following intervals:

- Informal reviews at weeks 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6
- Formal reviews at weeks 4, 8, 16, 24, 32 and exit
- Soft skill reviews at weeks 8, 24 and at exit
- Next Steps Action Plan week 28

This is the minimum number of reviews that a learner on a 34-week programme of study is entitled to although more can be added if this is deemed necessary in order to appropriately support the learner.

Learners on a 34-week Study Programme can expect:

- A named person or persons who will carry out their reviews.
- A comprehensive induction programme to enable them to settle into their studies.
- The minimum number of 1:1 reviews as outlined above.
- Key information for study support and progression opportunities embedded into their Study Programme.
- Information at Induction and throughout their programme on how to access personal support either from the organisation or from external agencies.

Relevant information about the learners progress and support needs to be provided by relevant staff ahead of all reviews.

Responsibilities

The manager or coordinator within each team is responsible for:

- Identifying the tutor/tutors responsible for carrying out learner reviews.
- Ensuring that all actions from audits are monitored and actions to improve implemented.
- Ensuring that all relevant staff contribute to the individual learner target setting and review process.
- Ensuring that the entitlement of learners is met in full.
- Ensuring that those with responsibility for learner reviews maintain up to date records.
- Ensuring that there are effective communication channels within the team in order to identify and meet the specific learning needs of learners who require additional learning support and other support to achieve their qualification.
- Ensuring that learners identified 'at risk' are monitored and appropriate actions, meetings or referrals are made.

The Senior Key College Training and Education Manager and/or the Quality Assurance Assistant will:



- Ensure that Learner Review records are monitored to ensure compliance and quality through audits using Training and Education checklists.
- Ensure that appropriate staff development identified by line managers is delivered in a timely manner.
- Ensure that observations of learner reviews take place as part of the observation of teaching, learning and assessment process and appropriate action points are drawn up .

Tutors who carry out reviews are responsible for:

- Ensuring that all reviews are carried out in a timely manner and in line with the scheduled requirements as outlined in 4 above.
- Ensuring at each 1:1 that previous targets are reviewed with support/advice provided to individual learners on how they can improve their performance. This will include specific reference to attendance and punctuality with actions to improve as necessary.
- Increasing the frequency of 1:1 reviews for learners identified as 'at risk'.
- Ensuring that learners are actively encouraged to set and review their own targets understanding how these should be SMART.
- Ensuring that all learner reviews take place at the end of the day. In exceptional
 circumstances alternative arrangements should be agreed with the centre manager
 at the review planning stage.
- Ensuring that learner reviews do not disrupt learning or cause distraction to other learners.
- Ensuring that learner reviews are conducted in a confidential environment.
- Ensuring that all staff teaching on the learner's programme contribute to the review process by providing relevant and required information before the review takes place.
- Ensuring that sufficient time and space is made available for the learner review.
- Ensuring that parents/carers/guardians are given the opportunity to attend the learner's review (formal).
- Ensuring that a schedule of times/dates for learner reviews is kept up to date and posted on the. shared drive and sent to the relevant manager/ Head of Service on request
- Ensuring that if a learner misses a review that the review takes place at the earliest opportunity and not wait until the next scheduled review.
- Ensuring that the learner has a copy of each review so that they can refer to targets set.
- Ensuring that all learner review records are legible, accurate and stored confidentially.
- Ensuring that a copy of the review is made available to the relevant parent/carer/guardian.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF PROCEDURE

This procedure will be reviewed every two years or earlier for reasons of good practice.







Key College Learner Bursary Procedure

Department: Key College

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Table of Contents:

Eligibility Criteria
Discretionary bursaries
Vulnerable bursaries
Identifying vulnerable learners
Evidence of eligibility
Young people in the defined vulnerable groups who don't require bursary funding
16-19 Bursary learner bursary application process
Audit requirements
Monitoring and review of procedure



Eligibility criteria: all bursaries

1. Age

To be eligible to receive a bursary in an academic year the student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 at the 31st August that falls in that academic year. Students aged 19 or over are **NOT** eligible for the *vulnerable groups* bursary. Students aged 19 or over are, however, eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are on a course they started when they were under 19.

2. Residency

Students must meet the residency criteria in the <u>ESFA funding regulation</u>s for post-16 provision in the academic year. (That document also specifies the evidence YMCA Key College must see and retain for audit to confirm eligibility for study on ESFA-funded provision in the UK.)

3. Eligible education provision

Per ESFA guidance, to be eligible for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund students must be participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body that assures quality (for example Ofsted) and the provision must also be funded directly by ESFA or by ESFA via a local authority, or funded or co-financed by the European Social Fund, or otherwise publicly funded and lead to a qualification (up to and including level 3) accredited by Ofqual, or be pursuant to Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 or be a 16 to 19 traineeship.

Specific groups of students: eligibility questions

1. Students aged under 16

YMCA Key College should generally only pay bursaries to students aged 16 or over. However, in exceptional circumstances YMCA Key College may use its discretion to pay bursaries to younger students, for example, where a student is following an accelerated study programme. Exceptional circumstances do not include students aged 14 to 16 who are attending college as part of their key stage 4 programme.

2. Young offenders

Young offenders can apply for a bursary if they are serving a non-custodial sentence (but not if they are serving a custodial sentence), or have been released early from a custodial sentence (but not if released on temporary license) or have been remanded to a non-secure institution (but not if they have been remanded to a secure institution). YMCA Key College should provide in-kind support to young offenders rather than cash wherever possible.



3. Accompanied asylum seeking children (under 18 with an adult relative or partner)

As long as an asylum seeker has not had their application for asylum refused, YMCA Key College can provide *in-kind* student support such as books, equipment or a travel pass. Under no circumstances can YMCA Key College give cash to any asylum seeker unless they are an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child.

4. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are looked after children and are eligible for a vulnerable bursary because they are in care.

When these young people reach legal adulthood at age 18, YMCA Key College must consider their immigration status. If the asylum claim is decided in their favor, then they are *care leavers* and as such, they continue to be eligible for a vulnerable bursary until they reach 19th birthday. If an asylum claim is not supported and appeal rights exhausted, an individual has no entitlement to public funds.

Discretionary bursaries

YMCA Key College receives discretionary bursary funding <u>allocations</u> from the ESFA that are managed directly by YMCA Key College. YMCA Key College decides which students are eligible for help and what help they receive, in line with ESFA guidance and YMCA Key College's own policies and procedures.

To be eligible for the discretionary bursary, students must be facing financial barriers to participation and need help to stay in education. YMCA Key College can make discretionary bursary awards to students to help them overcome the individual barriers to participation they face, for example help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

YMCA Key College will decide which students receive a discretionary bursary and how much they receive, depending on each student's circumstances. YMCA Key College Training and Education Managers must not make blanket or flat rate payments to all students.

Learners from households where the *original gross* income of the *household* is more than £35,000 will not normally receive support through the discretionary bursary, but YMCA Key College may pay discretionary bursary to such a learner under exceptional circumstances.

Vulnerable bursaries

To be eligible for the vulnerable bursary, students must be in one of the defined vulnerable groups:

- in care
- care leavers
- in receipt of Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right



Students who are in one or more of the groups above can apply for a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 (if they are participating on a study programme that lasts for 30 weeks or more - YMCA Key College will pay a pro-rata amount for students on study programmes of less than 30 weeks per the basis outlined in the published $\underline{\underline{quidance from the ESFA}}$).

For vulnerable bursaries, YMCA Key College draws down funding (by submitting a funding claim) from the Student Bursary Support Service (SBSS) when students who meet the <u>vulnerable bursary</u> criteria have been identified. We are responsible for assessing if students are eligible to receive a vulnerable bursary payment and for retaining evidence to support the decision. We are required to submit a funding claim form to the SBSS to draw down vulnerable student bursary funds once eligibility is confirmed. We can submit as many funding claims as we need to during the year. Per best practice, YMCA Key College will not hold onto claims until the end of the academic year but will submit regularly.

The vulnerable bursary can be paid for each academic year the student is in education or training, as long as they continue to meet the scheme eligibility criteria.

YMCA Key College can pay a vulnerable student more than £1,200 if we assess they need extra help to remain in education. Any payments over the £1,200 must be paid from our discretionary bursary allocation or from YMCA Key College's own funds.

Equally, YMCA Key College may decide that although a young person may be eligible for a vulnerable bursary because they are in one or more of the defined vulnerable groups, they do not have any actual financial need and so are not eligible on that basis. For example, their financial needs are already met and/or they have no relevant costs.

1. Defining in care and care leavers

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund defines 'in care' as:

 children looked after by a local authority on a voluntary basis (section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or under a care order (section 31 of the Children Act 1989) -Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 defines the term 'looked after child'

A 'care leaver' is defined as:

- a young person aged 16 and 17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16; or
- a young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a
 period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods of 13 weeks), which began after the
 age of 14 and ended after the age of 16

In legal terms these children are called 'relevant children' or 'former relevant children'.

2. Foster care, including privately arranged foster care

A young person placed with a foster carer by the local authority, including where the foster carer is on the books of an independent fostering agency, is classed as looked after. They are in a defined vulnerable group ('in care') and eligible for help from the vulnerable bursary.

A child who is privately fostered (in other words, a private arrangement is made between the parent and the person who will care for the child) is not classed as a looked after child and is not eligible for the vulnerable bursary.



In some instances, a young person may have been in the care of the local authority and the care transferred to another party via a permanent form of fostering such as a Special Guardianship Order. In these circumstances the young person is defined as having left care so is now a care leaver. They are in a defined vulnerable group ('care leaver') and eligible for help from the vulnerable bursary.

Identifying vulnerable students

YMCA Key College is responsible for identifying students in the defined vulnerable groups. Centres should be aware that students who are in care or are care leavers might be reluctant to say so because of fear of being stigmatised and should ensure confidentiality to reduce these concerns. For example, Training and Education staff should tell students how their information will be used and shared and should not put students in a position where they are publicly identified as receiving a vulnerable bursary.

YMCA Key College can take the initiative to identify students eligible for the vulnerable bursary by working with the local authority's looked-after children's education services and care leaver services to help and encourage students to apply for a bursary. Local data sharing agreements can be set up to share information about which students might be eligible and who should be supported to make an application. For example, YMCA Key College might ask the local authority if a young person received free school meals in year 11.

Evidence of eligibility

YMCA Key College must obtain proof that students are eligible for a vulnerable bursary. Centre staff should ask for evidence from each student and retain copies for audit purposes. For example:

- for students who are in care or a care leaver, written confirmation of their current or previous looked-after status from the relevant local authority - this is the local authority that looks after them or provides their leaving care services. The evidence could be a letter or an email but must be clearly from the local authority
- for students in receipt of Income Support, a copy of their Income Support award notice. They must be entitled to the benefit in their own right and the evidence must not specify any conditions that prevent the young person from being in further education or training (some young people in receipt of benefits are not allowed to participate)
- for students in receipt of Universal Credit, a copy of their Universal Credit Award notice. They must be entitled to the benefit in their own right. They must also provide additional documentation to confirm their independent status, for example a tenancy agreement in the student's name, a child benefit receipt, children's birth certificates, utility bills etc
- for students receiving Universal Credit/Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments, a copy of the student's Universal Credit or ESA award from DWP (UC claimants will be able to print off details of their award from their journal). Evidence of receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment, must also be provided



Young people in the defined vulnerable groups who don't require bursary funding

In some cases a young person might be eligible for a vulnerable bursary because they are in one or more of the defined vulnerable groups, but their financial needs are already met and/or they have no relevant costs.

For example a student in local authority care whose educational costs are covered in full by the local authority

If the student still wants to claim a vulnerable student bursary, YMCA Key College will consider the particular circumstances in each case and assess whether no bursary should be awarded (because the student has no financial needs) or to award a reduced amount of bursary (because the financial help needed is limited).

In these instances, YMCA Key College will clearly explain to all parties the aim of bursary funding and why no bursary is being awarded or why a reduced bursary is being paid. YMCA Key College will state in the application form that there is possibility of no award, or a limited award, of the vulnerable bursary being the outcome of an application. This ensures all parties are clear that meeting the vulnerable bursary criteria does not automatically mean funding will be given

16-19 Bursary learner bursary application process

- 1) A bursary application form (Appendix 1) is given to each student at enrolment.
- 2) The bursary application form is returned (ideally on first day of induction)
- 3) If bursary eligibility is recognised this is recorded on sILR under FAM

Bus fare.

Learners can only access bus fare if they have brought back the bursary form.

- a) Bus fare is recorded on the relevant cash voucher (VB or DB), tickets stapled to back.
- b) In order that we can get a total of what's being paid to which learner over the year, the information is entered into the **busfare databases**.
- c) When the end of the cash voucher is reached, a photocopy is kept for Key College's records and original sent to Finance

Other items

- a) If approved, item then purchased through the company credit card (or other means)
- b) Item and cost is logged in **bursary item log** as purchased for that learner out of there bursary entitlement.

Lunch

A separate log is kept logging non-FMFE learners who are provided with food and the cost of the food comes from their bursary entitlement. (NB. Learners not to be given cash if there is catering on site.)

Audit requirements

All information is kept for 6 years in line with ESFA audit requirements.

Monitoring and review of procedure

This procedure will be reviewed every two years or earlier for reasons of good practice