

### **May 2023**

# **Advanced Learner Loans - Learning Provider Training**

FE Account Management Team, Partner Services

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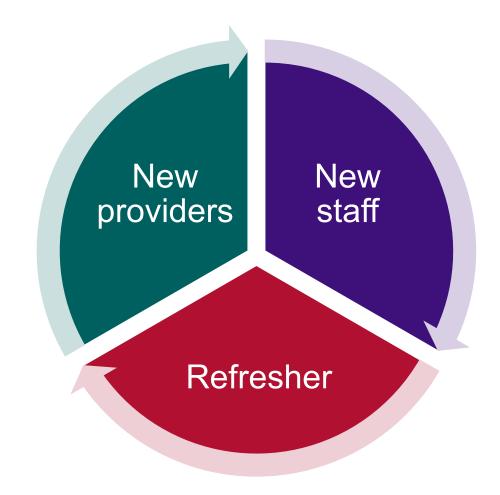
### **Advanced Learner Loans**

Beginner Training - Recap



### **Beginner Training**

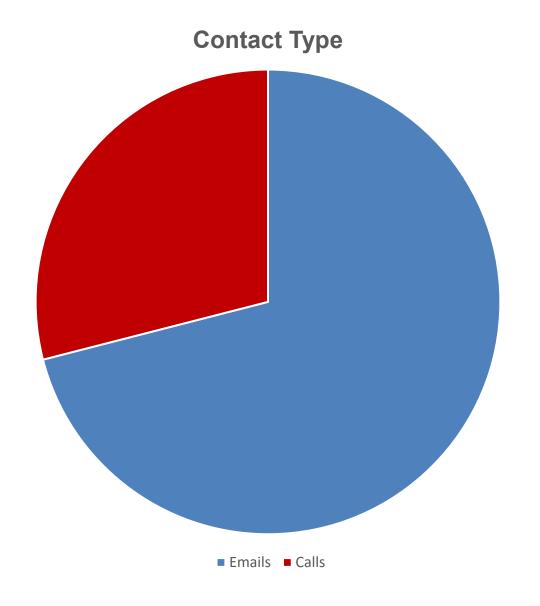
- 137 attended the online training throughout February and March
- New providers awarded contracts PMP1 and PMP2
- High staff turnover
- Additional training sessions arranged as a follow-up



### **Advanced Learner Loans**

Stats & Sector Updates

### **Partners' Support Desk**



#### **Contact Drivers / Trends:**

- (1) Reverse Withdrawal to:
  - amend fee amount
  - reprocess with a different date
  - withdrawn in error app as should be suspended
- (2) Reinstating Auto Cancelled applications
- (3) Missing Evidence queries
- (4) Update fees to zero as student has Level 3 Entitlement

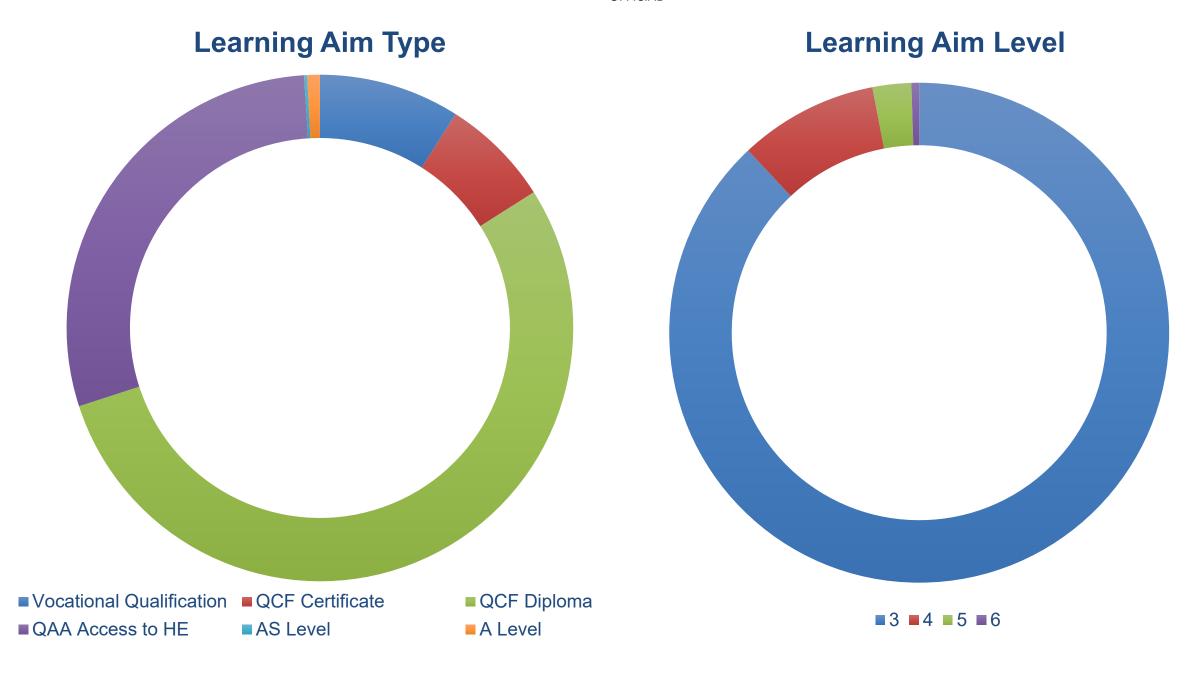
### **Customer Helpline – Call Drivers**

ID Queries

Home Office Status Queries

Querying loan taken out / disputing attendance

Write-Off Process



### Top 10 Learning Aims

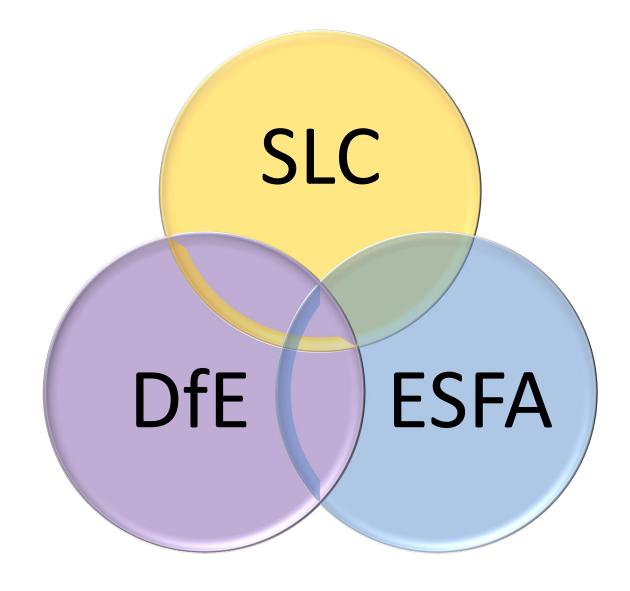
Level	Learning Aim Type	Learning Aim Description
Level 3	QAA Access to HE	Access to HE Diploma (Science)
Level 3	QCF Diploma	Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning
Level 3	QCF Diploma	Diploma in Nail Technology
Level 3	QAA Access to HE	Access to HE Diploma (Health)
Level 3	QCF Diploma	Diploma in Women's Hairdressing
Level 3	QAA Access to HE	Access to HE Diploma (Nursing and Midwifery)
Level 3	QAA Access to HE	Access to HE Diploma (Health Professions)
Level 4	QCF Diploma	Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling (RQF)
Level 3	QCF Diploma	Diploma in Nail Technology (RQF)
Level 3	QAA Access to HE	Access to HE Diploma (Health Professionals)

### **Sector / Policy Updates**

Plan 5	23/24 <b>new</b> learners  40 year write off £25,000 threshold  RPI only	23/24 LAUNCH	30 May launch  LAFIL  Contract value  Loan Facility Details	POLICY	ESFA Funding & Performance Rules  PMP Timelines  CPR / Access to HE  Suspension period	LLE	Phased approach  25/26 ALL level 4-6 / HTQs  27/28 all 4-6  ALL remain for L3
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**OFFICIAL** 

- > 2022 DfE re-organisation
- > DfE now houses the territorial teams
- ➤ Responsible for relationship management
- > ESFA remains an executive agency of DfE
- ESFA purely focused on managing the funding

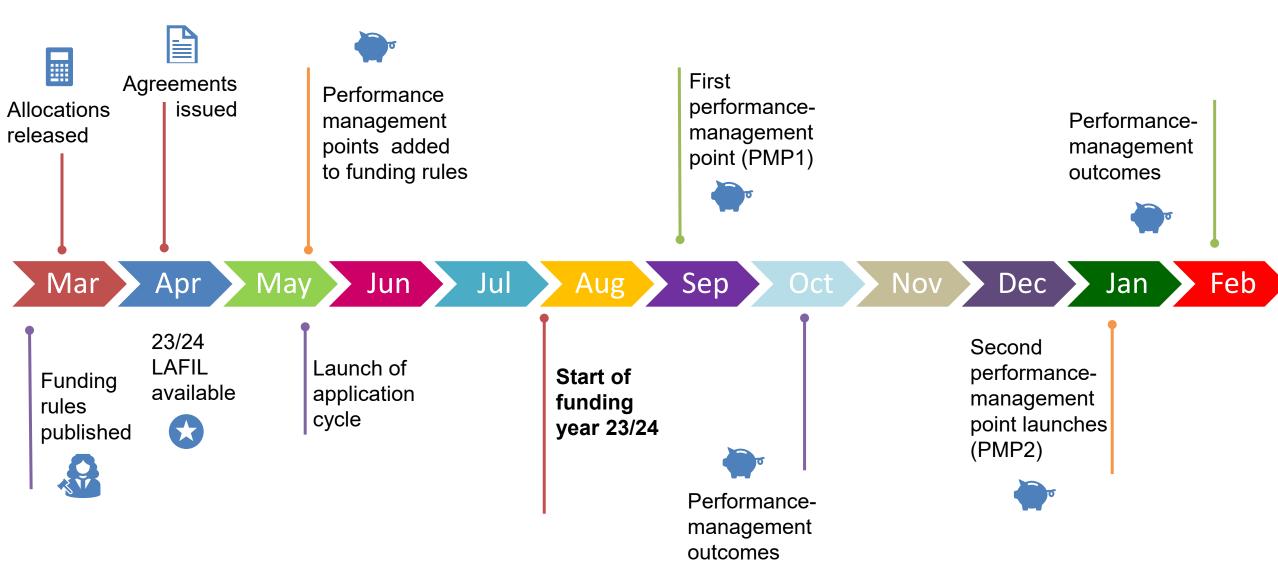


### **Advanced Learner Loans**

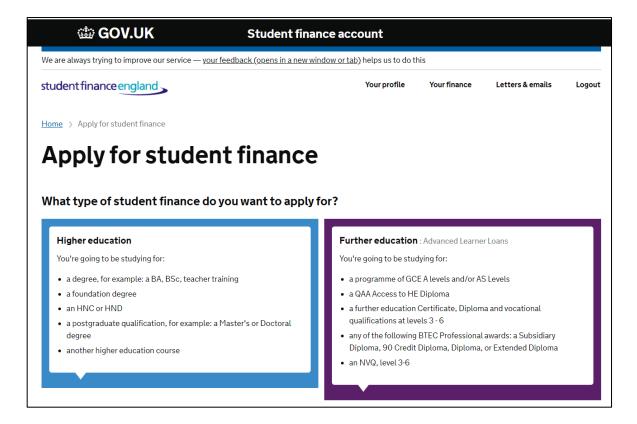
'Launch to Learning'

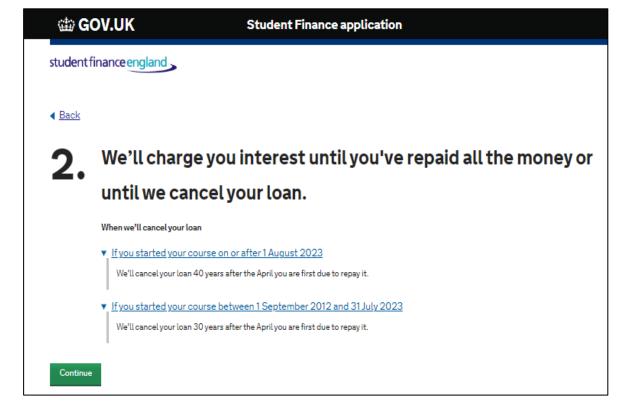


### **Advanced Learner Loans - Timeline**

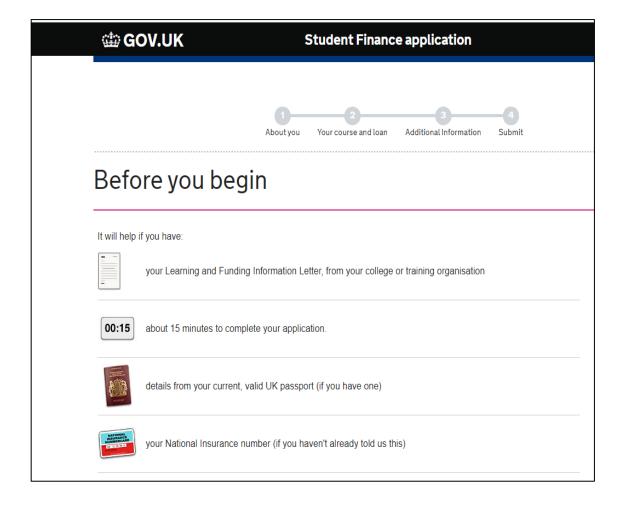


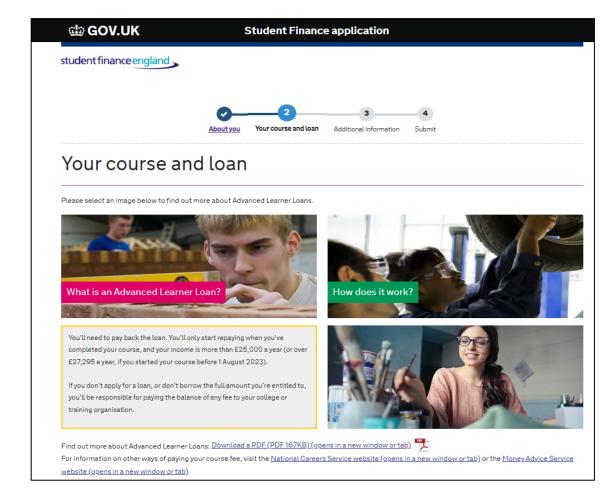
### **Learner Application 23/24**





### **Learner Application 23/24**





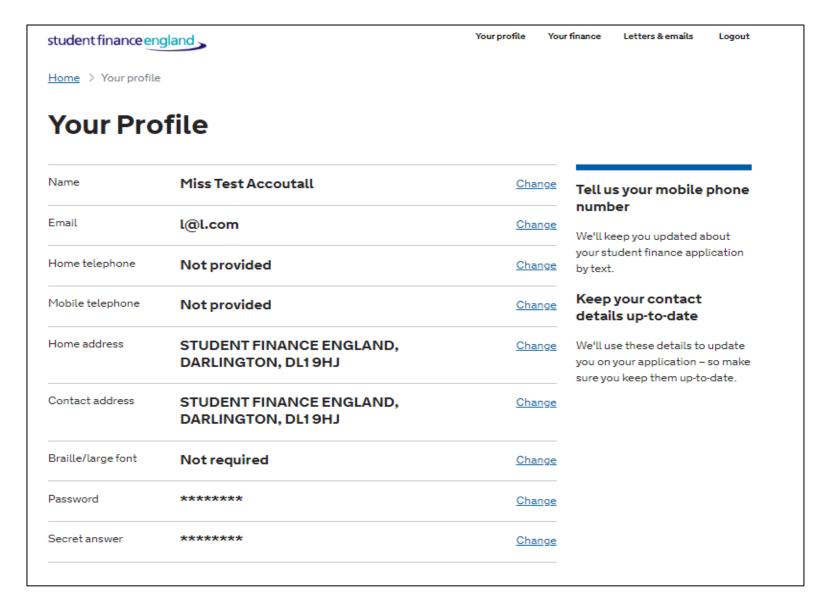
### **Learner Application 23/24**

View application status & next steps

Change this application

Cancel this application

Learners can update their contact details via the link at the top of the 'my account' page



#### **Scan First Process**

#### **Batching**

Documents are separated for each individual customer. These batches will then be boxed up awaiting scanning



#### Scanning

Physical document/s are run through SLC scanners. The scanned image is then held on our document repository awaiting indexing. Advisers will <u>NOT</u> be able to see the image yet as this has not been linked to a customer account.



#### Indexing

The scanned document now needs to be indexed to the correct work queue and to the correct customer account. Documents are worked in order of date scanned and once indexed become available to advisers to view/work

### **Process First**

Documents are sent to the relevant area for review after which the account will be noted and the document sent to be scanned

### **EUSS Share Codes**









Online applicants receive an email request for code within 24 hours of submitting app

#### **Email to Learner**

Learner is asked to email their 'Something Specific' share code for student finance purposes

Generated via gov.uk – valid for 90 days

Valid share code starts with letter 'S'

#### **Validation**

SLC validate the code with the Home Office

90% success rate

Original ID required where validation fails

### **Practitioners' Helpline**

The Regulation and Policy Practitioners' Helpline can help with:

- Detailed information about policy and regulations
- Complex queries
- Eligibility
- Circumstantial questions

Open Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Email: ssin queries@slc.co.uk

Telephone: <u>0300 100 0618</u>





### **Eligibility**

#### **UK NATIONALS**

Ordinarily resident in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man for the 3 years prior to 1st day of the course

Ordinarily resident in England on the 1st day of the course

- UK Passport Details / Form
- UK Birth/Adoption Certificate (long or short)

If name is different from Birth Certificate, a clear photocopy of their change of name document is required

#### **EEA/SWISS NATIONALS**

Ordinarily resident in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man for the 3 years prior to 1st day of the course

Ordinarily resident in England on the 1st day of the course

Obtained (pre) settled status under the EUSS

- EUSS Share code
- EU Status confirmation letter

Settled - not subject to any restrictions on length of stay in UK:

- British / Irish citizen
- granted indefinite leave to enter or remain (including EUSS)
- member of HM forces
- Right of abode

#### **ROW NATIONALS**

Exception criteria for those who do not meet standard residency criteria includes:

- Refugee
- Humanitarian Protection
- Long Residence

#### ID:

- Passport
- Home Office Biometric Residence Card (HOBRC)
- UK Travel Document
- Certificate of Naturalisation
- Certificate of Registration

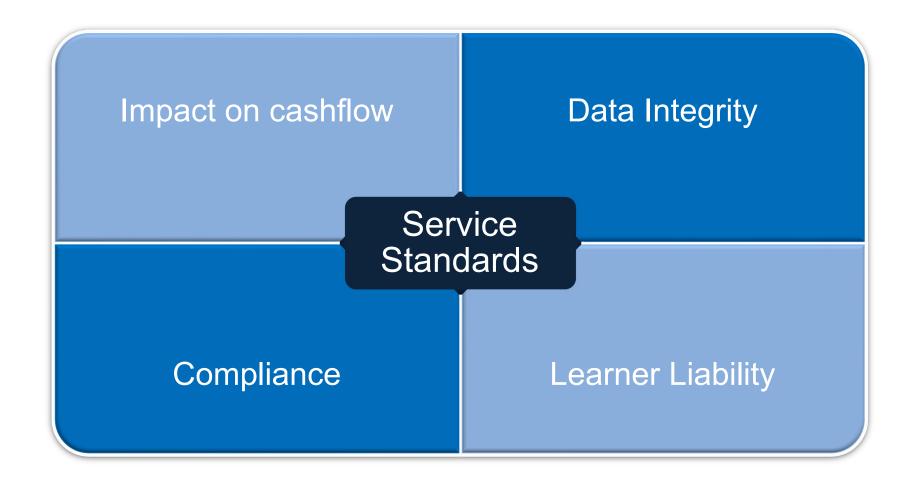
#### Residency status:

- HOBRC
- Vignette (Stamp inside Passport)
- Home Office Letter
- Immigration Status Document
- UK Travel Document

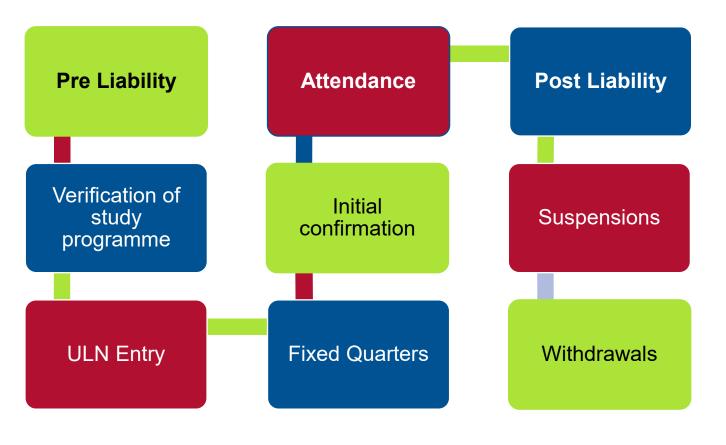
### **Advanced Learner Loans**

Service Standards in the Spotlight

### **Provider Responsibilities**



### **Service Standard Requirements**



#### Academic year 2022/23 payment and drawdown calendar

							A	Y 20	22/2	3 - Aı	ugust	to Ju	ıly							
М	T	W	T	F	S	S	М	T	W	T	F	S	S	М	T	W	T	F	S	S
FQ			Aug	<b>3-22</b>			AA		Sep-22			AA			Oc	t-22				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
FQ			Nov	<i>I</i> -22			AA			Dec	:-22			AA			Jar	1-23		
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					
FQ			Feb	-23			AA			Ma	r-23			AA			Ap	r-23		
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
FQ				y-23			AA			Jun	-23			AA			Ju	-23		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						



### **Service Standards – ULN & Attendance**

ULN 99%

	North	Central	South & West	South East
March 23	99%	100%	99%	99%
March 22	98%	99%	98%	96%

Initial A/C 97%

	North	Central	South & West	South East
March 23	98%	96%	92%	99%
March 22	96%	96%	96%	94%

Fixed Quarter 99%

	North	Central	South & West	South East
Feb 23	94%	94%	96%	94%
Feb 22	94%	95%	92%	94%

### **Service Standards – Suspensions**

72% 60 days

	North	Central	South & West	South East
March 23	78%	85%	48%	78%
March 22	84%	82%	40%	68%

86% 90 days

	North	Central	South & West	South East
March 23	89%	92%	73%	90%
March 22	94%	94%	88%	86%

### **Service Standards – Withdrawals**

56% 60 days

	North	Central	South & West	South East
March 23	48%	53%	60%	66%
March 22	57%	62%	45%	51%



	North	Central	South & West	South East
March 23	62%	69%	73%	79%
March 22	72%	74%	61%	72%



### **Hints and Tips**

- Work towards the monthly draw down date to ensure compliance
- ULN and initial attendances due within six weeks of course start date (measured at next available draw down date)
- Consider using a suspension if 'non-attendance' pending withdrawal

### Role of Your Account Manager



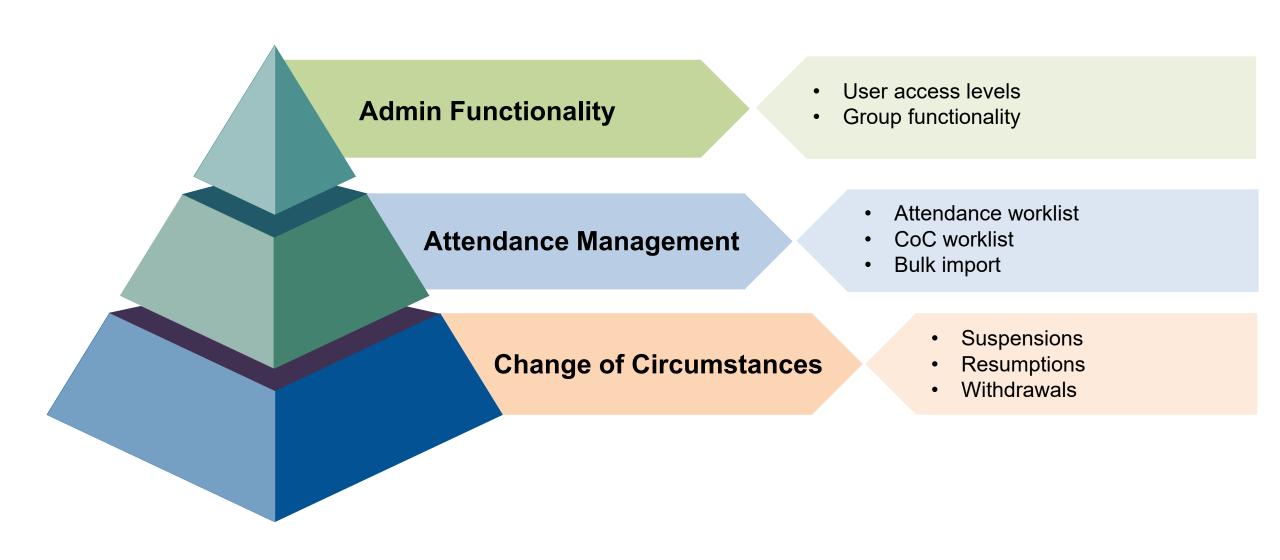
- Visits and Account Reviews
- ✓ Advice and guidance
- Training (Support/Academic)
- ✓ Supporting Compliance
- Performance monitoring
- Query escalation



### **Advanced Learner Loans**

Portal Functionality

### **Portal Overview**



Enables the user to set up any number of additional users with access to the various roles within the LP portal

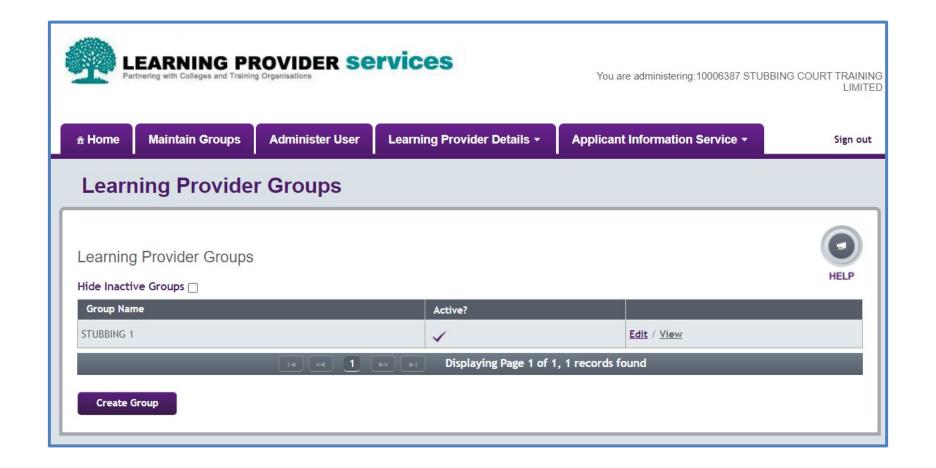
**★** Home

### Administrator

Enables the user to access the worklists and administer for each of the assigned products

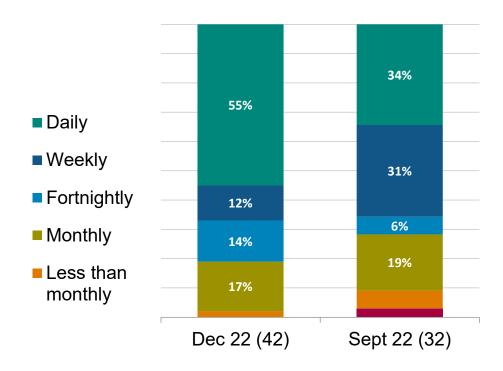
### **User/Advisor**

Read only access role that enables users to view information details



### **Bulk Upload Usage**

#### How frequently do you use the LP Portal?



Source: PortalFreq; LPP\_Features

Base: See chart

## Which of the following features of the LP Portal have you used over the last 6 months?

Feature	% use Dec 2022	% use Sept 2022
Viewing Learner Data	88%	100%
Attendance Confirmation	80%	74%
Financial Information	71%	81%
Change of Circumstance	76%	81%
Bulk Upload	7%	3%

### **Importing Data**

If you have LP Administrator access, you can import data for multiple learners using a bulk import file This file must be in xml or csv format and formatted to correspond with the correct validation

The different types of file you can upload are:

- Unique Learner Numbers (ULNs)
- Learner Details
- Change of Circumstance (CoCs)
- Attendance Confirmation\*



\*Attendance confirmation is currently undergoing a review to improve usability

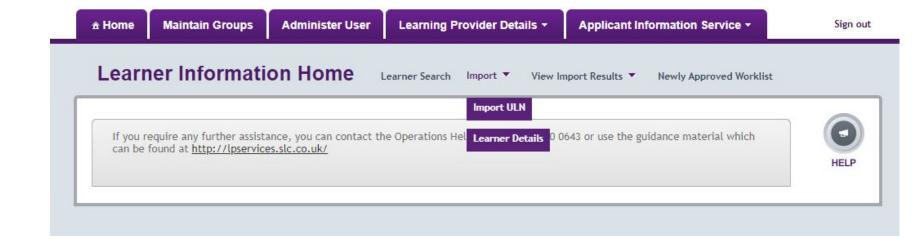
You can update the exported file (for example remove additional columns) and save it to your own system



### **Importing ULNs**

#### **Import File**

- 1. Select 'Learner Information Home' from the 'Applicant Information Service' menu
- 2. Select the 'Import' menu
- 3. Select 'Import ULN'
- 4. Choose File
- 5. 'Submit'







### **Correct Formatting and Data Validation**

Element Name (columns)	Element Type	Element Description	Field Length
learnerSurname	Alphanumeric	The surname of the Learner.	Max 50
learnerForename	Alphanumeric	The forename of the Learner.	Max 50
learnerDateOfBirth	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Learners date of birth	10
Customer Reference Number	Alphanumeric	The Learners Customer Reference Number	Max 11
Unique Learner Reference Number	Numeric	The Learners Unique Learner Number Identifier	Max 10

- Any other columns not listed above should be deleted to avoid errors on import
- Please ensure Date of Birth format is correct due to Excel auto-formatting



#### **Attendance Management**

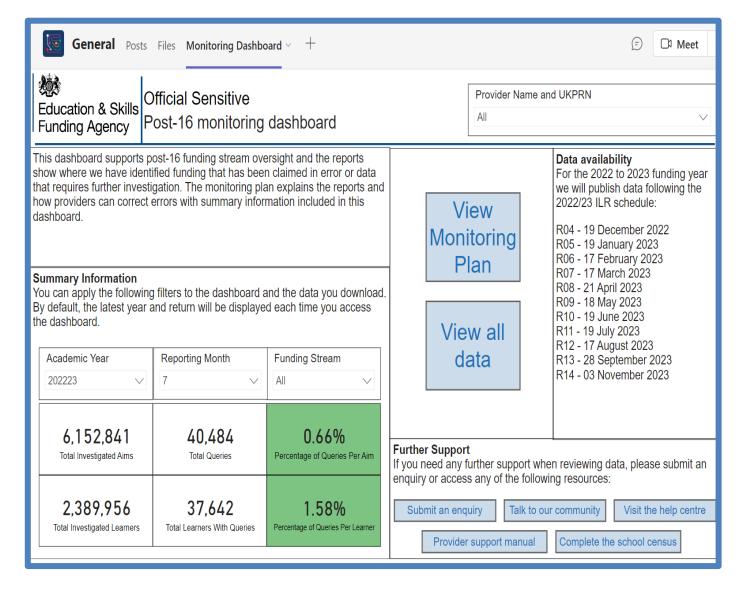
- ✓ Ensure 'Not In Attendance' confirmations are followed up with the appropriate CoC check CoC Worklist
- ✓ Check and clear the attendance worklist regularly
- ✓ Work to draw down date narrow window some months



## **Advanced Learner Loans**

LP Portal / ILR Requirements

## **Funding Monitoring**



- Access the dashboard monthly used as part of routine data quality & submission cycles to proactively address potential errors
- Inaccurate data can negatively impact on funding claims & achievement rates - could be treated as a serious breach of your funding agreement with the ESFA
- ESFA will share the data through the post-16 monitoring reports dashboard every month from December (R04)

#### **Points to Note**

#### **Delivery Location Postcode**

- For ALL purposes, this can be anywhere in England
- Code ZZ99 9ZZ should be used for distance or online provision

#### **Learning Start / End Date**

- The date on which learning for the learning aim began and ended should be accurate to within a week on the ILR
- Once initial attendance confirmed on LP Portal, start date cannot be amended
- Once end date passed on LP Portal, cannot be amended

# **Advanced Learner Loans**

Funding Rules

#### Apprenticeship

A break in learning must be used where there is no plan for active learning to take place within a calendar month

# Guidance for Young People

Institutions must withdraw students from their programmes if they do not return to learning after being absent for 4 weeks

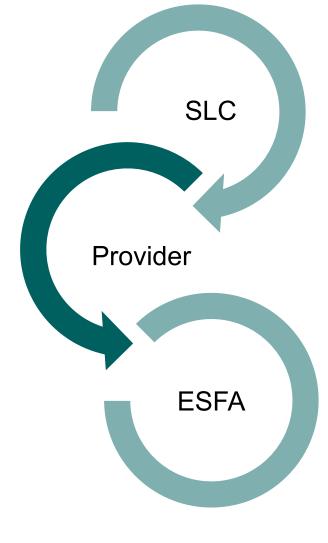
# **Advanced Learner Loans**

Financials



## **Monitoring your Facility**

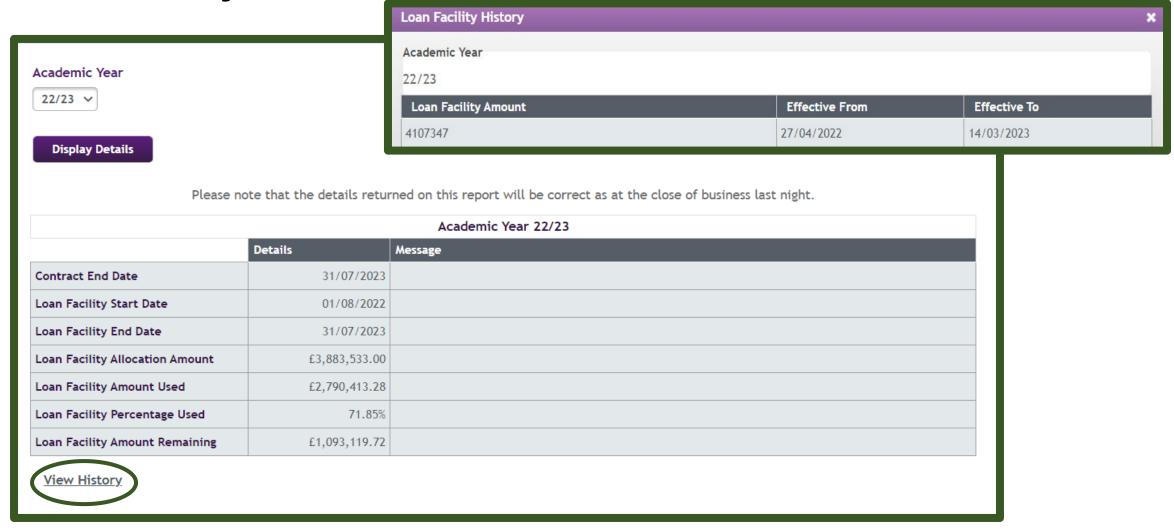






**4**5

**Loan Facility Details** 



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# **Payment Instalment Report**

			Approved 1	for Payment										
		Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Year To Date
Paid	Paid	£153,928.45	£195,262.49	£251,518.21	£161,171.68	£259,246.42	£227,074.58	£284,548.62	£202,508.09	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,735,258.5
Scheduled with Attendance Confirmed	Ready for Payment	£0.00	£0.00	£65.70	£65.70	£65.70	£65.70	£65.70	£65.70	£148,774.47	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£149,168.6
	Missing NINO	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.
Scheduled Awaiting Attendance Confirmation	Attendance confirmation only required	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,011.41	£14,560.05	£156,103.32	£150,336.50	£141,316.69	£470,327.9
	Missing NINO	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.
	Missing ULN	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£576.40	£576.40	£576.40	£33,585.14	£66,425.18	£65,246.18	£65,246.18	£65,246.18	£297,478.0
	Missing NINO and ULN	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£262.00	£262.00	£1,288.17	£4,436.54	£5,484.54	£5,484.54	£5,484.54	£22,702.3
Approved	Awaiting Signature	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.
Total		£153,928.45	£195,262.49	£251,583.91	£161,237.38	£259,888.52	£227,978.68	£285,452.72	£245,458.51	£234,196.24	£226,834.04	£221,067.22	£212,047.41	£2,674,935.
Offset														£0.
Facility														£3,883,533.
Percentage Usage of Facility														71.8
			Not Approv	ed for Paym	ent									
Missing Evidence	Missing Evidence	£0.00	£0.00	£262.00	£483.69	£483.69	£483.69	£745.69	£7,000.05	£14,048.90	£14,801.54	£14,801.54	£14,801.54	£67,912.3
Eligibility Incomplete	Missing Information	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0
Total		£0.00	£0.00	£262.00	£483.69	£483.69	£483.69	£745.69	£7,000.05	£14,048.90	£14,801.54	£14,801.54	£14,801.54	£67,912



### **Performance Management Points**

In 2023/24, there will be two review points:

- September 2023: first review point for increases, reductions and new facility requests
- January 2024: second review point for increases, reductions and new facility requests

Growth limited to £250k for entire funding year, regardless of loan facility value if:

- > published overall Ofsted grade is 'requires improvement'
- > you have not yet had an Ofsted inspection
- > you have not yet had your qualification achievement rates assessed against ESFA's minimum quality standards

Facility as at 1 Aug 2023	Maximum facility growth for 2023/24
Up to £100k	£50k
Over £100k	£1.5m or 50% of facility (whichever is lower) – limited to £750k at a single review point



<sup>\*</sup> To be confirmed in draft 2 of ESFA Funding Rules

#### **Monitoring your Facility**

If a restriction has been applied due to lack of funding in 22/23, the learner will be made ineligible if the course crosses into that year



#### True

#### For example:

- Course started in 22/23
- Restriction applied to 22/23 on 30/06/23
- Learner applied: 01/07/23
- Application deemed ineligible

#### **Maximising your Facility**

#### Provider A:

- £3,500 remaining of their 22/23 facility
- 20 learners waiting to start
- Learning aim fee amount £1750
- 10 month course duration
- Learners be able to apply with a start date in July 2023

#### True

- Start date 17<sup>th</sup> July
- First payment scheduled 14 days after, 31<sup>st</sup> July
- £175 monthly payment x 20 = £3,500
- Payments will be made in August as draw down date passed
- However, payments scheduled for July will be allocated against 22/23 loan facility usage

# **Advanced Learner Loans**

**Complex Scenarios** 

# Non-Classroom Based Provision

- Do you offer distance/online learning?
- What specific issues do you face with confirming attendance / tracking engagement?
- What further guidance would benefit you?



# Ineligibility

# Jessica's application for 22/23 has been made ineligible (but not due to personal eligibility)

# Discuss possible reasons why this may have occurred

- Wait until launch and publication of LAFIL
- Ensuring contract signed and returned and visible on Loan Facility Details report – ensure contract manager details are up-to-date
- Auto restriction / reduction applied
- Learning aim is no longer designated for funding
- Maximum 4 loans taken
- Second Access to HE application



#### Start Date Error

Tom's application is approved and the initial attendance has been confirmed.

The provider is later informed that the learner's start date was actually later than originally reported.

#### What would you do in this situation?

- If the draw down date has not yet passed, the attendance start can be amended back to 'awaiting confirmation' and the start date amended
- Otherwise leave as is but data will not match ILR return



# Learning Aim Changes

# Where a learner wishes to move learning aim mid course:

- What needs to be considered?
- What changes need to be submitted on the portal?
- Change learning aim reference
- Consider new fee
- Bear in mind new learning aim will have to have been eligible from start date of course
- Has to be at same level and type
- Issue new LAFIL and add to learner file



# Loan Entitlement

Provider A's fee policy is to not charge where a learner withdraws within the first six weeks of their course

If the fee is set to zero by the LP before they withdraw, will the learner still be classed as having 'used' one of their loan entitlements?

- If the learner has attended past the 14 day liability point, they will still be classed as having 'used' up one of their four loan entitlements, irrespective of whether the provider's policy is to remove the loan liability
- Be mindful that the service standards gives providers six weeks from the course start date to add the confirm the initial attendance



# Reinstating Applications

Learner A applies and the application is approved. They decide not to start the course and the provider cancels the application

Learner A wants to start the course two months later so the provider re-instates the application

What should the provider consider before doing so?

- Is the start date still within the same AY?
- Was the application cancelled less than 60 days ago?
- Make sure start/end dates are amended accordingly
- Confirm initial attendance within 14 days of reinstatement



# **Advanced Learner Loans**

Preparation for 2025/26

#### **LLE – Introduction**

- Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) is a student finance system being introduced from 25/26 to provide funding for people to study over their working lives
- Intention to unify student finance systems across levels 4,5 and 6 so that all courses, whether academic or technical, are funded the same way
  - DfE will set and own the LLE policy
  - SLC will administer the LLE system
  - OfS will be accountable for the Register of Providers
- Unlikely to be any significant changes to nationality, citizenship or residency rules
- Funding at modular level will be phased in over time



#### **Module Eligibility in 2025/26**

- The government will take a phased approach to providing funding for modules
- On launch in AY 25/26, new modular funding will only be provided for certain courses including All Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) and some technical qualifications at levels 4 and 5 currently funded through ALLs
- LLE funding for modules of undergraduate degrees will be introduced from AY 2027/28
- Each module must carry a minimum credit value of 30 credits
- Providers will have autonomy on whether or not to modularise a course



### **LLE - Key Messages**

#### **Entitlement**

- Individuals will have access to a loan entitlement worth the equivalent of four years of post-18 education funding (£37,000 in today's fees) to allow them to train, retrain, and upskill
- Available to both new, and returning learners
- LLE tuition fee loans will be available up to the age of 60
- An additional entitlement will be made available for a limited number of priority subjects and longer courses



#### Maintenance

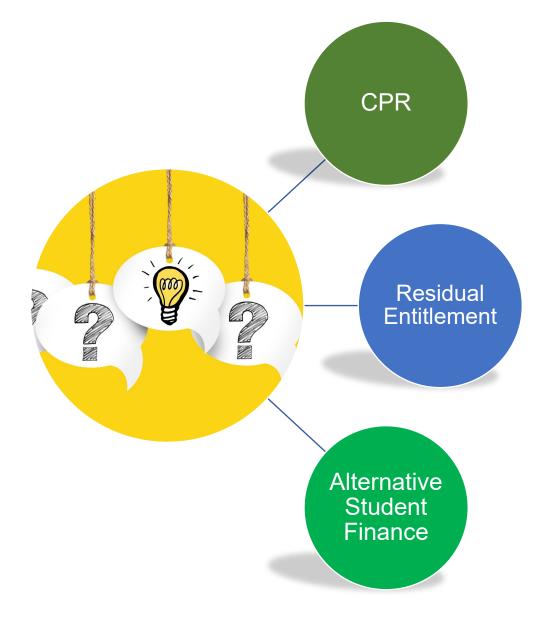
- Maintenance support to be offered across all eligible
   L4-6 technical and part-time courses on a par with traditional full-time study
- Budget for targeted grants set out in Spending Review
- Reduced-rate maintenance loan will continue to be available for those over 60

#### Repayments

- Loans taken out for LLE courses and modules will be repaid under Plan 5 terms and conditions, with a 9% repayment rate paid on incomes above £25,000.
- Excluding postgraduate loans, learners will not be required to repay more than 9% of their income above the relevant thresholds even if they have loans under Plan 5 and Plan 2 (post-2012 loans)



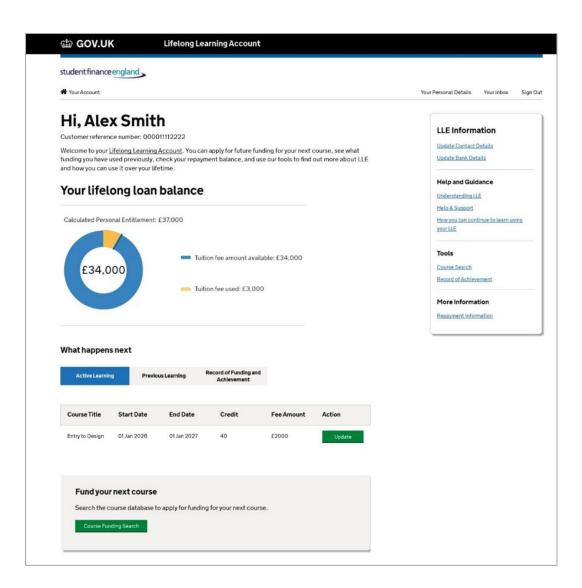
## **LLE – Under Consideration**





#### **LLE – Personal Account**

- Learners will be able to access their LLE through an online 'personal account' where they can easily view:
  - their loan entitlement
  - clear information and guidance
  - eligible courses
- This will help support learners make informed choices about their learning pathway.
- How the account looks and its wider functionality, such as the ability to record a learner's record of achievement, will be subject to user research and testing, so that the account is user friendly and simple to use.





#### **LLE – Quality & Regulation**

■ <u>Approach</u>: Regulated through the Office for Students (OfS) who will seek to develop a permanent 3rd registration category for providers currently offering L4-6 Advanced Learner Loan (ALL) provision, but who aren't currently registered with the OfS



Appropriate Regulation: The Government expects that OfS will continue to regulate providers in a
proportionate way, as they currently do and will support the OfS in ensuring the regime is clear



Next steps: The OfS will be consulting later in the year (2023) on the conditions of this new category



#### **LLE – Next Steps**

The next steps in the pathway to the LLE are:

- December 2023 review of ALL funded qualifications, outcome January 2024
- OfS will consult on the development and introduction of a new third registration category
- Work with providers of Advance Learner Loans to embed changes
- Launch a technical consultation on wider expansion of modular funding next year
- Courses Management launch forecasted for Oct 2024
- Apply to Pay launch forecasted for April –Sept 2025



# **Advanced Learner Loans**

Resources



### **ALL Resources: Learning Provider Services**

For guidance information, the Service Agreement, upcoming events and news please visit the LP Services website:

https://www.lpservices.slc.co.uk/



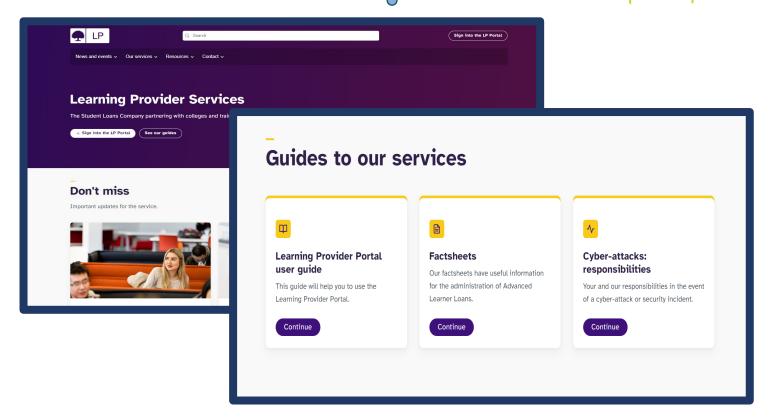
Contact Partner Support Desk

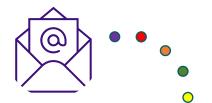
E-mail:

LP\_Services@slc.co.uk

Phone:

0300 100 0643





Or contact your Regional

FE Account Manager



#### **Contact Information**

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