



## **FUNDING STREAMS FOR POST-QUALIFYING AWARDS IN SOCIAL WORK**

**This document aims to provide a brief overview regarding funding streams available for supporting candidates undertaking Post-Qualifying (PQ) Awards in Social Work within the revised PQ framework.**

### **NATIONAL TRAINING STRATEGY (NTS) GRANT**

#### **Local Authority Employees**

NTS grants are issued by the Department of Health (DoH) to local authorities. This grant contributes to the council's employers' costs to ensure appropriate levels of training and qualifications of social care staff.

It is expected that local authorities spend a proportion of this grant on supporting social workers within adult and children's services to undertake post-qualifying awards.

It is recommended that you contact the Learning and Development Team in your respective organisation for further information on funding available.

#### **Private and Voluntary Sector Employees**

The DoH stipulates that local authorities should also use NTS grant money to support the training and development of staff within the private and voluntary sectors, which can include the provision of PQ Awards. The arrangements for supporting this vary significantly across London though some very positive examples are in place:

*“One of the major challenges for the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector in providing its registered social work staff with the opportunity to gain a Post Qualifying Award is finding the funding. One possible source of funding support is the Local Authority in which an individual PVI sector service is located. Currently the DoH provides individual Local Authorities with a grant with the expectation that 50% of it be used to support PVI sector partners. To*

*date Barnardo's has benefited significantly from receiving funding support from this source, but this has only come about through taking a very proactive approach with Local Authorities. In my experience the mechanism for accessing this funding support can vary slightly amongst Local Authorities. Sometimes all that's required is to contact the PQ Lead person concerned, but in some cases it requires joining the Local Authority led social care employer partnership. However, whatever the mechanism, here is an opportunity for the PVI sector to take advantage and should take active steps to do so, especially as it is unclear for how much longer the DoH will continue to source this funding stream." (Michael Williams, Barnardo's and Chair of the Post-Qualifying Regional Planning Network, London)*

## **POST-QUALIFYING BURSARY FUND**

Skills for Care and the Children's Workforce Development Council jointly offer bursaries for the Post Qualifying Awards in Social Work. Bursary funding can only be awarded to candidates working towards Post Qualifying Awards who do not have an employer i.e those who are responsible for their own national insurance contributions. This may include locum, freelance or independent social workers.

For further information regarding eligibility criteria and the application process for the region of London, please email [edith.ifekwuna@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:edith.ifekwuna@skillsforcare.org.uk) heading the subject field 'Bursary Information'.

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOANS**

Career development loans (CDLs) can be used to fund vocational (work-related) courses, and are available through an arrangement between the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and three high street banks.

In summary\*:

- you can borrow anything between £300 and £8,000 to help you fund up to two years of learning (or up to three years if the course includes one year of relevant practical work experience)
- you can get CDLs through Barclays, The Co-operative Bank and The Royal Bank of Scotland
- the LSC pays the interest on your loan while you are learning and for up to one month after you've stopped training
- you then repay the loan to the bank over an agreed period at a fixed rate of interest

There are various application criteria to qualify for a CDL, for example, you must be:

- 18 or over

- ordinarily resident in England, Scotland or Wales with an unlimited right to remain in the UK (you will not qualify for a CDL if your right to remain within the UK is subject to restrictions)
- unable to pay for the course yourself
- intending to work in the European Union when you have finished your course

You will not be entitled to a CDL if:

- you have a job and your employer will receive a grant for your learning (unless this is part of Graduate or Registered Teacher Programmes)
- you are entitled to some other types of financial help, for example, a mandatory grant or a student loan

For further information on CDLs visit the website [www.direct.gov.uk/cdl](http://www.direct.gov.uk/cdl) or, call the CDL information line on 0800 585 505 from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm seven days a week for further advice and application pack.

(\*CDL summary is sourced from [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk))

## **EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND GRANT FUNDING**

Educational trusts are charitable organisations that award grants for educational purposes. Whilst some trusts award grants to organisations, others award funding to individual students.

Eligibility criteria for funding from trusts is varied and often limited criteria applies, such as only assisting study leading to a particular profession; study at a specific academic level or for those living in or originating from a specific geographical area.

You can find information regarding grants and trusts available at public libraries. Useful publications include:

- The Educational Grants Directory
- The Charities Digest
- The Grants Register
- Directory of Grant Making Trusts

If you decide to apply to a trust, read the information carefully and ensure that you only apply to those whose eligibility criteria you match.

## **SOCIAL WORK EDUCATIONAL TRUST (SWET)**

The Social Workers Educational Trust (SWET) aims to assist qualified social workers to develop their knowledge and skills; encourage research into social work practice; and educate the public about the nature of social work. Small grants up to £300 are available for social workers with at least two years

post qualifying practice to improve their knowledge and skills in social work practice. The Trust also grants more substantial research scholarships awarded annually through open competition.

Further information from: [www.socialworkerseducationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.socialworkerseducationaltrust.org.uk)  
or write to: The Honorary Secretary, Social Workers Educational Trust,  
c/o BASW, 6 Kent Street, Birmingham B5 6RD.