

Lifelong Learning



Investing for Success

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“In a knowledge driven economy the continuous updating of skills and the development of lifelong learning will make the difference between success and failure, and between competitiveness and decline”

David Blunkett

Secretary of State for Education and Employment



Rationale

- supply of well educated workers crucial for competitiveness
- work less likely to be available for those without skills
- pace of technological change

Two new policies

- Educational Maintenance Allowances
- Individual Learning Accounts

Two Statistics

- 91% of young people from managerial/professional families stay in learning after age of 16
- 61% of those from unskilled or semi-skilled families stay on

An **Educational Maintenance Allowance** is money paid to a young person between 16 and 18 from a low income family to encourage them to stay on at school or college

“Something for something”

- the young person must have a Learning Agreement
- the money is stopped if the young person does not stick to their learning programme

What is the result?

- 5% increase in ‘staying on rates’
- better attendance, behaviour, outputs

Individual Learning Accounts are based on 2 principles

- people are best at deciding for themselves what and how they want to learn
- investment in learning should be a shared responsibility

Individual Learning Accounts offer a range of **financial** benefits

- £150 for the first million people to open accounts
- 80% off the cost of basic computer literacy and maths courses (up to £200)
- 20% off the cost of a wide range of learning (up to £100 a year)

We expect

- more demanding purchasers of learning
- providers more responsive
- increase in quality of provision

Results so far

- 500,000 people have opened accounts
- new partnership between public funding for learning and investment by individuals and employers
- ‘new’ learners

We want to see

- a difference in participation
- a difference in achievement
- a difference in attainment, AND so
- a difference in people's lives

That will be the true measure of success!

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