



# Exploring financial concerns with parents: A family learning approach

## Workshop Facilitator:

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 **Weblinks  
updated  
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## Workshop Context:

Financing Higher Education is often the major concern raised by parents. How do we overcome some of the concerns that families have about the costs of Higher Education? How do we inform without putting off first generation HE applicants? Mary Whitworth, University of Winchester, South East Aimhigher shared within her workshop how in Hampshire they have been attempting to address finance questions through a series of Family Learning Workshops delivered in schools.

This workshop gave participants an opportunity to hear about Hampshire's experiences, view the materials and consider some of the questions raised by families. There was also an opportunity for the group to discuss and share their own experiences of working with families and the concerns they have about the costs of Higher Education.

 For access to resources developed by South East Aimhigher refer to:  
<http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/news/index.cfm>



Doing the Sums – Financial Help for Young People (pdf document)



[http://www.aimhighersoutheast.ac.uk/working\\_groups/files/Doingthesums12April07.doc](http://www.aimhighersoutheast.ac.uk/working_groups/files/Doingthesums12April07.doc)



## Top Tips & Key Issues

1. If working with parents with young people in years 11 and below, keep financial messages simple as specific financial information is always changing.
2. Encourage parents to support their young people in opening a bank account and begin to take responsibility for their own money.
3. It is not always easy for parents to see the benefits of investing in education, so it is important to enable them to find out the long term benefits.
4. When working with parents and families try to find out their concerns, this will help you allay their fears and provide targeted information to dispel some of the myths.
5. If a parent has a young person with a disability, encourage them to apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance as early as possible whilst they are applying for HE. See Information Sheet 3 on Disability.
6. Identify student ambassadors who can talk about their experiences of managing finances, and act as role models during parent workshops and at campus visits.
7. Once you have delivered a parent workshop, if possible follow up with one-to-one advice or telephone contact.



## **FAHED** - Families And Higher Education Decision-making

8. The introduction of course fees in 2006-07 means that the financial situation is potentially more complex, provide support for parents and their young people to find out about the institutional bursaries.

## General Websites for Parents

Student Finance Direct: I provide financial support for a student

 [http://www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk/portal/page?\\_pageid=53,1259548&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,1259548&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)


Lancashire County Council Student Services

 [http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/student\\_services/2006\\_07/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/student_services/2006_07/)


Directgov: Applying for funding support on line

 [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Dio11/DoItOnline/Doitonlinestudentfinance/DG\\_10035460](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Dio11/DoItOnline/Doitonlinestudentfinance/DG_10035460)

Directgov, Disabled Students: Disabled Students' Allowance


 <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/index.htm>

Educational Maintenance Allowance funding for learning after 16

 [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Moneyandworkentitlements/YourMoney/DG\\_067577](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Moneyandworkentitlements/YourMoney/DG_067577)

## Further Reading For Practitioners:

### Lancashire Aimhigher Families Website:

 Briefing Sheet 10: Student Finance and Higher Education  
Briefing Sheet 11: Student Finance 16-19 Year Olds  
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fss/projects/edres/cap/families/index.htm>

### Aimhigher Tutors Pack, Materials for years 12 & 13:

 How much does it cost?: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/aimhigher/tutors/cost/>

### National Family Learning Network

The campaign for learning website of the National Family Learning Network provides useful information on how you can adopt a family learning approach to engage families in HE issues such as finance.


 <http://www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/familylearningnetwork/index.asp>

### Prepared on behalf of Aimhigher Lancashire

#### For other Information Sheets

This is one of 5 Information Sheets prepared following the 'Valuing Families, Valuing Diversity' Lancashire Aimhigher National Families Conference. For further details see: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/Conference06.htm>

For further information about working with families, or copies of other resources, contact:

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 <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/index.htm>



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