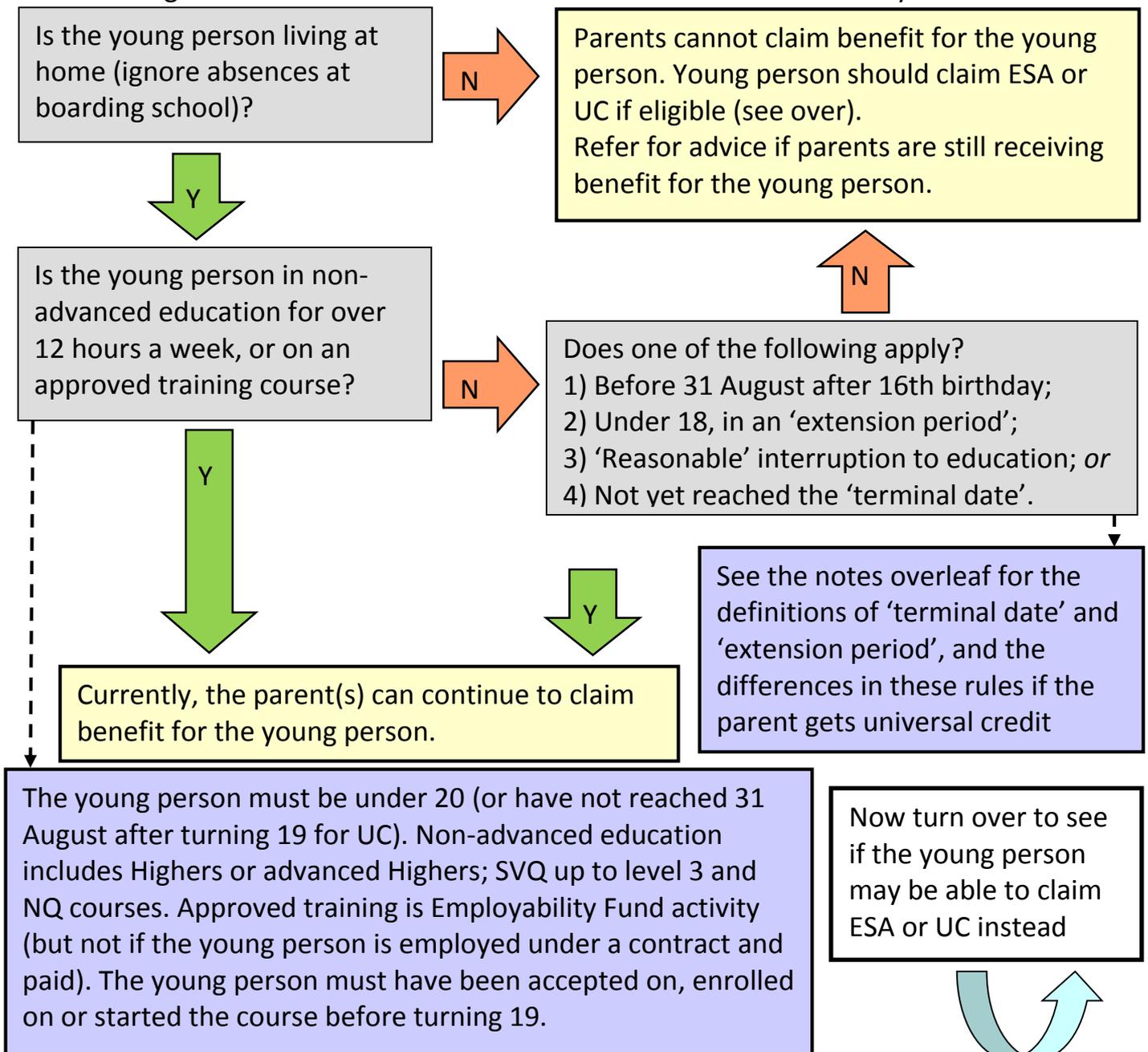
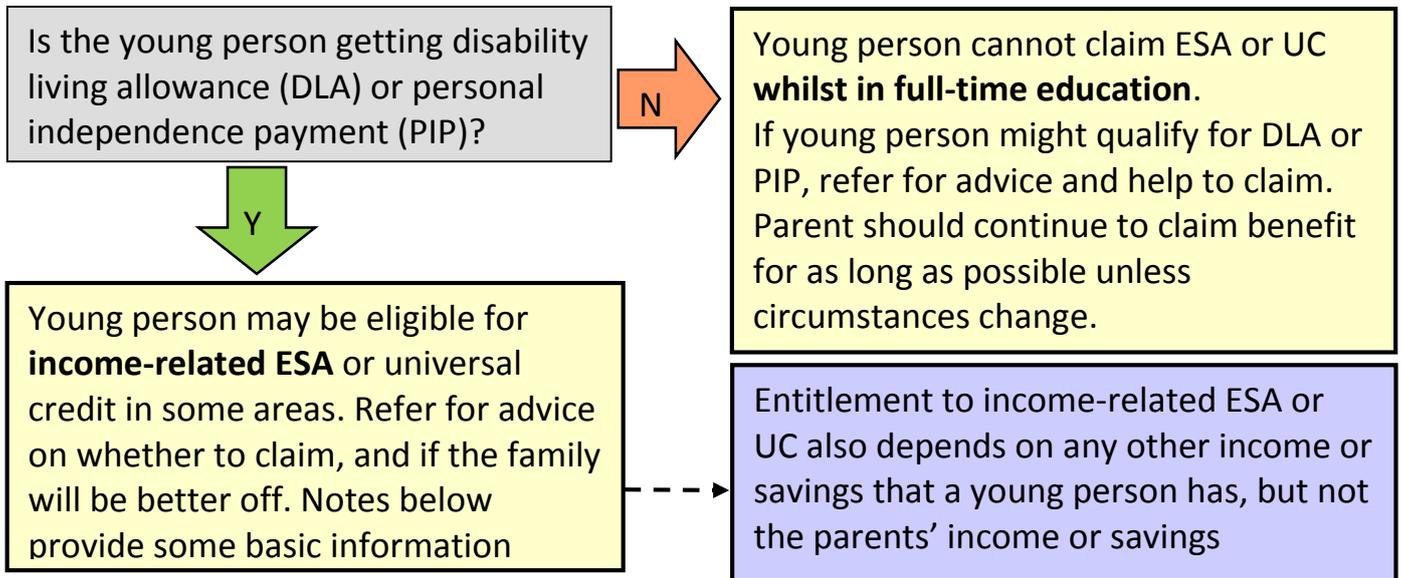


Benefit choices when a disabled young person lives at home and is still in education

This chart provides basic information about when young people **aged 16 to 19** with a disability or health problem can claim employment and support allowance (ESA) or universal credit; and when their parent(s) can continue to receive benefit for them (normally child benefit and child tax credit). This is important as some families can choose between the two options.

The chart applies to families who live in the UK and have no restriction on their right to claim benefit. Nationals of other EU states and people subject to immigration control should seek advice about which benefits they can claim.





The family should seek expert advice on how they will be affected financially, and what future changes to the benefits system may mean for them.

Notes:

- A parent's working tax credit, housing benefit and council tax reduction may also be affected if their child claims ESA or universal credit (UC).
- If a parent receives the maximum child tax credit for a young person who gets DLA or PIP, the family will be better off if the young person does not claim ESA.
- Most claimants must pass a 'work capability assessment' to stay on ESA or UC. UC is not paid at all to young people at school unless the assessment is passed.
- The assessment also checks if a young person has 'limited capability for work-related activity'. This means more money, and that a young person cannot be asked to take part in activities to move towards work in the future or sanctioned if s/he does not.
- Young people who have worked and paid national insurance contributions for over 6 months may also qualify for contributory ESA, and should seek advice.
- DLA claimants turning 16 now have to claim PIP unless terminally ill. Both DLA and PIP rules may be amended, or the benefits replaced, by the Scottish Parliament.
- Universal credit (UC) has started to replace income-related ESA in some areas. In East Lothian young people must claim UC instead of ESA, and this will apply in the Highland council area later in 2016. Seek advice about how UC affects your options.
- The 'extension period' is a period of up to 20 weeks where a parent can still get benefit if a young person isn't in any education or training, has registered with Skills Development Scotland for work and training, and is under 18.
- The 'terminal date' rule only applies to child benefit. It is the last day of February, May, August or November after a young person leaves education or training.
- If a parent gets universal credit, the 'extension period' and 'terminal date' rules do not apply, and there is no rule allowing universal credit to continue during a reasonable interruption in education or training.