



Pearson UK – Funding News

23 January 2015

Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-18, 19+ and apprenticeship funding, and related news from government departments, funding agencies and other relevant organisations.

Funding news this week includes publication by the Skills Funding Agency of the updated allocation/contract values for 2014 to 2015, the removal by the Skills Funding Agency of the monthly learner funding cap, a resource from the AoC which brings together information, updates and news on 16-19 Study Programmes, and one from the AELP which brings together materials to help providers improve outcomes from traineeship programmes.

Department for Education – Timelines for schools: mandatory and useful information

The DfE's [mandatory and useful timelines](#) were updated in 19 January with Spring term 2015 information. The timelines show forthcoming mandatory legal requirements to be implemented to help headteachers, principals and governors plan for the forthcoming academic year and beyond. Other useful dates are included in the useful information timelines.

Skills Funding Agency – Allocation/contract values 2014 to 2015

The Agency has published updated funding year 2014 to 2015 [contract values](#). The publication provides contract values as at January 2015 for colleges, training organisations, local authorities and employers that have a contract for 2014 to 2015. It excludes contract values where these are not confirmed.

Skills Funding Agency – Monthly learner funding cap: 2014 to 2015

The Agency have announced that they will not implement a formal monthly learner funding cap for the funding year 2014 to 2015 in response to feedback from colleges and training organisations that the methodology for calculating the cap is too complex. Their analysis shows that the cap would only affect a small amount of provision. The Agency will continue to analyse the data to identify delivery that does not offer value for money and will work with the colleges and training organisations involved to address this.

Skills Funding Agency – English for Speakers of Other Languages plus mandation

The Agency and the Department for Work and Pensions have published updated information on the use of [ESOL plus mandation funding](#). The information summarises how the process works, provides information on the training provision, further information on some common issues raised, and gives examples of good Jobcentre Plus and college and training organisation partnership working.

Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency – Traineeships eligible provider list

The EFA and the Agency have published the [latest update to the eligible provider list](#). The list is a key tool for referral agencies to show which eligible providers are intending to deliver in their area.

Education Funding Agency – Annual report and accounts

EFA has published its [annual report and accounts](#) for the period April 2013 to March 2014.

Education Funding Agency - Contacts

The EFA funding queries inbox will be closed at the end of January (FundingQueries.EFA@education.gsi.gov.uk). After the 31 January emails to the address will get an auto-reply asking them to re-send to one of the EFA territories. All 16 to 19 providers can get in touch with the EFA through the relevant territorial inbox (unless a different email address is specified in an article):

North - YPNorthern.EFA@education.gsi.gov.uk

Central and South West - YPCentralSW.EFA@education.gsi.gov.uk

South - YPSouthern.EFA@education.gsi.gov.uk

Academies should contact the [Academy Enquiries Service](#)

Association of Colleges – Study Programme Central

The AoC has launched [Study Programme Central](#) which brings together information, updates and news on 16-19 Study Programmes, with guidance to ensure all providers are implementing the Study Programme principles. As well as the latest Government announcements, colleges are also sharing ideas and practices.

Association and Employment and Learning Providers – Traineeship Staff Support Programme

The AELP's [Traineeship Staff Support Programme](#) contains resources from commissioned projects funded by The Education and Training Foundation to support the education and training workforce improve outcomes from traineeship programmes for learners and employers.

The projects focus on improving the quality of teaching with a focus on English and maths, employability and basic occupational skills; supporting staff to engage with employers with a focus on securing and managing work placements, working with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and developing placements in new sectors; supporting the development of robust initial assessment processes to ensure appropriate learner enrolment; and improving the quality of provision for learners from vulnerable and excluded groups and communities and those who have protected characteristics.

Pearson – Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - week ending January 16 2015](#), [Pocket Watch – The \(economic\) case for soft skills](#), and [Pocket Watch – Managing curriculum reform](#). Find these and the archives on the [Pearson UK](#) website.

Siân Owen

Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)

Information is correct at the time of writing and is offered in good faith. No liability is accepted for decisions made on the basis of information given.