



Pearson UK – Funding News

5 June 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.

Internal and external colleagues can sign up to receive Funding News directly to their inbox by subscribing [here](#).

It's been a while since the last funding news and it's still fairly quiet but key news includes a planned evaluation of 24+ advanced learning loans and a consultation on a dual mandate for adult vocational education, new and updated guides on traineeships and the apprenticeship grant for employers, and a reminder about how to record A and AS levels on the ILR. The Education Funding Agency has updated a mapping of engagement programmes for young people and the Association of Employment and Learning Providers has released a paper setting out thoughts on how growth in apprenticeships can be delivered without any risk to the quality of delivery. Finally, links are included to the latest policy summaries from Steve Besley.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

- Evaluation of 24+ advanced learning loans
- Consultation – a dual mandate for adult vocational education

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Skills Funding Agency

- Further education and skills: statistical first release

Skills Funding Agency

- Employer guide to traineeships
- Traineeship learner insight project
- Register of training organisations now open for applications
- Apprenticeship grant for employers (AGE)
- ILR guidance for recording A and AS Levels on the ILR for 2015 to 2016
- 2015 to 2016 simplified funding rates catalogue – a quick reminder

Education Funding Agency

- Mapping engagement programmes for young people

Association of Employment and Learning Providers

- Delivering more high quality apprenticeships – a paper from the AELP

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- Update on funding for 19+ learners on BTEC First qualifications in England
- Steve Besley's Policy Watches

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Evaluation of 24+ advanced learning loans

BIS has commissioned IFF Research to survey colleges and training organisations that had 24+ advanced learning loans allocations in the 2014 to 2015 academic year. In June and July IFF Research will select and interview around 20 colleges and training organisations. They will approach a further 250 to take part in a phone survey to discuss the impact of loans in the further education sector.

Consultation – a dual mandate for adult vocational education

This [consultation](#) was published under the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government and so won't be taken as a blueprint for the new government but BIS are still

inviting responses to this consultation on a dual mandate for adult vocational education. It explores the main challenges that face adult further education over the next decade and considers the role of higher vocational education, the importance of gaining the fundamental skills required for work and life, and the implications of these and wider government changes on adult further education. It closes on 16 June 2015.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Skills Funding Agency

Further education and skills: statistical first release

The final [further education and skills data](#) for 2013 to 2014 and provisional data for the first two quarters of the 2014 to 2015 academic year has been updated.

Skills Funding Agency

Employer guide to traineeships

The Agency has produced a new [employer guide to traineeships](#) which includes information for employers considering offering traineeships and on the benefits of traineeships for business.

Traineeship learner insight project

The Agency is undertaking a traineeship learner insight project to understand the traineeship learner audience and to support the development of a marketing campaign. The project will explore audience identities, the learner journey and the development and testing of messages for young people about traineeships. The Agency will be hosting a workshop at the AELP Annual Conference to share the early findings of the project and gather views on the next steps.

Register of training organisations now open for applications

The [register of training organisations](#) will reopen for applications on Tuesday 2 June and close on Friday 3 July 2015, at 5pm. This is the annual refresh and all organisations currently on the register must successfully reapply to maintain their place on it. As part of the annual refresh the Agency has widened the register's scope to include more services, reduced the number of questions for organisations that do not wish to compete for Agency contracts in the future, and ensured the register complies with the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Apprenticeship grant for employers (AGE)

A number of documents about the apprenticeship grant for employers have been updated by the Agency. The [apprenticeship grant: employer fact sheet](#) and the [apprenticeship grant: training organisations fact sheet and employer agreement](#) set out relevant information about AGE for colleges, training organisations and employers. They include information about the submission of AGE data and details about areas where AGE funding is devolved.

ILR guidance for recording A and AS Levels on the ILR for 2015 to 2016

Released back in April, just a quick reminder that this [guide](#) is available from the Agency about recording A and AS levels on the ILR for 2015 to 2016. From 1 August 2015 the use of A2 learning aims will be discontinued. A2 learning aims will not be available apart from where the learner started the A2 learning aim before 1 August 2015 and has not yet completed it.

2015 to 2016 simplified funding rates catalogue – a quick reminder

Just a quick reminder that the Agency's [2015 to 2016 simplified funding rates catalogue](#) lists all provision the Agency has approved for public funding in 2015 to 2016 along with the funding

rates. Information regarding availability of qualifications for 24+ advanced learning loans is also included. It will be updated on a regular basis as new aims and funding rates are confirmed. The funding [Hub](#) is the key source of confirmation of funding eligibility but the Agency also publishes this simplified funding rates catalogue to ensure providers know as soon as possible when a qualification is confirmed for 19+ funding.

Education Funding Agency

Mapping engagement programmes for young people

The EFA has updated this document which [maps national engagement programmes](#) currently available to support participation for young people aged 16 to 18 (and up to 25 for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities). The document was first published in July 2014 and its purpose is to provide Local Authorities, educational institutions, and other 16-19 providers with a summary of the engagement programmes available across England. It details the main features of each engagement programme and notes whether programmes can be combined for the benefit of participants.

Association of Employment and Learning Providers

Delivering more high quality apprenticeships – a paper from the AELP

The AELP has published [Delivering More High Quality Apprenticeships](#) - an 8-page paper setting out thoughts on how the proposed growth in apprenticeships can be delivered without any risk to the quality of delivery. The Conservative Manifesto included a commitment to support a minimum of 3 million Apprentices starts over the course of the five years of government. This compares with the estimated 2.2 million starts during the previous coalition government. The manifesto provides very little detail but there has been commitment to additional funding to support this intention. The AELP propose that unless the quality of delivery is maintained we will not be able to drive the growth that everyone would like to see.

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Update on funding for 19+ learners on BTEC First qualifications in England

On 1 May 2015 we published an [update](#) confirming the final situation on funding for 19+ learners in England studying BTEC First qualifications. There are BTEC First qualifications available in each sector, which are funded for pre- and post-19 learners. This means that you can co-teach 16-18 and 19+ students on the same qualification, which will be funded for the academic years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The only exception is in the Vehicle Technology sector where our qualifications do not meet the minimum learner threshold required to be eligible for 19+ funding. A sector-by-sector list of funded qualifications is provided.

Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Tracker - Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in May 2015](#), [Policy Eye - week ending May 29 2015](#), [Pocket Watch - Lining up the Bills](#), [Policy Eye - week ending May 22 2015](#), [Policy Eye - week ending May 15 2015](#), and [Pocket Watch - Carry on Minister](#). Find these and more on the [Pearson UK](#) website.

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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.