



Pearson UK – Funding News

2 July 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](#).

Funding news this week includes a reminder of the budget announcement due next week on the 8 July, statistics from BIS and the Skills Funding Agency on higher apprenticeships, and further education and skills, and the latest simplified funding catalogue from the Skills Funding Agency. The Agency has also produced or updated plenty of apprenticeship information and support, and has also published team area maps showing the areas covered by their apprenticeships and local growth (ALG) teams and provider management and intervention (PMI) teams. The EFA has sent out a reminder about the English and maths condition of funding, and we include information from Hefce about the closing date for colleges for applications to be directly funded, and links to information for alternative providers. Two new skills reports are out; from the UKCES and the AoC, and McDonalds and partners. Lastly, we include the usual links to the latest Policy Watches from Steve Besley.

HM Treasury

- Summer or emergency budget 2015

Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

- Higher apprenticeship statistics

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

- Further education and skills – statistical first release

Skills Funding Agency

- 2015/16 Simplified funding catalogue – latest update on 1 July
- Apprenticeship framework – factsheet
- Apprenticeship standards – employers' guide
- Apprenticeship standards – list of standards in development, the employers involved, and standards ready for delivery
- Apprenticeships – guide for young people
- Apprenticeships – support guide for training organisations
- Team area maps – apprenticeships and local growth, and provider management and intervention teams

Education Funding Agency

- Reminder – English and maths condition of funding for 2015 to 2016

Hefce

- Reminder – closing date for colleges for applications to be directly funded, and information for alternative providers

UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and the Association of Colleges

- Report – Local action, national success: how outcome agreements can improve skills delivery

McDonalds and partners

- Coalition group calls for action on soft skills

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- Steve Besley's Policy Watches

HM Treasury

Summer or emergency budget 2015

A quick reminder that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will give his budget to Parliament next week on 8 July 2015. In the March 2015 budget George Osborne announced planned spending cuts of £30bn to be made by 2017 and £13bn of this is to be made up of reductions in government departmental spending. £3bn is expected to be found in 2015/16 to help 'smooth' the cuts, and £450m of this is to come from DfE and £450m from BIS. We need to wait until next week for details but Nick Boles MP, Minister of State for Skills, confirmed there will be no change to EFA's main 2015-16 allocations for the education of 16 to 18-year-olds. Nothing is confirmed as yet about Skills Funding Agency allocations.

Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

Higher apprenticeship statistics

On the 25 June BIS [announced](#) that since 2013/14, over 22,000 higher apprenticeships have been supported. The statistics show that there were 9,200 higher level apprenticeship starts in the 2013 to 2014 academic year, and provisional data show that there were 13,200 starts in the first 3 quarters of the 2014 to 2015 academic year. The government target was to support 20,000 higher apprenticeship starts over the last 2 years.

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

Further education and skills – statistical first release

On 25 June the Skills Funding Agency and BIS published the [statistical first release](#) on the final further education and skills data for 2013 to 2014 and provisional further education and skills data for the first three quarters of the 2014 to 2015 academic year.

Skills Funding Agency

2015/16 Simplified funding catalogue – latest update on 1 July

The [simplified funding catalogue](#) was updated on 1 July with all the qualifications that were successfully submitted by awarding organisations. 43 Pearson vocational qualifications have been added.

The simplified funding catalogue lists all provision which the Skills Funding Agency has approved for public funding in 2015 to 2016 and their funding rates. Information regarding availability of qualifications for 24+ advanced learning loans is included in this document. It is updated on a regular basis as new aims and funding rates are confirmed. Awarding organisations can make submissions for qualifications to be listed on a quarterly basis and need letters of support from employers, colleges and training providers and HEIs for any qualifications to be successfully submitted.

Apprenticeship framework – factsheet

An [apprenticeship framework factsheet](#) has been added to the Agency's apprenticeship frameworks live list. The 'live list' is a detailed excel list of apprenticeships frameworks available for employers and training organisations. The factsheet is a useful 2 page word document that shows the apprenticeship frameworks, and levels, available in each industry sector.

Apprenticeship standards – employers' guide

The Agency has produced an [employers' guide to apprenticeship standards](#). The guide introduces employers to the new apprenticeship standards and provides information about the government funding available. It is designed to be a helpful summary when discussing the reforms and new standards with employers and other stakeholders.

Apprenticeship standards – list of standards in development, the employers involved, and standards ready for delivery

A [7-page document](#) has been added to the Agency website which lists all the occupations approved by the Agency to develop an apprenticeship standard. Also available is a list of employers involved in the trailblazers developing these standards. These documents are updated regularly to highlight new standards which have been approved for development. Employers are encouraged to be involved in [trailblazer projects](#) so that they can help develop new standards.

The latest list of all the apprenticeship standards approved by the Agency that are ready for employers and training organisations to use can be found [here](#).

Apprenticeships – guide for young people

This [guide](#) from the Agency provides information for young people on the opportunities, progression and benefits of doing an apprenticeship with case studies from real apprentices.

Apprenticeships – support guide for training organisations

On 30 June the Agency updated the recruitment support guide for training organisations. The guide is about the importance of giving constructive feedback to apprenticeship applicants and providing support to help motivate them and encourages candidates to apply for other apprenticeship vacancies. The page also includes information and support for employers and training organisations involved in the recruitment of apprentices such as guidance for employers on all aspects of apprenticeship recruitment, and tools to use when giving feedback to unsuccessful apprenticeship applicants.

Team area maps – apprenticeships and local growth, and provider management and intervention teams

The Agency has published [maps](#) showing the areas covered by their apprenticeships and local growth (ALG) teams, and provider management and intervention (PMI) teams. Apprenticeships and local growth teams will lead the Agency's drive for apprenticeships growth, and relationships with LEPs and other local stakeholders, and the provider management and intervention teams will lead the Agency's work with colleges and providers in formal intervention, and those at risk of intervention.

Education Funding Agency

Reminder – English and maths condition of funding for 2015 to 2016

The EFA include a reminder in their latest [bulletin](#) that for the 2015 to 2016 academic year the same English and maths condition of funding as for 2014 to 2015 will apply.

In addition, full time students (those on a study programme of at least 540 planned hours if age 16 to 17 or at least 450 hours if age 18) starting their study programme who have a grade D GCSE or equivalent qualification in English and/or maths must, from 1 August 2015, be enrolled on a GCSE or approved IGCSE qualification rather than an approved stepping stone qualification to qualify for EFA funding. See the [full details of the condition of funding](#) for more.

Hefce

Reminder – closing date for colleges for applications to be directly funded, and information for alternative providers

A quick reminder that applications for colleges to become directly funded from 2016-17 will close on 12 August 2015. Information on the application process can be found on Hefce's [webpage setting out how they fund colleges](#). Hefce also have a [webpage for alternative providers of higher education](#) which provides links to the latest and most relevant information. The 2015-16 application windows have now closed and Hefce [anticipate the next application window](#) to open in September 2015.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and the Association of Colleges

Report – Local action, national success: how outcome agreements can improve skills delivery

On the 29 June a joint report was published by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and the Association of Colleges (AoC). [Local action, national success: how outcome agreements can improve skills delivery](#) sets out how local outcome agreements can help to stimulate new ways for organisations in England to work together on skills issues, focusing particularly on the role of further education colleges. The AoC have also published a short [blog](#) summarising the findings.

McDonalds and partners

Coalition group calls for action on soft skills

McDonalds has [reported](#) on its initial survey on soft/employability skills and is now intending to work with its group of partners that includes Pearson along with the CBI, AoC and others to develop a new framework for such skills that can be used in schools and colleges.

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Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Tracker - Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in June 2015](#), [Pocket Watch – The 14-19 Conundrum](#), and [Policy Eye - week ending June 26 2015](#). 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.