



Pearson UK – Funding News

31 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.

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News this week includes two consultations from BIS, the Trailblazer Apprenticeships Funding Rules 2015 to 2016 from the SFA, devolvement of the apprenticeship grant for employers in West Yorkshire, and the cuts to Hefce funding. We also include a short guide to the DfE from the NAO, and the AELP's useful briefing paper on the apprenticeship levy.

DfE

- Scorecards launched to help councils reduce young people NEET

BIS

- Consultation on protecting the term apprenticeship
- Consultation on freezing the student loan repayment threshold
- Advanced learning loans application information: July 2015

BIS and the SFA

- FE data library: apprenticeships

SFA

- Trailblazer Apprenticeships Funding Rules 2015 to 2016
- Apprenticeship standards in development
- Apprenticeships exam results toolkit
- Apprenticeship grant for employers: devolved programmes

Hefce

- Reductions to HEFCE teaching grant for 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years

NAO

- A short guide to the Department for Education

AELP

- Briefing paper: the apprenticeship levy

Pearson

- Steve Besley's Policy Watches

Department for Education

Scorecards launched to help councils reduce young people NEET

A **new annual at-a-glance scorecard** will show how successfully local authorities are reducing NEETs. The scorecards will rate councils' performance in a number of areas against the national average and identify where they can improve. The scorecards will be published every summer. **New local authority data** included in the scorecards show a year-on-year reduction in NEETs.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Consultation on protecting the term apprenticeship

BIS has launched a [consultation](#) on preventing misuse of the term 'apprenticeships' and 'apprentice' in relation to unauthorised training. The consultation invites views on the Government's proposal to protect against misuse of the term 'apprenticeship' and 'apprentice' by unauthorised training providers. Employers will still be able to use the term for their own training.

Consultation on freezing the student loan repayment threshold

BIS are [consulting](#) on a proposal to keep the student loan repayment threshold at £21,000 for 5 years. This new proposal was announced in the Budget on 8 July.

Advanced learning loans application information: July 2015

On 30 July BIS published the latest [statistics](#) on 24+ advanced learning loans applications. The total number of applications received for the 2014/15 academic year, from April 2014 to June 2015, was 67,780, and from 1-30 June 2015, 3,130 applications were received. The total number of applications received for the 2015/16 academic year, from April 2014 to June 2015, was 6,190. The applications are largely coming from 24-30 year-olds.

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

FE data library: apprenticeships

New information has been added to the [statistical data set](#) which provides information on apprenticeships through a number of reports broken down by starts, achievements, sector, framework, geography, gender, age and others. A new version of 'workplaces employing apprenticeships by geography: 2009/10 to 2014/15' was uploaded on 30 July 2015.

Skills Funding Agency

Trailblazer Apprenticeships Funding Rules 2015 to 2016

The Agency published the [Trailblazer Apprenticeships Funding Rules 2015 to 2016](#) on 30 July. The document sets out the funding rules for the new apprenticeship standards delivered under the Trailblazer apprenticeship programme. It also includes a summary of the changes made.

Apprenticeship standards in development

On 27 July the Agency updated the [list of occupations](#) approved by the Agency for the development of an apprenticeship standard. The Agency also provides an [overview](#) page which includes this document along with further information on all the new apprenticeship standards developed by employers.

Apprenticeships exam results toolkit

On 27 July the Agency published the [Apprenticeships exam results toolkit](#) for partners and professionals who communicate with young people at exam results time. The toolkit is designed to help people understand the options available to young people and to spread the word about apprenticeships, traineeships and the National Careers Service. It complements a number of other documents produced by the Agency to help support the promotional of apprenticeships including a new [checklist](#) to help school leavers search and apply for an apprenticeship, a [presentation](#) for years 7 to 11 which provides an introduction to, and [guidance](#) on how to

register and use the 'Find an apprenticeship' vacancy system. It has also updated the [parent's guide to apprenticeships](#), and the [guide to apprenticeships for apprentices](#).

Apprenticeship grant for employers: devolved programmes

From 1 August 2015, the [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#) (covering local authority areas of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield and York) will control the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16 to 24 year-olds (AGE 16 to 24) budget for its area. The eligibility criteria for AGE 16 to 24 for apprenticeships that start from 1 August may change for these areas. There is no change to eligibility for planned starts up to 31 July. For further information about the devolved AGE 16 to 24 programme for West Yorkshire email age@the-lep.com

Hefce

Reductions to HEFCE teaching grant for 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years

Last week Professor Madeleine Atkins, Chief Executive of Hefce, [wrote to Vice-Chancellors and Principals](#) setting out how cuts would be made to secure a saving of £150m in funding for the 2015-16 financial year. The 2015-16 financial year overlaps with the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years and therefore allocations to institutions for both academic years are affected. The biggest single sources of savings will be £37m previously set aside to support an expected increase in student numbers in 2015-16, £52m from two one-off transitional research allocations previously announced for 2015-16, and £38m through a pro rata reduction of 2.4% to all elements of the recurrent teaching grant for 2014-15.

National Audit Office

A short guide to the Department for Education

The NAO is publishing a suite of short guides, one for each government department, to assist the House of Commons Select Committees. This guide is designed to provide a quick and accessible overview of the [Department for Education](#) and focuses on what the Department does, how much it costs and recent and planned changes.

AELP

Briefing paper: the apprenticeship levy

The AELP produced a useful document on the [apprenticeship levy](#) this week. It looks at key questions and the answers we have so far, for example, have we had a levy before, who will the levy apply to, when will it be introduced, and how will it work?

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Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - week ending July 24 2015](#), and [Pocket Watch - Dog days for FE?](#) Find these and more on the Pearson UK website or [sign up](#) for email updates direct to your inbox.

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