



Pearson UK: Funding News

6 November 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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Key news this week is the press release published yesterday from the DfE with Nick Boles MP about plans for 'ground-breaking reforms to technical and professional education' (now referred to as TPE), and the release this morning of the long-awaited HE Green Paper: Fulfilling Our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice, along with a consultation, which will have a significant implications for the higher education sector.

Government departments

- DfE and Nick Boles MP: 'technical and professional education revolution continues'
- BIS, and Jo Johnson MP: a Green Paper for HE
- FE data and statistics
- Apprenticeship standards: surveys open until the 13 November
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Government departments

DfE and Nick Boles MP: 'technical and professional education revolution continues'

The DfE, with Nick Boles MP, issued a [press release](#) yesterday about plans for 'ground-breaking reforms to technical and professional education' (now being referred to as TPE) which will create a new system with clearer routes to the world of work to ensure young people get the skills employers are looking for, and 'set England's system on a par with the best in the world'. There is little detail as yet but the government will learn from some of the best systems around the world to put in place a small number of clear and high-quality routes. To deliver the reforms, the government will work closely with an independent expert panel, headed by Lord Sainsbury, former Minister of Science and Innovation.

BIS, and Jo Johnson MP: a Green Paper for HE

BIS, and Jo Johnson MP, today released the long-awaited HE Green Paper: [Fulfilling Our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice](#). A Teaching Excellence Framework is going to be introduced, HEFCE and OFFA will be merged to create the Office for Students (OfS), and new entrants will be given an accelerated route to degree awarding powers and funding, and not be subject to a cap on student numbers. A consultation on the proposals also opens today and will run for 10 weeks, closing on 15 January 2016. Commentators ([Wonkhe](#)) are saying that 'if the measures are enacted as planned the paper will represent the biggest changes to the HE sector since 1992', have provided a round-up of [reactions](#), and will be following all the developments and [sharing](#) the latest analysis. You can also [sign up](#) to receive the latest analysis from Steve Besley at Pearson.

FE data and statistics

DfE and BIS have released a number of updated statistical data sets with the latest on:

- [Education and training statistics for the United Kingdom: 2015](#) (statistics on education and training in schools, further education and higher education across the UK)
- [Further education and skills](#) (the statistical first release which includes final data for 2013/14 and provisional data for 2014/15)
- [Education and training by participation and achievements](#) (information on education and training participation and achievements broken down into a number of reports including sector subject areas, participation by gender, age, ethnicity, disability participation)
- [Apprenticeship vacancies](#) (information on the number of apprenticeship vacancies and traineeship opportunities)
- [Apprenticeship starts and achievements](#) (information on apprenticeships through a number of reports broken down by starts, achievements, sector, framework, geography, gender, age and others), and
- [Free school meals: pupil progression to higher education](#) (the numbers of pupils with free school meal status in 2008 to 2009 who progressed to HE in 2012 to 2013).

Apprenticeship standards: surveys open until the 13 November

BIS, with the SFA have released the latest [surveys](#) inviting businesses, training organisations, and members of the public, to comment on Expressions of Interest, draft apprenticeship standards and draft assessment submitted as part of the approval process. There is a monthly deadline for submission of all the apprenticeship standard documents from employer groups (the last Thursday of every month), and the surveys are then open for 2 weeks. All comments received are considered by BIS and the SFA as part of the assessment of the standards.

DfE consultations: coasting schools, and implementing the English Baccalaureate

The DfE have two key consultations running – the first seeks views on the government’s proposals to [address underperformance](#) in local-authority-maintained schools and closes on 18 December, the second seeks views on government’s proposals on how to get at least 90% of pupils to take GCSEs in the [EBacc](#) subjects, which closes on 29 January.

Skills Funding Agency

Apprenticeships: teachers' handbook and study material

The SFA has published an [apprenticeships self-development pack for young people](#) and a [teachers’ handbook](#), and on their webpage [here](#). The information is for young people and teachers to help potential apprentices choose their career. The apprenticeship self-development pack for 16 to 19-year-olds has been developed to help students find out about apprenticeships available to them. The teachers’ handbook supports pack.

Funding allocations to training providers: 2014 to 2015

The [updated funding values](#) for colleges, training organisations, local authorities and employers with an SFA contract for 2014 to 2015 have been published by the SFA.

Financial assurance: monitoring the funding rules

The SFA has published a [monitoring the funding rules plan](#) for the funding year 2015/16. It describes the areas the SFA will monitor and areas they will work with the sector on during the year to give them assurance that the provision they buy meets the published funding rules.

Register of apprentice assessment organisations

The latest [register of apprentice assessment organisations](#) is available. It lists the organisations currently approved as end point apprentice assessors for employers seeking an independent end-point assessment organisation for apprenticeship standards.

Course directory

The SFA has released the latest [course directory](#) which contains information on courses offered by learning providers contracted SFA. It contains information from over 900 organisations including colleges, training providers and local education authorities and is updated monthly.

UKCES

UKCES bulletin: UK skills and international competitiveness

This [first in a series](#) of features on productivity, the UK labour market, and skills places the UK’s skills attainment in an international context, providing insight into the current and projected trends that will determine future UK competitiveness. In an introduction the key insights are summarised as: the UK’s skill profile has changed; there has been a well-documented shift in proportion from low level skills to high level skills (a trend not unique to Britain), the UK’s relatively high proportion of low-skilled adults is a particular weakness, projections indicate that the UK will improve its low skilled performance, for intermediate skills the UK is currently ranked 25th, and, the good news: the UK’s strength lies in its pool of higher skills.

The student engagement partnership

College higher education toolkit

The [college higher education toolkit](#) has been developed in partnership with the Association of Colleges and is designed to help FE colleges develop student engagement and partnership activity to create an environment where staff and students work together to build a successful learning environment. The AoC estimate that over 175,000 students now study HE level courses at colleges and the toolkit has been developed on the basis that college HE is distinctive in the types of courses offered and in the student population it serves.

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Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye – week ending October 30 2015](#), and [Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in October 2015](#). These, and more, can be found on the [Pearson UK](#) website or [sign up](#) to receive the latest direct to your inbox.

Siân Owen

Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)

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