



## Pearson UK: Funding News

13 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.*

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

Key news this week is the plethora of research reports into higher education published to coincide with the release of the HE Green paper, the opportunity for providers to submit growth and virement requests for 2015/16 apprenticeships and traineeships, an updated 2016/17 post-16 allocations timeline from the EFA, and confirmation and details of Pearson's extension of the current BTEC Nationals (2010) to 31 December 2017.

### Government departments

- Fairer school funding
- Research into higher education participation

### Skills Funding Agency

- 2015 to 2016 growth and virement requests: apprenticeships and traineeships
- Register of training organisations: closes today
- 2015 to 2016 minimum standards
- Higher and degree apprenticeships: fact sheet for young people
- Apprenticeship standards in development

### Education Funding Agency

- 2016 to 2017 post-16 allocations timeline
- Sixth-form college commissioner: recruitment of assessment advisers

### Ofsted

- Increasing provision in English and mathematics through planning

### Hefce

- Falling surpluses risk sustainability of higher education sector

### Sutton Trust

- Background to success: differences in a-level entries by ethnicity, neighbourhood and gender

### Pearson

- Steve Besley's Policy Watches
- BTEC Nationals (2010) extended to 31 December 2017: your options from 2016

## Government departments

---

### Fairer school funding

In a [letter](#) to Neil Carmichael MP, Chair of the Education Select Committee Nicky Morgan MP confirms there is no planned date for a consultation on fairer school funding, and that decisions about how 16-19 institutions will be funded in 2016/17 and beyond will be subject to the outcomes of the Spending Review. It also confirms that the DfE have no wish to disrupt the 16-19 sector by making changes to the national funding formula.

### Research into higher education participation

BIS released a number of research reports into higher education to coincide with the release of the HE Green Paper, [Higher education: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice](#):

- [Socio-economic, ethnic and gender differences in HE participation](#) examines the extent to which gaps in HE participation across different groups of students are explained by prior education. It finds that prior attainment, and KS4 results in particular, are crucial.
- [Progression into higher education for disadvantaged and under-represented groups](#) looks at factors relating to HE progression other than prior educational attainment. It adds to existing evidence by investigating what other factors might determine progression to HE and pays particular attention to the role of aspirations, attitudes and behaviours.
- [Graduates' attitudes: effect of higher education](#) looks at how people's attitudes vary according to their level of education. In particular, it looked at whether graduates' attitudes differed significantly from those with other educational qualifications. Findings indicated a clear association between education and attitudes across a range of areas.
- [Employers' graduate recruitment and selection practices](#) looks at the approach to graduate recruitment adopted by employers and how this has evolved. It explores patterns in recruitment, behaviours of employers, and interactions between employers and universities, and provides a picture of long-term trends in practice.

## Skills Funding Agency

---

### 2015 to 2016 growth and virement requests: apprenticeships and traineeships

Providers are able to submit requests for increases and virements to their adult apprenticeships, 19 to 24 traineeships and 16 to 18 apprenticeships and 16 to 18 traineeships for the funding year 2015 to 2016. [Growth and Virement Request](#) forms need to be sent to [Provider Performance Management](#) by 5.00pm on Friday, 20 November.

### Register of training organisations: closes today

The register closes today at 5.00pm. It opened for new applications and for organisations that are required to enter the Register, as detailed in the [Funding Rules 2015 to 2016](#) (paragraphs eight and nine). Subcontractors not listed on the Register that intend to operate with a total contract value of £100,000 or more for each academic year must also apply.

### 2015 to 2016 minimum standards

The Agency has published a 2-page [explanation](#) of how minimum standards will be applied for 2015 to 2016. The overall Qualification Achievement Rate (QAR) methodology will be used by the Agency when calculating minimum standards in 2015 to 2016 for apprenticeships (all ages), and classroom and workplace learning (adult learners only).

## Higher and degree apprenticeships: fact sheet for young people

This [factsheet](#) from the Agency provides information for young people on the opportunities, progression and benefits of doing a higher or degree apprenticeship.

## Apprenticeship standards in development

The latest list of [apprenticeship standards in development](#) was published on 12 November.

## Education Funding Agency

---

### 2016 to 2017 post-16 allocations timeline

The EFA has the [post-16 allocations timeline and expected data sources for 2016 to 2017 allocations](#). Some elements are subject to change after the Spending Review. The annual post-16 funding letter will also be issued after the Spending Review.

### Sixth-form college commissioner: recruitment of assessment advisers

Following a joint recruitment exercise with BIS, the EFA has appointed six sixth-form college advisers to support Peter Mucklow in his role as sixth-form college commissioner. The advisers will support both early and formal intervention activity, and area based reviews.

## Ofsted

---

### Increasing provision in English and mathematics through planning

Ofsted has produced this [good practice example](#) showing how some providers have increased provision in English and mathematics to meet rising demand.

## Hefce

---

### Falling surpluses risk sustainability of higher education sector

A Hefce [review](#) of the financial health of HE institutions published this week concludes that future projected surplus levels are not sufficient to sustain the HE sector in England, that there is significant variation in financial performance and capital investment plans of individual institutions, and that a widening gap exists between the lowest- and highest-performing institutions.

## Sutton Trust

---

### Background to success: differences in a-level entries by ethnicity, neighbourhood and gender

This [research](#) from the Sutton Trust investigates patterns of academic attainment for different subgroups of students whose educational outcomes were studied across different phases of school and pre-school from age three to age 18. One of the key findings is that socially disadvantaged students are the most likely not to continue on an academic route.

## Pearson

---

### Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye – week ending November 13 2015](#), and [Policy Eye – week ending November 6 2015](#). These, and more, can be found on the [Pearson UK website](#) or [sign up](#) to receive the latest direct to your inbox.

### BTEC Nationals (2010) extended to 31 December 2017: your options from 2016

We've extended the last registrations date for the current BTEC Nationals (2010) to 31 December 2017. This means that, in September 2016, you can choose to start teaching your brand new BTEC Nationals (2016) where there is a qualification available, or continue with your current qualifications (2010). Find out more about registrations, funding, and performance measures in [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), and [Wales](#).

### 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.