



Pearson UK: Funding News

27 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 funding news this week is of course the Spending Review and Autumn Statement. On the same day this week, HM Treasury and BIS released their response to the apprenticeship levy consultation. We have summarised the education and skills funding 'bits' of the Spending Review, Autumn Statement and consultation response, in a [Funding Focus](#) (151127 - Funding Focus - The FE and skills funding bits of the Spending Review and Autumn Statement). Other news includes the latest statistical first release on further education and skills, and news from the SFA's new funding reform and localism steering group.

Government departments

- HM Treasury: Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015: documents
- HM Treasury and BIS: Apprenticeships levy: employer owned apprenticeships training
- DfE's settlement at Spending Review 2015
- Further education and skills learner participation, outcomes and level of highest qualification held

Education Funding Agency

- Maths and English condition of funding survey for institutions not compliant with the maths and English condition of funding
- Updated youth contract performance data

Skills Funding Agency

- A further reminder: qualifications funded for adults in 2015 to 2016
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- A further reminder: BTEC Nationals (2010) extended to 31 December 2017: your options from 2016
- Funding News, and Funding Focus
- Steve Besley's Policy Watches

Government departments

HM Treasury: Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015: documents

The cuts announced in the [Spending Review and Autumn Statement](#) on Wednesday 25 November were less drastic than originally expected. The Chancellor reported that the combined effects of better tax receipts and lower debt interest resulted in a £27 billion improvement in the public finances over the forecast period, compared to where we were at the Budget. Within the overall cuts the DfE budget will fall by 1.1% by 2019-20, the BIS budget by 17%, and the DWP by 14%. This Funding Focus gives you the headlines of the announcements made for schools, 16-19 year-olds, apprenticeships, adult skills, higher education, and employment programmes.

HM Treasury and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Apprenticeships levy: employer owned apprenticeships training

On the same day as the Spending Review and Autumn Statement announcements, HM Treasury and BIS released their [response](#) to the apprenticeship levy consultation. There are still a lot more areas to be clarified but the response answers some key questions about the future of the levy. The summary is included in the Funding Focus.

Department for Education's settlement at Spending Review 2015

The DfE has issued a [press release](#) following the Spending Review 2015 announcement. It sets out the high level messages about the education budget over the course of this Parliament. The department will announce further detail about specific programmes in due course.

Further education and skills learner participation, outcomes and level of highest qualification held

On the 18 November BIS and the Skills Funding Agency published this latest statistical release. Headline figures:

- Adult (19+) Further Education and Skills: Participation in government-funded adult further education fell to 2,613,700 in 2014/15. The number of learners participating on Full Level 2 courses declined to 753,300 and the number on Full Level 3 courses fell to 419,900.
- Apprenticeship participation: In 2014/15, Apprenticeship participation increased to 871,800, the highest number on record.
- Apprenticeship starts: There were 499,900 Apprenticeship starts in the 2014/15 academic year, an increase of 13.5 per cent on 2013/14.
- English and maths: 905,600 adult learners participated on English and maths courses in 2014/15, a decrease of 4.9 per cent on 2013/14.
- 24+ Advanced Learning Loans: There were 75,400 learners with a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan in 2014/15, an increase of 27.5 per cent on 2013/14.
- Traineeships: There were 19,400 Traineeship starts in 2014/15, an increase of 86.3 per cent on 2013/14.
- Community Learning: In 2014/15, there were 609,700 adult learners participating on a Community Learning course, a decrease of 7.2 per cent on 2013/14.
- Offender Learning: There were 101,600 offenders aged 18 and over in the prison system participating in learning in 2014/15, an increase of 6.6 per cent on 2013/14.

Education Funding Agency

Maths and English condition of funding survey for institutions not compliant with the maths and English condition of funding

The EFA are reminding institutions with students not compliant with the maths and English condition of funding in 2014 to 2015 to complete the [maths and English survey](#) by 30 November 2015. Further details on how the funding adjustments will be applied and instructions on completing the survey are included in the [revised maths and English guidance](#).

Updated youth contract performance data

The data for the delivery of the [Youth Contract programme](#) for 16- and 17-year-olds to the end of September 2015 has been updated and published. The excel spreadsheet contains delivery data for the Youth Contract for 16- to 17-year-olds from September 2012 to September 2015 and the EFA will next publish delivery data late 2016. The publication will provide the final delivery volumes for the programme.

Skills Funding Agency

A further reminder: qualifications funded for adults in 2015 to 2016

The Agency's [simplified funding rates catalogue](#) lists all provision which the 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. A reminder too that awarding organisations had to apply to the Agency for 19+ funding for qualifications that are not automatically approved (see paragraph 51 of the [technical guide](#)) and that there is now a [moratorium](#) in place which means we can no longer make applications for qualification funding. The Agency will allow submissions for qualifications to be made eligible for 24+ loan funding and we expect guidance on this, and on the future of qualification eligibility for 19+ funding, to be out by the end of the year/beginning of next year. The list of qualifications eligible for 2016/17 funding will be published in January 2016.

Funding reform and localism steering group

The [Funding reform and localism steering group \(FRLSG\)](#) has been established to help the SFA develop a simpler, more locally responsive funding system for adult skills, excluding apprenticeships. The group met on 23 November and the main discussion item was an initial proposal from the SFA on how Adult Skills Funding can be simplified. The group was asked to review and respond to proposals on:

- The role of qualifications in a simplified funding system.
- How to simplify some of the complexity in the current funding policy framework.
- Technical changes to the system, including recording learner details on the ILR.
- Allocating and performance managing grants for 2016/17.

The FRLSG has created two task and finish sub groups. The new Technical Funding Group meets on 7 December to discuss the details of the funding proposals; the group includes a range of FE practitioners with the appropriate knowledge to do this. The new Qualifications Task and Finish Group meets on 11 December to start reviewing the qualifications offer to support national statutory entitlements as well as local skills priorities. Both groups will advise and make recommendations based on their discussions.

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A further reminder: BTEC Nationals (2010) extended to 31 December 2017: your options from 2016

A reminder that we have 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](#).

Funding News, and Funding Focus

We will now be posting Pearson's Funding News on the Pearson website [here](#) in case anyone needs access to previous versions. Funding Focus documents will also be added which provide quick summaries of recent funding developments, or particular aspects of the funding system. The site is being improved and documents will be ordered by date.

Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye – week ending November 13 2015](#). Keep an eye on the [Pearson UK](#) website for more analysis of the Spending Review and Autumn Statement or [sign up](#) to receive the latest direct to your inbox.

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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.