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## Pearson UK - Funding News

19 February 2016

*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 can also be found on the [Pearson UK website](#) along with Funding Focus documents which provide quick summaries of recent funding developments, or particular aspects of the funding system.*

Funding news this week focuses on the documents recently released by the SFA on the way the new Adult Education Budget will be used and the new policy and processes the SFA will use to make qualifications eligible for public funding in 2016/17.

In the latest release the SFA set out the principles they will use to make qualifications eligible for delivery as part of local flexibility. This now completes the set: last week they released information on how qualifications will be made eligible for the legal entitlements at levels 2 and 3 for learners aged 19-23, and for English and maths for learners aged 19+, and a few months ago published the advanced learner loans prospectus which explains how qualifications will be made eligible for loans.

These, and the previous documents released are all set out in the table below.

It includes information on how colleges and providers can request the SFA consider other qualifications for the legal entitlement at levels 2 and 3 for learners aged 19-23.

### Funding agencies

- SFA: A full round up of the key funding documents for 2016/17

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- Reminder: Funding focus on the funding rules, rates and formula, and the adult education budget
- Steve Besley's Policy Watch



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## Funding agencies

### SFA: A full round up of the key funding documents for 2016/17

This week we have rounded up the important documents published by the SFA on the new Adult Education Budget. This will shortly be available as a [Funding Focus](#) along with other documents explaining particular aspects of the new funding system.

Document or collection (webpage and direct link)	What it covers
<b>Document: <a href="#">Skills funding letter: April 2016 to March 2017</a></b>	
<a href="#">Skills Funding Letter: 2016 to 2017</a> (15 December 2015)	Sets the scene for the changes by setting out the funding priorities and available budget for the further education and skills sector for the 2016 to 2017 financial year.
<b>Document: <a href="#">SFA: changes to the adult education budget for 2016 to 2017</a></b>	
<a href="#">Adult education budget: changing context and arrangements for 2016 to 2017</a> (28 January 2016)	Summarises the changes the SFA plans to make to the adult skills system with the creation of the education budget following the publication of the Skills Funding Letter.  A key document outlining the changes being made including the move to devolution and that the SFA will identify qualifications for 1) 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement funding, and 19+ English and maths entitlement funding, 2) 19+ level 3 loan funding, and 3) 19+ entry to level 2 local flexibility funding.
<b>Collection: <a href="#">SFA funding rules 2016/17</a></b>	
Use these document links if you are only delivering a single programme, such as Adult Education Budget (AEB).	
<a href="#">Combined rules for Adult Education Budget</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Combined rules for apprenticeship frameworks</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Combined rules for apprenticeship standards</a> (28 January 2016)	
<b>Collection: <a href="#">SFA funding rules 2016/17</a></b>	
<b>Or</b> use these document links to build your own set of rules to account for the various programmes you deliver.	
<a href="#">Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Apprenticeships: common funding rules</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Apprenticeship framework funding rules</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Apprenticeship standards funding rules</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Adult education budget funding rules</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">Advanced learner loans funding rules</a> (28 January 2016) <a href="#">SFA funding rules 2016 to 2017: summary of changes</a> (28 January 2016)	
<b>Document: <a href="#">SFA: funding rates and formula - 2016 to 2017</a></b>	
<a href="#">SFA: funding rates and formula 2016</a>	How to calculate funding for formula-funded provision. No huge change but explains the change to the way funding rates will be determined for new qualifications and the



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to 2017 (28 January 2016)	introduction of the new Single Activity Matrix (SAM).
<p><b>Collection: Qualifications: eligibility for public funding</b></p> <p>The policy and processes the Skills Funding Agency uses to make qualifications eligible for public funding, and links to the latest catalogues.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Qualification Eligibility Principles - 2016 to 2017 (15 February)</a></p>	<p>To support local area needs and delivery of agreed local outcomes, colleges and other training organisations will decide on the most appropriate form of training provision. This may or may not include qualifications.</p> <p>The SFA have therefore removed the requirement for all delivery they fund to be in the form of a qualification. They only require a qualification to be delivered where a learner is exercising their legal entitlement to a first full level 2 or 3 and/or English and maths.</p> <p>Summarises how the SFA will make qualifications and units eligible for delivery as part of local flexibility. Awarding organisations will not have to make submissions for qualifications to be made eligible; the SFA will apply six principles to identify the qualifications they fund.</p> <p>Bespoke, locally-designed or tailored training will also need to be subject to eligibility requirements beyond those in the Funding Rules. The SFA will say more about this when they update the Funding Rules in March.</p> <p><b>Process:</b> <i>the six eligibility principles will be applied to all qualifications and these will be added to the hub in April. The SFA will also start a monthly eligibility process to add new qualifications to the hub. Components of qualifications will be added on a quarterly basis.</i></p>
<p><a href="#">The Legal Entitlements for 2016 to 2017 (10 February)</a></p>	<p>Explains how qualifications that can be delivered as 19-23 level 2 and 3, and 19+ English and maths legal entitlements for 2016 to 2017 will be identified.</p> <p>It accompanies the initial list of qualifications which can be delivered as part of the 19-23 level 2 and 3 and the 19+ English and maths legal entitlements (see links to the lists below).</p> <p>It also explains the consultation process for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 legal entitlement list:</p> <p>Between now and 29 February the SFA are running a consultation for awarding organisations and providers to notify the SFA of any missing qualifications that could be delivered within the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement. The SFA will consider adding these to the list.</p> <p>Please do check the list and contact us (on <a href="mailto:funding@pearson.com">funding@pearson.com</a>) or use the forms below to contact the SFA directly if you have 19-23 year-olds wishing to undertake a qualification as part of their entitlement which is not on the list.</p> <p>In March, after a consultation with colleges, other training organisations and awarding organisations, the SFA will update this document and will publish a final list of qualifications that can be delivered as part of the entitlements.</p> <p><b>Process:</b> <i>the SFA will agree the process for adding new qualifications to the entitlement lists with the DfE and confirm this when they update this document in March.</i></p>
<p><a href="#">List of qualifications at level 2 and 3 in the legal entitlements (10 February)</a></p>	<p>The initial list of qualifications which can be delivered as 19-23 level 2 and 3 legal entitlement (see consultation process above).</p>
<p><a href="#">Notification form for consultation on entitlement list (10 February)</a></p>	<p>Notification form to use to request the SFA consider adding level 2 and 3 qualifications to the 19-23 entitlement list.</p>
<p><a href="#">List of qualifications in English and maths in the legal entitlements (10 February)</a></p>	<p>The initial list of qualifications which can be delivered as 19+ English and maths legal entitlement.</p>



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**Collection: Designating qualifications for advanced learner loans**

The policy and processes the Skills Funding Agency uses to designate qualifications for advanced learner loans.

[Advanced learner loans prospectus 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017](#) (1 February)

The Prospectus sets out how awarding organisations can notify the SFA of qualifications for the advanced learner loans offer for the 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 funding years. The funding year runs from 1 August to 31 July.

**Process:** awarding organisations can submit forms on the first Tuesday of each month. If successful, on the third week of the month the hub will be updated to include new qualifications, and on the fourth week of month the Student Loans Company application portal and Loans catalogue will be updated.

[Notification form for advanced learner loan qualifications](#) (9 December)

The notification form awarding organisations need to use to notify the SFA of qualifications they wish to submit for the advanced learner loans offer for the 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 funding years.

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### Steve Besley's Policy Watch

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye – week ending February 19 2016](#). Find this and more on the [Pearson UK website](#) or [sign up](#) to receive updates.

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