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Pearson UK - Funding News

4 March 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 includes a short factsheet from BIS on the Institute for Apprenticeships, an update from BIS and the DfE on area based reviews including lessons learned and additional information on the restructuring facility, news that the SFA funding statements for 2016/17 will shortly be available and that the EFA post-16 final allocation statements 2016/17 are available. We also include the news of the funding rules for apprenticeships for higher education institutions, and the removal of 'old' apprenticeship frameworks. Lastly, there's a brief update on the latest on qualifications approved for 19+ funding.

Government departments

- BIS: Enterprise Bill factsheet: Institute for Apprenticeships
- BIS and DfE: Post-16 education and training institutions: area based reviews

Funding agencies

- SFA: Funding statements 2016/17
- SFA: Apprenticeship funding rules for higher education institutions
- SFA: Removal of apprenticeship frameworks
- EFA: Post-16 final allocation statements 2016/17

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- Update on the latest on qualifications approved for 19+ funding
- Steve Besley's Policy Watch



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Government departments

BIS: Enterprise Bill factsheet: Institute for Apprenticeships

BIS has published a [factsheet](#) outlining the measures that will be included in the [Enterprise Bill](#) with regard to the Institute for Apprenticeships. The measures will establish a new body - the Institute for Apprenticeships - to support employer-led reforms and regulate the quality of apprenticeships.

BIS and DfE: Post-16 education and training institutions: area based reviews

BIS and the DfE have [updated](#) their area based review webpage to include lessons learned and additional information on the restructuring facility, national benchmarks for FE and SF colleges, and academisation for post-16 providers.

Funding agencies

SFA: Funding statements 2016/17

The SFA will shortly be issuing 2016/17 funding statements, which will set out college and providers allocations for the adult education budget (including community learning and discretionary learner support); adult apprenticeships; 16 to 18 apprenticeships and SFA-funded traineeships; loans facility; loans bursary; and the apprenticeship grant for employers.

SFA: Apprenticeship funding rules for higher education institutions

The SFA has now published the [Apprenticeship Funding Rules for Higher Education Institutions 2016 to 2017](#). This document completes the set of [funding rules](#) published at the end of January 2016. It will assist SFA-funded higher education institutions that deliver both apprenticeship frameworks and standards. For further information from the SFA email [Higher Apprenticeships](#).

SFA: Removal of apprenticeship frameworks

As part of the apprenticeship reforms, no new SASE frameworks have been developed or issued since 31 August 2014 and new [apprenticeship standards](#) are being developed by groups of employers (Trailblazers). As part of these reforms the SFA are [removing old apprenticeship frameworks](#) and this is the first in a series of batches of frameworks to be removed. Seven apprenticeship frameworks will be closed to new starts from 1 June 2016 and the last date for new starts will be 31 May 2016. These frameworks had no starts in 2014/15 or in 2016/17 so the SFA consider 3 months' notice of switch-off for these frameworks to be sufficient. Apprentices still completing their apprenticeship on these frameworks will continue to do so, on their agreed funding arrangements, and their apprenticeship completion certificate can be claimed in the same way. For future batches of frameworks, where there are recent and ongoing starts, the SFA expect to give a longer notice period before a framework is closed to new starts. Further general information can be found on the SFA webpage [Apprenticeship Changes](#). The seven frameworks, which will no longer be available to new starts from 1 June are:

- Blacksmithing, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies - Level 3
- Building Products Industry Occupations, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies - Level 2
- Cabin Crew, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies - Level 2
- Campaigning, Business Administration and Law - Level 3
- Energy Assessment and Advice, Retail and Commercial Enterprise - Level 3
- Providing Mortgage Advice, Business Administration and Law – Level 3
- Witness Care, Health, Public Services and Care – Level 3



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EFA: Post-16 final allocation statements 2016/17

The EFA has released the post-16 final allocation statements for 2016/17 for schools, academies, colleges and local authorities with direct delivery. They have been uploaded to the 'revenue funding' folder under 'AY 2016-17 (2016/17)' in the Document Exchange section of EFA Information Exchange. The EFA have held back less than 1% of allocation statements and will be in touch with those institutions. They expect the majority of these to be uploaded by the end of March. Allocations for institutions such as commercial and charitable providers and special post-16 institutions will follow later this month along with allocations of student support funding. Further information about the final allocation statements and the business case process for data errors (which closes on 8 April) is available [here](#) and if you experience problems accessing EFA Information Exchange the EFA ask you to [submit a support request](#).

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Update on the latest on qualifications approved for 19+ funding

Qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement 2016/17: The SFA has published an [initial list](#) of qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year as part of the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement. They undertook a consultation about other qualifications that should be added to this list (which Pearson responded to with help from colleges and providers and which ended on the 29 March). The SFA will publish a final list of qualifications at the end of March. Many new BTEC Nationals have been submitted for 16-18 performance tables, and if they are accepted by the DfE these qualifications will be automatically approved for entitlement funding by the SFA. We don't yet know if the QCF Nationals in the same subject areas will continue to be approved for entitlement funding. As soon as we know more we will update you. More on how the SFA are approving qualifications for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#).

Qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement 2016/17: The SFA has published an [initial list](#) of qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year as part of the 19+ English and maths entitlement. The SFA are working with DfE to move towards a single list of stepping stone qualifications from Entry to Level 1. The Hub contains details of the DfE approved stepping stone qualifications but the SFA know there are some 'stepping stone' qualifications, which serve the needs of particular groups of learners, approved for funding that are not on the DfE list and will add these to the final qualifications list for 19+ learners aged 19 when they publish the final list in March. They will also continue to make units of stepping stone qualifications available to eligible learners. Again, as soon as we know more we will update you. More on how the SFA are approving qualifications for the 19+ English and maths entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#).

Qualifications approved for local flexibility funding 2016/17: The government is moving towards full devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) and as part of this transition the SFA have introduced local flexibility. This recognises that localities, colleges and other training organisations are best placed to decide on the most appropriate type of provision to respond to local needs. To support local area needs and deliver 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 and the SFA has therefore removed the requirement for all the activity they fund to be in the form of a qualification. (Delivery of a qualification is only required where a learner exercises their legal entitlement to a first full level 2 or 3 qualification and/or English and maths.) Where qualifications are delivered, these will not now have to go through a formal approvals process but the SFA will apply principles to identify which qualifications are eligible. Eligible qualifications will be added to the [Hub](#) in April and the SFA will start a monthly eligibility process for new qualifications. Again, as soon as we know more we will update you. More on how the SFA are approving qualifications for local flexibility funding in 2016/17 can be found [here](#).



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Qualifications approved for 24+ loan funding for levels 3 and 4 in 2015/16, and 19+ loan funding for levels 3-6 in 2016/17: From the end of 2015 awarding organizations could make submissions for qualifications to be eligible for loan funding as a separate process to making submissions for qualifications to be made eligible for loan funding. Previously, submissions for loan funding had been caught up in the funding moratorium so no new submissions could be made. In addition to this, whilst for 2015/16 loans are available those aged 24+ for qualifications at levels 3 and 4, from 2016/17 loans will be available for individuals aged 19 or above for qualifications at Levels 3 to 6. The [advanced learner loans qualifications catalogue](#) lists the qualifications available for an advanced learner loan up to 31 July 2017, and the date the qualification is available to start (i.e. level 5 and 6 qualifications aren't available to start until the 2016/17 funding year. Learners will be able to make applications for a loan for 2016/17 from May 2016; colleges and other training organisations that do not have advanced learner loans facility can apply [here](#) (by Monday 14 March); and the SFA announced on 22 February that they will [remove advanced learner loans subcontracting](#) from the start of the 2017 to 2018 funding year. More on how the SFA are approving qualifications for 24+ loan funding for levels 3 and 4 in 2015/16, and 19+ loan funding for levels 3-6 in 2016/17 can be found [here](#).

The document published by the SFA on the 28 January, [Adult Education Budget January 2016 Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016 to 2017](#), provides a crucial outline of 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 including the move to devolution and the funding streams listed above that the SFA will identify qualifications for.

Steve Besley's Policy Watch

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in February 2016](#) and [Policy Eye – week ending February 26 2016](#). Find these and more on the [Pearson UK website](#) or [sign up](#) to receive updates.



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