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Pearson UK – Funding News

24 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 updates you on just one topic – the latest on the lists of qualifications approved for 19+ funding by the Skills Funding Agency, and a reminder of a key ‘do read’ document from the Skills Funding Agency. We will be back with a full round up of Funding News next Friday 1 April.

Skills Funding Agency: The latest on lists of qualifications approved for funding

Qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement 2016/17

- Back in February the SFA published an initial list of qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement. They then 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 February).
- **On 23 March the SFA published this [new list](#) of qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement (third document down).**
- **We expect more qualifications to be added to this list. Many new BTEC Nationals have been submitted for 16-18 performance tables and if accepted by the DfE, these qualifications will be added to the list.**
- 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

- Again, back in February the SFA published an initial list of qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year for the 19+ English and maths entitlement.
- **On 23 March the SFA published this [new list](#) of qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year for the 19+ English and maths entitlement (fourth document down).**
- 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

- No new news for this funding stream, but to re-cap...
- 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 funding. 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.



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- 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.
- **Qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year for the 19-23 level 2 entitlement are automatically approved for local flexibility funding. In addition, many qualifications not approved under the entitlement will be approved for local flexibility funding.**
- **Eligible qualifications will be added to the [Hub](#) in April and the SFA will start a monthly eligibility process for new qualifications.**
- More on how the SFA are approving qualifications for local flexibility funding in 2016/17 can be found [here](#).

Qualifications approved for loan funding 2015/16 and 2016/17

- From the end of 2015 awarding organisations 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 entitlement 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.
- **Qualifications approved for the 2016/17 funding year for the 19-23 level 3 entitlement are automatically approved for loan funding. In addition, many qualifications not approved under the entitlement will be approved for advanced learner loans.**
- **On the 23 March the [advanced learner loans qualifications catalogue](#) was updated. It 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.)**
- 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](#).

We will continue to use Funding News to update you with the latest.

Do read document from the Skills Funding Agency

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. It includes information on the move to full devolution and the new funding streams.

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