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Pearson UK – Funding News

1 July 2016

Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-19, 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.

This is the first Funding News in two weeks as there hasn't been a huge amount to report in the last week or so. This week the key news is that the expected detail on the apprenticeship levy has been delayed (due to Brexit) but Nick Boles has said that the levy will still be introduced as planned in April 2017. We also include news that a BIS consultation on the criteria for a new register of apprenticeships is imminent, and registration will be open to providers best placed to deliver, and that the SFA will release version 3 of the 2016/17 funding rules shortly. In qualification funding news the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Fitness Services (60172150) has now been approved in the 16-19 2018 tables and will therefore be made eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding in 2016/17.

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Government departments

BIS: Delay to publication of apprenticeship funding information, but levy still going ahead

Skills Minister Nick Boles announced at the AELP conference this week that the apprenticeships funding information due out before the end June will now be delayed as a result of Brexit. It is expected to be published 'well before' the summer recess (21 July). He also confirmed that the levy plans are still going ahead as planned: 'We should continue to work on the basis that the apprenticeship levy is coming in April of 2017 as planned, and in the way it was planned'. The information we are expecting (explained [here](#)) will set out the following for apprenticeship funding from April 2017:

- provisional funding bands, which set maximum amount of funding available for each apprenticeship
- provisional level of government support available towards the cost of apprenticeship training if you aren't a levy paying employer
- provisional level of extra payment for hiring 16 to 18 year old apprentices
- provisional amount paid for English and maths training for apprentices who need it
- eligibility rules that set who you are able to spend apprenticeship funding on, and where
- more information on who can provide apprenticeship training and how you can set up your organisation to deliver apprenticeship training.

Further information is due out in October and December this year:

- October 2016: the final levels of funding, government support, 16 to 18 payments, and English and maths payments for apprentices starting from April 2017, and full, draft funding and eligibility rules
- December 2016: final detailed funding and eligibility rules, and further employer guidance from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on how to calculate and pay the apprenticeship levy

A [Pearson Funding Focus](#) is available on apprenticeships funding which provides a brief update on the changes to apprenticeship funding.

BIS: Consultation on a new register of apprenticeships 'imminent'

Keith Smith, who heads up the levy implementation team at the BIS, spoke at the AELP conference this week and assured delegates that a new register of apprenticeship providers will be open to providers that are 'best placed' to deliver. Government will be consulting shortly on a new set of criteria for providers who want to deliver apprenticeships and any new criteria will allow for providers who currently subcontract to be able to access the new register.

BIS and DfE: Sainsbury review of technical and professional education, and the post-16 skills white paper

In his AELP speech this week the Skills Minister also made mention of the publication of the Sainsbury Review; this should also be published before the summer recess, followed by a skills plan.

DfE: Updated list of technical and vocational qualifications in 2018 performance tables, and new sport qualification approved for 19+ funding

The DfE has now published an [updated list](#) of technical and vocational qualifications to be included in the 2018 performance tables in England. This is important for funding as any qualifications included in this list



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are automatically approved for legal entitlement funding in 2016/17. We were successful with the appeal for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Fitness Services (60172150) and this qualification is now eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding in 2016/17. See the updated document, 160628 Funding Focus - Updated - BTEC Firsts and Nationals - Adult funding in 2016 17, on the [Pearson Funding webpage](#) for details.

Funding agencies

SFA: Funding rules 2016/17, version 3 due out shortly

The SFA will soon be publishing version 3 of the Funding Rules 2016/17. The documents set out the rules for funding, including the evidence required to support funding for 2016/17 and the operational performance-management rules, and the rules apply from 1 August 2016. These will be published on the [funding rules page](#) of the SFA website.

SFA: £20m procurement opportunity for FE and HE to provide higher and degree apprenticeships

The SFA has launched a £20 million procurement opportunity for additional further and higher education organisations to provide higher and degree apprenticeships (Levels 4 to 7) in 2016/17. Providers can access the Invitation to Tender (30102) and associated documents through the [Bravo e-tendering portal](#). Organisations that already hold a funding agreement for this provision do not need to apply through this procurement and should request growth through the usual SFA process.

SFA: Outcome of the apprenticeship and traineeship growth exercise 2016/17, and increased allocations

Yesterday the SFA [communicated](#) the outcomes of the targeted growth exercise announced in [May 2016](#). They have funded all 'credible' growth cases to grow delivery. In addition, they have reviewed the baseline data used in calculating 2016/17 apprenticeship and traineeship allocations, reflecting provider earnings for 12 months up to March 2016, and where there is evidence of increased performance, have increased providers' 2016/17 allocations accordingly. All increases will be included in 2016/17 contract variations which the SFA will be issuing shortly.

SFA: Invitation to tender, apprenticeship and traineeship services to schools

The SFA are procuring services to support schools in meeting their statutory duty to deliver independent careers information, advice and guidance to young people, by offering information and tools about apprenticeships and traineeships. The invitation to tender closes at 5.00pm on 11 July and the SFA will award a maximum of four contracts to ensure coverage of all Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) areas. They expect the delivery of contracts to commence in September 2016. The services should add value to the range of activity delivered locally by LEPs, National Careers Service Area-based contractors, and with projects commissioned by the Careers & Enterprise Company. See the [Bravo e-tendering portal](#) for more.

SFA: Devolution of the apprenticeship grant for employers

Following final agreement on the latest round of devolution deals, six areas will receive devolved funding for the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE), effective from 1 August 2016. The SFA will shortly issue the monthly AGE Central Delivery Service note to colleges and other training organisations in



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receipt of an AGE Grant. This will list the in-scope local authorities for each deal. It will also set out the arrangements for the collection and transfer of AGE Grant from those in-scope providers. More information can be found on the SFA's webpage [apprenticeship grant for employers of 16 to 24 year olds](#).

SFA: Advanced learner loans facility: 2016/17 change request form

The SFA will shortly publish the 2016/17 [change request form for loan facilities](#). If you have a 2016/17 loan facility, you can use this form to request an increase to your facility. If you do not have a loan facility you can use this form to request one for the first time but must have an adult apprenticeships or Adult Education Budget funding agreement with the SFA to do this.

SFA: Reminder, funding hub guidance, new 'categories' to identify qualifications eligible for funding

The SFA has produced this [updated guide](#) on the definitions and guidance for each category on the [funding hub](#). New categories have been introduced for 2016/17 which help colleges and providers identify qualifications eligible for funding:

- **Legal entitlement level 2:** shows the level 2 qualifications that can be fully funded for 19-23 year olds if they are studying for a first qualification at level 2. These qualifications are also available for local flexibilities where a 19-23 year old learner is not undertaking a first qualification at level 2, or if the learner is 24 years old or above.
- **Legal Entitlement level 3:** shows level 3 qualifications that can be fully-funded for 19-23 year olds if they are studying for a first qualification at level 3.
- **Legal Entitlement English and Maths:** shows English and maths qualifications and their components that are available as part of the English and maths entitlement.
- **Local Flexibility entry to level 2:** shows qualifications at entry to level 2 and their components which can be delivered as part of local flexibilities.

The guide also explains the categories already in place and these include work preparation and work placement (for traineeships), Tech Levels achieved in 2017, Early Years Educators (EYE) 2015/16, loans length for qualifications which are not EYE or Tech Levels which identifies the maximum length which applies when the learning aim is funded by a loan, Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives, Trades Union Congress, 'Standalone' and Licence to Practise, and class codes.

To be eligible for 19+ funding a qualification needs to be showing as valid for adult skills, and then the category of funding they are eligible for can be checked in the category tab.

CITB

Consultation timeline announced for consultation on the CITB levy

Early this month the CITB [announced](#) the timeline for consulting with construction employers on how its levy could work alongside the apprenticeship levy. A full consultation with the construction industry on the CITB levy will take place next year. Ahead of formal consultation CITB will discuss with employers how the organisation can best meet their needs, including by making the current grants scheme more relevant and accessible, particularly for small firms. They will also re-establish the levy working party, which will be formed of representatives from across the construction industry.



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The timeline will require transition arrangements for 2017 to mitigate the impact on firms in scope of the apprenticeship levy in 2017. CITB will help these companies to claim back much of their contribution to the CITB levy through enhanced funding for training they undertake and are currently working with industry to agree the mechanics of the transition arrangements and will announce more detail in early July.

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Reminder: How to find qualifications approved for adult funding in 2016/17

- **Qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement 2016/17:** The SFA's list of qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#) (fourth document down). These are also showing on the [funding hub](#). More on how the SFA approve qualifications for this entitlement can be found [here](#).
- **Qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement 2016/17:** The SFA's latest list of qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#) (third document down). More on how the SFA approve qualifications for this entitlement can be found [here](#).
- **Qualifications and components approved for local flexibility funding 2016/17:** The SFA are not producing a list of qualifications eligible for local flexibility funding in 2016/17; these qualifications will be confirmed for funding just on the [funding hub](#). Components (or units) of qualifications started to be uploaded this month (June). More on how the SFA approve qualifications for local flexibility funding can be found [here](#).
- **Qualifications approved for loan funding 2015/16 and 2016/17:** The SFA's latest list of qualifications approved for advanced learner loans can be found in the [advanced learner loans catalogue](#). These are also showing on the [funding hub](#). More on how the SFA approve qualifications loan funding can be found [here](#).
- **'Do read' document from the SFA:** The document published by the SFA on the 28 January, [Adult Education Budget January 2016 Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016/17](#), provides a very useful outline of the changes the SFA are making to the adult skills system with the creation of the adult education budget, following the publication of the Skills Funding Letter.

Reminder: Updated Funding Focus, learner and qualification eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17

A [Funding Focus](#) is available which summarises learner eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17, qualification and unit eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17, and how qualifications and units will be made eligible for 19+ funding 2016/17.

Reminder: Updated Funding Focus, BTEC Firsts and Nationals approved for funding in 2016/17, and new sport qualification approved for 19-23 funding

As captured above (DfE: Updated list of technical and vocational qualifications in 2018 performance tables, and new sport qualification approved for 19+ funding), the DfE has now published an [updated list](#) of technical and vocational qualifications to be included in the 2018 performance tables. This is important for 19-23 funding as qualifications included in this list are automatically approved for legal entitlement funding in 2016/17. We were successful with the appeal for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Fitness Services (60172150) and this qualification is now eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding in



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2016/17. See the updated document, [160628 Funding Focus - Updated - BTEC Firsts and Nationals - Adult funding in 2016 17](#), on the [Pearson Funding webpage](#) for details.

Monthly advanced learner loan submissions update

We have changed this update to a monthly one given the number of submissions now going through. The update lets you know which qualifications Pearson are currently submitting for advanced learner loan funding. The latest is available [here](#), and future updates will be available on the [Pearson funding website](#). The full update includes information on the submission process, qualifications eligible for loans, the extension of the loan offer in 2016/17, and further information and links.

If you wish to make a request for Pearson to submit a qualification for loan funding that isn't on this list, or isn't already confirmed for loan funding on the [funding hub](#) or in the SFA's [Advanced learner loans qualifications catalogue](#), please email funding@pearson.com

Pearson's current advanced learner loan submissions

We are currently awaiting confirmation for loan funding for 6 qualifications, and plan to make submissions for loan funding for 5 qualifications: 3 at the beginning of July, and 2 at the beginning of August.

QN	Title	Qualification specification	Status
600/3994/2	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Wall and Floor Tiling (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Awaiting outcome
600/9097/2	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Decorative Finishing - Painting and Decorating (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Awaiting outcome
600/3263/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Awaiting outcome
500/9771/4	Pearson Edexcel Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Senior Site Inspection (QCF)	Click here	Awaiting outcome
601/6283/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Recruitment Practice (QCF)	Click here	Awaiting outcome
601/6188/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Recruitment (QCF)	Click here	Awaiting outcome
600/0872/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles (Professional Cookery) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
600/3924/3	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Sales Professional) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
600/4105/5	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Management) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
601/6284/3	Pearson BTEC Level 4 Diploma in Recruitment Management (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in August
601/5877/3	Pearson Edexcel Level 4 NVQ Diploma in Recruitment (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in August

Steve Besley's Policy Watch

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 24 June 2016](#), [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 17 June 2016](#), and [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 10 June 2016](#). See the latest from [Policy Watch](#) for this and more.

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Information is correct at the time of writing and offered in good faith. No liability is accepted for decisions made on the basis of information given.