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Pearson UK – Funding News

8 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.

Key Funding News this week is the publication of the Sainsbury Review and the response from BIS and the DfE in the accompanying Post-16 Skills Plan.

We also include news that the SFA has updated the funding rules (version 3); will shortly be issuing contracts for 2016/17 (up to April 2017); and has released a consultation on the withdrawal of 55 apprenticeship frameworks; the EFA will shortly be uploading the young people's 2016/17 funding agreements and contract for services ;and has published an update on business cases for 2016/17 post-16 funding allocations; and Pearson has published a Funding Focus which gives an overview of devolution deals, and the monthly advanced learner loan update.

Lastly, we also include a number of reminders of key news and documents from previous weeks.

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Government departments

BIS and DfE: Sainsbury Review and Post-16 Skills Plan

BIS and the DfE have published the long awaited [Sainsbury Review of technical and professional education in England, and, alongside it, the Post-16 Skills Plan](#). The key headlines are that at the age of 16, students will have to choose between an academic option (A-levels leading to an undergraduate degree) or a new technical option. Learners will no longer be able to 'mix and match'; but they will be able to switch between the two routes after completing their qualifications. Under the technical option 15 routes will be available (agriculture, environmental and animal care; business and administrative; catering and hospitality; childcare and education; construction; creative and design; digital; engineering and manufacturing; hair and beauty; health and science; legal, finance and accounting; protective services; sales, marketing and procurement; social care; transport and logistics). Within each route, learners can choose between a two-year, college-based programme (including compulsory work experience), or an employment-based programme, such as an apprenticeship (including at least 20% college-based provision). Older learners will also be entitled to take these programmes. A transition year or traineeship will be available for those not ready to access a technical education route at 16.

The plan sets out the timeline for reform between now and 2020. BIS and the DfE are 'committed to taking forward the reforms quickly, and in particular establishing all 15 technical education routes as soon as possible' but recognise that certain lead-in times are required for reform on this scale. The reforms will be phased in 'progressively' and BIS and the DfE will establish a small number of 'pathfinder' routes which can start developing standards this year for first delivery in September 2019, with additional routes becoming available for teaching in phases between 2020 and 2022.

Pearson will bring you further analysis of these in the coming days (in [Policy Watch](#) and in [Funding News](#)) and some analysis has been published by the [TES](#) and [FE Week](#).

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

Skills Minister Nick Boles announced at the AELP conference last 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.



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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: Reminder, 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 last 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.

Funding agencies

SFA: Updated funding rules published

The SFA has published version 3 of several of their funding rules documents: [Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules](#), [Apprenticeships: common funding rules](#), [Apprenticeship framework funding rules](#), [Adult education budget funding rules](#), and [Advanced learner loans funding rules](#). They have also updated the [SFA funding rules 2016 to 2017: summary of changes](#). They can all be found on the [SFA's funding rules 2016/17](#) page.

SFA: Apprenticeship reforms, withdrawal of frameworks, consultation

As part of the apprenticeship reforms work the SFA has launched a consultation on the withdrawal of a third batch of 55 apprenticeship frameworks. In March the SFA withdrew a [first batch](#) of 7 apprenticeship frameworks as there were no starts, and in May, following consultation with issuing authorities, a [second batch](#) of 65 frameworks was withdrawn (out of 67 under consultation). The latest consultation will run from Wednesday 6 July to Wednesday 3 August. The SFA will review the feedback and announce the final list for withdrawal in September. The proposed date for withdrawing these frameworks for new starts is 1 April 2017. Further information on apprenticeship reform can be found on the BIS/SFA website [here](#).

SFA: Apprenticeship funding for new starts 2016/17

The SFA will shortly be issuing contracts for the 2016 to 2017 funding year. They will not include funding for new apprenticeship starts after April 2017, to align with the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. The SFA will continue to fund all existing starts as at 31 March 2017. Further details about the procurement for apprenticeship delivery from April 2017 are expected to be published by the SFA shortly, but no date is confirmed for publication.

The latest from BIS on the apprenticeship levy can be found [here](#) and a [Pearson Funding Focus](#) is available on apprenticeships funding which provides a brief update on the changes to apprenticeship funding. We expect further guidance from the SFA on the apprenticeship levy before the summer recess (21 July). The guidance should include: provisional funding bands, provisional level of government



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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, eligibility rules that set who you are able to spend apprenticeship funding on, and where, and more information on who can provide apprenticeship training and how you can set up your organisation to deliver apprenticeship training.

SFA: Skills Funding Service 2016/17

The SFA will shortly be issuing the following 2016/17 contracts on the Skills Funding Service (SFA): Adult Education Budget, 16-18 apprenticeships/traineeships, and 19+ apprenticeships.

SFA: Assurance reviews, common findings

The SFA has published a summary of [Common Findings from Assurance Work](#) from their assurance work on the Adult Skills Budget and 16-18 apprenticeships funding in 2015 to 2016. They advise colleges and providers to review these findings as they may help avoid non-compliance with the Funding Rules and better prepare for the SFA's assurance reviews.

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.



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SFA and EFA: Joint Audit Code of Practice

The SFA and the EFA have published an updated version of the [Joint Audit Code of Practice \(JACOP\)](#). The JACOP sets out a common standard for providing assurance of the funding of post-16 providers. It is mostly unchanged from the previous version and contains only minor editorial changes and clarifications.

EFA: Young people's 2016/17 funding agreements and contract for services

Funding agreements and contracts for 2016/17 are being uploaded to the [EFA Information Exchange](#). The documents describe the terms and conditions that will apply to young people's learning, education and training for 2016/17. They apply to all eligible general and specialist FE colleges, sixth-form colleges, higher education institutions, local authorities, commercial and charitable providers, specialist provision institutions and non-maintained special schools. Those with funding agreements and contracts can find the documents in 'Document Exchange' in the 'contracts and compliance' folder, under 'AY 2016-17 (2016/17)', and to accept your funding agreement or contract for services, please complete the included 'ElecSig2016' form and return via Document Exchange.

EFA: Update on business cases for 2016/17 post-16 funding allocations

The EFA has reviewed and confirmed the outcomes of business cases received relating to post-16 funding allocations for the 2016 to 2017 academic year (unless they are waiting for additional information from institutions). Where allocations have been updated following a business case, revised allocation statements will be uploaded to on the [EFA Information Exchange](#). These can be found in 'Document Exchange' in the 'revenue funding' folder.

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Pearson Funding Focus: An overview of devolution deals

Since 2014 government has announced ten devolution deals between government and regions in England to support economic growth, public service reform and improved local accountability. They are the latest in a range of initiatives designed to support localism and decentralisation. The deals transfer certain powers, funding and accountability for policies and functions previously undertaken by central government. Deals in other areas are also being explored. A Funding Focus summarising the deals in place and focusing on the devolved powers for skills provision and funding will shortly be available on the [Pearson Funding News](#) page (160708 Funding Focus – Devolution deals – An overview).

Pearson monthly advanced learner loan submissions update

This update will now be published at the beginning of each month after we have made our monthly submission. This update lets you know which qualifications Pearson are currently submitting for advanced learner loan funding and the latest update will shortly be available on the [Pearson Funding News page](#). 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 on the SFA's [Advanced learner loans qualifications catalogue](#), please email funding@pearson.com



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Pearson's advanced learner loan submissions

Loan funding has recently (30 June) been confirmed for six qualifications submitted in May. We made submissions for three qualifications at the beginning of July, and plan to make submissions for a further two qualifications at the beginning of August.

QN	Title	Specification	Status
600/3994/2	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Wall and Floor Tiling (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Confirmed for loan funding
600/9097/2	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Decorative Finishing - Painting and Decorating (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Confirmed for loan funding
600/3263/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Confirmed for loan funding
500/9771/4	Pearson Edexcel Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Senior Site Inspection (QCF)	Click here	Confirmed for loan funding
601/6283/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Recruitment Practice (QCF)	Click here	Confirmed for loan funding
601/6188/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Recruitment (QCF)	Click here	Confirmed for loan funding
600/0872/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles (Professional Cookery) (QCF)	Click here	Submitted on 5 July
600/3924/3	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Sales Professional) (QCF)	Click here	Submitted on 5 July
600/4105/5	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Management) (QCF)	Click here	Submitted on 5 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

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](#)



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[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 ([160603 Funding Focus – Updated – Learner and qualification eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17](#)) 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

The DfE has 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 2016/17. See the updated document, [160628 Funding Focus – Updated – BTEC Firsts and Nationals – Funding in 2016/17](#), on the [Pearson Funding News page](#) for details.

Steve Besley’s Policy Watch

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 1 July 2016](#), [Pocket Watch \(2016/6\) - ‘What now for education?’](#), and [Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in 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.