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Pearson UK – Funding News

16 September 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.

In Funding News this week we again bring you reminders of where you can find all the 2016/17 funding guidance and the most recent information about the proposals for apprenticeship funding from May 2017, and the introduction of the levy from April 2017. We also bring you news that the DfE has released a consultation on proposals to create more good school places, the review of the data the EFA will use to determine post-16 disadvantage block 2 funding, the government response so far to the consultation on further education maintenance loans, the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into apprenticeships, and George Osborne's plan to launch a think tank to promote the Northern Powerhouse.

Schools

- DfE consultation: Schools that Work for Everyone

16-19 funding

- Reminder: EFA funding guidance 2016/17
- Review of data source for post-16 disadvantage block 2 funding

Adult funding

- Reminder: SFA funding guidance 2016/17
- Consultation on further education maintenance loans: government response

Apprenticeships

- Reminder: SFA funding guidance 2016/17
- Reminder: Changes to apprenticeship funding and the introduction of the levy
- Public Accounts Committee: Apprenticeships inquiry

Devolution

- Northern Powerhouse: George Osborne to chair new think tank

Pearson policy and funding updates

Pearson webinars on apprenticeship developments



Schools

DfE consultation: Schools that Work for Everyone

On 12 September the DfE released their [consultation](#) on proposals to create more good school places. The proposals include: expecting independent schools to support existing or open new state schools, or offer funded places to children whose families can't afford to pay fees, asking universities to sponsor or set up new schools in exchange for the ability to charge higher fees, allowing selective schools to expand, or new ones to open, while making sure they support non-selective schools, and allowing new faith free schools to select up to 100% of pupils based on their faith, and introducing new requirements to make sure faith schools include pupils from different backgrounds. It closes on 12 December.

16-19 funding

Reminder: EFA funding guidance 2016/17

A reminder that the [EFA's 2016/17 funding guidance for 16-19 year-olds](#) is available and includes updated funding regulations to reflect recently published [sub-contracting guidance](#) and additional advice where schools or academies close sixth-form provision. The key documents are the:

- [Funding regulations for young people 2016/17](#)
- [Funding rates and formula for young people 2016/17](#)

Review of data source for post-16 disadvantage block 2 funding

Disadvantage block 2 funding is currently calculated based on the prior attainment of students at age 16 in English and maths GCSE, using matched administrative data from awarding bodies. The EFA are considering changing this approach to use data returned by institutions in the school census/individualised learner record (ILR). This week the EFA uploaded data files to the [EFA Information Exchange](#) to show how current 2015 to 2016 data could be used for future funding calculations along with supporting documents. This information is being shared ahead of the final data returns for the 2015 to 2016 academic year to raise awareness of the importance of the data on prior attainment and to help improve data quality. The EFA will review final 2015 to 2016 data later in the autumn and making a decision whether to change the data source for this calculation for the 2017 to 2018 allocations.

Adult funding

Reminder: SFA funding rules 2016/17

A reminder that the SFA's 2016/17 funding guidance is available and is published in the following:

- [Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules](#)
- [Adult education budget funding rules](#)
- [Advanced learner loans funding rules](#)
- [Funding rules 2016 to 2017: summary of changes](#)
- [Funding rates and formula - 2016 to 2017](#)



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Consultation on further education maintenance loans: government response and next steps

On 9 September the government released the [summary of responses](#) to the consultation on further education maintenance loans, along with the government's response outlining the next steps. There was generally strong support for introducing a maintenance loans offer in FE. There were also three issues raised in the responses that were not specifically asked about in the consultation: that maintenance loans should be available to all providers not just National Colleges and Institutes of Technology, that stronger information, advice and guidance needs to be available, and that Advanced Learner Loans are not available to 18 year olds which potentially creates a funding gap for those learners aged 18 who wish to follow a more vocational route, compared to HE.

Government will now take time to consider the responses to the consultation in light of the report by Lord Sainsbury, which has implications for higher level technical learning. The value for money case and fiscal position will also be considered before any decisions are taken and a further statement is planned for the autumn.

Apprenticeships

Reminder: SFA funding guidance 2016/17

A reminder that the SFA's 2016/17 funding guidance is available and is published in the following:

- [Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeships: common funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeship framework funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeship standards funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeship funding rules for higher education institutions](#)
- [Funding rules 2016 to 2017: summary of changes](#)
- [Funding rates and formula - 2016 to 2017](#)

Reminder: Changes to apprenticeship funding and the introduction of the levy

DfE has published the long-awaited proposals for apprenticeship funding once the levy is introduced. A [suite of documents](#) are available and summarised below:

1) Proposals for apprenticeship funding from May 2017

[Proposals for apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#) (23 pages) includes proposed funding bands for individual apprenticeship frameworks, and proposed funding bands for individual apprenticeship standards. Two Funding Focus documents are available:

- [Funding Focus – Apprenticeship funding after April 2017](#) summarises the funding proposals and Annex A looks at the proposed new funding bands for apprenticeships.
- [Funding Focus – Proposed allocation of frameworks and standards to new funding bands from May 2017](#) provides a full list of the new proposed funding bands so you see the new funding band your framework or standard has been allocated to.



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2) A new register for apprenticeship providers, and a guide for employers

[Proposals for a new Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers](#) (17 pages) explains how organisations will apply if they want to deliver apprenticeship training from May 2017. The [Employer-provider guide](#) (31 pages) explains what employers need to do to become an apprenticeship training provider. We have produced a Funding Focus summarising the proposals, and the employer-provider guide:

- [Funding Focus – Proposals for a Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers, and Guidance for employers wanting to become apprenticeship providers](#)

3) How the apprenticeship levy will work

The DfE briefing on the [Apprenticeship levy: how it will work](#) has been updated and provides more information for levy paying employers. This Funding Focus summarises information about paying the levy, accessing funds from the levy, buying training, and employers who operate in England and in other parts of the UK.

- [Funding Focus – Apprenticeship levy](#)

4) Further information about the new apprenticeship system

DfE also released the following information about the new apprenticeship system:

- [Information on the apprenticeship levy](#) (9 pages) with data broken down by size and sector and the total apprenticeship budget.
- An [online levy calculator](#) which employers can use to estimate if they will pay the apprenticeship levy, how much an organisation will have available to spend on apprenticeships and how much the government will contribute towards the cost of training.
- The [DfE press release](#) which outlines what has been published.

Public Accounts Committee: Apprenticeships inquiry

Following the recent publication of the NAO report [Delivering value through the apprenticeships programme](#) the Public Accounts Committee are holding an [inquiry into apprenticeships](#) examining the value derived from apprenticeships. The deadline for written submissions to the committee is midday on Tuesday 4 October 2016.

Devolution

Northern Powerhouse: George Osborne to chair new think tank

The [BBC reports](#) that former Chancellor George Osborne is to chair a new think tank aimed at taking forward his Northern Powerhouse plan. As chancellor, George Osborne championed the idea of creating an economy in the north of England to rival those of London and the South East. Theresa May has committed to taking forward the vision but there have been some concerns that the focus will change under the new leadership. George Osborne said that despite the commitment, 'We can't just expect Whitehall to do it all.'



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Pearson policy and funding updates

The latest policy updates from Steve Besley include (see [Pearson Policy Watch](#) for these and more):

- [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 9 September 2016](#)

The latest Funding Focus guides include (see [Pearson Funding News](#) for these and more):

- [Funding Focus – Comparing proposals for new apprenticeship funding from May 2017, with existing funding](#)
- [Funding Focus – Apprenticeship funding after April 2017](#)
- [Funding Focus – Proposed allocation of frameworks and standards to new funding bands from May 2017](#)
- [Funding Focus – Proposals for a Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers, and Guidance for employers wanting to become apprenticeship providers](#)
- [Funding Focus – Apprenticeship levy](#)
- [Funding Focus – Adult funding – Overview, and where to find out more](#)
- [Funding Focus – Advanced learner loans – Where to find out more](#)

Pearson webinars on apprenticeship developments

Insight webinar series for apprenticeships

#4. A new approach to apprenticeship funding

[» Register now - free](#)

Pearson is running a series of webinars on changes to apprenticeship one of which will focus on changes to apprenticeship funding. The events are free to join and open to everyone. The first webinar has been held and the second is now full, but you can sign up for future events and access recordings of all the events [here](#).

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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.