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Pearson UK – Funding News

30 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.

Funding News this week brings you the high needs funding arrangements from the EFA, and from the SFA the latest opening of the register of training organisations for new applications, a delay to the opening of the new register of apprenticeship training providers, a temporary suspension of advanced learner loans facilities growth requests, and a brief update on funding for components of RQF qualifications in the adult education budget. We also bring you news that Peter Lauener has been appointed Shadow CEO of the new Institute for Apprenticeships, a report from the AoC on the long term implications of devolution and localism for FE, and the usual policy and funding updates from Pearson.

16-19, and SEND learners up to 25, funding

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16-19, and SEND learners up to 25, funding

High needs funding arrangements 2017/18

The EFA has published the operational guide setting out [arrangements for high needs funding in 2017/18](#). It includes a summary of key dates and deadlines and what providers need to do for 2017/18. The EFA will publish more detail about the process for local authorities to request changes to place numbers in EFA-funded institutions in October 2016.

Adult funding

Register of training organisations: new applications

The [register of training organisations](#) (ROTO) will open for applications on Friday 30 September and will close on Friday 14 October. The process is not a full refresh but open for new applications for organisations required to enter the register as detailed in the [SFA's common and performance management funding rules 2016/17](#) (paragraphs A43 and A53 – i.e. for organisations that intend to deliver education and training services or operate in a supply chain as a subcontractor with an aggregated contract value of £100,000 or more) and those interested in future procurement opportunities, including the adult education budget, but excluding apprenticeships. No action is needed by organisations already on the register.

Register of apprenticeship training providers: delay

In August, the SFA published proposals for the new [register of apprenticeship training providers](#) (RoATP) and invited feedback on the proposals (with a deadline of 5 September). The intention was to open the register for applications on Monday 3 October. However, following feedback, the SFA are revising the original proposals and the opening of the new register will be delayed. The revised timetable will be announced shortly. The original timetable was as follows:

- 3 October 2016: RoATP open for applications.
- 4 November 2016: Date providers needed to complete applications by in order to be in first selection of assured providers.
- February 2017: First edition of RoATP published.
- October 2016: Applications invited for apprenticeship delivery for non-levied employers. It is expected that this will be a one-off procurement but if gaps in the market emerge the SFA may need to procure again.
- March 2017: Successful organisations applying for apprenticeship delivery for non-levied employers told outcome.

Advanced learner loans: temporary suspension of growth requests

The SFA report that they have seen an increase of over 25% in loan applications compared to this time last year and so are undertaking a review of the approach to managing loans facilities and will change the way providers apply for growth to their loans facility. They will process existing growth requests as soon as possible but from Wednesday 28 September the SFA will not accept any new growth requests until the new approach is in place in autumn. Changes will be confirmed in an update to the [Advanced learner loans funding and performance-management rules 2016/17](#).



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The SFA will 'seek to align the loans programme within the government's broader priorities' to support medium and higher level technical skills, as set out in the [Post-16 skills plan](#) and Sainsbury review and encourage providers to consider this as part of any plans to grow their loans facility.

Unit funding and the RQF

Many of you will be aware that under the SFA's [Qualification Eligibility Principles 2016/17](#), and the [Adult education budget funding rules 2016/17](#) many more units at entry level, level 1 and level 2 have become eligible for adult local flexibility funding. The [funding hub](#) has been updated to include a large number of QCF units. However, components of new RQF qualifications aren't yet available and the SFA will be working with awarding organizations over the autumn to find an appropriate way to make these available. Once a process is in place the SFA will update the [Qualification Eligibility Principles 2016/17](#).

Institute for Apprenticeships

Peter Lauener appointed Shadow CEO for the Institute for Apprenticeships

The DfE [announced](#) this week that Peter Lauener has been appointed Shadow Chief Executive for the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA). The IfA is the new independent body led by employers that has been given the role of ensuring the quality of apprenticeships in England. It will act as the decision maker on approving apprenticeship standards and assessment plans. Peter Lauener will fulfil the role on a part-time basis alongside his responsibilities as Chief Executive of the SFA and EFA. A permanent Chief Executive will be appointed in 2017.

Devolution

AoC: The long-term implications of devolution and localism for FE in England

This [report](#), researched by AoC, University of Oxford and the Centre for Skills, Knowledge and Organisation Performance, commissioned by the Further Education Trust for Leadership, and written by Professor Ewart Keep, Director of SKOPE, explores how institutions, localities, the FE system, and national bodies conceive of and make sense of localism, identifies the expertise needed to underpin and develop effective organisational leadership and associated strategies, and explores how these might be better developed and delivered. The aim of the report was to give a clearer picture of how localism is playing out in specific areas, enhance knowledge and understanding of the implications of localism and how these might best be addressed, create a framework for understanding how a balance between local and national priorities and policies can be negotiated and managed, and identify localisation training and development needs across the sector/system and the stimulation of new forms of provision to meet these. David Hughes, Chief Executive at the AoC, [responded to the report](#) saying 'The process of the devolution of adult education funding, and potentially education and skills more widely, could bring great benefits... What this report shows, though, is that more work is needed to prepare for devolution – both nationally and locally. We must have more details on this nationally to be sure that it is more than simply a delegation of a budget with the same constraints and rules'. David Corke, Director of Education and Skills Policy at the AoC also comments on the report in [FE News](#).



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Policy and funding updates

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

- [Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in September 2016](#)
- [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 23 September 2016](#)

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

- [Funding Focus – Finding qualifications approved for the unemployed on the funding hub](#)
- [Funding Focus – Funding for Pearson International GCSEs in 2016/17](#)
- [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 is being held on the changes to apprenticeship funding on Tuesday 4 October 2016 from 4-5 p.m. The events are free to join and open to everyone. You can sign up for this, and will soon be able to access recordings of all the events [here](#).

Siân Owen, Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)
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