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Pearson UK – Funding News

4 November 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 the SFA re-opened the process for requesting an increase to the loans facility after closing it for a review at the end of September, also opened the process for apprenticeships and traineeships growth requests for 2016/17, and released further guidance on working with them as an apprenticeship training provider. In HE apprenticeship funding news, Hefce and UVAC have got together to provide support for HE providers applying to the SFA to deliver degree apprenticeships after May 2017.

We have also updated and collated the information we brought you last week which provides a quick summary guide to all the latest apprenticeship news which includes a summary of key funding and levy proposals confirmed (and new announcements), the register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP), SFA webinars on the reforms, guidance on the register of apprentice assessment organisations, support for HE providers, Pearson summaries available, and links to further information.

Lastly, we bring you the usual roundup of the latest policy and funding briefings from Pearson.

Adult funding

- Advanced learner loans: process for requesting an increase to the loans facility now open

Apprenticeships and traineeships funding

- Apprenticeships and traineeships growth requests 2016/17

Apprenticeship funding

- Working with the SFA as an apprenticeship training provider
- Guidance on the register of apprentice assessment organisations, and new programme to tackle the shortage of end-point assessors
- Hefce and UVAC support for HE providers applying to the SFA to deliver degree apprenticeships after May 2017
- Updated and collated: your quick summary guide to all the latest apprenticeship news

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- Policy and funding updates



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Adult funding

[Advanced learner loans: process for requesting an increase to the loans facility now open](#)

On 2 November the SFA published [version 4 of the advanced learner loans funding and performance management rules 2016/17](#). It explains the changes to the process for requesting an increase to the loans facility and the SFA has now re-opened the change request process and published the revised [change request](#) information. Providers can use the request form immediately. The SFA will retain the current 'rolling' application approach so providers can continue to apply for an increase to their 2016/17 loans facility at any time.

The SFA temporarily closed the change request process at the end of September following their review of the approach to managing loans facilities after they saw an increase of over 25% in loan applications compared to this time last year. They processed existing growth requests but did not accept any new growth requests.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

[Apprenticeships and traineeships growth requests 2016/17](#)

On Tuesday 2 November the SFA published the [2016/17 growth request form for 16-18 and adult apprenticeships, and 16-18 and 19-24 traineeships](#). Providers can use this form to submit requests to increase contract values for 16-18 and adult apprenticeships for August 2016 to March 2017, and 16-18 and 19-24 traineeships for August 2016 to July 2017. Requests need to be made by 5pm Friday 18 November, and the SFA will inform providers of the outcome in January 2017.

Apprenticeship funding

[Working with the SFA as an apprenticeship training provider](#)

On Monday this week the SFA released further [information and guidance about working as an apprenticeship training provider](#). The information is for all providers who wish to offer apprenticeship training in [England](#) from May 2017 and includes existing providers as well as organisations that might wish to enter the apprenticeship training market.

The guidance provides information under the following headings: apprenticeship changes, preparing to be an apprenticeship training provider, preparing your organisation for apprenticeship delivery, register of training organisations, register of apprenticeship training providers, preparing your application to the register of apprenticeship training providers, assessment organisations, apprenticeship funding, working with employers, reporting and data, quality assurance, and resources and useful links.

It complements the guidance released last week on how to apply to the register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP) which is now open for applications (see more on this in our summary of all the latest on apprenticeships below).

[Guidance on the register of apprentice assessment organisations, and new programme to tackle the shortage of end-point assessors](#)

We brought you news on 14 October that the SFA had published updated information on the [register of apprentice assessment organisations](#) for employers seeking an independent end-point assessment (EPA)



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organisation, and for potential applicants to the register. Given the concern about a lack of EPA organisations a [new programme](#) has been launched to tackle the shortage of end-point assessors. The scheme is funded by the DfE and commissioned by the ETF, with the aim of improving capacity to deliver independent EPAs in apprenticeships. It will be co-managed by the AELP and the [Strategic Development Network](#) and will work towards building up to a critical mass of EPAs.

From November, the DfE and ETF programme will offer [15 workshop packages](#) across the country to help organisations understand the opportunities and decide on their role in EPA. This will be followed by further workshops to help organisations become an approved Apprenticeship Assessment Organisation (AAO) and prepare them to deliver the EPA. The first phase of the programme will include the development of eight industry-focused 'Professional Dialogue Groups' to explore the knowledge, skills and resources that are required by EPAs and the findings will then be used in putting together guidance and materials for EPAs and will inform a programme of support to be rolled out in 2017. The consortium will also form an expert 'Reference Group' to advise on programme activities and content, to make sure the programme is relevant to all potential AAOs and staff.

Hefce and UVAC support for HE providers applying to the SFA to deliver degree apprenticeships after May 2017

Hefce has commissioned the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC) to deliver a range of [support](#) for the higher education sector following the announcement from the SFA about the new [register of apprenticeship training providers](#), the [information and guidance about working as an apprentice training provider](#), and the invitation to tender for funding to deliver degree apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers. The webinars and sessions are designed to help institutions draft their applications:

- 1) Webinar, Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers (RoATP): one was held on 3 November this week and another will be held on Monday 7 November.
- 2) Webinar, Invitation to tender (ITT) for funding to deliver degree apprenticeships to non-levy-paying Monday 7 November and Thursday 10 November.
- 3) Session in the Hefce London office, RoATP and ITT in-depth session: Friday 11 November.

Updated and collated: your quick summary guide to all the latest apprenticeship news

Last week we brought you the latest information on apprenticeship funding, the levy, detailed funding rules, and the register of training apprenticeship providers (RoATP). We have updated this section of Funding News and included new information published this week (including the news items above), Pearson summaries, and relevant links, so everything is available in one place. The information covers:

- Summary of key funding and levy proposals confirmed, and new announcements
- Register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP)
- SFA webinars on the reforms
- Guidance on the register of apprentice assessment organisations, and new programme to tackle the shortage of end-point assessors
- Support for higher education providers applying to deliver degree apprenticeships after May 2017
- Links to further information
- Pearson summaries



Summary of key funding and levy proposals confirmed, and new announcements

Confirmed

- Government and employer contribution for non-levy payers: 90% contribution from government to the cost of training for employers that will not pay the levy.
- 16-18 year-olds: additional £1,000 paid to employer and £1,000 to provider.
- Disadvantaged 19-24 year-old care leavers or with an LA EHC plan: additional £1,000 paid to employer and £1,000 to provider.
- Small employer contribution (< 50): 100% contribution from government to the cost of training for small employers that will not pay the levy and who take on apprentices who are 16-18, 19-24 year old care leavers or with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHC plan).
- English and maths: Flat rate of £471 for each subject to provider.
- Prior qualifications: employers can use levy funds /access co-investment to train individuals on apprenticeship at same or lower level than a qualification they already hold, if this allows the individual to acquire substantive new skills and the content of the training is materially different from any prior training or a previous apprenticeship.
- Transfer of digital funds: A commitment to introducing the ability for employers to transfer digital funds to other employers in their supply chains, sector or to Apprenticeship Training Agencies in 2018, with a new employer group to help government develop this system so that it works for employers.

New

- Higher funding bands for some STEM apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards: the original funding bands set in August 2016 have been increased for some STEM frameworks, and for some standards.
- 16-18 year-olds on frameworks: additional 20% of funding band maximum will be paid to the provider. This is a transitional measure and will be kept under review and reduced as more apprenticeship starts are on new standards.
- 19-24 year-old care leavers or with an LA EHC plan on frameworks: additional 20% of funding band maximum will be paid to the provider. This is a transitional measure and will be kept under review and reduced as more apprenticeship starts are on new standards.
- All disadvantaged learners: additional £600 for those on framework living in top 10% of deprived areas (as per IMD), £300 for those living in next 10%, £200 for those living in next 7%. In place for the first year and will be kept under review to 'ensure equal opportunity to all, regardless of circumstances'.
- Longer period of time for employers to spend funds in their digital account: 24 months, up from 18.

Links

- [Apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#): How apprenticeship funding for employers will work, including details of funding bands and the apprenticeship levy.
- [Apprenticeship funding and performance management rules 2017 to 2018](#): The draft rules that will apply to all apprenticeship provision funded by the SFA following the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.
- [Apprenticeship funding: how it will work \(the levy\)](#): Details of how employers will be affected by the apprenticeship funding system introduced from May 2017.
- [A revised apprenticeship funding calculator](#): to help employers understand what levy they will pay and how they could use the new digital service to plan and fund training.
- [SFA Digital blog](#): to help people keep up to date with the development of the Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS).



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Register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP)

The RoATP opened for applications on 25 October 2016 after a delay to its opening which was originally planned for 3 October. The first selection of assured providers will be drawn from those who complete applications by 5.00pm on 25 November 2016.

The information also includes details of the procurement exercise the SFA are running for the delivery of apprenticeship training to employers that will not use a digital account to pay for apprenticeship training. Organisations interested in applying for this must apply to the RoATP main application route and complete the invitation to tender for the procurement. Both the RoATP application and invitation to tender must be submitted by 5.00pm on 25 November 2016, and for those successful in the procurement, contracts will begin on 1 May 2017 and end on 31 July 2018.

- [Working with the SFA as an apprenticeship training provider](#): Information for all providers who wish to offer apprenticeship training in England from May 2017 including existing providers as well as organisations that might wish to enter the apprenticeship training market.
- [Register of apprenticeship training providers](#): This series brings together guidance on how to apply to the register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP).
- [The apprenticeship employer-provider guide](#): Explains what employers need to do to become an apprenticeship training provider.
- SFA presentations on YouTube to provide information and guidance: [register of apprenticeship training providers](#), and [invitation to tender: apprenticeship training delivery for employers without a digital account](#).

SFA webinars on the reforms

Colleagues may also be interested in the SFA [webinars](#) available for stakeholders on the latest information on the funding reforms (link below). They are being held on Friday 11 November, 10:00 - 11:00, Friday 2 December, 10:00 - 11:00, and Thursday 15 December, 10:00 - 11:00.

Guidance on the register of apprentice assessment organisations, and new programme to tackle the shortage of end-point assessors

- [Register of apprentice assessment organisations, overview](#): information on the new register of apprentice assessment organisations for employers seeking an independent end-point assessment (EPA) organisation, and for potential applicants to the register.
- [New programme to tackle shortage of end-point assessors](#): funded by the DfE and commissioned by the ETF, with the aim of improving capacity to deliver independent EPAs in apprenticeships.

Support for higher education providers applying to deliver degree apprenticeships after May 2017

- [Hefce and UVAC support for the higher education sector applying to deliver degree apprenticeships](#): webinars and sessions designed to help institutions draft their applications: following the announcement from the SFA about the new [register of apprenticeship training providers](#), the [information and guidance about working as an apprentice training provider](#), and the invitation to tender for funding to deliver degree apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers.



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Links to further information

- Justine Greening's (Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities) [written ministerial statement](#) on supporting apprenticeships.
- [Press release](#): New apprenticeship funding to transform investment in skills
- [Research and analysis, The apprenticeship levy: how will employers respond?](#): research into how employers are likely to react to the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.
- [Research and analysis, Apprenticeships for 16- to 18-year-olds: the cost of providing](#): report comparing the cost of providing apprenticeships for 16-18 year-olds compared to those aged 19 and over. The research also looks into the amount these costs vary for different providers and employers.
- [Impact assessment: Apprenticeship funding from May 2017: equality analysis](#): analysis of the effect the new apprenticeship funding system will have on specific protected groups.
- [Apprenticeship evaluation 2015: learner and employer surveys](#): Results from the 2015 survey into the views and experiences of both employers and learners involved in apprenticeships.

Pearson summaries

Updated Pearson summaries will shortly be available on [Pearson Funding News](#):

- 161102 Funding Focus – Apprenticeship funding from May 2017
- 161104 Funding Focus – Confirmed allocation of frameworks and standards to new funding bands
- 161103 Funding Focus – Comparing existing apprenticeship funding with new funding from May 2017
- 161103 Funding Focus – The Apprenticeship levy from April 2017

A summary will also be available next week on the register of apprenticeship training providers and guidance for employers wanting to become apprenticeship providers from May 2017.

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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 October 2016](#)
- [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 28 October 2016](#)
- [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 21 October 2016](#)

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

- [Finding qualifications approved for the unemployed on the funding hub in 2016/17](#)
- [Adult funding – Overview, and where to find out more](#)
- [Advanced learner loans – Where to find out more](#)

Updated Pearson summaries will shortly be available on [Pearson Funding News](#) on: apprenticeship funding from May 2017, confirmed allocation of frameworks and standards to new funding bands, comparing existing apprenticeship with new apprenticeship funding, and the apprenticeship levy. Next week we will also bring you a summary of the new register and guidance for employers.

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