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Funding Focus – The new register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP)

10 November 2016

Funding Focus provides quick summaries of recent funding developments, or particular aspects of the funding system.

Introduction

In October the DfE confirmed the new arrangements for the register of apprenticeship training providers, published further guidance on working with the SFA as an apprenticeship training provider, and updated the apprenticeship employer-provider guide which explains what employers need to do to become an apprenticeship training provider.

This summary is an update to the Funding Focus published on 18 August which looked at the provisional guidance the DfE released on 12 August. It:

- Explains the new arrangements for the register of apprenticeship training providers, and what employers need to do if they want to become apprenticeship training providers, and
- Provides information about further summaries available, and links to key official funding and guidance documents.

The document is organised as follows:

Section 1 The new register of apprenticeship training providers

- Who needs to be on the new register, and eligibility rules
- The future of sub-contracting
- Three application routes and tests
- Applying to the register
- Procurement exercise for providers delivering to non-levy paying employers

Section 2 The three application routes

- Flow chart
- Functions

Section 3 Further summaries available

Section 4 Links to key official funding documents



Section 1 The new register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP)

From 1 May 2017, only providers and employers on the new register of apprenticeship training providers will be able to offer apprenticeship training to either levy paying or non-levy paying employers. Levy paying employers will choose providers from this new register.

The details of the new register were first proposed in August 2016 and following feedback the SFA have made changes to the original proposals. For example, sub-contracting will still be allowed under the new system, and main providers will not have to deliver the majority of an apprenticeship programme (though they do have to be involved in some part of the apprenticeship delivery).

Who needs to be on the new register (providers and employers) and eligibility rules

- Any organisation wanting a role in delivering apprenticeships for starts from May 2017 will need to successfully apply to the register.
- There is no automatic transfer to the register of apprenticeship training providers from the register of training organisations. The register of training organisations will continue for adult education budget provision, traineeships and advanced learner loans.
- Providers who want to deliver less than £100k of apprenticeship training per year as a subcontractor will not need to apply. These providers can apply if they want to have the flexibility to provide larger volumes of training or to give assurance to those they contract with that they have met the requirements of the register.
- Levy paying employers will have a digital account, and can apply to the register if they want to deliver training to their own (or staff in a connected company), to other employers' staff, or sub-contract to a main provider.
- Employers who have apprenticeships and deliver on-the-job training, but who do not wish to deliver any other training for the apprenticeship, do not need to be on the register.
- During the first year the SFA will continue to accept parent company guarantees for applications.
- Providers who have a 4 'inadequate rating for their apprenticeship provision are ineligible to apply, but organisations with a grade 4 overall but a higher grade for apprenticeship provision are eligible.

The future of sub-contracting

- In the August proposals the SFA outlined their intention to put in place tighter controls on the use of subcontracting. The SFA will continue to monitor subcontracting practices and consider making further changes if there continues to be concerns about the quality and levels of subcontracting.
- In the meantime, for a transitional period, and at the employer's request and subject to the employer's agreement, main providers will be able to bring in subcontractors.

Three application routes and tests

- **Main route:** for providers to be eligible for selection by employers to deliver apprenticeship training and lead the programme, or by another main provider to work as a subcontractor. They will need to directly provide training for each employer's apprenticeship programme they deliver (but do not have to deliver a significant majority (as originally proposed)).
- **Supporting route:** for providers to be eligible to deliver a specialism, and who only want to deliver as a subcontractor. Providers on this route will be able to deliver up to £500,000 of training per year.



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- **Employer-provider route:** for employers to be eligible to deliver training to their own staff. They will be able to lead their own programme, or act as a subcontractor to their appointed main provider.

Applicants will need to pass a range of tests in the areas of financial health, due diligence, quality, capacity and capability, differentiated according to the application route.

Applying to the register

- The new register will open for applications on 25 October 2016 and the first selection of assured providers will be drawn from those who complete their applications by 5.00pm on 25 November 2016.
- The new register will open four times a year for new applications and the SFA plan to reopen the register for applications as soon as the results from the first round are available.
- Each provider would need to reapply every 12 months if they want to maintain their registration but the SFA only require applicants to update their responses where things have changed – not to complete a new application.
- The first selection of assured providers will be drawn from those who complete their applications by 5.00pm on 25 November 2016.

More detail and guidance for providers, and for employers, on how to apply to the register can be found in the links in Section 4 below.

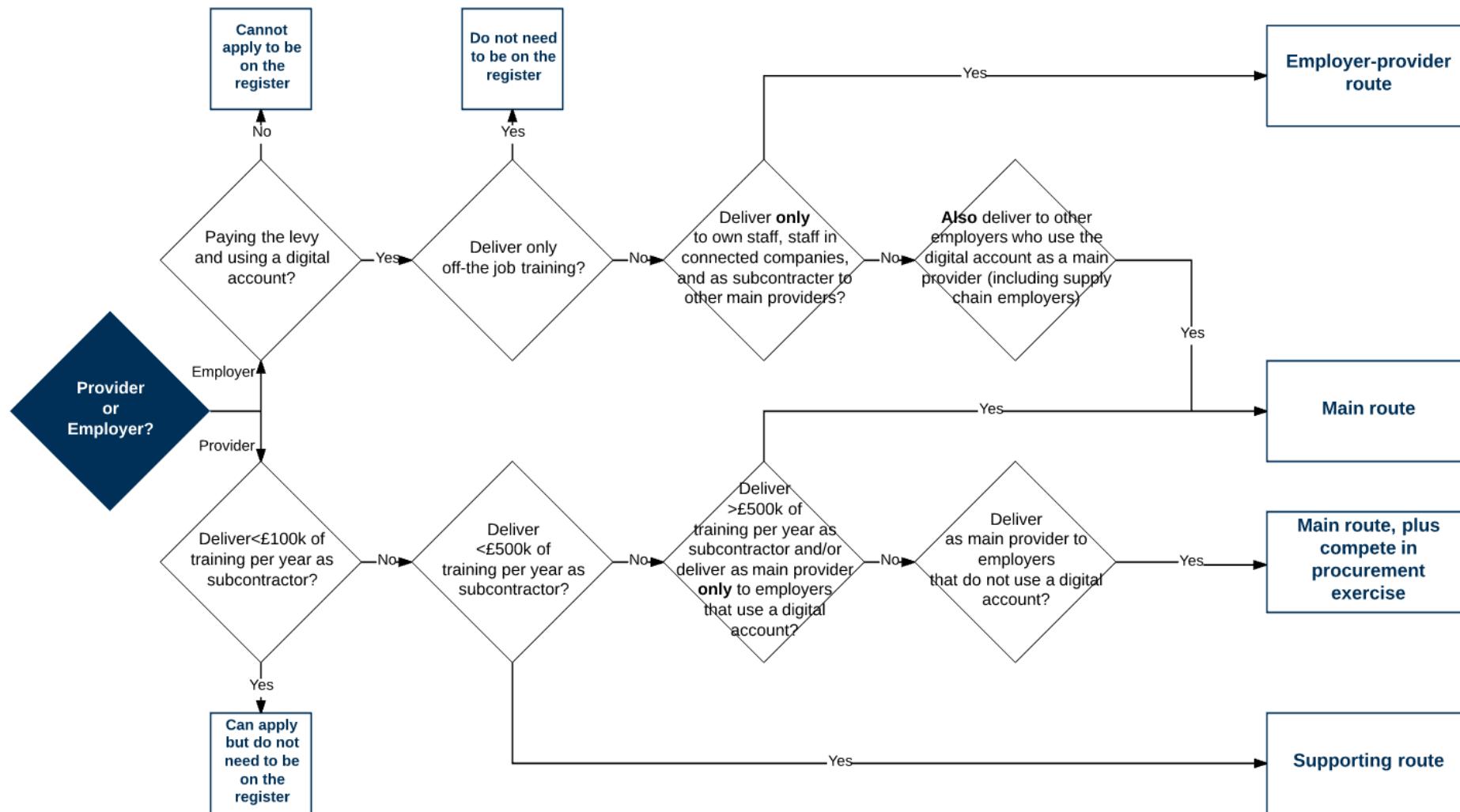
Procurement exercise for providers delivering to non-levy paying employers

- Organisations wanting to work with employers who will not be paying the levy must, as well as being on the register, respond to a separate invitation to tender and submit a successful bid. The SFA launched the procurement exercise on the same day they opened the new register (25 October).
- Applicants for the procurement will need to apply to the main route on the register and need to submit a bid. If successful in the procurement, will be awarded a contract.
- Both the register application and invitation to tender must be submitted by 5pm on 25 November 2016. For those successful in the procurement, contracts will begin on 01 May 2017 and end on 31 July 2018.

More detail and guidance on how to apply to the register, and to the ITT, can be found in the links in Section 4 below.



Section 2.1 The three application routes: flow chart





Section 2.2 The three application routes: functions

Provider					
Delivering as?	Main provider	Main provider	Subcontractor	Subcontractor	Subcontractor
Delivering to?	Levy-paying employers with digital account	Non-levy-paying employers without digital account	All employers	All employers	All employers
Delivering how much?	No maximum	Currently £5m maximum in place	>£500k	>£100k but <£500k	<£100k
	Main route	Main route plus compete in procurement exercise	Main route	Supporting route	Do not need to be on the register
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Employer					
Delivering as?	Levy-paying employer with digital account, as main provider or subcontractor	Levy-paying employer with digital account, as main provider or subcontractor	Levy-paying employer delivering on-the-job training only	Non-levy-paying employer without digital account	
Delivering to?	Own staff, and staff in connected companies, other levy-paying employers with a digital account	Own staff, and staff in connected companies	Own staff, and staff in connected companies, on-the job-training only	N/A	
Delivering how much?	No maximum	No maximum	N/A	N/A	
	Main route	Employer-provider route	Do not need to be on the register	Cannot apply to be on register	



Section 3 Further summaries available

Further summaries from Pearson are all available on the [Pearson Funding News](#) website:

- [Apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#).
- [Allocation of frameworks and standards to new funding bands from May 2017](#).
- [Comparing existing apprenticeship funding with new apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#).
- [The Apprenticeship levy from April 2017](#).

Section 4 Links to key official funding documents

Overview

- Justine Greening's [written ministerial statement](#) on supporting apprenticeships.
- [Press release](#): New apprenticeship funding to transform investment in skills.

Funding, and the levy

- [Apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#): How apprenticeship funding will work.
- [Apprenticeship funding: how it will work \(the levy\)](#): Details on the levy for employers.
- [Revised apprenticeship funding calculator](#): To help employers understand what levy they will pay.
- [Apprenticeship funding and performance management rules 2017 to 2018](#).

Register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP)

- [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).
- More information about the procurement exercise for providers working with non-levy paying employers can be found on the [contracts finder service](#).
- [Employer-provider guide](#): Detailed guidance for employers who are existing direct grant employers, considering becoming training providers to their own staff or to other staff in the supply chain.
- SFA presentations on YouTube: [register of apprenticeship training providers](#), and [invitation to tender: apprenticeship training delivery for employers without a digital account](#).

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.

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