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Pearson UK – Funding News

9 December 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.

A brief Funding News this week which brings you a reminder about the detail we are still waiting for on the apprenticeship levy arrangements (and a reminder of the summary documents we have produced on the latest on apprenticeship levy and funding), the SFA's apprenticeship readiness self-assessment survey for providers which closes on 16 December, and a reminder of the change to the process for requesting an increase to advanced learner loans facilities.

As usual, we provide a round-up of the latest Pearson policy and funding updates, and also information about the free events and webinars Pearson are running to help you understand and prepare for the apprenticeship reforms.

Apprenticeship funding

- A quick reminder: what we are still waiting for
- Apprenticeship readiness self-assessment survey – closing soon

Adult funding

- Advanced learner loans: changes to the process for requesting an increase to loans facilities

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- Policy and funding updates
- Free events and webinars from Pearson on apprenticeship reforms



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Apprenticeship funding

A quick reminder: what we are still waiting for

Over the last few months we have been reporting on the details of the apprenticeship levy and funding arrangements (and there's a quick reminder of the summaries we have available on the reforms below). We wanted to remind you further guidance for employers is expected from the HMRC this month on how to calculate and pay the levy.

The latest Funding Focus guides on the apprenticeship levy and funding reforms include (see [Pearson Funding News](#) for these and more):

- [The new register of apprenticeship training providers \(RoATP\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#)
- [Confirmed 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](#)

Apprenticeship readiness self-assessment survey – closing soon

In Funding News on 25 November we brought you news of the SFA's [self-assessment survey](#) to help providers of apprenticeships understand what they need to do to prepare for the apprenticeship reforms in May 2017. Completing the survey will help providers assess how ready they are for the reforms and help the SFA identify further support providers might need to make sure they are ready to provide apprenticeships to employers paying the levy, and those accessing the co-investment model. The survey closes on **Friday 16 December** and questions about the survey can be sent to providerreadiness@sfa.bis.gov.uk

Adult funding

Advanced learner loans: change to the process for requesting a loan facility increase

Earlier this month we brought you news that the SFA has changed the process for requesting an increase to loans facilities and bursaries. We have had some questions in about this and wanted to remind providers that [summary information](#) was published by the SFA on the 18 November, along with the new request form, and the revised process which can be found in the SFA's [Advanced learner loans funding and performance-management rules 2016 to 2017](#) published on 2 November (pages 26 and 27).

The SFA explain that they have reviewed their approach to growth in order to support the continued growth of the loans market within FE. The changes have been made to help them operate an effective performance management system and were developed after consultation and agreement with the DfE, SLC, AoC, and the AELP. They will be kept under review.

In summary, the following changes to the process have been introduced:

Introduction of growth limits from 2 November 2016

- Where an approved loans facility is £500,000 or less, as at 2 November 2016, a maximum growth limit of £250,000 will apply.
- Where an approved loans facility is £500,000 or more, as at 2 November 2016 a maximum growth limit of £750,000 or 50% or the 2016/17 loans facility value, whichever is the lesser, will apply.



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What needs to be submitted

- To support growth requests providers must submit more information, including associated learner volumes and a short supporting statement providing the rationale and evidence for growth.
- Those requesting over £250,000 must demonstrate they have the capacity and capability to deliver the volume of growth requested, and provide further assurances about the quality of delivery.

Timelines

The SFA will retain the current 'rolling' application approach so providers can continue to apply for growth at any time and the SFA will process approvals on a monthly basis. For requests received within 4 working days of month-end, the SFA will notify providers of the outcome by the 10th working day of the following month.

Removal of subcontracting

As [announced](#) on 22 February 2016, from 1 August 2017 sub-contracting will be removed from the loans programme, and all loans-funded learning aims must be completed by 31 July 2017. In preparation for the change providers must not apply for growth in your loans facility to deliver any subcontracted learning aims that will continue beyond 31 July 2017. In exceptional circumstances SFA may agree an extension but this request would need to come via the main provider rather than the subcontractor.

Exceeding the loans facility

Providers must operate within their current loans facility value for 2016/17 and if loans facilities are exceeded without SFA permission the SFA will instruct the SLC to stop processing loan applications for with immediate effect.

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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 November 2016](#): A busy month of reports, speeches and key education headlines.
- [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 2 December 2016](#): A week of reports on how the education and skills system is doing.

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

- [The new register of apprenticeship training providers \(RoATP\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship funding from May 2017](#)
- [Confirmed 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](#)
- [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](#)



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One new document is now available, and another will shortly be available, on [Pearson Funding News](#):

- **[Updated – BTEC Firsts and Nationals – Funding in 2016/17](#)**: The tables in this document capture the funding eligibility for the BTEC First and Nationals in 2016/17. It has been updated since September 2016 to include the extension to [88 BTEC Firsts to 31 December 2019](#) as this information has now fed through to the funding [Hub](#).
- **Apprenticeship funding – Overview, and where to find out more**: This Funding Focus brings you an overview of the key funding and levy arrangements confirmed in October, and the new/revised announcements made. It also provides you with the links to all the key official documents, and to the Pearson summaries available, so you have all the latest information in one place.

Free events and webinars from Pearson on apprenticeship reforms

Pearson is running a series of [free events and webinars](#) to help you understand and prepare for the apprenticeship reforms:

We will shortly be announcing **Sector Launch events** (top of the [page](#)) which will be running in 2017. These events will give you information about our offer, end-point assessment and funding, as well as information on our resources including a new online learning and assessment tool. We will be running events in: Business, Health and Social care, Childcare, Logistics, and Retail, Hospitality and Catering, and these will take place in 3 locations: Manchester, Birmingham, and London.

We have also been running a series of **Insight webinars** (bottom of the [page](#)) designed to shine a light on some of the more cloudy areas of apprenticeship reform. The 2016 series of events have come to an end but you can sign up [here](#) to be kept up-to-date with plans for 2017 events and access the recordings and materials from past webinars [here](#). The 2016 events cover:

- #1. New apprenticeships, the story so far.
- #2. New standards, new delivery challenges.
- #3. Targeting and winning employer clients.
- #4. A new approach to apprenticeship funding.

The recordings and materials from the two latest webinars will also shortly be available:

- #5. Opportunities for employers in new apprenticeships standards.
- #6. Progress towards the new funding regime.

Siân Owen, Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)
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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.