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Apprenticeships

Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Fact Sheet

The SFA have produced a [fact sheet](#) that provides information for young people on the opportunities, progression and benefits of a higher or degree apprenticeship.

Higher and degree apprenticeships combine work with study and may include a work-based, academic or combined qualification or a professional qualification relevant to the industry.

Higher apprenticeships range from Level 4 to 7 and are equivalent to a foundation degree and above. Degree apprenticeships are available at Level 6, which is equivalent to a Bachelor's degree and Level 7, which is equivalent to a Master's degree.

FE data library: apprenticeships

Information on the number of apprenticeship [starts and achievements](#).

Highlights

- 1100 App starts less in 2014/15 compared with 2012/13 in Lancashire,
- 10,000 less App starts in 2014/15 compared with 2011/12 for the North West
- 21,000 less App starts in 2014/15 compared with 2011/12 Nationally

There is also a link re vacancies by sector etc

Apprenticeship Reform



The government have published "[English Apprenticeships: Our 2020 Vision](#)", which gives an overview of how the current Apprenticeship reform process will bring about the key 3m target figure for this Parliament. The overall vision is for Apprenticeships to be "available across all sectors of the economy and at all levels including

degree level...an attractive offer that young people and adults aspire to go into as a high quality and prestigious path to a successful career."

Key within the document is the introduction of a statutory target of 2.3% for public sector bodies with a workforce of 250+ to employ their fair share of Apprentices. The NHS alone has now committed to delivering over 17,000 starts in 2015/16, rising to more than 100,000 by 2020. There is recognition also that the proposed timescale of a 2017 “switch-off” for all frameworks was too ambitious, with the document proposing that there should be a “migration” over the course of the Parliament with as much as possible completed by 2017/18 as possible, alongside a staggering of funding withdrawal and reasonable prior notice being given to providers.

Also announced in the document is the lifting from August 2016 of the Ofsted Grade 1 and 2 criteria that prevented many good quality providers from offering Traineeships, which will make a big difference to the availability of places and therefore of access routes to Apprenticeships.

Key questions still remain on the detail of both the levy for large employers and the funding of Apprenticeships for SMEs, but the document is clear that providers should “use the coming months to prepare to develop and deliver the off-the-job training required by the employer-designed standards (whilst) assessment organisations need to design tools and methods to deliver the end-point assessments.”

This is a key document that contains further discussion on issues such as contracting and the role of schools in careers guidance, and is one that all providers are urged to become familiar with.

OVERVIEW OF 2020 VISION

- Apprenticeship minimum standards up from 62 per cent to 65 per cent from 2016/17
- Public contract bidders to demonstrate contribution to apprenticeships and skills for deals worth £10m-plus and lasting more than 12 months
- New statutory targets, through the Enterprise Bill next year, to encourage public sector bodies to employ more apprentices, with consultation this month setting out rationale behind workforce minimum of 2.3 per cent
- Outcome-based success measures for apprenticeships from 2016/17
- Apprenticeships standards and assessment plans submitted to new employer-led Institute of Apprenticeships from April 2017
- Performance tables feature 16 to 18 apprenticeship results from January 2018
- Digital Apprenticeship Service online portal rolled out from October

City & Guilds publication on Apprenticeship Reform

As mentioned the Government have published their 2020 apprenticeship vision document, but this is the [City & Guilds publication](#) which brings the latest position together and is a useful reference document.

FE Week Webinar on Apprenticeship Reform

At the beginning of December Nick Linford held a webinar on the Apprenticeship Reform. Follow the [link](#) to the presentation.

AELP Briefing Paper No35 Apprenticeship Levy : Questions and Answers

Follow the link to the [AELP paper](#) on the Apprenticeship Levy Q&A document.

Trailblazer's

Future Apprenticeships - Trailblazer support

There is a new website, [Future Apprenticeships](#) available through the ETF website, where information will be posted on the New Standards and the support available. Unfortunately some of the application dates have already passed, but I am sure more will be appearing over the coming months and hopefully if these are successful there may be more funding post April 2016.



Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Priorities and Funding for the 2016 to 2017 Financial Year

The [skills funding letter](#) is published annually and sets out the government's funding priorities for the skills system. It includes information for the Skills Funding Agency to set provider allocations for 2016 to 2017, and indicative budgets through to 2020.

The 2016 to 2017 letter sets out an ambitious programme of reforms to the technical and professional education system, putting more power in the hands of employers and learners. The government is funding high quality provision that gives good value for money, and concentrates on young adults, the low skilled and those who are unemployed.

Below is a summary from Paul Holme (NWP)

1) Former ASB (now Adult Education Budget)

- -Basically flat in cash terms at £1.5bn from 2015/16 until 2019/20
- -Now includes former ASB, Community Learning and Discretionary Learner Support

2) 19+ Apprenticeships

- -Rising from £740k in 2015/16 to £926k in 2016/17 and rising to £1.4bn by 2019/20
- -Funded by apprenticeship levy from April 2017

3) Advanced learner loans

- Rising from £202k in 2015/16 to £260k in 2016/17 and rising to £480k in 2019/20
- Interesting to note that 2015 letter set it at £498k for 2015/16 (less than the new budget for 2019/20)
- This reflected that take up hasn't been as great as expected
- But new policy brings 19-23 learners at level 3+ into eligibility

4) Adult Education (which includes NCS amongst other budgets)

- Reducing from £343k in 2015/16 to £177k by 2019/20

5) Other budget headlines

- Capital still to come
- 16 -18 (including 16-18 apprenticeships still to come -unless I have missed)
- OLASS -flat

6) Other announcements

- Confirmation of apprenticeship vision , levy and Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS)
- AEB allocations based on 3 key principles- effectiveness, simplicity and localisation
 - Effectiveness - stresses the importance responding to the demands of communities
 - covers the importance of reforming technical and professional including National Colleges
 - Youth obligation for 18-21

- English and maths entitlement
- NCS refocused on priority groups

- Simplicity-existing funding system is too complicated

- Increased flexibility but also increased local input as to how the flexibility is used
- Simplifying eligibility requirements.
- ITPs current contracts expire at the end of 2016/17 leading to increased local focus and not large national contracts
- Expect to see less sub-contracting

- Localisation- Alignment with local need
- Area Reviews and no devolution of AEB before successful completion of Review
- Exceptional financial health - funding available but strictly by exception
- ESF- further work to ensure post 2018 can be matched through AEB

Follow the [link](#) to AELP Briefing paper on the Skills Funding Agency Letter



GOV.UK

Area Based Reviews

Area reviews waves 3 & 4 have been announced that include Lancashire.

Wave 3

Areas currently proposed:

- Cumbria
- Lancashire (Pennines)
- Liverpool City Region
- North East
- Black Country

Indicative timing for this wave: starting April 2016.

Wave 4

Areas currently proposed:

- Leicester and Leicestershire
- Hampshire
- Dorset
- South East Midlands
- York, North Yorkshire and the Humber
- Greater Lincolnshire
- Lancashire (Coastal)
- Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire

Indicative timing for this wave: starting September 2016.



Department
for Education

Follow the link below to access the Education Funding Agency e-bulletins
<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/executiveagencies/efa/efaebulletins>



A summary of local network issues December 2015.

(Comments by CEO, Stewart Segal)

Apprenticeship Reforms

Apprenticeship reform is a major concern for the local networks with most respondents raising it as an ongoing issue. Specific concerns include the impact on delivery requirements and fraud implications.

Introduction of the levy. The changes in funding, the scale of change and lack of information is a big issue for many providers. Uncertainty raised regarding the voucher system, the likely impact on business and the drive to reach 3M new apprenticeships in this Parliament? What are the implications if funding goes through public sector bodies to support the drive towards apprenticeship target?
When will the final details be available?

Comment

We believe that there may be a further consultation on the details of the Levy in January 2016. In the meantime AELP are in discussions with SFA and BIS on some of those details. We are also part of the Apprenticeship Stakeholder Board alongside CIB and FSB and will be discussing the issues through next year. We do not believe the final details will be agreed until March 2016 at the earliest. We are assuming that the existing and trailblazer funding will continue through 2016/17. We have attached a copy of our Q&A on Apprenticeships and Government's Apprenticeship '2020 Vision' – see below

Transition from Frameworks to Standards

A hot spot highlighted by a number of networks is regarding the slow pace of available information to support planning for the new standards. Particular concerns highlighted around Trailblazer assessment and methodology.

Comment

A number of standards and assessment strategies have been issued. If providers want further information or want to get involved please let us know. However we do know that many employer groups are struggling with assessment plans.

Learning Loans

Issues bubbling up with providers concerned about loans, the constraints on the system and the effect of 24+ Loans on the funding of Advanced Apprenticeships?

Comment

The rules for loans are clear but please let us know what the specific issues are. The eligibility rules for loans will be extended in 2016 by making them available to 19+. Advanced Apprenticeships can be funded so the loans will not affect this. Individuals can of course fund specific qualifications through loans as an alternative to an Apprenticeship.

Other key issues highlighted include, Area Reviews with specific concern raised regarding a major switch to online delivery; LEPs and integration with funding regional training, and ongoing problems with Apprentice recruitment in many sectors.

Comment

AELP is now a member of the national steering group on Area Reviews and will continue to work with local networks to ensure ITPs can give input to the local reviews. The focus of the reviews continues to be colleges. I do not see a major issue with any switch to online delivery. LEPs and Combined Local Authorities continue to be an important part of the infrastructure and we have an internal resource doing a survey of current representation at LEP level which we will circulate in the New Year.



As part of the Future Apprenticeships programme, commissioned by the Education and Training Foundation (ETF), AELP and its strategic partners are offering a one day workshop that will explore the impact of the Apprenticeship reforms on providers relationship with employers and develop the skills required to engage employers in the delivery of the new Apprenticeship Standards.

The workshop is followed up by a 1 hour online seminar to support the embedding of learning.

The workshop will:

- Provide an up to date overview of progress towards the implementation of the Apprenticeship Reforms.
- Consider how the reforms provide opportunities to develop the Apprenticeship market through effective employer engagement.
- Use a train the trainer approach to enable delegates to confidently cascade and disseminate the skills and knowledge required for successful employer engagement to staff, teams and partners.

Learning Outcomes

- Engage employers successfully and confidently and communicate with authority your respective roles within the Apprenticeship journey.
- Clearly state the value provider organisations bring to the new Apprenticeship system.
- Understand the future skill requirement of employer facing staff.
- Analyse the skills of existing staff and know how to deal with potential skills gap.

Who should attend

- You should be delivering Apprenticeship frameworks and will need to be on the Skills Funding Agency Register of Training Organisations as a lead or sub-contractor organisation.
- Delegates should be responsible for Apprenticeship business development at a strategic level. You should be accountable for engaging with employers, partners, stakeholders and other agencies.

Delegate Fees

From £50.00 per delegate for the one day workshop and follow up online seminar (payable through ETF's booking system).

All the support offered through the Future Apprenticeship Programme is priced according to ETF's pricing policy, [click here](#) for further details.

Booking

There are 18 dates and locations for these packages. There are two locations per region, and dates run from the beginning of January through to mid March, please click [More Info](#) to see these dates and locations.

Click [here](#) for information about the other support that is being offered through the Future Apprenticeships Programme.



Sub Groups

Quality Improvement Sub Group

Prevent Training

Nigel Lund who is the North West Regional Co-ordinator for FE and HE attended the last Forum QI Sub group meeting and offered to run a workshop for members early in the New Year.

The date of the Workshop is Tuesday 12th January 2016 10am – 12noon. Please could someone offer a venue and provide refreshments. T/C. Please let Jane know how many places you would like reserving on the workshop. Full details will be sent out nearer the time.

The aim of the Workshop is to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) package –

“Safeguarding individuals who may be susceptible to extremist messaging and preventing them from moving towards extremism and terrorism”.

The package uses a mixture of presentation, video and interactive exercises to cover :-

- Freedom of Speech issues
 - What makes someone susceptible/vulnerable to this messaging
- Behaviours of concern that individuals might display, and
- Rationale for early identification, support, and if necessary intervention
- Provision of support, advice and guidance to the individual

It will also cover the relevance of travel to Syria for FE & HE Institutions in the North West and the new Prevent Duty.

This workshop will be ideal for new members of staff, those who would benefit from a refresh and CPD. All Training organisations should ensure that all their staff has access to training.

We have written out to members with a number of questions in order to personalise the training, this information is currently being collated to inform the content of the training.

Ofsted Annual Report 2014/15

Ofsted has released its annual education and skills report, showing that of the 190 apprenticeship programmes inspected this year, 72 were judged to require improvement and 21 were inadequate, affecting around 73,000 apprentices.

Ofsted chief inspector Michael Wilshaw submitted his annual report into the UK's education sector, which is underpinned by the findings of over 5,000 inspections of schools, colleges and providers of further education and skills.

Follow the [link](#) to the report that was issued on the 1st December 15.



Support from Highfield

Since its creation in 2008, Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance has gone from strength to strength, becoming one of the largest awarding organisations in the UK, and the fastest growing.

It is Highfield's ability to offer a range of bespoke services and training materials to each and every customer that has driven its growth. And with some of the biggest and most respected organisations in UK business and training now using its qualifications, Highfield has become one of the most respected names in the training sector.

We would argue that the key to that success is our customers. Or more particularly, our focus on customers.

We're rightly proud of our customer service promise - picking up all calls within three rings, answering emails within 24 hours, certificating learners within seven days of receiving paperwork (although it actually averages just four days for certification).

We support our customers to build efficient and cost-effective training solutions, utilising our range of qualifications, units and learning resources. These are ideal for pre-employment training, traineeships and apprenticeships as well as other work-based learning models. At Highfield we have previously supported customers with formatting bespoke qualifications in line with relevant funding contracts such as ESF and will continue this support with the upcoming ESIF contracts.

Our qualifications can be supported by Highfield International's training materials and electronic resources, as well as a range of interactive courses from Highfield e-learning. Please use the links below to access our websites:

<https://www.highfieldabc.com/>

<http://www.highfield.co.uk/products/sector/apprenticeships/>

<https://www.highfieldelearning.com/>

As you can see, flexibility is key and listening and responding to the individual needs of each and every customer has been the driving factor in making Highfield the number one choice for an increasing number of organisations.

For further information on how we are working with the LWBLEF and how Highfield can support you with qualifications, formatting delivery models and relevant teaching resources, please speak to Michael Slater, Highfield, WBL and Apprenticeships.

m Slater@highfieldabc.com

Tel: 07841 776 627

Training Provider News

WorldSkills UK Success for Engineering Apprentices

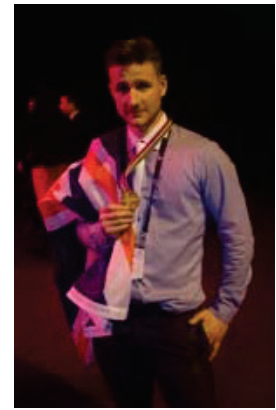
Two of Training 2000 engineering apprentices have taken home medals from the recent national finals of the prestigious WorldSkills UK competition.

The winning group comprised of Fort Vale employee Sam Parkinson (20) who received a silver medal, and Chris Taylor (26) from the WEC Group who achieved a bronze medal. They were competing in engineering sectors CNC Turning and Construction Metalwork respectively.

After showcasing their technical and employability skills in the regional competitions, they were shortlisted to take part in the coveted UK finals which took place between 19th to the 21st November at the NEC in Birmingham.

Whilst at the show they fought off strong competition from almost 600 fellow talented Apprentices, watched by 75,000 visitors over three days. The skills on display included diverse talents such as floristry, hairdressing, forensic science and catering.

The achievements continued when last year's gold medal winner in CNC Milling Liam Woinson and Sam were then both selected to become part of Squad UK. This includes up to 2 years of World Skills training with the potential to compete in Abu Dhabi in 2017 as part of Team UK.



Steve Gray, CEO of Training 2000 congratulated the learners, saying;

“As an organisation that has a genuine passion for training and developing young people, we are extremely proud to have two of our engineering apprentices walk away from WorldSkills UK 2015 with medals and to have two become part of Squad UK.

“Being selected to form part of your country's team is a huge accolade which is a real testament to the quality of training they have received both at Training 2000 and within their employer's apprenticeship programs. Training for these types of competitions really helps prepare learners for the pressure and pace of their future careers. “

The international heat of the WorldSkills competition is held every two years. Around 1000 young people from all over the world come together to compete in more than 40 different industries ranging from forensic science to sheet metal work.

The UK is currently seventh in the WorldSkills international rankings after winning 9 medals at São Paulo in August 2015. The competitors in Team UK who are all aged 18-25 were also awarded 24 Medallions of Excellence, given to those who reached the world class standard in their skill.

DATES

for your diary

Next Forum meeting,
When: 10th February 2016 (inc AGM)

Where: Preston's College
Time: 9.30 for a 10am start
Chair: Lisa Bloomfield

National Apprenticeship Week 2016
Next year's National Apprenticeship Week will run from Monday 14th March to Friday 18th March 2016.

www.lancsforum.co.uk

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Lancashire
WBL Executive Forum