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National Apprenticeship Week 2016 Toolkits

National Apprenticeship Week 2016 (NAW 2016) will take place from the 14th to 18th March 2016. It will celebrate apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

The SFA have created toolkits, which are available to download from the campaign resource site or on GOV.UK. The toolkits contain information and suggestions about how you can support NAW 2016.

Advanced Learner Loans

The SFA have published a [video](#) featuring the case studies of three learners who have benefited from taking out an Advanced Learner Loan. The [case studies](#) show prospective learners how Advanced Learner Loans can improve learners' skills and careers.

They have also published a series of case studies on the National Careers Service website to support providers in raising the awareness of Advanced Learner Loans.

Recruit an apprentice

In March, the SFA will replace Apprenticeship vacancies (Av) with the new, faster and more usable 'Recruit an apprentice' and 'Recruit a trainee' services. They will host the new services on GOV.UK, where they will offer the following benefits:

- 1) Linking users to employers within the site.
- 2) Built-in validations for wages/working hours on the vacancy posting form.
- 3) Simpler vacancy management tools.
- 4) Clearer feedback from SFA advisers.

They will complement the 'Find an apprenticeship' and 'Find a traineeship' search and application tools launched for candidates last year.

Transferring these services to GOV.UK forms part of the government's wider aim of combining its services onto one platform.

Schools must promote apprenticeships and end ‘snobbery’, government says

A new law will compel state schools to put apprenticeships on an equal footing to university when it comes to promoting further and higher education.

[The new legislation](#), expected to be introduced later this year, will ensure that apprenticeship providers and technical colleges can go into schools to give careers advice to students. It is aimed at combating “outdated snobbery” against technical and professional education.

Two-tier system

According to a recent study, two thirds (65 per cent) of teachers said they wouldn’t advise a student whose predicted grades were high enough to get into university to instead sign up for an apprenticeship.

Ministers say that, by only promoting apprenticeships and vocational training to less academically able pupils, schools are perpetuating the outdated perception that apprenticeships are second best to an academic education.

The new law will place a legal duty on state schools and academies to make pupils aware of all their post-16 options, including degree-level apprenticeships.

A level playing field to open opportunities

Secretary of state for education, Nicky Morgan, said: “As part of our commitment to extend opportunity to all young people, we want to level the playing field – making sure they are aware of all the options open to them and are able to make the right choice for them.

“For many young people going to university will be the right choice, and we are committed to continuing to expand access to higher education, but for other young people the technical education provided by apprenticeships will suit them better.

“That’s why I’m determined to tackle the minority of schools that perpetuate an outdated snobbery towards apprenticeships by requiring those schools to give young people the chance to hear about the fantastic opportunities that apprenticeships and technical education offer.”

Consultation launched to seek views on public body apprenticeship targets

The government launched on 25th January a consultation on plans to set legal targets for the number of apprentices public sector organisations must employ.

The document, [Apprenticeship targets for public sector bodies](#): consultation, outlines proposals to ensure that apprentices make up more than 2.3 per cent of the public sector workforce in England.

Published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the consultation document said that all public sector bodies that employ 250 or more staff will have annual targets for the number of apprenticeship starts.

Public sector must ‘step up’

This will mean that 16 out of 24 ministerial and 16 out of 22 non-ministerial departments will be legally obliged to create new apprenticeships each year, to total at least 2.3 per cent of their workforce.

Skills Minister Nick Boles said: “Our apprenticeships revolution has already given 2.4 million people the chance to learn the skills they need to get on in life, with businesses leading the way. “Now it’s time for the public sector to step up and give those same opportunities as we turbo charge our drive to give youngsters the best start to working life.”

Quality, not just quantity

The document also addresses concerns that focusing on increasing the overall number of apprenticeships could compromise the quality of provision.

“We recognise that it is essential that apprenticeships provided by the public sector are of a high quality. Government have already taken steps to improve the quality of apprenticeships and putting an end to poor-quality training lies at the heart of our reforms,” it said.

“We are introducing more rigorous testing and grading at the end of the apprenticeship to ensure that apprentices are reaching full occupational competence and from 2018, we will use apprenticeship outcomes data to produce performance tables for 16 to 19 year-olds.

“This will sit alongside apprenticeship success rates, which are already published by BIS, and will help to inform choice for young people and employers and drive up the quality of provision. Government also intends to establish a new, independent Institute for Apprenticeships (IFA) led by employers, which will support the quality of apprenticeships.”

The proposals will be made into law later this year as part of the Enterprise Bill. Views on the targets can be submitted until the consultation ends on 4 March 2016.

Apprenticeship numbers drop in over 30 constituencies, new figures reveal

The number of apprenticeship starts in more than 30 constituencies across England has fallen year-on-year, according to new figures.

While the overall number of apprenticeship starts in England rose by 14 per cent to 499,900 in 2014-15, new research published by the House of Commons Library reveals that in 34 constituencies, there was a fall in the number of people embarking on an apprenticeship compared to the previous year. In 17 more Parliamentary constituencies, there was no change in the number of starts. The figures raise questions about the chances of the government reaching its target of creating 3 million apprenticeships during the current Parliament.

The South-East region recorded the biggest fall in apprenticeship starts (980), with 440 in justice secretary Michael Gove’s constituency of Surrey Heath alone – more than in any other part of the country. The constituency which saw the biggest rise was in Richmond in North Yorkshire with 2,160 new starts; in total, there were almost 10,000 more apprenticeship starts in Yorkshire and The Humber than in the previous 12 months.

A spokesman for the Association of Employers and Learning Providers (AELP) welcomed the overall increase in starts, but said that factors such as industrial closures may explain the discrepancies between different parts of the country. “Schools or sixth-forms are persuading more young people to stay on until 18, instead of going down a work-based learning route like an apprenticeship,” he said. “But at the end of the day, the fact that the numbers are moving in the right direction bodes well as far as making sure that there are enough skilled young people.”

A spokesman from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills said: “More people across the country are doing an apprenticeship than ever before. We are committed to reaching 3 million high quality apprenticeship starts in England by 2020 so that we have the modern highly skilled workforce businesses need now and in the future.”

The drop in apprenticeship starts from 2013-14 to 2014-15:

- 440 – Surrey Heath
- 200 – Wokingham
- 70 – Blackburn
- 60 – East Devon
- 50 – Barnsley Central, Clacton, Aylesbury, Brighton Kempton, East Surrey, Maidenhead
- 40 – Hazel Grove, North Herefordshire, Chesham and Amersham, Truro
- 30 – Wansbeck, Pendle, Lewisham Deptford, Poplar and Limehouse, North East Hampshire, North West Hampshire
- 20 – Berwick-upon-Tweed, Carlisle, South Northamptonshire, South Cambridgeshire, Bristol West

- 10 – Halton, Tatton, Beckenham, Tooting, Brighton Pavilion, Hove, Romsey and Southampton North, Runnymede and Weybridge, Cotswolds

For the full list of 2014-15 apprenticeship starts in each constituency, [click here](#).

Apprenticeship Reform

Apprenticeship Reform Webinar, 7th January 2016

Follow [this link](#) to take you to the Nick Linford slides from the webinar.

Apprenticeship Levy Survey

In April 2017, the apprenticeship levy will come into effect at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's pay bill.

A £15,000 allowance for employers will mean that the levy will only be paid on an employer's pay bill over £3 million.

The SFA have launched an [Apprenticeship Levy Survey](#) to understand how employers would like to access their levy funds and use them to make payments to training organisations. The deadline for completion is Friday, 5 February; it should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.



Traineeships Resources

To help providers promote traineeships to young people, the SFA have published information on the [Campaign Resource](#) site to help you promote traineeships to young people. Password required.

Traineeship delivery restrictions lifted

SFA have announced that rules requiring providers to have an Ofsted Grade 1 or Grade 2 in order to deliver Traineeships will be lifted from the 1st February.

All other 2015 to 2016 funding rules will continue to apply, but if you have an existing funding allocation and the appropriate contractual arrangements, you will be able to deliver traineeships ahead of the 2016 to 2017 funding year.

Details have been published in [SFA Update](#).

Funding Claims 2015 to 2016

The SFA have published the [Funding Claims 2015 to 2016](#) guidance document for the 2015 to 2016 funding year. This is for colleges and other training organisations that are:

- Adult Skills Budget grant-funded
- Discretionary Learner Support grant-funded
- Advanced Learner Loans Bursary grant-funded
- Community Learning-funded

The document contains information on completing the new digital funding claim forms. Please read the guidance together with [the Funding Rules 2015 to 2016](#) and the [Performance Management Rules 2015 to 2016](#). Funding claims are due on Monday, 8 February. The claims form will include your individualised learner record R06 information and will not be available to you until Friday, 5 February.

Changes to the adult education budget for 2016 to 2017

The link below takes you to a paper that summarises the changes the SFA plans to make to the adult skills system with the creation of the education budget following the publication of the Skills Funding Letter.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-changes-to-the-adult-education-budget-for-2016-to-2017>

Annual Statistical First Release

The [annual SFR](#) has now been released and shows final 14/15 and 15/16 Q1 to date accepting that these will be revised figures. These don't break down by geography but give you a good overview as to what is happening.

European Social Fund 2000 to 2006: Document Retention

You can now destroy electronic and hard-copy records from the European Social Fund (ESF) 2000 to 2006 programme.

The document retention period for this programme ended on Friday, 15 January and relates to contracts that ended in 2008 or before.

This destruction does not apply to records for the ESF 2007 to 2013 programme: you must continue to keep those records until at least 31 December 2022.

For further information, please refer to Action Note 84 from the ESF Managing Authority in England or email Local Responsiveness.



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

UK employment rate hits a record high while unemployment plummets to pre-recession levels

The UK has its highest ever employment rate of 74% with a record 31.4 million people in work.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-employment-rate-hits-a-record-high-while-unemployment-plummets-to-pre-recession-levels>

EFA Budgets

Follow the link below to the DfE letter confirming EFA budgets and policies for 2016/7.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492064/PM_EFA_post_16_funding_letter_January_2016.pdf

Funding factor statement and allocations calculation toolkit (ACT)

The funding factor statement and allocations calculation toolkit (ACT) relating to the 2016 to 2017 allocations for most further education (FE) institutions will be uploaded to EFA Information Exchange within the next few days. They will be in the 'Revenue Funding' folder, under 'AY 2016-17 (2016/17)'.

The funding factor statement includes values for your 2016 to 2017 allocation and a comparison with the equivalent figures from 2015 to 2016 to show significant changes year-on-year. The [ACT spreadsheet](#) explains how we have used your data to arrive at some of the key figures in the statement. It does not include data on area cost, care leavers or disadvantage block 2. You will find [detailed explanatory guidance about the statement](#) on GOV UK. If you have any queries on any of the figures or calculations in your funding factor statement, please contact us via our [online enquiry form](#).

However, business cases which relate to the data within this statement should only be submitted in March 2016, once you have received and reviewed your final allocation. If you experience problems accessing EFA Information Exchange, please submit a [support request](#).



CEO Announcement

It has been announced that Stewart Segal, chief executive of the Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP), will be taking up a new role with the national training provider 3aaa. The appointment will be effective from April 2016 and Stewart remains as CEO of AELP until that time. AELP also announced that Stewart will continue to work with the AELP Board as a member to ensure continuity on a number of policy issues.

Stewart has worked with AELP in a number of roles since its formation in 1998. He was one of

the original Directors and then worked with AELP as the funding and contracting expert for 10 years before becoming CEO in 2013. Stewart will have completed nearly 3 years as CEO and will continue to work with AELP as a representative member organisation and supporting the work on policy issues such as Apprenticeship reform.

Martin Dunford OBE, Chairman of AELP, said,
“Stewart has done an excellent job in what is an extremely demanding role. We have many members and a multitude of relationships with government, their agencies and many other stakeholders and Stewart has managed this growing network very effectively.

“During his time as CEO, AELP has achieved a great deal during a period of substantial change. AELP is in a very strong position with Apprenticeships, skills and employability at the centre of the government’s agenda and the voice of training providers is stronger than ever.

“The AELP management team is very experienced and will maintain the support for members. AELP’s membership has grown to over 770 in the last two years and the AELP Board has developed proposals to drive even closer links with local provider networks and employers.

“It is more important than ever that we have a strong provider voice and I am pleased that Stewart will continue to support AELP on the policy agenda.

“We shall be starting the recruitment process for the new CEO imminently.”



Lancashire Forum Meeting December 15

Prevent Training in the WBL Environment

A workshop was held for Forum members on the 12th January 2016. 29 Forum members attended with presentations given by Nigel Lund who is the North West Regional Co-ordinator for FE and HE, Karen Bradshaw from NLTG who gave members an overview of their recent Inspection Experience. In the workshop sessions members discussed a draft employer leaflet that Nigel had produced and shared experiences of dealing with employers.

Attached below are the slides from the day. The Forum has been asked to pull together an action plan through a task and finish group to move the Prevent agenda forward.

Attached: [Prevent Training for WBL Providers](#)

The Puppet Broadcasting Company were unfortunately unable to attend on the day. Below are youtube links to some their work.

Trailer link for the Prevent project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWwpl_YYrZQ

The link for a general Routes Puppets live trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3aUfshLyRg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72Tlmdv2GYc&feature=youtu.be>

Employer & Skills Sub Group – Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

At the last Lancashire Forum Employer and Skills sub group meeting there was a discussion about creating a Lancashire Apprenticeship Ambassador Network which was proposed to be organised through a collaborated approach by the Lancashire WBL Forum and supported by Lancashire Skills Hub. This network would be part of a larger North West Apprenticeship Ambassador Network which is currently organised with the support of NAS.

Since the Employer and Skills sub group meeting, Claire Shore, Raeleen Duthoit and Lisa Moizer have agreed with NAS that any young apprentices (over 18 years) who are interested in becoming an ambassador can attend the launch of the North West Young Apprenticeship Ambassador network on the 25th February 2016.

The event is an ideal opportunity to find out about what it means to be a Young Apprentice Ambassador. The young person will get chance to meet other apprentices and ex-apprentices. They will also be a range of inspirational speakers and helpful development sessions to give more information about the role of a Young Apprentice Ambassador.

The young person can then decide if they want to be a Lancashire Young Apprenticeship Ambassador and if they also want to represent Lancashire on the North West Young Apprentice Ambassador Network. Lisa and I are both attending the event and can support Lancashire young people on the day.

Attendance at the conference is free, they need the employer's permission to take a day away from work to attend the conference and that they cover the young person's travel costs where applicable.

Please RSVP before 17/02/16 to Julie from the National Apprenticeship Service on Julie.foster@sfa.bis.gov.uk with your name, age, email address and phone number, employers name, address and contact. Please could you also let me know if one of your apprentices will be attending so that we can co-ordinate responses from Lancashire Forum members.

Invitation letter: [Invitation - North West Young Apprentice Ambassador Network](#)

Training Provider News



NELSON AND COLNE
COLLEGE

VIP launch of £2million Engineering facilities

New £2million Engineering facilities at Nelson and Colne were showcased to East Lancashire employers and VIPs at a special launch event.

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has invested £1.4m into the impressive skills facility, which includes a unique subsonic wind tunnel, fully equipped workshops with the latest rapid prototype technology and software, and CNC machinery.

On Tuesday 19th January, guests will were given chance to explore the site, which also includes an innovation laboratory and 3D printing and manufacturing area, and took part in demonstrations with students.

Principal of Nelson and Colne College and chair of the LEP Skills Board Amanda Melton, who gave the opening speech on the night, said: "We are thrilled that such a huge investment has been made to our Engineering department, and are so grateful for the support shown by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. By providing students with the highest quality facilities

and experience, we are able to ensure they have the right skills and confidence to be career ready when they leave NCC.

“We are looking forward to welcoming industry professionals into the new department and seeing how we can continue to work with local companies and build successful relationships in the future.

“Engineering is a rapidly growing sector, with 2.56 million job openings predicted in the industry by 2022. For anybody looking to join such an exciting sector, then now is the perfect time to enrol at Nelson and Colne College – where expert tutors can help students achieve their aspirations in a modern and exciting environment.”

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is investing £30m in creating top-quality facilities across the county which will offer extra training places and apprenticeships in key sectors of the local economy.

Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, said: “This is the first of a number of modern, well-equipped training facilities funded by the LEP which will open over the next two or three years.

“Together, they will transform the job prospects of thousands of local people and help provide the skilled workers employers say they need to grow.

“This initiative is an important part of our ambitious strategic growth programme which will boost the local economy by £3bn and create tens of thousands of extra jobs over the next decade.”



Visitors, including local employers, join staff and students at Nelson and Colne College's Engineering launch event



Principal of Nelson and Colne College Amanda Melton meets Oscar the interactive robot



Principal of Nelson and Colne College Amanda Melton and North West Aerospace Alliance's chief exec David Bailey cut the ribbon to the £2million Engineering skills facility

DATES

for your diary

Next Forum meeting,
When: 10th February 2016
(includes AGM)
Where: Preston's College
Time: 9.30 for a 10am start
Chair: Lisa Bloomfield
Speakers:
Paul Holme – NWPN Chair
Karen Hopwood - SFA

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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