

# Update

Issue 18  
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**Skills  
Funding  
Agency**

## Welcome

Update is our round up of business critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback please get in touch by emailing: [update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk).

All back copies and the current issue of Update are available on the Skills Funding Agency website: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/funding/allthelatest/providerupdate/>.

Please forward and share this with relevant colleagues within your organisation.

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### Skills Funding Agency official website Information

In addition to our official website – [skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk), please note that an unauthorised, unofficial website has been created at [www.skillsfundingagency.com](http://www.skillsfundingagency.com), and that this site appears in search results for the Skills Funding Agency when using an online search engine such as Google.

The unofficial website has been set up independently and has nothing to do with the Skills Funding Agency; to ensure that you access the most up-to-date information, documents and guidance, please use only our [official website](#).

On our official website, you will find an online [newsroom](#), a [provider area](#) with [all the latest news](#), [Updates](#), [guidance notes](#) and guidance specific to [our programmes](#). You can also sign up for [web alerts](#), to keep you updated on any changes or new information added to the site.

If you experience any problems finding the information you need, please contact the [Provider Communications](#) team.

## **National Apprenticeship Service – Apprenticeship vacancies information**

### **Information**

The Apprenticeships vacancies system was established to provide a central clearing house and matching service for Apprenticeships. The system has been successful in engaging candidates to create a pool of potential apprentices and we now have over 300,000 people registered on the system.

From 1 August, all Skills Funding Agency funded Apprenticeship providers have been required to use [Apprenticeship vacancies](#) to advertise all new Apprenticeship opportunities. This gives providers and employers visibility and an easy way through a single site for candidates to search for vacancies and apply. Once candidates have applied providers will be aware that the site is an all age service and we would always expect recruitment to be based on an individual's ability, with the job being awarded on merit.

## **Skills Accounts information**

### **Information**

As advised in last week's Update, customers can continue to access the Skills Accounts website until the new Next Step adult careers website is introduced. We particularly want providers to continue to register people for Skills Accounts. Full details can be found in the following Skill Accounts materials: Skills Accounts [Communications Brief](#), Quick Guide, Provider Guidance and FAQs, all of which are on the [Skills Account web pages](#).

## **Key Skills in Adult Learner Responsive (ALR) – updated contact information**

[In issue 17 of Update](#), we reported on forthcoming changes to key skills funding through Adult Learner Responsive. Unfortunately, some readers were not able to click through to the email address to request further information. This has now been corrected and can be [accessed from here](#). The [Basic Skills help desk](#) can also be contacted directly.

## **OLDC and LAD – essential maintenance information**

### **Information**

The Data Service would like to let users know that the Online Data Collection (OLDC) system and Learning Aim Database (LAD) will be unavailable from 08:00 Saturday 14 August until 08:00 Monday 16 August for essential maintenance. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## **YPLA Learner Service stakeholder e-bulletin**

### **Information**

The YPLA will be resuming its [online e-bulletin](#) from the Learner Support Directorate. The bulletin is aimed at learner advocates with a responsibility for the promotion of and administration of Learner Support schemes, providers and other partners interested in Learner Support.

## **Useful telephone numbers and websites**

### **Information**

Employers (up to 5000 employees) - Train to Gain - 0845 600 9 006 or [www.businesslink.gov.uk/traintogain](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/traintogain)

Employers (5000+ employees) - National Employer Service - 024 7682 5815 or <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/employers/>

Learners/individuals – Next Step - 0800 100 900 or [www.direct.gov.uk/nextstep](http://www.direct.gov.uk/nextstep)

National Apprenticeship Service - Employers call 08000 150 600 or visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/employers.aspx>

National Apprenticeship Service - Learners should visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Be-An-Apprentice.aspx>

Skills Pledge - 0845 600 9006 or [www.businesslink.gov.uk/skillspledge](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/skillspledge)

Skills Funding Agency enquiries - Switchboard - 0845 377 5000 or [www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](http://www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk)

The Data Service - 0870 267 0001 or [www.thedataservice.org.uk](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk)

***The Skills Funding Agency funds and regulates adult further education and skills in England.***

An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills.

The Skills Funding Agency complies with The Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and information on our Privacy Policy can be found at: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/privacy.htm>.