

Update

Issue 68
3 August 2011

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Update is our weekly round up of business critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback please get in touch by emailing the [Update mailbox](#).

Please forward and share Update with the relevant colleagues within your organisation. Colleagues might also like to register for [web alerts](#), which will alert you via email when new issues of Update and important announcements are added onto the [Skills Funding Agency website](#).

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Adult Safeguarded Funding and Expenditure Statement for Local Authorities for the contracting year 2010/11

Action

New guidance aimed at Local Authorities showing the actual expenditure of the allocation of Adult Safeguarded Learning (ASL) and associated funding for the contract year ending 31 July 2011 has now been published. To access the statement, please visit the Skills Funding Agency [website](#).

ASL includes Personal and Community Development Learning, Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities, Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy and Wider Family

Learning. In addition to the Safeguarded learning, the funding and expenditure statement also includes Formal First Step provision and Family Learning Impact Funding.

The Local Authority's chief finance officer must sign the statement at Section 3 Annex A and a hard copy of this statement must be sent to their Skills Funding Agency Relationship Team by 30 September 2011. The statement should be either a signed original or a copy with original signatures.

Any queries please contact your relationship team in the first instance.

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Funding Guidance for 2011/12 – publication Friday 29 July

Information

We are aware of sector concerns around learner fees, raised in the [Funding Guidance](#) published on our website last week. We are working with sector representatives and will provide clarity in relation to the fee charging policy in the next few days.

The Agency also recognises concerns over the delay in the funding guidance being published. We apologise for this. The delay was due to ensuring the funding requirements reflected all of the latest policy changes. However, the Agency tried to ensure that any substantial changes were previously trailed through the series of guidance notes published throughout the year.

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Additional Funding Allocations for 2011/12

Information

The Government, through the Skills Funding Agency, has announced additional investment to support the growth in Apprenticeships – particularly for those aged between 19 and 24 years of age. Our key aim will be to continue working with providers and employers on prioritising support to young adults, particularly those that are unemployed.

Further information regarding the additional Funding Allocations for 2011/12 to support this activity is now available on the Skills Funding Agency [website](#).

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Higher Apprenticeship Fund - Briefing Event

Information

To support organisations who wish to submit proposals to the Higher Apprenticeship Fund, the National Apprenticeship Service is pleased to announce that two briefing events will be held in the BIS Conference Room, 1 Victoria Street, London:

Dates: 10 August 2011 and 31 August 2011

Time: 09.30 – Midday

If you are interested in attending please contact the Higher Apprenticeship [mailbox](#), confirming your name, organisation, contact details and number of participants. A registration form and further details will then be forwarded.

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Detailed list of 2012/13 Individualised Learner Record change requests published

Information

Further details of the 34 requests to make changes to the 2012/13 [Individualised Learner Record \(ILR\)](#) have now been published on the [Request for Change](#) section of *the information authority* website.

The information authority secretariat is now preparing to consult the sector on the changes that have met the initial [assessment criteria](#). The consultation with providers and software writers began with a meeting on Thursday 21 July, giving them an opportunity to hear more about the changes, make suggestions on possible solutions and raise any issues or concerns. Further consultation will start soon through online surveys and [feconnect](#).

If you have any queries regarding the change process, please contact *the information authority's* [Community and Stakeholder Team](#).

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Qualifications and Credit Framework Update

Information

Currently there are over 8,000 qualifications available for delivery in the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

As of 27 July 2011, 53 per cent of qualifications in the Qualifications and Credit Framework have been confirmed for funding for the new Single Adult Skills Budget through the Skills Funding Agency approvals process. Qualifications that have been confirmed for funding are published on the Skills Funding Agency [website](#).

The next update is due 1 September 2011 and will reflect the Single Adult Skills Budget, and the list will be published monthly thereafter.

For further information or related queries, please contact the Data Service [Service Desk](#).

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Provision for the Unemployed - revised web pages

Information

The Provision for the Unemployed section of the Skills Funding Agency [website](#) (previously known as Programmes for the Unemployed), has been substantially revised to reflect the latest operational aspects and policy in this area.

This section of the Agency website serves as a central point for colleges, training organisations and stakeholders to access key information relating to Provision for the Unemployed.

Key features include latest updates, information relating to the Adult Skills Budget, job outcome incentive payments, sector-based work academies and support materials, such as research and evaluation, case studies and sector employability toolkits.

For any further information please contact the Provision for the Unemployed [mailbox](#).

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Learning Aim Reference Application Release 1 goes live

Information

Release 1 of the [Learning Aim Reference Application \(LARA\)](#) has now gone live and replaces the Learning Aim Database (LAD). LARA will be the repository for learning aims for 2011/12 and onwards. The LAD will continue to run alongside LARA for a defined period and learning aims for 2009/10 and 2010/11 will continue to be made available on the LAD.

The LARA and related documents can be found [online](#) now. Further details are available from the Data Service [website](#).

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Skills Conditionality Toolkit

Information

From 1 August 2011, Jobcentre Plus began to implement skills conditionality in England. It is hoped that this will allow active benefit claimants to get the skills they need to enter the labour market quickly.

To support this, the Agency and Jobcentre Plus have produced a [toolkit](#) for those colleges and training organisations with an interest in this area.

If you require any further information on this toolkit please contact your Account Manager

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

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

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