

Welcome to Issue 41 of our e-bulletin.

We are now distributing this directly to all providers and Academies, including maintained schools sixth forms. If you have colleagues who need to receive it can you please email us, telling us their name, email address, organisation and role.

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We expect to publish the next issue of the e-bulletin on 22 February, after the half term break.

If you would like us to give us feedback, or add recipients to this distribution list then please send their e-mail address to ypla.bulletin@ypla.gov.uk. Copies of all e-bulletins will be posted on our [website](#). You can also sign up for alerts to new documents posted on the YPLA website by registering for our [web alert service](#).

All statutory guidance and legislation linked from this site continues to reflect the current legal position unless indicated otherwise, but may not reflect current Government policy.

Please click [here](#) to see copies of the Skills Funding Agency's Updates

Information for schools, Academies, colleges and independent providers

Article 1 – Provider Learner Number Statements issued

We have sent all 16-19 providers your learner numbers for funding in 2012/13. We have also included other information, which we will use to support the 16-19 programme, 19-24 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) and 16-19 Bursary Fund allocations.

On 26 January we sent the 16-19 Learner Number Statement to schools, Academies, colleges and independent providers through our [IM Portal](#):
<https://gateway.imservices.org.uk>

To access your statement, you will need to log in using your username and password. If you do not know your username for the portal, please get in touch with the following contacts:

- North territory - Kathryn Gradwell – kathryn.gradwell@ypla.gov.uk - 0161 261 0257
- East territory - Dawn James – dawn.james@ypla.gov.uk - 0116 228 1789
- West territory - Ruksana Afser – ruksana.afser@ypla.gov.uk - 0121 345 4546
- South territory - Alice Leonard – alice.leonard@ypla.gov.uk - 0303 444 6835

To accompany these statements we have produced a set of explanatory notes for [colleges and other FE providers](#), and a separate set for [schools and Academies](#). These notes set out the background details behind the figures in the 16-19 learner number statement for the 2012/13 academic year.

Any responses to the January statements will need to reach us by Friday 17 February. Final allocations will be issued in March.

Local authorities have access to the statements for maintained schools in their area through the YPLA IM Portal. We will also send to local authorities in the next few days a summary of the learner numbers for all providers in their area.

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Information and action for everyone

Article 2 – Survey on YPLA data releases

We are evaluating the way in which local authorities and others have made use of the participation data published throughout the year. This will help us to prepare the first Education Funding Agency data release due in May.

The online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QFW5SYR> focuses on how the published information has supported local authorities to carry out their strategic role for young people.

All local authorities and providers are encouraged to take part and share their views.

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Information and action for everyone

Article 3 - Consultation on Raising Participation Age proposals

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on Raising the Participation Age (RPA) regulations. They are seeking views on elements of how RPA will work in practice.

RPA applies to 16-year-olds in 2013, and 17-year-olds in 2015. Young people will participate in education and training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 or 18 respectively.

We are working with DfE to develop the proposals on what would constitute full time education, and what will count as participation. You can see the consultation at the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>

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Information for post-16 ILR-funded providers

Article 4 - ILR update – R06 submission deadline

The ILR data collection cycle continues, with the deadline for making R06 returns to the Data Service just a few days away. Final submissions are due on Monday 6 February 2012.

The most recent information on ILR returns, and the supporting Learner Information Suite (LIS) software, is available on the [Data Service website](#). These data returns will be used to calculate 2012/13 funding allocations for Independent Private Providers.

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Information for Independent Private Providers subject to funding reconciliation

Article 5 - ILR funding returns

The [mid-year funding estimate workbook](#) is now available for contract providers subject to funding reconciliation. Please do not try and complete the workbook before an Addendum to the Funding Guidance is published in February.

Only providers subject to reconciliation will be required to make mid-year funding estimates (Annex B return) for 2011/12.

The Annex B return must include only the figures returned on the last ILR R06 submissions in column D of the workbook. Column E should only include the rest of year estimate figures.

Further advice on completing the workbook is included in the workbook and mid-year estimates will be required by the end of February. Providers must NOT use the 2010/11 workbook for any 2011/12 returns.

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Information for school sixth forms and Academies

Article 6 - Publication of school and Academy qualification success rates

The 2009/10 16-19 school and Academy qualification success rates will be published on the YPLA [data website](#) on 2 February.

Success rates show, at a headline level, the proportion of young people that start a qualification in an institution and achieve it by the end of the required period of study.

This measure has been used in the FE sector for many years and is considered to be a key indicator of an institution's performance. It is a relatively new measure for schools.

The publication covers schools and Academies who received an allocation from YPLA in 2011/12. It includes:

- a table containing the success rates for 2008/09 and 2009/10, including the amended success rates
- a user guide and technical document highlighting the key points from the data, definitions and technical notes.

Please note that these success rates are not directly compatible with the FE success rates released by the Data Service. This is because we use different methodologies used in sourcing the data and calculating the figures.

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Information and action for Academies

Article 7 - Information Management Portal now live for Academies

We are starting to use our [Information Management \(IM\) Portal](#) as a secure way of communicating directly with all open Academies.

The YPLA IM Portal is a secure website that we and our partners can use to share documents and information such as funding allocation / grant letters.

Your nominated contact will be receiving a user name and password via email.

Academies with sixth forms that already use the IM Portal can continue to use the same username and password.

If you have not received your log in details by 8 February, please contact

- North territory - Kathryn Gradwell – kathryn.gradwell@ypla.gov.uk - 0161 261 0257
- East territory - Dawn James – dawn.james@ypla.gov.uk - 0116 228 1789
- West territory - Ruksana Afser – ruksana.afser@ypla.gov.uk - 0121 345 4546
- South territory - Alice Leonard – alice.leonard@ypla.gov.uk - 0303 444 6835

An IM Portal user guide can be found on the [YPLA website](#). The portal can be accessed at <https://gateway.imservices.org.uk>.

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Information for Academies

Article 8 - Extension of search powers

The Education Act 2011 extends the power of headteachers and authorised staff to search without permission for any item banned by the school rules.

Academies and Free Schools wishing to make use of the extended power to search must draw up the relevant school rules following consultation with staff, parents and pupils. You must bring the policy to the attention of staff, pupils and parents at least once per year.

If you have any comments or questions on these [draft regulations](#), please send them to Rahul Raghavan - rahul.raghavan@education.gsi.gov.uk - by 17 February 2012.

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Information for Academies

Article 9 – Director of Academies retires

Staff at the YPLA said a fond farewell to Neil Flint, Director of Academies, who retired on 31 January. Neil was one of the architects of the original Academies programme which he has worked on for the past 10 years.

At the YPLA he was a key figure in establishing our role with Academies, overseeing a huge increase in their number and a rapid build up in our staffing and systems to help us fulfil this vital part of our remit. We wish Neil a long and happy retirement.

Neil's successor is Sue Baldwin who took up her position on 16 January. Sue joined the YPLA in April 2011 as National Director for Young People.

Prior to that, Sue was Director for Young People's Funding in the Department for Education, where she was responsible for post-16 funding and learner support. Sue also continues in her role of setting up the Education Funding Agency as part of the Government's Arms Length Body reform programme, and in response to the 2010 Education White Paper.

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