

# Update

Issue 88  
21 December 2011

**Skills  
Funding  
Agency**

## Welcome

Welcome to Update, the Agency's weekly round-up of business-critical information and news for colleges, providers and key stakeholders in the further education (FE) learning and skills sector.

Please remember to share Update with your colleagues who might also like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email each time we communicate a new issue or if we publish any important announcements to the Agency's [website](#). You can also connect with the Agency on [Twitter](#).

We always welcome your feedback so please feel free to contact us by emailing the [Update mailbox](#).

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## **Apprenticeship Training Agency Recognition Process**

### **Action**

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is introducing a new Apprenticeship Training Agency Recognition Process along with a National Register of Approved Apprenticeship Training Agencies.

Apprenticeship Training Agencies (ATAs) will need to demonstrate that they are providing high quality Apprenticeship programmes and operate in accordance to the [ATA Framework](#).

Their details will then be published on the Apprenticeship [website](#), and will provide apprentices and stakeholders with the assurance and confidence they are using the services of a NAS recognised ATA. Colleges and training providers delivering Apprenticeships are encouraged to work with them.

Please contact your local lead to find out how to apply to become a NAS recognised ATA.

London/South East [Bronte.Turner@apprenticeships.gov.uk](mailto:Bronte.Turner@apprenticeships.gov.uk)  
South [Glenn.Crocker@apprenticeships.gov.uk](mailto:Glenn.Crocker@apprenticeships.gov.uk)  
Central [Daniel.Baker@apprenticeships.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.Baker@apprenticeships.gov.uk)  
North [Bev.Moxon@apprenticeships.gov.uk](mailto:Bev.Moxon@apprenticeships.gov.uk)  
National [Vincent.webb@apprenticeships.gov.uk](mailto:Vincent.webb@apprenticeships.gov.uk)

The NAS website will be updated shortly with further guidance.

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## **Error in 2010/11 Learner Responsive (LR05) Qualification Success Rate reports and Minimum Levels of Performance reports**

### **Information**

### **Action**

Owing to an error, the Data Service has republished the 2010/11 Learner Responsive (LR05) Qualification Success Rate reports and the Minimum Level of Performance reports affected onto the Provider Gateway. Further details can be found on the Data Service [website](#).

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## **Data Service office closure during the holiday period**

### **Information**

The Data Service will be closed over the holiday period, from **13.00 on Friday 23 December** and will be reopening at **8.30 on Tuesday 03 January 2012**.

Please note that queries logged after 13.00 on 23 December will not be processed or actioned until after the Service Desk re-opens in the new year.

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## **YPLA 16-19 Funding Statement and capital funding 2012-13**

### **Information**

The YPLA has published the [16-19 Funding Statement](#) for 2012-13. The Statement outlines indicative levels of funding to be invested in the 2012-13 financial year and the learner numbers and funding policies to be applied in the 2012-13 academic year by the YPLA.

In addition, more than £107 million of capital funding is being provided for 16-19 provision in 2012-13. The funding will be made available to meet maintenance and building needs of sixth form colleges and demographic pressures for new 16-19 places in schools, Academies and sixth form colleges. Further information is available on the YPLA [website](#).

Information on capital funding for Academies was included in a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, which was distributed on 13 December 2011.

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## **The Agency's Register of Training Organisations – Subcontracting Information**

From January 2012, the Agency will require all subcontractors (providers not holding a direct contract), who have contracts with a combined value in excess of £500,000, to complete the due diligence process on The Register of Training Organisations, formerly known as the Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR).

This requirement does not change the existing due diligence responsibilities of colleges and training organisations when engaging with their subcontractors. If subcontractors fail the registration process for the Register of Training Organisations, the Agency will challenge colleges and training providers, in order to seek the necessary assurances on their subcontractor.

The Agency is introducing this requirement to maintain the integrity of its supply chain and to protect our learners.

Further information will be available in the new year.

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## **WorldSkills UK competitions: Open for entries Information**

With less than three months to go, the final countdown has begun to enter the next cycle of WorldSkills UK national competitions.

We're hoping to exceed previous entry numbers following the success of WorldSkills London 2011. Visit [worldskillsuk.org](http://worldskillsuk.org) today and take a look at this year's competition offer and latest news. For assistance with completing your registration, please call the WorldSkills UK contact centre on 0800 612 0742.

Don't miss your chance to take your skills to the next level in 2012!

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## Office Closure: Brighton

### Information

The Agency's Brighton office will close on Friday 23 December. However, work related to the area will continue and will be divided between the relevant Agency and National Apprenticeship Service teams.

The work will be managed from the London, Fareham and Chatham offices. Please direct related enquiries to the following contacts:

- Relationship Team - Hannah Caldwell, Head of Relationship Team on 07789 033955.
- National Apprenticeship Service - Jodi Fair, Head of Employer Accounts, South Central on 07767 227913.

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## The Ideas Bank – an LSIS national tool for scenario planning

### Information

#### Promotion

The Ideas Bank is an online tool to enable input of ideas from any member of the FE sector nationally. These ideas will be later collated and sorted and delivered as a valid source of ideas which indicate the direction the sector and identified sub-sectors will be taking over the next five to seven years.

The results of the project will be delivered as an online database of ideas. This will enable organisations to compare ideas and plans to see degrees of agreement across the sector, as well as identify areas of non-alignment.

To take part, email your name to [ideasbank@lsis.org.uk](mailto:ideasbank@lsis.org.uk), and we'll send you your own 'hot link'. Please also ask staff within your organisation to contribute their ideas too, and benefit from the results of this innovative tool.

Further details, and a short explanatory video are available the LSIS [website](#).

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## Learner Views: Religion and belief equality

### Information

#### Consultation

The Agency has commissioned Babcock Research to undertake an evaluation of learners' views of the relationship between religion/belief and their experiences in FE. The work will provide evidence to inform strategy and practice in light of the Equality Act. Babcock will be contacting some providers in January. We would be grateful for your involvement.

Please contact [Research@babcock.co.uk](mailto:Research@babcock.co.uk) or [equality@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:equality@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) for further information.

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