

Update

Issue 1
7 April 2010

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Welcome to the first Update from the Skills Funding Agency. This will be our primary communication channel for colleges and training organisations.

We have listened to your concerns about the numerous forms of communication that you receive and so we intend to concentrate information through this one route. The Update will provide all the generic information relevant to you to help you operate your contracts and manage your provision. That is not to say that we will not continue to write to you with information specific to you and your contract and your primary contact will remain your Account Manager, but we will avoid sending letters and emails every time we want to send you information. For such information we will use the Update, so please ensure it doesn't get directed to your junk mail folder!

Emailed to you each week, the Update will only contain short summaries of business critical information together with links to websites containing detailed documents. You won't have to wade through pages of copy to find information about the programmes you deliver, you can click straight through to the detail you are interested in. We will include information from the Young People's Learning Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service, again linking you directly to detailed information on their websites.

If you have any feedback please feel free to get in touch by emailing update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk.

In this edition:

- Communications
- Joint Investment programme for Strategic Skills
- Important Changes to the Data Service website
- Adult Advancement and Careers Service Course Directory
- Guidance Note 3

Communications

For Information

We will only send Update to the senior contact in each organisation. In most cases this will be the college Principal or Chief Executive Officer. We understand that several people in your organisation may need to see this but you know who they are and are best placed to cascade this appropriately.

Our website www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency can alert people every time a new document is uploaded and we will operate in a transparent way so please cascade the Update and encourage your staff to set up these alerts to access up to date information including policy and funding changes.

Your Account Manager is your direct contact with the Skills Funding Agency and can answer all your questions and discuss any contracting and funding issues you may have. If you want to feed back to us please email us at update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk.

Joint Investment Programme for Strategic Skills

For Information

This programme provides a unique opportunity for employers to pool their investment with government to up-skill individuals at technician and associate

professional levels. £50 million public funding is available for the academic year 2010/11 matched 100% by employers. Sector Skills Councils and Industry Training Boards are leading bids; if your organisation wants to get involved, contact the relevant Sector Skills Councils/Industry Training Board. To view the prospectus visit

<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/BIS-URN10-812-web.PDF>.

Important Changes to the Data Service website For Information

Access to news updates, provider software (Learning Aim Database, Learner Information Suite), Provider Gateway, and various statistical information previously available on the decommissioned Learning and Skills Council website are now hosted on the Data Service website.

To be kept up to date on any changes please register for the Data Service web alerts service.

Useful Links:

Learning Aim Database

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lad/>

Learner Information Suite

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lis/>

Provider Gateway

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/providergateway/>

Data Service Website

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/>

Data Service News and Updates page

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/News/20100326_website_updates.htm

Data Service web alerts

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/News/ds_alerts/

Adult Advancement and Careers Service Course Directory

For Information

A new Course Directory is being developed to support the adult advancement and careers service and skills accounts in August 2010.

Workshops will be running throughout May 2010 to provide training on how the data collection is changing to a more effective system and how it is linked to funding. Invitations for these workshops will be sent out shortly.

For further information visit

<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/funding/allthelatest/providerupdate/newcoursedirectory.htm>

Guidance Note 3

For Information

Guidance Note 3 covers funding policy changes for 2010/11, including:

- Changes announced in the Skills Investment Strategy 2010 -11 published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in November 2009
- Changes previously announced and planned for implementation in 2010/11
- Further changes and clarification resulting from development of policy during 2009/10.

The changes will be incorporated into the Skills Funding Agency's Funding Guidance for 2010/11, which will be issued in May 2010.

Guidance Note 3 is available to download by following the following link

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/guidance_note_3-april2010-v1-1.pdf

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

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