



Young People's  
Learning Agency

## 16-19 Funding Statement – Q&A

### 1. What does being on track to meet full participation mean?

Full participation in education and training is a Government commitment. In 2012/13 we expect 98% of all 16 year olds and over 92% of all 17 year olds to be in education and training. We have made the places available and the Government's strategy to increase participation, which will be issued shortly, outlines the actions in place to achieve full participation by 2015.

### 2. How will lagged learner numbers help us reach full participation?

Lagged learner numbers provide a greater degree of stability and certainty of funding than ever before. Providers can be certain that all the learners they recruit over their funded plan will receive funding the following year. This has not been the case in the past when providers didn't have this guarantee.

### 3. What areas are you investing in?

There are over 700 providers that see an increase in funding per learner as a result of the Spending Review policy changes. This is because we are funding increases in programme size, success rates and Additional Learning Support (ALS) and retaining the additional £150 million that was invested last year for disadvantaged learners. In addition we are funding additional places in new institutions and in Apprenticeships, both important if we are to improve choice and achieve full participation.

### 4. What is the average change in transitional protection for each type of provider in 2012/13?

Changes due to the routine operation of the funding formula are not covered by transitional protection (TP). The impact on each provider will therefore depend on the characteristics of their learners and the courses they take and how this is reflected in the national funding formula.

### 5. How is transitional protection going to work?

Provider associations have told us that some providers need longer to adapt to new funding levels, therefore we have stretched TP over four years from 2011/12 to 2015/16 to give providers time to plan for any substantial reductions. We will be removing TP in four equal instalments from the 2011/12 start date or at 3% per learner, whichever is the greatest. The 3% criteria ensures those providers that have the least reduction are taken out of TP as soon as possible and the four instalments mean that providers with the furthest to travel to the national funding rate have the reduction spread evenly over the four years.

**6. Will there be any exceptions to this system of transitional protection?**

Ensuring all providers are on the same funding by 2015/16 would mean an unacceptably large drop for some providers; these are typically the small number of providers that were funded on higher than average funding per learner. To manage this in reasonable steps, any provider losing transitional protection at more than 7% per learner per year will be treated as an exception and we will consider business cases from these providers to limit the reduction to 7%.

The extra protection to take account of any excessive turbulence caused by improvements in data quality relating to success rates is in addition to this system of transitional protection and its exceptional cases. The protection for data quality applies to all providers.

**7. How much in total are you spending on disadvantaged learners?**

In 2011/12 we allocated £750m that could be identified as contributing towards ALS and Disadvantage. Our plan for 2012/13 is to allocate at least this amount and further funds for ALS. We cannot be more specific at this stage as the total will depend on how many places we fund through lagged learner numbers.

**8. Are you continuing with the additional £150 million that was invested in disadvantage funding last year?**

Yes – the funding has been consolidated into the allocation. The methodology will be the same as in 2011/12 but distribution of the funding is likely to change at provider level to reflect updated data on the characteristics of learners. To aid transparency, these funds will still be shown separately so that providers can identify the additional money.

**9. What is the impact on providers of moving from IMD 2007 to IMD 2010 for 2012/13?**

This change ensures we are using the most recent information available on disadvantaged areas, and there is relatively little impact for most providers, over 90% of providers have an impact of less than 1%. At a local authority level the distribution changes slightly but the ten local authorities that get the most money from disadvantage uplift have not changed. Providers will be able to gauge the impact on them from their learner number statement in January.

**10. Are you making any changes to SEN and LDD funding for 2012/13?**

No – we expect the arrangements for funding learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) to remain the same in 2012/13 academic



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year as they are in the 2011/12 academic year. The Department for Education (DfE) is currently considering future arrangements for provision for learners with special education needs (SEN) or LDD. We are working closely with DfE and with provider associations to consider how funding for these learners can be simplified and streamlined for 2013/14 and beyond.

### **11. How are you using the Bursary MI we provided in the allocations?**

We are using the 2011/12 in-year management information supplied by providers to make sure that the distribution of learners in the defined vulnerable groups is reflected in allocations for 2012/13. The exact methodology is currently being considered by Ministers. Providers should not assume this will be a straight uplift from 2011/12 allocations.

### **12. Will there be any capital funding for post -16 providers in 2012-13 financial year?**

Ministers have announced that over £107 million of capital funding will be available in 2012-13 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.

£59 million of this funding will be allocated to the sixth form college Building Condition Improvement Fund (BCIF) in 2012-13 to address priority building condition needs within the sixth form college sector. All sixth form colleges will remain eligible for Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) and it will remain at the same rate as 2011-12.

In addition there will be funding available to meet the need for additional places where there are demographic pressures in schools, Academies and sixth form colleges. £44 million will be available in the coming financial year for basic need funding for additional places for 16-19 year old students in these areas. This funding will also support the provision of new places in mainstream settings, including in FE colleges, for students with LDD.

The balance of the funding is the DFC for sixth form colleges, repeating the investment introduced for sixth form colleges in 2011-12.

We will be writing to providers later this month with more detailed arrangements for allocating the funds.

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