

**Welcome** to Issue 42 of our e-bulletin.

**We are now distributing this directly to all providers and Academies, including maintained schools sixth forms.**

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We expect to publish the next issue of the e-bulletin on 7 March.

If you would like us to give us feedback, or add recipients to this distribution list then please send their name, e-mail address, organisation and role to [ypla.bulletin@ypla.gov.uk](mailto: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 everyone

### Article 1 – Youth Contract procurement process

On 21 February we published information about a procurement process for support services for 16 and 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) with low attainment. These services will be additional support services to help young people to get back into sustainable education or training.

This procurement is part of the wider Youth Contract set out by the Government in November 2011 and is being done jointly with colleagues from the Department for Work and Pensions.

You can get more information from the [YPLA](#) and [Contracts Finder](#) websites.

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## Information for 16-19 providers, local authorities, school sixth forms and Academies

### Article 2 – Residential Support and Care to Learn in 2012/13

The Department for Education (DfE) has decided not to make any changes to the **Residential Bursary Fund** (RBF) and the **Residential Support Scheme** (RSS) in 2012/13 for young people aged 16-18. This means that distinct RBF and RSS schemes for young people will be retained for 2012/13, but DfE will continue to review arrangements for future years. We will make allocations to the designated RBF providers in the usual way.

Continuing learners who are aged 19 or over in 2012/13 who received RSS in 2011/12 will continue to receive RSS support if their course is continuing.

Residential support for learners who are aged 19 or over will remain the responsibility of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. New learners in September 2012 who are aged over 19 will be able to apply through their colleges for funding from the new Residential Access Fund.

This fund will be created through the merger of the (19+) Residential Support Scheme and the Discretionary (19+) Residential Bursary Fund budgets. If you have any queries about Adult Residential Support please contact the Skills Funding Agency.

There will be no changes to the **Care to Learn** childcare support scheme in 2012/13. Funding arrangements from 2013/14 are still under review by the DfE and will be the subject of a further communication. The DfE intends to publish the results of the consultation 'Changes to the Care to Learn Childcare Support Scheme' at the same time.

2012/13 application packs for both the Residential Support Scheme and Care to Learn will be available in the spring.

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## Information for all FE providers

### Article 3 - 2012 FE Data Conference – 28 March, Coventry

The *information authority*, the Data Service and the Learning Records Service will be hosting the [2012 FE Data Conference](#) on 28 March at the [Welcome Centre](#), Coventry, in partnership with the Skills Funding Agency and the YPLA.

The theme of the conference is 'Simplification and what it means for MI Managers in the FE and Skills sector'.

This theme follows the publication of the Skills Investment Statement for 2011-14 'New Challenges, New Chances' by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS),

Keynote speakers include: Sir Geoff Hall, Chair of the information authority, Geoff Daniels, Projects Director from the Young People's Learning Agency; and Keith Smith and John Bolt from the Skills Funding Agency. You can go to the [event website](#) to book your place.

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## Information for all Academies

### Article 4 - Academies funding 2012/13

During late January and early February we held 22 events across the country for open Academies on the funding for the 2012/13 academic year, which were very well attended. We covered the different funding methods known as 'replication' and 'conversion' models, LACSEG arrangements, post-16 funding and a short element on capital and financial assurance.

The slides from the events, with the addition of a slide on the timetable for making financial returns as requested by many attending Academies, are available on the [YPLA website](#). We are developing the FAQ from the events and will be putting these on the website shortly. Please note that there may be separate arrangements for sponsored Academies that open after April this year.

By way of a quick update on making allocations to individual Academies for the 2012/13 academic year, the calculation of the draft allocations is reaching the final stages. The replicated local authority models have been built, and we are adding the LACSEG and Minimum Funding Guarantee, where relevant, and as soon as they have been checked to the individual Academies on both the replication and conversion models.

All the data from the AC1s provided by Academies on the replication model have been received and we are now waiting for results of the January census from the Department for Education. Once we have that, which we expect towards the end of February, we will be sending out the draft allocations. We will be sending letters out via email as soon as an individual Academy's draft allocation has been calculated.

It will give an opportunity for Academies to have a look at their draft, with the aim to get the final allocations to Academies for the start of the financial year. We will provide a further update in the next e-bulletin in early March.

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## Information and action for all Academies

### Article 5 - New admissions codes

The revised School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code came into effect on 1 February 2012. A [statement](#) and [summary](#) of the key changes is on the Department for Education's website.

The School Admissions Code applies to arrangements determined on or before 15 April 2012 for admission in the 2013/14 school year. Academies may find it helpful to be reminded that any increases to Published Admission Numbers determined as a result of the freedoms that the new Code introduces will be funded in line with the relevant clauses of their Funding Agreement.

One of the other changes that the new Code introduces is to the route for making objections to the determined admissions arrangements of Academies. Previously these were submitted to the YPLA. From now on they should be submitted to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). The e mail address for doing this is [osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk).

This change applies only to formal objections about determined admissions arrangements. Responses to consultations about admissions arrangements will continue to be submitted to admissions authorities.

The new School Admission Appeals Code applies to appeals lodged on or after 1 February 2012. Any complaint about possible maladministration by panels considering appeals made before that date will therefore be assessed against the previous Code, which is available from the [National Archives](#) website.

Academies will want to ensure the advice they give to parents making an appeal is updated in light of the new School Admission Appeals Code. In doing so, they may also wish to check that their broader complaints procedures are compliant with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations 2010.

These require Academies to have in place procedures which are slightly different to those of maintained schools. One example of this (found in section 7 of the Regulations) is that the procedure must contain the following three stages:

1. An opportunity to resolve the complaint with the Academy on an informal basis
2. A formal complaint made in writing
3. An opportunity for unresolved complaints to be heard by a panel of governors not directly involved in the matters detailed in the complaint and including a member independent of the management and running of the school

The relevant section of the Regulations can be accessed at the [Legislation](#) website.

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## Information for all Academies

### Article 6 - Academies Capital Maintenance Fund 2012-13: opening date and scope

The Academies Capital Maintenance Fund 2012-13 will open for applications on 1 March, with a four week application window.

All Academies open on or before 1 March 2012 will be eligible to apply in this bidding round.

Academies which do so will not be eligible to apply for funding in later 2012-13 bidding round(s), which will primarily be for those Academies opening later in the year.

The priorities of the fund have been extended to cover applications from successful, popular Academies wishing to expand their existing facilities and floor space so that they can accommodate more pupils within their existing age range, in addition to those with significant and urgent needs in terms of the building condition and/or health and safety issues.

Academies will receive notification by email and in the YPLA e-bulletin on the assessment criteria that will be used to prioritise applications, and on completing the web-based application form.

Further information will also be provided on the piloting of allocations to the larger Academy chains.

Academies are requested not to submit any enquiries at this point, until they have seen the application information.

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## Information for all Academies

### Article 7 - Updated Academies Financial Monitoring and Assurance information

We have published an updated [Academies Financial Monitoring and Assurance letter](#) to the YPLA website. The letter contains information about payment arrangements and requirements for Financial Monitoring and Assurance.

A new [annual financial reporting timetable](#) has also been published which documents the returns Academies have to make to the YPLA.

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## Information and action for all Academies

### Article 8 - Local Government Pension Scheme: Technical Consultation

We would like to remind Academies that the Department for Communities and Local Government's technical consultation on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme Miscellaneous Regulations closes on the 27 February. Background information is in [E-bulletin Issue 39](#) (January 4 2012).

Regulation 42 proposes that Academies belonging to the same multi-Academy arrangement but situated in different local authority areas should fall within the LGPS fund relevant to their geographic location. We would encourage any Academy with an interest in this to take part in the consultation.

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