

Local Government Association **NEWSLETTER**

Date: April 2022

Reminder: If you've not yet joined us on the KHUB you can sign up to our apprenticeships group [here](#).

Got an urgent question on apprenticeships? Email us on our 24/7 query line on info@spark.org.uk

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the latest LGA Apprenticeships Newsletter. This month, the deadline for the Local Government Apprentice of the Year is fast approaching (we can also now announce a special guest speaker) and we can share how we'll be supporting councils over the next few months with more information on our 2022 support programme. Read on...

Apprenticeships Minister to speak at Local Government Apprentice of the Year event – but time is running out to book places!

News just in – **we've secured the attendance of Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Alex Burghart MP to speak on Day 1 of the Local Government Apprentice of the Year event on 25 May**. Apprentices taking part will have the opportunity to hear directly from him on his thoughts on apprenticeships and ask him questions.

This national event is open to all Level 2 and 3 Apprentices in local government including those who are currently apprentices as well as those that have recently qualified in the last twelve months.

Registration is open until Wednesday 4 May, so time is running out to book your apprentices' place(s). Places cost £149 per apprentice, with the charge purely to allow the organisers to recoup costs for developing, communicating and running the event on the day.

Following our Q&A session last month we've developed some FAQs on the event for anyone who wants to find out more. You can download the FAQs here:

<https://www.eelga.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/03/Frequently-Asked-Questions-from-QA-for-event-booking-page.docx>

To find out a bit more about last year's event and what some of the apprentices taking part thought of it, read more in the blog post I've written for the LGA website here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/workforce-blog/february-2022-could-you-be-2022-local>

You can register for places on the EELGA website here:

<https://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/national-local-government-apprentice-of-the-year-2022/>

LGA Apprenticeships Support Offer 2022

We're pleased to let you know some more details of how we will be supporting councils with their Apprenticeship Programmes in 2022. As in previous years, we'll have a mix of support, tools and events that we hope will help you take your programmes forward. Over the next

two weeks we'll be sending out emails with full details on each of the elements outlined below, but we wanted to share our plans with you ahead of time so you know what to expect.

Webinars

As usual, we plan to have a full programme of webinars throughout the year. We've already delivered two this month – deep-dives into Social Care and Social Work apprenticeship programmes (see below for links to listen back to the webinars if you missed them) and plan to deliver at least another five webinars over the summer, covering topics like end-point assessment, low volume but high impact apprenticeships, schools and the updated funding rules. Look out for another email next week with more information about how you can book your place on each of these webinars.

Online National Events

Building on the success of our webinars, we will now be holding online national apprenticeship events for councils to join. Starting on an initial trial basis, we plan to host events in early June and September to bring together councils from all over the country to hear updates and share best practice. The events will last around 2.5 hours and will include updates from the LGA and guest speakers (ESFA are due to attend the first one in June), updates on the progress of relevant apprenticeship standards and the opportunity for discussion with other councils. Attendees will be split into groups for the second half of each session to explore ideas, tackle hot topics and provide feedback and views to the LGA on key issues and policy. Our first event will be on 8 June 1.30pm – 4pm and more information on our plans for this event and how to book your place will be emailed round early next week.

Practical Tools

We've always tried to develop useful tools, documents and templates for you to use in your programmes and this year will be no different. But rather than the ad-hoc release schedule that we have maintained the last few years, we will be releasing at least one new tool per month throughout the summer. Starting in May, with the publication of two short pathway guides and Apprenticeship A-Zs for Social Care and Social Work apprenticeships (as plugged in our recent webinars), we will be releasing new tools each month through to August. All tools will be available on the KHUB, and we'll let you know when they are available via each month's newsletter.

Below is the full release schedule of tools showing you what we'll be producing and when you'll get access to them.

Tools, Pathways & A-Z	Issue Date
1. Social Care Pathway 2. Social Care A-Z 3. Social Worker Pathway 4. Social Worker A-Z	w/c Monday 2 May in our May Newsletter
5. Accounting & Finance Pathway 6. Accounting & Finance A-Z 7. Digital & ICT Pathway 8. Digital & ICT A-Z	w/c Monday 31 May in our June Newsletter
9. EPA guide for managers	22 June alongside our EPA webinar
10. Schools Guide to Return on Investment	w/c Monday 4 July in our July Newsletter

11. Legal Pathway 12. Legal A -Z	
13. Regulatory Services Pathway 14. Regulatory Services A-Z	w/c 1 August in our August Newsletter

Apprenticeship MOTs

The Apprenticeship MOT has become a popular part of our support offer since we launched the process in 2019. The process – a mini-review of a council’s apprenticeship programme – assesses council progress against the Apprenticeship Maturity Model, helps a council take stock of their programmes and offers advice and recommendations on where to focus effort to help the council improve. To date, 35 councils have gone through the process with us and they have proved to be a very popular part of our offer. We have another eight slots available to support councils this summer. In addition to the time we invest in developing the report for each participating council, we will also be providing an extra two days of consultancy support to assist each council that undergoes an MOT with elements highlighted in the MOT that it would like help with. All support is provided for free to councils as part of this programme. More information on available dates and how to apply for an MOT will be emailed to councils early next week.

End Point Assessment

The LGA has been working closely with South West Councils over the past few years to support the regional employer in setting itself up as an End Point Assessment Organisation. We were keen to ensure there was an EPAO that could deliver on key standards for the sector and respond to councils’ needs. South West Councils has steadily built itself up, delivering End Point Assessment services for nine standards and are awaiting Ofqual Approval to deliver seven more. They are now the only EPAO for Revenues & Welfare Benefits Practitioner apprenticeship.

More than 30 councils across all nine English regions use their services already, and we want to bring their offer to a wider audience. Look out for more information from us soon, and a new page on the LGA website, showcasing South West Council’s offer and how they can help you.

Surgeries

Following the success of these sessions last year, we will continue to offer slots to meet with the LGA’s Apprenticeships Adviser, Jamie Saddler, for any council that wants to have a more in depth one-to-one discussion on any aspect of apprenticeships. Dates and timeslots for surgeries through to the end of July are below. If you want to book a slot, email Jamie directly on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk outlining your preferred date and time, as well as a little bit about what you want to discuss.

Date	Slots Available					
09-May	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
26-May	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
06-Jun	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
16-Jun	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
30-Jun	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
14-Jul	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
28-Jul	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm

11-Aug	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
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Level 4 Apprenticeship Standard on Data Protection and Information Governance

Many of you may have seen that there is a new Level 4 standard in development on Data Protection and Information Governance (it was in our last mapping newsletter and added to February's mapping tool). It's an apprenticeship that could have scope within councils. It should be ready in the not-too-distant future, so we thought it was worth sharing some information we have had from Jonathan Bourne MD of Damar Training. They are in the 'build phase' of their offer for this apprenticeship (with first enrolments expected in September), you can see high level info on their website:

<https://damartraining.com/employers/industries/data-protection-and-information-governance-apprenticeships/>.

One of the things they are doing as part of the design phase is to bring together a small employer reference group, to ensure that they fully understand and meet employer requirements – it would be great if a couple of LAs were involved in this to add your perspective.

Should you be interested contact Jonathan direct on Jonathan.Bourne@damartraining.com.

Miss any of our recent webinars? Listen back to the sessions at the links below

Implementing Apprenticeships with Impact – Social Care

[Watch the Webinar](#)

Implementing Apprenticeships with Impact – Social Workers

[Watch the Webinar](#)

T Levels and Local Government – A Short Survey

The LGA has put together a short survey which aims to find out the extent of your council's knowledge of T Levels, track the progress of councils on their T Level journey and understand if your workplace is looking to implement placements in the future. This information will help us to tailor our support offer for councils.

Please fill out the short survey below. If you have any questions, email lgatlevels@local.gov.uk.

[Complete the survey here](#)

IFATE Apprentice Panel Recruitment

Recruitment to join the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education apprentice panel has now opened.

The main purpose of the apprentice panel is to ensure the views of apprentices are represented across the work and governance of the Institute. The panel decides which issues to focus on, and panel representatives attend Institute board meetings to advise and challenge on those issues. They also meet regularly with ministers and other government officials to ensure the apprentice experience is front and centre of new policy thinking.

To apply, apprentices need to [complete the expression of interest form and upload a copy of their CV](#). Closing date for applications is midnight on 16 May 2022.

Your suggestions/ideas

If you have any suggestions for what you'd like to see in future newsletters, have items you want to add yourselves, want to sign a colleague up to our mailing list or want to **unsubscribe** yourself from the mailing list, please contact jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk

Best wishes

Jamie and Nigel

Jamie Saddler

Senior Adviser (Workforce) | Apprenticeships Adviser
Local Government Association

t: 07780 226 832 | e: jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk