

Local Government Association

# NEWSLETTER

Date: February 2021

**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](mailto:info@spark.org.uk)**

Hi everyone,

Happy National Apprenticeship Week!

As usual there's a lot going on in the world of apprenticeships this month, and plenty going on at the LGA too that we want to tell you about. This newsletter will be the first of three communications we'll be sending out over the course of the week with updates on a whole range of things, including the launch of the Apprenticeship Challenge and a series of case studies from councils, so stay tuned.

If there's anything you want to see in a future newsletter, don't hesitate to email Jamie on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk).

## **LGA Resources Board Chair Writes: Apprentices have played a key role in local government's response to the pandemic**

We kick-off this newsletter with a piece published in this month's LGA First magazine from Cllr Richard Watts, Leader of the London Borough of Islington and Chair of the LGA's Resources Board marking National Apprenticeship Week. In the piece, Cllr Watts praises councils and their apprentices for the role they have played in the pandemic and talks about how local authorities are forging forward to support more apprenticeships, despite the challenges the pandemic is throwing at us. You can read the piece on the First website here: <https://www.lgafirst.co.uk/features/skills-for-the-future/>

## **LGA Tools and Templates**

Our webinar programme has been a key part of our support offer for the sector from day one. Over the years, a whole host of tools and templates have been developed alongside these webinars, either created by us from scratch or highlighting good practice from around the sector.

As part of our activities for National Apprenticeship Week, we're bringing all this material together for the first time into one section of the KHUB. There's five different sub-folders – each one covering a different strand of the [Maturity Model](#), and a whole host of useful documents, including:

- Our guide to measuring Return on Investment
- A provider review document template
- A workforce data analysis guide and template

- Lancashire County Council's Financial Monitoring Tool
- Our schools toolkit (also available on the main LGA website [here](#))
- Our Levy Transfer Policy Document Template

There is also a spreadsheet listing which sub-folder each file is in in the folder marked "09. LGA Guides, Templates and Toolkits".

You can find all of these tools and more in [here](#) on the KHUB (you need to be logged-in to our KHUB group for this to work).

If the link doesn't work, follow these steps to find the folder:

LGA Apprenticeships Group > Library > 09. LGA Guides, Templates and Toolkits

### **Apprenticeships Mapping Tool Updated**

The latest update to our Apprenticeships Mapping Tool is now live on the KHUB, complete with the latest apprenticeship standards, guide to how to use it, and for the first time, the "Mapping Tool Newsletter", which will bring you right up to date on what updates have been made to the tool, what the key standards are for the sector that have been approved since the last update, and spotlights on key updates from IfATE, including the Digital Route Review and Degree Apprenticeship Policy Review.

You can find all the documents related to the Mapping Tool in [this folder](#) in the KHUB.

If this link doesn't work, follow these steps to find the folder:

LGA Apprenticeships Group > Library > 01. LGA Support Offer, Mapping Tool and Webinars > Apprenticeships Mapping Tool

### **REMINDER: Maintaining Momentum Webinar Wednesday 10 Feb 2pm – 3.30pm**

A final reminder that our next webinar will be taking place on Wednesday. With the theme 'Maintaining Momentum', this webinar will focus on moving towards COVID recovery, learning from emerging successes already in place, and promoting available government incentives and LGA tools and resources. We'll be joined by representatives from Kirklees, Somerset and Wiltshire councils, as well as the ESFA to highlight case studies and good practice.

[You can register for the webinar here](#)

You can also sign up for the rest of our webinar programme below. We've announced another four webinars so far, with more to come as we enter Spring/Summer.

#### ***ESFA Apprenticeship Update and Q&A Wednesday 3 March 2021 2pm – 3.30pm***

Join us for our latest joint session with colleagues from the ESFA offering an overview of the latest apprenticeship programme changes and policy, plus a full Q&A.

[Register here](#)

#### ***Reaching Local People – Supporting the Hard to Reach Wednesday 17 March 2021 2pm – 3.30pm***

This webinar will look at how to make a successful impact through the Apprenticeship Bursary for Care Leavers and other individual-focused incentives and programmes.

[Register here](#)

***Reaching Local Employers: Making the Best Use of Levy Transfers***  
***Wednesday 31 March 2pm – 3.30pm***

This webinar will look at successful apprenticeship impact through the Apprenticeship Levy Transfer process. Hear from the LGA on what makes a good transfer policy and how our support work can help you with yours; Hear from councils that have put Levy Transfer into practice successfully and their plans to develop this activity further to support Covid recovery; and hear from the government on the improvements being made to levy transfer, including the development of the national levy matchmaking service, due to launch in August.

[Register here](#)

***Rebuilding the Workforce Plan***  
***Wednesday 14 April 2021 2pm – 3.30pm***

This webinar will help you consider the impact of Covid on skills gaps, shortages and wider workforce development priorities as well as cover the latest thinking and activity to help you rebuild a coherent programme for current staff and new recruits.

[Register here](#)

## **Action Learning Programme 2021**

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our Action Learning Programme. All 50 places were taken up by the deadline, which is fantastic news and represents a 25% increase in participation from last year's programme.

As we didn't have an even spread of topic areas selected by our participants, we are in the process of trying to reallocate the groups to make sure that everyone is able to do their first choice topic. We will contact all successful applicants either today or tomorrow with full details of the first meeting and subsequent proposed meeting dates.

I do have a couple of people on our waiting list in case anyone drops out. If you are interested in being added to the waiting list, please email me directly to let me know on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk), though please note we cannot guarantee that places will become available, or if they do, that enough places will be available to allow everyone on the waiting list to take part.

## **LGA Apprenticeship Surgeries**

Thank you to all of the councils that have taken advantage of our Apprenticeship Surgeries so far, we've had some useful conversations which I hope are helping move you forward.

The surgeries are a new element of our support package for 2021 are online which we'll be running a couple of times a month. If you've got any issues you want to raise, want advice on a particular topic or want to highlight an issue you'd like the LGA to raise with government on your behalf, you can now book a half-hour slot with our Apprenticeships Adviser Jamie Saddler to discuss anything and everything apprenticeships.

Some timeslots have been booked out already, but there are still some more slots if any of you would like to book some time to have a conversation. The available times for February and March, including for this coming Friday, are listed in the below table:

Date	Slots Available					
12-Feb	Booked	10.30am - 11am	Booked	11.30am - 12pm	12pm - 12.30pm	12.30pm - 1pm
23-Feb	10am - 10.30am	Booked	11am - 11.30am	11.30am - 12pm	12pm - 12.30pm	12.30pm - 1pm
10-Mar	Booked	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
29-Mar	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm	4pm - 4.30pm	

If you want to book a slot, please email Jamie on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk) letting him know which your preference(s) are and a very brief outline of anything you think he will need to know before the meeting.

### **UPDATE: Follow-up from LGA/South West Councils Roundtable on Becoming an EPA Assessor**

Thanks to everyone who took part in this roundtable. We had around 40 councils attend for at least some of the meeting and had a useful discussion. The slide pack from the meeting is attached to this email. The final two slides contain next steps and the contact details for Fay Edwards and Ed Keirle at South West Councils (SWC) for anyone who is interested in taking forward discussions about using us as an EPAO or becoming an EPA assessor.

The list of Standards on slide 8 details those SWC are currently approved for. They are particularly interested in assessors for the Revs & Bens standard (because they have a large number of registered apprentices on this standard) and possibly the Regulatory Compliance Officer one (they have a smaller pool of assessors for this one, although they don't yet have any registered apprentices).

SWC are also interested to hear from those who may wish to assess the 21 potential new approvals. This is because when they submit the approval request, they must demonstrate expertise and links with the occupational sector, particularly around how they will access assessors. So, having potential assessors to work with will help them to put together a robust approval request.

Going forward, SWC will be working up an Assessor's case study and we will explore other options including a video version.

### **INLOGOV: Update on Leadership and Management Provision**

The Institute for Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) at the University of Birmingham is delighted to continue its Executive Apprenticeship in Public Management and Leadership for the new academic year beginning autumn 2021.

The programme is designed to strengthen the management and leadership skills of those working at senior levels in the public sector and can be paid for through the apprenticeship levy. The programme provides a way for public sector organisations to upskill and develop their workforce, while at the same time benefiting from the bespoke research enabled through the programme's design. The programme is delivered through our innovative blend of online and campus-based teaching, offering participants a tailored learning experience and the opportunity to study in the UK's leading academic centre for local governance and public management.

We will be hosting webinars throughout the year to outline the programme's key features, and these sessions can be tailored to your needs. Please contact Kulvinder Buray ([degreeapps@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:degreeapps@contacts.bham.ac.uk)) for further information.

## Government Updates for NAW

No doubt most of you are signed up to receive the updates government sends out on apprenticeships and National Apprenticeship Week in particular, but in case you've missed anything, the government has created a suite of social media assets, guides and templates, including a National Graduation Toolkit. You can find all these documents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/using-the-apprenticeship-brand>

## University of Kent: Professional Economist L6 Apprenticeship Offer

The University of Kent run a popular Professional Economist Apprenticeship Programme, which has been used by employers to attract a diverse group of applicants and can promote the rapid acquisition of high-level analytical skills by apprentices. They are currently the sole supplier of this apprenticeship. Central government departments, the Bank of England, local government and commercial consultancy firms are among the employers signed up to the programme.

As part of NAW, they are hosting a drop-in information event on Tuesday 9 February 11am – 12pm designed to introduce new employers to this Apprenticeship. If developing your own economists is something your council is interested in finding out more about, you can book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/professional-economist-degree-apprenticeship-drop-in-session-naw2021-tickets-138943665243>

## Apprenticeships in the News

### New Online Apprenticeship Hub Launches

*Andy Walker, Infrastructure Intelligence Monday 8 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### Launch of the Association of Apprentices

*FE News, Monday 8 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### Apprentices are excellent value for money

*Cllr Erica Williams, Gloucestershire Gazette, Saturday 6 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### Skills Brokers help employers access £1m in training funds

*Liverpool Business Network, Friday 5 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### Revealed: ESFA investigation into fastest growing apprenticeship provider

*Billy Camden, FE Week, Thursday 4 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### Workplace trainers say government is keeping apprentices from full-time work

*Jonathan Moules, Financial Times, Monday 25 January 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### Employers should pay for laptops so apprentices can be remote educated, says Keegan

*Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Monday 11 Jan 2021*

[Read more here](#)

## Previous Newsletters

Missed one of our [previous newsletters](#)? They are now archived on the KHUB. You can find copies at the links below:

## 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 [Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk)

Best wishes

Jamie, Sadique and Nigel

### **Jamie Saddler**

Apprenticeships Adviser  
Local Government Association

t: 07780 226 832 | e: [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk)