

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

Hi everyone,

Hope National Apprenticeship Week is going well in your council. This is the second instalment of our three-part newsletter this week (though you'll be pleased to know it's a tad shorter than Monday's!).

This newsletter primarily covers the launch of the Local Government Apprentice of the Year Awards 2021 (a national version of the regional Apprenticeship Challenges that have been taking place around the country over the last few years) and a few other smaller updates. Part 3 of our newsletter on Friday will focus on council experiences and case studies that we'll be sharing through the KHUB.

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

February's Workforce Blog: Apprenticeships are increasingly vital to local government... and the LGA can help you improve your offer

We start today's update by drawing your attention to the latest workforce blog, written by yours truly for National Apprenticeship Week. The workforce team have been posting monthly updates to the blog since March and they are a useful way to get information out there and hear different perspective on some of the workforce challenges we all face.

My blog post this month is all about apprenticeships – our success as a sector so far, how councils can live up to the theme of NAW 21 'Build the Future' and how the LGA can help you with that.

You can read the blog here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/workforce-blog/february-2021-apprenticeships-are-increasingly>

And while you're there, you might want to check out some of the other blogs we've had up in recent months, looking at other workforce topics, including the NGDP, Surrey Heath Borough Council's virtual internships and building on the employee experience of lockdown. You can find all the blog posts here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/workforce-blog>

Local Government Apprentice of the Year Awards 2021

The LGA is delighted to confirm that we are supporting East of England LGA and South West Councils to develop and hold the Local Government Apprentice of the Year Awards 2021.

Based on the format of previous regional Apprenticeship Challenges, this national one-day event is an exciting event that will provide the opportunity for apprentices to learn, network and showcase their skills, expertise and initiative during a one-day event. Over the course of the day, apprentices will work in virtual teams to experience the opportunities, risks and challenges involved in delivering successful local government services, in a developmental environment.

- Are you an apprentice looking to push yourself and to test your skills and capability?
- Are you interested in challenging and developing yourself alongside others in the same position?
- Would you like to stand out and be recognised nationally amongst your peers?
- Then this is the event for you!

Unlike similar events that have run previously, this is a national event, open to apprentices working in local government in any of the nine English regions. EELGA and South West Councils have been working hard to pull this event together on behalf of the sector and we are pleased to be able to support them in doing so.

We would strongly welcome the engagement and support of employers and managers of apprentices to encourage them to sign up for the event. The activities participants will undertake during this event focuses on some of the core principles around the 21st century public servant key model.

It is an opportunity to “Build the Future”, helping individuals develop the skills and knowledge to build a successful and rewarding career and local government employers to build a workforce with future ready skills.

Each team will take part in a variety of activities aimed to develop successful workplace behaviours, linked to a range of apprenticeship Standards.

After the event, participants will receive an individual report with their scores for each activity and an Employer Checklist with suggested questions for line managers to use with their apprentices to help shape a discussion to link the challenge activities to their workplace role and to the Knowledge Skills and Behaviours covered in their apprenticeship standard.
Audience: This national event is open to all level 2 and level 3 apprentices in local government in England (current apprentices or recently qualified within last 12 months).

Places cost £149 per apprentice and can be booked here:

<https://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/local-government-apprentice-of-the-year-awards-2021/>

If you have any queries about the event, please contact Jayne Cole, Events Coordinator, East of England LGA on Jayne.cole@eelga.gov.uk.

If you or an organisation you work with would be interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Emma Grant, EELGA on emma.grant@eelga.gov.uk.

Action Learning Programme 2021

For everyone who has signed up to the Action Learning Programme, thank you for bearing with us while we sorted out the groups. We appreciate your patience while we've done this and the flexibility you've shown if you've been asked to switch days. The emails confirming arrangements for your groups will now be sent out tomorrow.

REMINDER: Forthcoming Webinars

Thanks to everyone who took part in today's webinar. I will circulate the recording and the slides in the update on Friday. In the meantime, there's still time to register for our forthcoming webinars at the links below.

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](#)

REMINDER: LGA Apprenticeship Surgeries

There's also still slots available this week and in the next few weeks if you want to book a surgery slot. The available times are shown in the table below.

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	Booked	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 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.

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

Best wishes

Jamie, Sadique and Nigel

Jamie Saddler

Apprenticeships Adviser
Local Government Association

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