

Local Government Association NEWSLETTER

Date: February 2022

National Apprenticeship Week

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,

Happy National Apprenticeship Week! We hope that you're having a positive week of action, celebration and awareness raising of the great job our apprentices do across all our councils. A big thank you too from the LGA to all the hardworking apprenticeships leads out there across local government. That our sector has created so many good quality apprenticeship opportunities over the last five years is a testament to your hard work and perseverance.

In this month's newsletter we have the usual mix of updates and information, but we start with the big news from us this week – the launch of the 2022 Local Government Apprentice of the Year event!

Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022: Registration Launched Today!

East of England LGA, South West Councils and the Local Government Association are proud to launch the 2022 Local Government Apprentice of the Year during National Apprenticeship Week.

Building on the success of last year, this year we hope to deliver an even bigger and better event. Taking place virtually on 25 and 26 May 2022, this exciting event will once again provide the opportunity for apprentices to learn, network and showcase their skills, expertise, and initiative. Apprentices will work in virtual teams to experience the opportunities, risks and challenges involved in delivering successful local government services in a developmental environment. Day 1 will cover the main activities and assessment with a short ceremony on Day 2 to hear from our guest speaker and present the awards to the winner, runners up and winning team.

This is a national event 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 12 months.

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.

We cannot wait to see who will be crowned the Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022. Could our winner be you?

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/>

Not sure if it's for you? If you want to find out more about this event, we are holding a **Q&A session on 9 March**, so come along with no obligation, to find out more and ask any questions you might have before signing up... apprentices, line managers, HR/L&D colleagues - all welcome to come and find out more! To register to attend, please follow this link: <https://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/find-out-more-local-government-apprentice-of-the-year-2022/>

Apprenticeship Incentives: Don't Miss Out on Claiming Your Payments!

Employers still have until 15 May 2022 to claim the £3,000 Apprenticeship Incentive payments before they disappear. To be eligible, any apprentices you want to claim for must be new starters to your council, have started working for you between 1 October and 31 January 2022 and have begun their apprenticeship before 31 March 2022. More information on how to apply is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/incentive-payments-for-hiring-a-new-apprentice>.

...But there are some gremlins in the system

Just a quick word of warning that some councils are experiencing a few difficulties in claiming incentive payments. Firstly, owing to the ongoing issues surrounding Pooled PAYE, councils have told us that when they or a maintained school have taken on an apprentice who was previously working for one of their non-maintained schools that is on their Pooled PAYE, they have been prevented from claiming the incentive payment. This is due to the previous employer sharing the same PAYE number as the new employer (maintained school or council) by virtue of being on the same pooled scheme. This means the government's system can't distinguish between the two and considers the apprentice to be working for the same employer. There is currently no way round this that we are aware of though we are raising it with government.

The second issue reported to us is that incentive payments are being declined in some instances due to errors inputted into the ILR. So, if you claim for an incentive payment and are declined, it is worth speaking to your provider to check the ILR information has been submitted correctly. If it hasn't you will need your provider to update this information in order to claim your incentive payment.

New Offer: Comparative Data Briefings

Those of you that have gone through the Apprenticeships MOT process will know that one part of the report we provide looks at what comparative data is available on apprenticeships and highlights how the council we are reporting on does in comparison to others.

This has expanded over the years to a two-page briefing that looks at the council's performance against the public sector target over the last four years, comparing how the council did with national and regional performances in the sector as well as with the public sector average. We also use data from the LGA's apprenticeships surveys to illustrate how a council is doing on levy spend, clawback, and levy transfers in comparison to the wider local government sector.

While this data will remain part of the MOT offer (more on that in April's newsletter) we are also happy to provide these briefings on request to any council that wants one. If this is something you would be interested in and want to discuss further, please email me at jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk.

LGA Apprenticeship Surgeries

Below are a new round of surgery dates if you want to have a conversation with Apprenticeships Adviser Jamie Saddler about anything and everything apprenticeships. Half hour slots are available at the following times on the following dates throughout February and March.

Date	Slots Available					
24-Feb	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
10-Mar	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
24-Mar	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm

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.

INLOGOV Senior Leader Degree Apprenticeship Programme

Our colleagues at INLOGOV at the University of Birmingham will be hosting a lunchtime webinar on 3 March 2022 to provide an overview of their Senior Leader Apprenticeship. This programme is designed specifically for aspiring public service leaders and draws on over five decades of supporting and advancing public service within a research intensive university. The session will include a 20 minute overview and learning from current and past cohorts followed by a 20 minute overview and learning from current and past cohorts followed by a 20 minute Q&A with Academic Programme Director Dr Stephen Jeffares.

You can book your place on the webinar by following this link:

https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/6316440021194/WN_SJvks70eRzig6ucW2jrmPQ

INLOGOV are also hosting a series of blog posts during National Apprenticeship Week on their website. The first two blog posts – an intro from Dr Stephen Jeffares and an overview of the Senior Leader programme can be found at the following links:

<https://inlogov.com/2022/02/07/what-have-apprenticeships-ever-done-for-us/>
<https://inlogov.com/2022/02/08/inlogovs-senior-leader-apprenticeship-101-2/>

Throughout the rest of the week there will also be posts providing an overview of the structure and expectations of the programme and accounts from some recent apprentices

discussing their motivations, experiences and tips for anyone considering applying. You will be able to find them on INLOGOV's homepage here: <https://inlogov.com/>

Arts Therapist Degree Apprenticeship – National Demand Scoping

The Level 7 Arts Therapist Degree Apprenticeship Standard was approved for delivery in 2019, but to date no Higher Education Institutions (NEIs) are offering the apprenticeship. Health Education England (HEE) have convened an Arts Therapist apprenticeship task and finish group to work with employers and HEIs to generate apprenticeship starts across England.

To understand employer demand and ensure confidence in the HEI market for this apprenticeship they are inviting interested employers to take part in a demand scoping survey. The survey takes roughly 4 minutes to complete and will close on 1 March 2022.

You can complete the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/8984ZcLcLK>
More information on the apprenticeship standard itself is available here: <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/standards/#standard-358>

If any councils are interested in joining the Task and Finish Group that HEE has set up, please contact Sophie Mawson (Sophie.mawson@hee.nhs.uk).

Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2022

Government has announced that the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers will be returning for 2022 and entries open early February.

The Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers celebrates England's outstanding apprenticeship employers and helps future apprentices, parents and careers advisers to identify apprenticeship opportunities at the country's leading employers.

And new for 2022, England's top small and medium-sized enterprises will be featured for the first time in the Top 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers.

If you or any of the employers you work with are interested in applying, you can find out more here: <https://topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/>. Entries open soon!

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