

Local Government Association

## NEWSLETTER

Date: July 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,

Welcome to the latest LGA Apprenticeships Newsletter. This month, we've got some save the dates for our next set of webinars, an update on INLOGOV's Senior Leader Programme, a call out for more end point assessors from South West Councils and more updates and support for the sector. But first, let's start with a reminder and a correction on our annual apprenticeships survey.

### REMINDER: 2021 LGA Apprenticeships Survey

Last week, we launched the LGA's 2021 Apprenticeships Survey. The survey is now in its fourth year and is hugely valuable in providing us with key information on how the sector is progressing on apprenticeships, highlighting key challenges, providing us with evidence when lobbying government and with information we can use to help councils benchmark their performance and identify areas we need to provide support.

Most of the questions are multiple choice and the survey should take around 25 minutes to complete, though some prior information will be needed to fill it in. There are two main ways of completing the survey. Our preferred option is for councils to respond via Survey Monkey, which you can do so here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z33QQ8B> [n.b. if clicking on the link doesn't work, just copy and paste the text of the link into your browser].

If your council's IT system blocks Survey Monkey, you can complete a Word version of the survey, which is attached to this email. You can then send this back to me directly at [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk) and I can input the data for you into our system. **If you want to respond in this way, please use the survey attached to this email and NOT the version circulated when we launched the survey last week.** The version circulated last week contained a draft version of Question 6 that asks you for more information on your levy spend than we are looking for. The correct question was used in the Survey Monkey version of the survey and has now been amended in the attached version too.

The survey is open until **5pm on Wednesday 28 July**. I will then be running a webinar for the sector to go through the results and trends on **Wednesday 4 August**.

### Pooled PAYE

Last month I emailed everyone to let them know of a potential breakthrough on the Pooled PAYE issue. The breakthrough was that HMRC would allow schools to create separate PAYE accounts for their schools affected by the issue without having to withdraw from the Pooled PAYE system, but schools would need to place all of their apprentices on these new accounts, essentially leading to two separate payrolls being run for apprentices and non-apprentice staff. From the feedback I've had so far, it is not looking like this is the

breakthrough we had initially hoped for and this would still be challenging to implement for councils and schools with cost and capacity impacts.

I am still in discussions with ESFA around this issue and continuing to look for a solution. I've proposed a couple of alternatives and I am also trying to see if we can get a roundtable together for all councils affected by this issue with ESFA so we can talk through some of the challenges and how we can tackle them. As soon as I have any more news, I will let you all know. In the meantime, please do keep your feedback coming in, and if any of you have been able to make any of the options work (separate PAYE accounts, using Apprenticeship Training Agencies, employing the apprentices yourselves and seconding them to the school) please do let me know that too (email [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk) on anything to do with Pooled PAYE).

## **Webinars**

We are pleased to announce the dates and times for our next three webinars before the summer. Please save the dates in your diaries if you are interested in attending – links to allow you to sign up to the webinars will be circulated in the next few days.

### **Traineeships**

*Wednesday 21 July 3pm – 4pm*

We'll be joined by Steve Latus, Head of Traineeships at the Education and Skills Funding Agency to discuss the Government's latest changes to Traineeships, funding opportunities and how we can work together to make Traineeships a more attractive opportunity for our sector and your council.

### **Apprenticeships in Schools – Updated Toolkit Launch**

*Wednesday 28 July 2pm – 3.30pm*

Join us as we launch our updated Apprenticeships in Schools toolkit, to help your council and your schools get more out of apprenticeships. We'll run through what's new, provide an overview of the tools, highlight best practice and be joined by some councils to talk about their experiences of working successfully to create apprenticeships in schools using similar methods.

### **LGA Apprenticeships Survey 2021**

*Wednesday 4 August 2pm – 3.30pm*

Join LGA Apprenticeships Adviser Jamie Saddler as he shares the results from the LGA's Annual Apprenticeships Survey, highlighting performance, successes, challenges and trends across the sector.

## **Apprenticeships Mapping Tool Updated**

The latest update to our Apprenticeships Mapping Tool is now live on the KHUB, complete with the latest apprenticeship standards and guide to how to use it. 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

## **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. Surgeries have proved quite popular so far, so we'll be continuing to offer them throughout the rest of the year. Half hour slots are available at the following times on the following dates throughout July.

Date	Slots Available					
<b>12-July</b>	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
<b>22-July</b>	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
<b>29-July</b>	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](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.

### **South West Councils EPA Offer: Call out for more End Point Assessors**

As many of you know, South West Councils, supported by the LGA, has set itself up as an End Point Assessment Organisation and is delivering EPAs for around 40 local authorities across all nine English Regions. South West Councils is now looking to expand their team of End-Point Assessors for the Revenues & Welfare Benefits Practitioner standard. Ideally, you will be a qualified and experienced assessor, holding an appropriate assessment qualification (such as A1 or equivalent) and you will have a minimum of 3 years' experience working in Revenues and Benefits in a training or supervisory role. They will provide full training and support on the assessment methods and use of their EPA portal and, for those without an assessment qualification, they can offer you the opportunity to gain one through them (Level 3 Undertaking End-Point Assessment).

South West Councils are a local government organisation, with an established role in the delivery of training and assessment. This is a growing area and is ideal for someone wishing to support future entrants into this occupational area. It is a flexible role, ideal for fitting around an existing job and is a great opportunity for your own professional development. It can be undertaken on a freelance basis or as an income generating opportunity for your service area. The assessments are undertaken remotely so access to reliable IT equipment and an undisturbed location is required.

For an informal discussion contact [Fay.Edwards@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Fay.Edwards@swcouncils.gov.uk), [Ed.Keirle@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Ed.Keirle@swcouncils.gov.uk) or [Sarah.Papper@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Papper@swcouncils.gov.uk)

### **INLOGOV's *Public Management and Leadership* Degree Apprenticeship (Senior Leader)**

INLOGOV at the University of Birmingham has confirmed arrangements for delivering the popular Degree Apprenticeship in [\*Public Management and Leadership\*](#) this coming academic year. The programme runs over 2.5 years and was developed in collaboration with the local government sector (SOLACE, etc). Currently over 180 managers from councils across the country are enrolled on the programme, creating a great network for students and alumni.

As you may know, the Senior Leader apprenticeship standard was revised earlier this year. INLOGOV has now aligned their programme to the new standard. In addition, after completion of the taught modules, they will be offering dissertation supervision at no extra

cost – students successfully completing the dissertation will be awarded an MSc. The programme costs are funded through the employer apprenticeship levy.

They've updated their webinar with the latest details here: [https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/rec/share/YhrjUdqEws\\_ZfFRKWezDTdzYj9EiYwXpsFa5tm9zlU-izqjbwVtJDyhhqromKb8q.ak2f3u2ZR5Ala-2e](https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/rec/share/YhrjUdqEws_ZfFRKWezDTdzYj9EiYwXpsFa5tm9zlU-izqjbwVtJDyhhqromKb8q.ak2f3u2ZR5Ala-2e) (Access Passcode: g#F9jU5G).

For queries, please contact [S.R.Jeffares@bham.ac.uk](mailto:S.R.Jeffares@bham.ac.uk) and [degreeapps@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:degreeapps@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## **Skills for Care: Apprenticeships – Adult Care Providers Webinars**

For many adult care providers, this summer offers a time for reflection, but also a time to consider the future and plan their workforce of the future. Skills for Care, in partnership with the Department for Education and non-levy paying social care providers want to re-introduce you to apprenticeships. In this webinar, Skills for Care will remind you of how apprenticeships work, update on the funding mechanisms and financial incentives available and show you 'apprenticeships in action'.

**The webinar will be run via Zoom on 8 July 9.30am – 10.30am.**

You can book your place here:

<https://events.skillsforcare.org.uk/skillsforcare/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=368017&eventID=1189>

## **National Apprenticeship Awards 2021**

The National Apprenticeship Awards are now open for entries. Back for their 18<sup>th</sup> year, the Awards are a fantastic opportunity to showcase the apprentices, employers and champions who have gone above and beyond, in spite of the challenges faced during the last year.

It is free to enter the awards and entries can be made until **28 July 2021** through the application website here: <https://appawards.co.uk/>

Webinars to explain the awards process in more detail, including hints and tips on completing your application are also available on the website. Regional ceremonies will take place in **October 2021**, with the national ceremony taking place on **Wednesday 1st December**. All regional winners will be recognised via virtual ceremonies, and national finalists will be invited to a ceremony in London.

## **LGA Action Learning Programme: Feedback Surveys**

The second iteration of our successful action learning programme is coming to an end over the next couple of weeks. Early signs are that attendees have found it a useful and productive experience in helping them share best practice and problem-solve, but we want to get some more detailed feedback from participants. Feedback surveys will go out shortly to everyone who signed up for one of the groups, so if you took part, please keep an eye out for an email from Rebecca Rhodes or your session facilitator in your inbox over the coming days and share with us your views on how it went and how we could improve any future iterations.

## **Apprenticeships for the school workforce**

On 7 June 2021, Government published an updated version of their Guide to Apprenticeships for the School Workforce. The guide had been refreshed with new content, more case studies and is up to date with all relevant policy changes.

You can find the guide here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-apprenticeships-for-the-school-workforce>

## **Education Training Foundation Mentoring Framework**

As highlighted on the KHUB by Tammie Harwin from Spark last week, the Education Training Foundation (ETF) has published a Mentoring Framework that councils might find relevant if implementing a mentoring structure with their apprentices and other learners.

There is a framework guide and a guide for managers, mentors and mentees, including self-evaluations. The ETF also have CPD courses on the subject. All the documents can be accessed here: <https://www.et-foundation.co.uk/supporting/professional-development/mentoring/framework-and-guides/>

## **Quality Alliance Guidance to Support Apprentices Back into Work and Training Post-COVID**

The Quality Alliance has published new guidance to support apprentices back into work and training after COVID-19 enforced breaks. The Alliance is overseen by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and brings together a wide variety of prominent partner organisations involved with the quality of apprenticeships.

They include: the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Department for Education, Ofsted, Ofqual, Office for Students, Quality Assurance Agency, Universities UK, WorldSkills UK, Association of Colleges, Association of Employment and Learning Providers, and Federation of Awarding Bodies.

Their new guidance is geared at training providers, employers, and apprentices and includes a helpful checklist. The idea is for returning apprentices to get all the support they need in the coming weeks and months.

The guidance is available here: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/covid-19/recent-announcements/apprentices-returning-to-work-and-training/>

You can read more about the guidance on IFATE's website here:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/quality-alliance-guidance-will-support-returning-apprentices/>

## **IFATE EPA Animation**

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education have created an animation to show the different assessment methods used in end-point assessments. This animation will help apprentices understand what is expected from them and what will happen during their end-point assessment.

During the creation of the animation, the Institute consulted with their apprentice panel to make sure it's engaging and useful for apprentices.

They created this animation in response to their [apprentice panel survey 2020](#), where it found that a high proportion of respondents were not prepared for their end-point assessment.

Watch the animation on their channel here: <https://youtu.be/57uWc6EDjKw>

## **Apprenticeships in the News**

### **Disappointment as human resources T Level development stopped**

*Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Mon 5 July 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Opinion: Talking about a ‘middle-class’ grab on apprenticeships could send the wrong message**

*David Gallagher (Chief Executive, NCFE), FE Week, Sat 3 July 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Third of apprentice assessors have never awarded a certificate**

*Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Fri 2 July 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **ESFA chief executive Eileen Milner to stand down**

*Freddie Whittaker, FE Week, Weds 30 June 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **How can we prevent apprentices dropping out and improve outcomes?**

*FE News, Weds 30 June 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **High-street names cite cost as they exit apprenticeship training market**

*Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Mon 28 June 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Keegan stands firm on keeping levy funding for apprenticeships**

*Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Thurs 8 June 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**

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