

Local Government Association

NEWSLETTER

Date: June 2023

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 our June newsletter. Some updates and surveys in this one, plus we're now distributing reports for all councils that took part in our annual apprenticeship survey (see below for more information). And there's several news updates from IFATE, including new evidence showing that apprentice pass rates are 26% higher among solicitor apprentices than the overall pass rate among those who go down the academic route. Something perhaps to bring to the attention of any colleagues in legal who aren't yet persuaded of the value of apprenticeships in that area. See below for more...

LGA Apprenticeship Survey 2022-23 – Individual Council Reports

Individual reports for all councils that took part in our annual apprenticeship survey started going out this week. These reports contain a range of comparative and benchmarking data, as well as a Maturity Model assessment made by us based on your responses to some of the questions in the survey. We hope you find it useful.

Due to the detail included in the reports, generating them is taking a bit of time, so distribution is not going quite as fast as we'd hoped, but we're getting there. We're distributing them alphabetically, and so far the majority of reports for upper and single tier councils from A – K have been issued. There were one or two gremlins that crept into the production and meant we had to re-do a couple of reports, so if your council falls into that section of the alphabet and you haven't had your report yet, don't panic! We've now got all the reports generated properly from that section and they will be issued later today with the next batch.

We expect to issue the bulk of the remaining reports for upper and single tier councils by the end of today and will begin to distribute the District council reports on Monday. If you have not received your report by the end of Monday, please do drop me a line and I can update you on how production is going or resend it if it hasn't come through for some reason.

If you need anything in your report clarifying or would like to have a more detailed conversation about the contents, particularly the Maturity Model assessment, then please do not hesitate to contact me on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk and I will be happy to set things up.

Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2023 – Winners Announced

Congratulations from all of us at the LGA to **Laura De Campos Duhamell from Surrey County Council** who was crowned the **2023 Apprentice of the Year** at the third annual Local Government Apprentice of the Year event held on 23 and 24 May 2023.

The event, organised by East of England LGA, South West Councils and the Local Government Association, saw over 130 apprentices (a new record turnout) competing in a virtual day of challenges encouraging participants to showcase their skills, expertise and initiative. This year's event had a 'net zero' theme, with many of the tasks focused on how councils can help to tackle the effects of climate change.

As well as Laura taking home the big prize, Fiona Steeley (Central Bedfordshire Council), and Krista Walker (Ipswich Borough Council) were runners-up and a team consisting of apprentices from councils across the country won our 'Best Team' prize. You can read more about the event and see all of the winners here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/2023-local-government-apprentice-year-announced>

Our Survey on Pooled PAYE issues

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey I put out on the Pooled PAYE issue. We got lots of really helpful responses and have built up a much more accurate and up to date picture of how the problem is affecting your schools (and sometimes other employers).

Just to bring you up to date on what will happen now: I am taking a paper on apprenticeships to our Resources Board on 12 July, which will include an update on the Pooled PAYE issue and ask them to approve next steps in our lobbying on this ahead of further discussions with government in July. I will provide an update after this date on how we're moving forward and will let you know any changes that are agreed with government to try to ease this problem.

Business Administration Level 2 Trailblazer Group Survey

Calling all employers who are looking for a Business Administration (BA) level 2 apprenticeship standard to be developed. As part of the trailblazer's activity around the development of the standard, there are a few key questions we would really appreciate your views on, along with supporting information. Your responses will be used by the trailblazer group to support them to submit their enquiry to the institute for Apprenticeships and Technical education (IfATE) for the Business Administration level 2 apprenticeship standard.

Please complete the questions sharing as much detail as you can, along with supporting documents.

Response deadline: **5th July**. Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/3NgVbSaqEJ>

Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers Announced

The new Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers and Top 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers for 2023 were launched during a special live broadcast on Thursday 29th June.

Congratulations to **Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council**, which placed 82nd and was the only local authority on the list.

You can read more about the event and see the full list of employers here:

<https://www.topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/>

ESFA Updates:

- **Apprentice Support Centre** - The new Apprentice Support Centre is now live and can be accessed via this link [Apprentice Support Centre](#) or from the main [apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) website (click on the apprentices tab, then select useful resources and support). It has been developed as a single source of information and support specifically for new and existing apprentices of all ages. The resources published on the site are based on topics highlighted in research and insight from apprentices, as issues which can contribute to them withdrawing and not achieving their apprenticeship.

The first five resources published cover: Roles and Responsibilities, Support for Apprentices with a Learning Difficulty or Disability, Off-the-job Training, End Point Assessment (EPA) and Connect and Network with Other Apprentices. Other resources will be added on an on-going basis as new topics are identified where apprentices would like more information and support.

- **Large Employer Roadshows Autumn 2023** – “Save the date”: DfE are planning another round of face-to-face Large Employer Roadshows later this year. Responding to feedback from the half day roadshows held in the first quarter of the year, they are planning on holding a further 3 roadshows in the Autumn 2023. These will be full day events allowing us to provide a bigger agenda and more opportunity for networking. With larger venues, this opens up the opportunity for more people to attend. They are still finalising dates; however, the current proposed dates are 20th Nov (Leeds) 22nd Nov (Birmingham) and 29th Nov (London). If there is anything specific you would like covered, please make your SDM aware. If you don't have an SDM, please feed back any issues via me (Jamie) and I can pass them on at my monthly meetings with DfE SDMs.
- **Reminder - National Apprenticeship Awards 2023 – open for entries:** Back for their 20th year, the **National Apprenticeship Awards** are a fantastic opportunity to showcase the apprentices, employers and champions who have gone above and beyond. Entries to the awards are **open** and you have until **30th June 2023** to enter. It is free to enter the awards, and all entries must be made through the application website here: <https://appawards.co.uk/>

IFATE Updates

- *IfATE launches new mandatory qualifications policy* - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/ifate-launches-new-mandatory-qualifications-policy/>
- *Applications open for new award recognising employers transforming apprenticeships* – <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news->

[events/applications-open-for-new-award-recognising-employers-transforming-apprenticeships/](#)

- *Solicitor apprentices outperforming academic counterparts in exams* - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/solicitor-apprentices-outperforming-academic-counterparts-in-exams/>
- *Parliamentary launch for IfATE's Simpler Skills System report* - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/parliamentary-launch-for-ifate-s-simpler-skills-system-report/>
- *IfATE seeks applications for assessment panel* - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/ifate-seeks-applications-for-assessment-panel/>

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

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