

Local Government Association

NEWSLETTER

Date: June 2020

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 the June 2020 LGA newsletter. This one's out to you earlier than normal as there's a number of additional updates we wanted to make sure you were aware of including our summer webinar schedule. As usual, though we start again this month with the latest on COVID-19.

COVID-19 Update

Fifth Update to Government Guidance Issued

The government has issued a further update to their [COVID-19 Apprenticeships Guidance](#). This latest update to the guidance focuses primarily on two things: Re-opening Educational Settings and EPA Flexibility for Functional Skills Qualifications.

There is new information on which apprentices should be prioritised in the offer of face-to-face training in line with the Prime Minister's announcement that **further education providers can broaden the number of 16-19 learners attending on-site delivery from 15 June**. The guidance covers apprentices returning to work and states that remote training should remain the predominant mode of learning for most apprentices. There is also greater clarity on apprentices returning to undertake EPA within assessment centres.

For apprentices returning to train in an education setting:

- the number of FE learners attending at any one time is limited to a quarter of those on the first year of a two-year 16-19 study programme
- apprenticeship training taking place in educational settings should also be prioritised for 16-19 apprentices. We support offering face-to-face contact to any 16-19 apprentice
- providers can choose to allow apprentices who are over 19 to attend

There is also new **EPA flexibility for Functional Skills Qualifications (FSQs)**, with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) putting in place a new temporary policy that enables apprentices to take their EPA ahead of receiving their calculated FSQ results later in the summer.

This flexibility will enable apprentices otherwise stuck at gateway pending their FSQ to pass through and take their EPA. The flexibility is effective immediately and applies to:

- All apprentices due to take an FSQ test and receive a result in the period between 20 March and 31 July
- Those apprentices that are deemed by their training provider to have the required level of functional skills and sufficient evidence to demonstrate this to receive a calculated FSQ pass

- Occupationally competent apprentices at gateway who are ready to progress to sit their EPA

Apprentices will only achieve their apprenticeship once they have passed EPA and received their FSQ pass. Training providers will therefore be expected to provide prompt confirmation of the apprentice's FSQ calculated results to EPAOs once these have been awarded.

Ofqual: Assessment of Vocational Qualifications and Functional Skills

Ofqual announce how vocational qualifications, including Functional Skills, will predominantly be assessed using calculated grades this summer. The Ofqual exceptional regulatory framework is based on the proposal which they recently sought public consultation on and provides awarding bodies and assessing centres with confirmation and information they require to provide grades.

You can read more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

LGA Summer Apprenticeships Webinar Programme

We're pleased to announce our first round of webinars for 20/21 which will be taking place over the summer. There are five scheduled so far, each one lasting for up to 90 minutes on some key topics of interest for the sector. You can book your place on each of the webinars at the links below.

LGA 2020 Apprenticeships Survey: The Results

Weds 17 June 2020, 10am – 11.30am

Join us as we take you through the results of our 2020 Apprenticeships Survey of the sector, explore trends and impacts on the sector and how we are going to use this information to lobby government and improve our support offer for the sector.

[Book Your Place Here](#)

Becoming an Employer-Provider

Weds 24 June 2020, 10am – 11.30am

Join us as we take you through how to become an employer-provider, exploring what you need to know and how you can do it during the current COVID-19 disruption.

[Book Your Place Here](#)

Replacing Business Admin Level 2

Weds 8 July 2020, 10am – 11.30am

Business Admin Level 2 is one of the most popular apprenticeships used by local government, but is set to come to an end on 31 July 2020 when all remaining Apprenticeship Frameworks are withdrawn. This webinar will explore how councils and other employers are adapting to fill this gap. We'll cover some of the short-term options councils can consider as well as looking at what a longer-term solution might look like and what we need to do to develop it.

[Book Your Place Here](#)

Influencing Apprenticeship Take up and Preparing a Persuasive Case

Tues 14 July 2020, 10am – 11.30am

Drawing on learning and tools developed from our recent Action Learning Sets on Workforce Development, this webinar will take an in-depth look at how to prepare a strong case for investing in apprenticeships, based on support for recruitment, retention and retraining priorities identified from workforce data. This will introduce new data analysis guidance, a presentation pack and report format to support this process.

[Book Your Place Here](#)

Identifying and Securing Quality Delivery in Provision & Providers

Weds 5 August 2020, 10am – 11.30am

Drawing on learning and tools developed from our recent Action Learning Sets, this webinar will focus on the characteristics for high quality provision, how to assess provider performance and how to create a clear provider management framework, drawing on experience from both inside and outside local government.

[Book Your Place Here](#)

IfATE Launch Online Survey on COVID-19 Impact on Recruitment and Employer Support

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has launched an online survey to find out what impact COVID-19 has had on recruitment and to find out what more they can do to provide support. Employers are asked to forecast their recruitment over the summer, compare it with their recruitment last year, provide an indication on when they will next have an apprenticeship start and highlight anything preventing them from starting apprentices.

The closing date for the survey is **Monday 15 June** and you can access it here:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/InstituteForApprenticeships1/InstituteForApprenticeshipsAndTechnicalEducationPulseSurvey>

Ofsted to Review FE Learners' Experience of Online Learning

Ofsted has launched a [review of further education learners' experience of online learning](#) during the pandemic. The review aims to provide insights into the further education sector's experiences of online education and to identify areas of strength and potential for improvement. This will support post-16 providers re-visiting their online education strategies, particularly from September 2020 onwards. As part of the review, Ofsted is working with the Department for Education (DfE), the Association of Colleges (AoC), the Association of Employer and Learning Providers (AELP) and HOLEX. The latter organisation is the professional membership body for local authority adult community learning, and the review's engagement of them demonstrates the key role councils have played during the past few months.

Apprenticeship Standards: Latest Updates

Senior Leader Level 7 - Consultation

Last week the IfATE launched another consultation on the Senior Leader apprenticeship after developing a revised standard for approval. Part of the approvals process for the new version of the standard is a further public consultation, similar in format to the consultation they ran in April. The LGA will respond to this consultation to again restate the sector's opposition to/disappointment with the removal of the MBA/MSc component of the apprenticeship, but if you want to submit a response from your own local authority, you can do so via the IfATE website by **Wednesday 10 June** here:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/developing-new-apprenticeships/apprenticeship-standard-consultations/>

Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Level 7: University of Cambridge Survey

The [Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Apprenticeship Standard](#) has now been approved by the IfATE and is just awaiting confirmation of its funding band before it will be listed as available for delivery. We know from our recent apprenticeships survey that this is one that several of you have been waiting for progress on.

The next step in getting this apprenticeship up and running is to agree the training that will be available as part of the academic element of the apprenticeship. The University of Cambridge is one of the potential providers that is working with the Trailblazer group and potential employers to design a programme that meets the academic requirements of the standard and suits the needs to employers in its delivery.

The university has developed a survey to facilitate employer input and feedback on the development of their programme. You can read more about how they are developing their proposal in the attached document and you can access the survey (which is designed to be completed in Internet Explorer) here:

https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3J1hJv2ggmVQvhr

The closing date for responses is **Tuesday 30 June 2020**. Please consider sharing this with any interested colleagues in your public health teams.

Town Planning Assistant Level 3/4

Following on from our last update on the Town Planning Assistant Level 3/4, the trailblazer group will be meeting on Thursday 11 June 2020 to start to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviour element for the apprenticeship standard. To ensure the KSBs reflect the needs of the sector, the RTPI would like further input and have asked us to circulate the following three questions to the local government sector for feedback.

1. What sort of level of qualifications do town planning assistants usually have at the moment?
2. What level would you recruit at?
3. What knowledge and skills do you expect a Town Planning Assistant to have when they join the planning team?

Please forward your feedback or any other questions you may have for the trailblazer group to Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk by close of play on **Wednesday 10 June**.

Domestic Violence and Abuse Advocate Level 3

The trailblazer group has submitted its proposal for this standard to the IfATE's route panel. Following their feedback, the trailblazer group will be reducing the number of duties in the role and has been advised to rename the standard. Currently the group is developing the KSBs and they are looking at submission in autumn 2020.

Southampton City Council Make list of Top 50 Employers for Apprenticeships

The Job Crowd – the UK's only graduate and apprentice employer ranking system based on employee feedback – has published its new [rankings for the top 50 apprenticeship](#)

[employers](#). The rankings are based on feedback from the employers own apprentices and Southampton City Council, the only local authority on the list, were ranked 21st. congratulations on your achievement from everyone at the LGA.

Apprenticeships in the News

Boris Johnson pledges apprenticeship to every young person

George Parker and Jonathan Moules, Financial Times, Weds 3 June 2020

[Read more here](#)

Nearly half all qualifications assigned new estimated grade process, new Ofqual list reveals

Billy Camden, FE Week, Weds 3 June 2020

[Read more here](#)

AELP drops Covid-19 supplier relief legal challenge

Billy Camden, FE Week, Mon 1 June 2020

[Read more here](#)

Monthly apprenticeships update: March starts fall 24% while April plummets by 72%

Billy Camden, FE Week, Fri 29 May 2020

[Read more here](#)

Apprenticeships: ESFA confirms end to frameworks

Julia Belgutay, TES, Weds 20 May 2020

[Read more here](#)

Previous Newsletters

Missed one of our [previous newsletters](#)? They are now archived on the KHUB.

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, Nigel and Sadique

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Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Apprenticeship - University of Cambridge

Background

The [Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Apprenticeship Standard](#) has now been approved although The Institute for Apprenticeships shows it as 'in development' because the funding level has not yet been confirmed by the Minister.

The next stage in preparing to deliver the Apprenticeship is agreeing the training that will be available as part of the academic element of the Apprenticeship. University of Cambridge is one of the potential providers who are working with the Trailblazer Group, and potential employers, to design a programme that will both meet the academic requirements of the Standard and suit the needs of the employers in how this is delivered.

Delivered at Level 7, this Standard seeks to provide a vehicle to promote skills development in the field of Health and Care Intelligence. The details of the Standard available on the link above indicate the range of organisations that are likely to require and utilise these skills, the broad purpose of the occupation, the roles that people will hold who are involved in it and where Health and Care Intelligence Specialists have impact and their typical responsibilities.

[The University of Cambridge](#) is a Registered Provider of Level 7 Apprenticeships Training and over the last six months we have been consulting with employers in the sector on the potential format and content of a programme to meet the requirements of this Standard. This briefing note is intended to inform interested parties who may not have taken part in employer roundtables and other engagement activities to date and to elicit further input from employers to enable a programme to be designed which meets the needs and preferences of the sector.

Where we are now

The University of Cambridge has longstanding expertise in the delivery of Level 7 education and is building its reputation as a Registered Provider of high quality Level 7 Apprenticeships training.

Employers benefit from the direct input into the workplace of enhanced and targeted knowledge skills and behaviours of their apprentice employees. They receive quality applications to advertised vacancies to undertake these apprenticeships and experience improved retention levels of existing staff who also benefit from senior level apprenticeship programmes.

Apprentices on our current and planned future programmes enjoy the dual benefit of working towards a prestigious University of Cambridge postgraduate qualification and achieving their Apprenticeship on a part-time basis, whilst maintaining professional and personal commitments.

Attendees at a series of employer events held by the University of Cambridge indicate a clear interest in the sector for a University of Cambridge programme to support employers and apprentices through the Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Standard. We are now progressing to the curriculum design phase and are interested in receiving further input from as wide a range of employers in the sector as possible to inform further development.

Final confirmation of the Funding Band for the Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Standard is expected in early summer 2020.

Next steps and timeline

We hope to be in a position to start a **Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Apprenticeship programme** at the University of Cambridge in autumn 2021. This will depend on various factors, including the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the University and employers in the sector.

We have developed a concise survey to facilitate employer input and feedback on the development of a University of Cambridge Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Apprenticeship programme. We would be grateful if you could provide your response to this survey of employer views using the link below by **Tuesday 30th June, 2020**. Please note that the survey is designed to be accessed via Internet Explorer in case of any difficulty.

https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3J1hJv2ggmVQvhr

Please feel free to forward this message and/or the survey link to any colleagues or networks that you think would be interested in contributing to the development of this particular apprenticeship programme at the University of Cambridge. The more input we have the easier it will be to create a programme specific to the needs of employers.

We will gather and evaluate the feedback from employers and progress to the next stage of curriculum development. There will be further opportunities to comment on the proposed format and content of the programme as we progress through the development stages.

Contacts

If you have any queries about University of Cambridge Apprenticeships (Level 7) please get in touch with us at apprenticeships@ice.cam.ac.uk