

NEWSLETTER

Date: January 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,

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first LGA Apprenticeships Newsletter of 2021. Lots going on this month, with webinars, roundtables and policy updates all featuring. If there's anything you want to see in a future newsletter, don't hesitate to email Jamie on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk.

LGA Apprenticeship Support Offer

As trailed in the last newsletter, we are now able to launch some additional elements to our support offer. These include:

- More webinars – five more dates/topics announced through to April
- Action Learning – a new programme of online Action Learning Sets, loosely themed around the Apprenticeships Maturity Model
- Apprenticeship Surgeries – New opportunities to meet with LGA Advisers to discuss issues, highlight problems and seek advice on the full range of apprenticeship issues
- Levy Transfer Policy Development – we continue to offer our template, plus support and advice for councils wanting to develop a levy transfer policy

You can find out more about each of these support offers below.

Webinars: Jan – April 2021

We're happy to announce today the dates and topics for our first five webinars of 2021. We hope to run at least ten between now and the end of July. The second batch, covering April to July will be announced later in the year.

All of the webinars in our first tranche will have the overarching theme of recovery from COVID and will look to give you ideas, advice and guidance on how you can use apprenticeships to help your council, staff and residents as recover from the pandemic. You can sign up for any of our webinars by following the links below.

Maintaining Momentum

Wednesday 10 February 2021 2pm – 3.30pm

This webinar will focus on moving towards Covid recovery, learning from emerging successes already in place and promoting the available government incentives and LGA tools and resources.

[Register here](#)

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](#)

Action Learning Programme 2021

2021 sees the return of our popular action learning programme. Last year's programme was fully booked within four days of launch and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees who valued the opportunity to network and share ideas with council officers from across the country and find solutions for some of their main apprenticeship challenges.

Like last year, this year's programme will have five groups, and each will be loosely themed around one of the threads of the [Apprenticeships Maturity Model](#) – Leadership and Culture; Procurement and Provider Management; Workforce Development; Planning, Delivery Structures and Processes; and Engagement – to ensure that each group is focusing on similar issues. Unlike last year, the whole programme will be delivered online, which we hope will help a wider range of staff to take part for whom travelling to the meetings last year was prohibitive.

Each group will have ten participants, for a maximum of 50 people taking part. There is no cost to you or your council to take part, though we do ask you to commit to attend all six of the meetings scheduled when you sign up. Until we know this year's demand, places will be initially restricted to one per council across the whole programme. Places will be broadly allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, though priority will be given to anyone who did not take part in last year's programme. Any extra places left over will be offered out to any councils that want a second member of staff to take part.

We will be formally launching the sign-up process for the action learning programme in a separate email on **Thursday 21 January**, so do keep an eye out for another email from me in your inboxes.

LGA Apprenticeship Surgeries

A new element of our support package for 2021 are online ‘apprenticeship surgeries’, which we’ll be running a couple of times a month. If you’ve got any issues you want to raise, want advice on a particular topic or want to highlight an issue you want the LGA to raise with government on your behalf, you can now book a half-hour slot with our Apprenticeships Adviser Jamie Saddler to discuss anything and everything apprenticeships.

Below are the first round of dates in January, February and March that you can book:

Date	Slots Available					
25-Jan	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm	4pm - 4.30pm	
28-Jan	1pm - 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
12-Feb	10am - 10.30am	10.30am - 11am	11am - 11.30am	11.30am - 12pm	12pm - 12.30pm	12.30pm - 1pm
23-Feb	10am - 10.30am	10.30am - 11am	11am - 11.30am	11.30am - 12pm	12pm - 12.30pm	12.30pm - 1pm
10-Mar	1pm - 1.30pm	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.

Support Available to Develop Levy Transfer Policies

Following a successful pilot with Shropshire Council over the summer, we are pleased to offer any council that wants it the following support to develop their levy transfer policy:

- A template Levy Transfer policy document, based on good practice identified across the sector;
- Facilitation of a workshop with key stakeholders in your council to discuss priorities for your levy transfers and what should go into your policy;
- Providing advice, guidance and input at follow-up meetings as you draft and finalise your policy.

Just under 50% of councils have made at least one levy transfer so far. If your council hasn’t yet, but wants to, or has been doing so on an ad hoc basis and want to put your policy on a more formal footing, please get in touch with Jamie on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk to discuss how we can help.

REMINDER: Roundtable with South West Councils – Find out How to Become an EPA Assessor

As many of you will remember, the LGA and South West Councils have partnered over the last few years to help get them set up as an End Point Assessment Organisation for the sector. We are looking to increase capacity for SWC to be able to provide an expanded offer for local government – both in terms of their current suite of nine standards and potentially a further twenty more standards important to local government.

On **Wednesday 27 January**, the LGA and South West Councils will be hosting a round table for anyone who is interested in finding out more about becoming an assessor. **The meeting will be held online via Microsoft Teams from 1.30pm – 3.30pm.** We’ll cover what the LGA and South West Councils are doing on EPA, how it’s beneficial to the sector,

what assessors need now and in the future, what the role of an assessor involves and how it works, and you'll be able to hear directly from an assessor about their own experiences.

If you're interested in attending and finding out more about what is involved, please email Anni.stunt@swcouncils.gov.uk who is organising the meeting and can make sure the Teams invite is sent out to you. Please also share this invite with any of your colleagues who you think might be interested.

T Levels: Appeal to Councils to offer Industry Placements to Young People

We are asking councils to provide one young person a [T Level industry placement](#) from September 2021. This forms part of a [national programme](#) where you can attract talented young people and boost the long-term employability of local people. A new awareness campaign has been launched by the Department for Education to showcase the [benefits to employers](#).

New Funding Band for Senior Leader L7 Standard Announced

The government has confirmed in a [blog post](#) that it has completed its revision of the Senior Leader standard that began last Spring, with the confirmation of the new funding band. The standard will now have a maximum funding band of £14,000, down from £18,000 previously. This decision has been made to reflect the removal of the compulsory Masters qualification as part of the apprenticeship.

Government has confirmed that providers are still free to use a Masters qualification to deliver the apprenticeship, so long as it aligns with the KSBs and in the knowledge that costs can only be paid from the levy up to the funding band maximum – if delivering the Masters costs more, employers would need to top up the cost themselves or providers would need to offer a discount. The new version of the apprenticeship is approved for delivery from 29 March 2021.

We are aware that this is a substantial change and know from speaking to some providers over the summer that a change of this magnitude could make it difficult for some to deliver the programme moving forward. We are trying to understand the impact this will have, so if you have any feedback from your providers on how they intend to move forward, please do pass it on to Jamie (jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk).

Latest Coronavirus Guidance on Apprenticeships

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 January 2021 confirming a new national lockdown a new version of the Apprenticeship Programme response to COVID-19 has been published. The new guidance can be found on the [apprenticeship programme response page](#).

You can also read the latest ESFA update [here](#).

Apprenticeships in the News

'Plethora' of apprenticeship standards set to hit 600

Billy Camden, FE Week, Friday 15 Jan 2021

[Read more here](#)

Funding for popular apprenticeship cut by £4k as MBA is axed

Billy Camden, FE Week, Tuesday 12 Jan 2021

[Read more here](#)

Government publishes guide to home learning

Billy Camden, FE Week, Tuesday 12 Jan 2021

[Read more here](#)

Employers should pay for laptops so apprentices can be remote educated, says Keegan

Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Monday 11 Jan 2021

[Read more here](#)

Apprentice assessment flexibilities extended again

Billy Camden, FE Week, Friday 8 Jan 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

Best wishes

Jamie, Sadique and Nigel

Jamie Saddler

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