

Local Government Association

# NEWSLETTER

Date: November 2022

**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. Quite a few updates for you this month, including details of our next webinar in early December and a head's up about the launch of this year's LGA Apprenticeships Survey that launches this week...

## 2022-23 LGA Apprenticeships Survey Launches TOMORROW

This year's LGA Apprenticeships Survey launches **tomorrow**, and we wanted to tell you a little more about it before it hits your inbox, so you know what to expect and what we're doing to provide you with more from the process this year than ever before.

In previous years we have run one survey covering a range of operational issues on apprenticeships, which has been run via SurveyMonkey, followed by a webinar to present the results. This year will be a bit different as we're running not one, but two surveys.

The first is an expanded version of the **survey on operational issues**. This one will be familiar to many in format – questions covering starts, levy spend, transfers, standards, schools etc. – but it will be longer this year than normal. This is because we are committing to providing each council that takes part in the survey with an individual report that will benchmark your data against other councils, nationally, regionally, and by council type, on a whole range of metrics. As part of this process, we are also going to try to give you an indication as to where you might fall on the Apprenticeships Maturity Model and how this relates to other councils, which means we need to ask more questions, and the survey is longer as a result.

The second **survey is one for your apprentices**, covering demographic data, some questions about their apprenticeship, and health and wellbeing. We hope this survey will give us a good idea at national and regional level what our apprenticeships workforce looks like across the sector, as well as highlight lots of key issues on the apprentice experience in local government. Unlike the operational issues survey, we are not proposing to produce individual reports for each council for the moment. That's because we don't yet know what the take up of this survey will be. If we only get a few responses per council, it might give us enough data to draw conclusions nationally but may leave us in a position where it is too little to draw conclusions for an individual council, or potentially lead to the respondents being identifiable. Once we've got the data in, we'll take a view as to whether individual reports might be possible on a case-by-case basis – ultimately, it'll be easier to do for a council with 50 apprentices responding than one where we only get two. The survey has been written to take account both of new starters and existing members of staff doing apprenticeships, so please do encourage all your apprentices to take part.

From tomorrow morning we will be emailing all councils directly about the survey. We are not using SurveyMonkey this year and are instead using a different platform the LGA has been

using for surveys which all councils are able to access. As a result, there should be no issues completing the survey online and we won't be producing a word version as we have done in previous years. Instead, all 332 councils in England will receive an email from me with two links. The first link will be the one for your council's operational survey. While multiple people can use this link to fill in the survey, only one copy of the survey will be submitted to us. The second link will be for the apprentices' survey and can be used as many times as necessary by multiple people to submit their own unique response. We would be grateful if you could share this with the apprentices at your council to complete.

Although we are aiming to get all the emails out tomorrow, due to the unique nature of each of the links we're sending, every council will receive a unique email. As a result, it's possible you will not receive your email until Thursday. If by close of play on Thursday you have not received an email with your links, please first check your organisation's spam filters, and then contact me directly ([jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk)) and I will reissue the links.

The surveys will open tomorrow and will run until 5pm on 11 January 2023, so there is plenty of time to get responses in. We'll also send reminders out at various points before the deadline.

Once all the results are in, we are looking to produce an infographic with some of the key headline national data within a fortnight of the survey closing. That will be followed by two webinars during National Apprenticeship Week, covering the national results of each of the surveys (these will be recorded as usual). Following that, we will publish the national and regional reports publicly, with individual council reports following (for clarity each council report will only go to the council itself and will not be published).

I want to thank everyone in advance for your help with completing this survey. Last year we got a record number of councils responding with over 170 providing at least partial responses. I hope we get a similar turnout this time – and remember the more of you that are able to participate, the more information we can provide for you, the more relevant that information will be and the more accurate your individual report will be.

## **NEW WEBINAR: Apprenticeships With Impact – High Value, Low Volume Standards**

*Wednesday 7 December 2pm – 3.30pm*

This session will highlight some of the key Apprenticeship Standards that are typically low volume but provide an essential learning route for important and often specialist roles. These Standards often present some additional challenges sourcing a provider or engaging staff and senior managers, and our case studies this session will explore how this can be achieved, including one from Cumbria County Council on how they have used apprenticeships to support their legal team.

You can register for the webinar here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7824420939017496078>

(if the link doesn't work, paste the text of the link into your browser)

## **Skills for Care Survey on Social Worker Apprenticeship Standard**

You may remember that earlier this month I circulated a link to another survey – one that Skills for Care were carrying out on the Social Worker Apprenticeship Standard. The response to this survey has been excellent with more than 120 received before the deadline. However, York Consulting, who are carrying out the survey on Skills for Care's behalf, have been in touch again to ask if there are any councils who have chosen not to offer the Social

Worker Degree Apprenticeship or any who are currently offering it but who have plans to stop doing so as of next year. They haven't heard from too many in this bracket, and while there may not be many councils in this position, they are keen to make sure the responses reflect the full spectrum of positions and views. If your council falls into either of these categories, we'd be grateful if you could complete the survey, which should take less than 20 minutes to complete.

You can complete the survey here: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/SkillsforCare-SocialWorkApprenticeships>

If you have any questions about the research, please feel free to contact [natasha.charlton@yorkconsulting.co.uk](mailto:natasha.charlton@yorkconsulting.co.uk).

## **Career Starter Apprenticeships**

The government is introducing new branding for some apprenticeships, aimed at identifying entry level jobs for young people. Appropriate vacancies on Find and Apprenticeship will be branded as Career Starter Apprenticeships. They will also be promoted via the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge Programme (ASK) in schools and colleges. The government's brochure for ASK is attached to this email – on the back pages are the providers they contract with, who are always happy to work with employers as part of their offer. You can find out more about Career Starter Apprenticeships here:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/career-starter-apprenticeships>

## **National Apprenticeship Week 2023**

The theme for the 2023 National Apprenticeship Week has now been announced: **Skills For Life**. You can find the brand-new website, toolkits and resources at the following link - <https://naw.appawards.co.uk/toolkit>

## **Supporting Diversity in Apprenticeships**

The Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network (ADCN) champions apprenticeships and diversity amongst employers and encourages more people from underrepresented groups, including those with disabilities, women and members of minority communities, to consider apprenticeships.

The network is currently working on a project to collect information on how companies understand, collect, and use data regarding social mobility in Apprenticeships. The responses to this survey will be used to create a report that will be released by the Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network during National Apprenticeship week 2023.

If you would like to support the work of the network and help build a picture of best practice please take the time to complete the survey linked below:

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MpZUw-5R\\_kC2rqafOmzBVw\\_LM8faB2xBgUW02wZ9mS5UNkIzV01UN0VKOFNaSThQSDVPRUtYU1pISy4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MpZUw-5R_kC2rqafOmzBVw_LM8faB2xBgUW02wZ9mS5UNkIzV01UN0VKOFNaSThQSDVPRUtYU1pISy4u)

Please also feel free to share the survey with your networks.

For more information go to the Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network page on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/apprenticeship-diversity-champions-network>

## The Big Conversation

This is your chance to have your say on the apprenticeship and technical skills system. The Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) is asking employers, education providers, apprentices and more to take its call as part of the Big Conversation.

They want to hear from everyone using apprenticeships or technical qualifications to tell them your views – what works, what doesn't and what can be improved. Your views will be analysed and used to inform a major IfATE report next year. **Find out more with this handy animation:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xV8oU\\_Hqeos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xV8oU_Hqeos)

We're gathering views on the Integrated Skills System, which includes:

- The range of apprenticeships and technical education
- The quality of apprenticeships and technical education
- The ability to progress through technical education
- How far technical education supports national schemes like Levelling Up or green skills.

There are lots of ways to take part, including face to face or virtual meetings, workshops or online channels. To share your views please email [annette1.kinsella@education.gov.uk](mailto:annette1.kinsella@education.gov.uk)

## IFATE Updates

- Major survey shows apprentices happier with SMEs  
<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/major-survey-shows-apprentices-happier-with-smes/>
- Help shape the future of skills in Sales, Marketing and Procurement  
<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/help-shape-the-future-of-skills-in-sales-marketing-and-procurement/>

## 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](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk)