

# Local Government Association NEWSLETTER

Date: August 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 a few updates and reminders, dates for a roundtable with government on Pooled PAYE and a couple of new webinars among other things.

Just to flag that I (Jamie) am about to go on leave for a couple of weeks and won't be back in until 1 September. I've put alternative contact details that will allow you to follow up on a few of the items below or flag any problems in my absence. For things like booking surgeries or a place on the Pooled PAYE roundtable, I will come back to you to confirm when on my return.

## **Pooled PAYE**

ESFA have agreed to hold a roundtable for councils affected by the Pooled PAYE issue to discuss your concerns and challenges and explore the options that are available further.

The roundtable will take place from **2pm – 3pm on Thursday 16 September**.

All councils that have contacted us previously to indicate they are affected by this issue should have received an email from me earlier today about the roundtable, but if you have not previously got in touch and want to attend, please email Jamie directly on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk). Jamie will send out the invitations when he is back from leave in early September.

## **Wanted: Council willing to Join Private Beta Testing for Updates to Levy Transfer Process**

The Apprenticeship Service is delivering a new service to make it easier for levy-paying organisations to transfer some of their levy funds to other businesses to pay for their apprenticeships training costs. Where a match is made and a connection created, the funds are transferred on a monthly basis. This service will enable levy-paying organisations with unspent levy funds to create public pledges (with criteria), to allow other businesses to apply to them for a transfer of apprenticeship funding.

ESFA are looking for a small number of organisations with unspent levy to be involved in the evaluation of this new service as part of a private beta pilot. The LGA has secured a place as part of this pilot for a local authority to take part.

Participation will involve creating pledge(s) which will later be opened up to other businesses to view and apply to. As part of this private beta, they'll ask participants to commit to:

- 1 preparation session (30mins)

- Completing a diary
- 1 follow-up session(30 mins)

If you are interested in taking part, please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/r/YtGdSvS4L1>.

As this will be a small pilot ESFA will only contact those who will be asked to take part.

If you would like any more information please contact the User researcher leading the research, [Heather.fawbert@digital.education.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.fawbert@digital.education.gov.uk)

## **REMINDER: Public Sector Target Reporting Process – Deadline to Complete 30 September 2021**

Just a quick reminder for everyone if you've not done it already, that all public sector bodies that employ 250 staff or more need to complete a report on their progress towards meeting the public sector apprenticeships target for the 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 period by 30 September 2021.

Submitting this return to the Department for Education alongside supporting evidence that demonstrates you have shown due regard to the target is a legal requirement. Employers are also required to publish the data you submit in a place which is easily accessible to the public, such as on external facing websites for your council.

The reporting process should be completed via the DAS (you can find the link to the form under the 'Apprentices' tab on your DAS account). For more detailed information regarding what data is required, please see the published guidance on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk). If you are unsure how to complete the return, please contact the Apprenticeship Service Support Service on 0800 0150 600 or email [helpdesk@manage-apprenticeships.service.gov.uk](mailto:helpdesk@manage-apprenticeships.service.gov.uk).

## **Webinars**

We are pleased to announced the dates and times for two of our webinars taking place in the Autumn.

### **Successful Apprenticeship Governance & Oversight**

*Wednesday 22 September 2pm – 3.30pm*

This session will explore different options for ensuring effective governance and oversight of a council's apprenticeship programme. We'll hear from several councils on how they have put in place a group or board to oversee their programme or how they have engaged key individuals and how these processes and relationships have helped to drive their apprenticeship programmes on.

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6580134406001150477>

### **Supporting Apprentices During Virtual Working**

*Wednesday 27th October 2pm – 3.30pm*

This session will cover lessons learned and successful practice in supporting and managing apprentices where either the apprentice or their line manager are working in a virtual work space. We will hear from councils with experience during and after COVID and explore the contents of a good practice guide developed to respond to what is now a common way of working.

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5263849662763184911>

Two further webinars are in the process of being set up, including a session on the Top % apprenticeship standards that have had the biggest impact in our sector and how, and a session with ESFA on Levy Transfers to take a look at the new system and hear about what further changes are coming up later in the year. These will likely take place on Weds 29 September and Weds 20 September, but we will confirm dates, times and how you can register in the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions about the webinars or any problems registering, please contact Rebecca Rhodes on [rebecca@spark.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@spark.org.uk) in my absence.

## Webinar Recordings and Slides Available

Did you miss one of our recent webinars and want to listen back to it? All three are now available to watch back at the links below:

- **Traineeships** (with Steve Latus, Head of Traineeships, ESFA)  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/9122320737672692495>
- **LGA Schools Apprenticeships Toolkit** (with Andy Turner, Rochdale Borough Council)  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6119967898749762563>
- **LGA 2021 Apprenticeship Survey**  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/7847968069824875521>

if you want to view the slide packs, you can do so on the KHUB via the following steps:

LGA Apprenticeships Group > Library > 01. LGA Support Offer, Mapping Tool and Webinars > Webinars and Resources

## 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. Half hour slots are available at the following times on the following dates throughout September and October.

Date	Slots Available					
<b>13-Sep</b>	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
<b>27-Sep</b>	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
<b>14-Oct</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. He will contact you to confirm your booking once he's back from leave in September.

## Flexi-job Apprenticeship Consultation: Government Response

Government has now published their response to the Flexi-job apprenticeship consultation.

You can read the government's announcement here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-to-create-new-flexible-approach-to-apprenticeships>

More information on Flexi-job apprenticeships, including the full government response to the consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flexi-job-apprenticeship-offer>

### **Degree Apprenticeship consultation:**

IFATE has announced a new consultation on Degree Apprenticeships, which sets out proposals for changes to existing policies that effect the development, approval and operation of degree apprenticeships. The consultation sets out five proposed changes, which are:

- better supporting graduate-entry occupations
- integration of on-the-job and off-the-job training
- alignment between apprenticeship knowledge, skills and behaviours and degree learning outcomes
- integration of assessment
- participation of an independent assessor with occupational expertise

the consultation closes on 16 September 2021. You can submit your response through IFATE's consultation page here: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/reviews-and-consultations/consultations/degree-apprenticeships-consultation/>

### **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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Local Government Association

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