

Local Government Association

NEWSLETTER

Date: August 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

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the latest LGA Apprenticeships Newsletter. We've got a lot of updates this month including more tools and webinars from the LGA, consultations on standards and development of new apprenticeship programmes, but first a quick reminder to submit your public sector target data...

REMINDER: Public Sector Target Reporting Process – Deadline to Complete 30 September 2022

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 2021 – 31 March 2022 period by 30 September 2022. This is the final year of the target, although reporting on public sector bodies' progress on starts will continue in an altered form annually from 2023.

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. 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.

The LGA Summer National Online Apprenticeships Workshop - Recording

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the recent LGA Summer National Workshop on Apprenticeships. In a packed agenda we had updates from the LGA and from South West Councils on their work as an End Point Assessment Organisation, and a Q&A session with two of the Department for Education's Skills Development Managers. Technical problems prevented us splitting into groups as planned, but we also still had a useful discussion between the whole group of attendees on the current challenges and priorities in the post-COVID, post-Public Sector Target environment.

If you missed the session, or want to revisit it and listen back to some of the discussions, you can do so at this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/1058792738657343233>

I have attached the slide pack from the session to this email as well – in this you'll not only find the full presentation on South West Councils' work on EPA, but at the end of the pack

we've produced a time-stamped list of when in the recording the various discussions started, which will hopefully allow you to navigate to what you want to listen to more easily.

These workshops are 'pilot' sessions for the time being as we work out what format works best and what you want to get out of the sessions. We plan to hold another one of these in the Autumn (likely early October prior to half term) and we'll confirm the time and date as soon as we're able to.

In the meantime, we really want to get your feedback. Whether you attended the session or not, we want to know either how you found it, why you didn't attend, and what you want to see moving forward. You can complete the feedback survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LGAforum2022>

Are you having problems with Apprenticeship Incentive Payments?

A number of councils at the workshop highlighted the issues they were having with receiving their Apprenticeship Incentive Payments. There appear to be two problems (i) councils seeing their claims being put on hold pending the provision of significant amounts of corroborating information and (ii) councils that have already received at least one incentive payment being asked for significant additional amounts of corroborating information. Many councils were expressing frustration at the amount of additional information they were being asked to supply and the significant delays they were experiencing in getting a resolution, with lengthy delays occurring in obtaining responses when engaging through the helpdesk.

At the workshop, I made a commitment to collate information from councils who are affected by this issue, with ESFA colleagues committing to then follow-up on that information and attempt to unblock the situation.

If your council is affected by this issue, please email me, if you have not done so already, with information on the number of claims you have outstanding and the case number(s) you have been assigned by the helpdesk. I will then collate the information and pass that to DfE to see if they can help to unblock your case. Please email me direct on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk as soon as possible.

More New Tools Available on the KHUB

As we highlighted in our previous newsletters, we're providing a series of new tools for councils to use on apprenticeships, with new ones released each month.

We have four new tools for you this month – more pathway guides and Apprenticeship A-Zs in the same vein as the ones released last month. This time they cover Regulatory Services and Legal. You can download the documents from the KHUB from the following links (must be a member of our KHUB group and logged in for these to work):

[Regulatory Services A-Z](#)

[Regulatory Services Career Pathway](#)

[Legal Services A-Z](#)

[Legal Services Career Pathway](#)

The Links can sometimes break when the newsletter is forwarded on. If they don't work for any reason, you can find the documents on the KHUB by following the below steps:

LGA Apprenticeships Group > Library > 01. LGA Support Offer, Mapping Tool and Webinars > A to Z and Career Pathways

Apprenticeships Mapping Tool Updated

The source for much of the information used in the above tools is our long-standing apprenticeships mapping tool, which has been updated again this month. We also have the latest one of our mapping tool newsletters, which is attached to this newsletter and is also available at the links below.

[Mapping Tool Folder](#)
[Latest Newsletter](#)

Webinars: Schools Update and Funding Rules Explainers

Last week we held our Schools Update webinar, which featured updates from the chairs of the Trailblazer groups for the proposed Level 5 Associate Teacher standard and the Level 6 SENCO standard, as well as a preview of a new tool we'll be publishing soon – our Return on Investment Guide for Schools. If you missed the webinar and want to listen to it back, you can do so at the below link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2897615982771226127>

We've got two more webinars coming up this week on the final ESFA funding rules, one for councils as employers and one for those of you who are employer-providers. You can sign up for all of the Webinar sessions below.

ESFA Funding Rules – Overview for Apprenticeship Leads (for Apprenticeships Leads)

Thursday 4 August 10am – 11.30am

Book here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5784446433660364814>

ESFA Funding Rules – Overview for Apprenticeship Leads (Employer-Providers)

Thursday 4 August 10am – 11.30am

Book here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5165757837780438541>

Surgeries

Following the success of these sessions last year, we will continue to offer slots to meet with the LGA's Apprenticeships Adviser, Jamie Saddler, for any council that wants to have a more in depth one-to-one discussion on any aspect of apprenticeships. Dates and timeslots for surgeries through to mid-August are below. If you want to book a slot, email Jamie directly on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk outlining your preferred date and time, as well as a little bit about what you want to discuss.

Date	Slots Available					
11-Aug	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm
8-Sept	1pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 2pm	2pm - 2.30pm	2.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 3.30pm	3.30pm - 4pm

Level 5 Rehabilitation Worker (Visual Impairment) Review and Consultation

The [Level 5 Rehabilitation Worker \(Visual Impairment\)](#) is being reviewed and the changes are now out for consultation. At present the current standard only includes rehabilitation,

however it is proposed that the new Level 5 Vision Impairment Specialist standard will have 2 options:

- Vision Habilitation Specialist (providing support and teaching children and young people with vision impairment)
- Vision Rehabilitation Specialist (providing support and teaching adults with vision impairment)

The review of the standard has enabled the habilitation element to be included, which is key in relating the apprenticeship standard to children and young people, as well as adults as it currently stands.

We would encourage any interested local authorities to take a look at the proposal and complete the survey.

You can find the proposal here: <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Level-5-Vision-Impairment-Specialist-Standard-V1.pdf>

... and the consultation itself here: <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90466416/vision-habilitation-and-rehabilitation-specialist-consultation2022>

The work on the habilitation element of this standard has been led by Devon County Council's Children's Sensory Team Manager, and the feedback and response received from the sector will be important in helping to ensure that this updated standard can help Children's Sensory Teams across England to deliver the Habilitation training through an apprenticeship route using levy funds.

The closing date for the consultation is Monday 12th September 2022.

University of Birmingham's Systems Thinking and Leadership Practitioner Apprenticeship/MSc Programme

The University of Birmingham have put together a new programme linked to the new [Level 7 Systems Thinking Practitioner Standard](#). They have developed what they think is a unique approach that is intended to cover the formal systems thinking content combined with the leadership capacities needed to actually enable systems change. A copy of the programme factsheet is attached to this newsletter, while you can find out more about the course and view the video introduction to the programme on the course website here:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/systems-thinking-leadership-practitioner.aspx>

Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers Announced

Congratulations to Greater Manchester Combined Authority (37), Somerset County Council (67) and Durham County Council (90) who all appeared in the government's Top 100 Apprenticeships Employers list that was published last month. You can view the full list of employers and their performance against the criteria here:

<https://www.topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/Top100AE22.pdf>

IFATE Updates

- Quality assurance strengthened for degree apprenticeships in England - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/quality-assurance-strengthened-for-degree-apprenticeships-in-england/>
- Have your say on the future of legal, finance and accounting skills training - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-legal-finance-and-accounting-skills-training/>
- Looking forward to National Apprenticeship Week 2023: Dates announced! - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/looking-forward-to-national-apprenticeship-week-2023-dates-announced/>

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