

Local Government Association

NEWSLETTER

Date: September 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 the usual mix of info and updates for you, but first a quick (and final) reminder to submit your public sector target data...

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

Just a quick final 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 (today!)**.

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](https://www.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.

CONFIRMATION: The Public Sector Target has ended, but you still need to report starts data annually

A few councils have been in touch asking if the Public Sector Target has been restarted following some recent communications from government reminding councils about the need to report on 21/22's data and the requirements going forward, so I thought it would be a good idea to remind people of what has been agreed.

The Public Sector Target has definitely ended. 2021/22 was the final year and there are no current plans to revive the target. Government does still want to collect some of the same data going forward, though councils will no longer have a specific target to aim for.

From 1 April 2023 all public sector bodies with a headcount of 250 or more staff will need to report three things to government: (i) their headcount on 31 March, (ii) the total number of apprenticeship starts they delivered between 1 April and 31 March and (iii) the total number of apprentices they

have on programme on 31 March. This data will be collated by government and published, though this time in the form of league tables for each subset of the public sector so people will be able to see how each public body compares with its peers.

So no more target, but possibly more scrutiny on performance. The government also intends to use the 'starts as a percentage of headcount' as a metric in data publication, so I would imagine the 2.3% target, though no longer in operation, will still be the rough benchmark employers are judged on, at least for the next few years.

We don't yet have any more information on whether and how government will allow us to separate out our maintained schools data from councils', but we did press them on this earlier this week and hope to have further conversations in the very near future.

I hope that clears things up for anyone who was confused, but if not or you have any further questions, please do drop me a line on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk and I'll be happy to have a chat with you.

Short Feedback Survey on the Local Government Apprentice of the Year

Today we're launching a very short survey (it'll take 4 mins or less to complete, honest) regarding the Local Government Apprentice of the Year event, the second iteration of which was held in March.

I'd really appreciate it if as many people as possible could respond to this survey, whether your apprentices took part or not. We just want to understand if you were happy with the event and what worked well (if you did take part), what put you off entering apprentices (if you didn't take part) and if there's anything we can do better.

You can complete the survey by following this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/LCJEPfwCJf>

It's hosted on MS Forms this time, so hopefully there shouldn't be any IT issues accessing it. We're keeping it open for a fortnight, so **the survey will close at 5pm on Friday 14 October**.

And should you have any fuller thoughts about the event or ideas you want us to consider that you can't fit into your survey response, please don't hesitate to email me on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk

Levy Transfers – Updates to Pledge Function

The government launched their levy transfer pledge function 12 months ago to help make it easier for employers who wanted to transfer levy funds to connect with employers who wanted to receive them. If you've not used this function yet, you can check out the page here: <https://transfers.manage-apprenticeships.service.gov.uk/Opportunities>.

A few tweaks have been made to the system to make it easier for employers to review their applications. Employers can now:

- Sort your applications by status
- Download your applications into an excel spreadsheet
- Bulk reject applications

We're always keen at the LGA to hear about how the levy transfer process is working for councils, so if you have any feedback you want to share, or ideas for how the pledge function can be improved, please do let me know on jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk.

If you've not used the pledge function before, you might find the following ESFA videos helpful:

- An update/ steps on Pledging and Transferring Apprenticeship Funds-
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/zA3Su4c6nko?&start=1375&end=1768>
- Creating a Transfer Pledge and View, Accept or Reject Applications-
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYyoJ2Dg6WY&list=PLMNvQX_alOux3SdHgg3lw8D8dPrVHbMY7&index=10

INSIDE GOVERNMENT: Effective Apprenticeship Levy Spending for Local Authorities

4 October, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Online Training Course

Inside Government is running the Effective Apprenticeship Levy Spending for Local Authorities one day training course on 4 October. This training course is aimed at ensuring local authorities are using the levy successfully to either employ an apprentice or transfer funds before it is wasted.

Louise Ward, Apprenticeship Manager at West Midlands Combined Authority and Interim Birmingham City Council leads this training alongside representatives from the **ESFA, LGA, Walsall and Sandwell Councils**.

They will guide you through following **4 key areas**:

- The value apprenticeships bring to local authorities
- Understanding the Apprenticeship Levy Funding
- How to set up an apprenticeship in your organisation
- Transferring unspent levy to smaller organisations in your local area

See the full agenda and list of speakers > [here](#)

Places cost £325 + VAT for local authorities, although you can get 10% off this training, simply quote code **IGLAA10** when you book your place > [here](#).

University of Birmingham's Systems Thinking and Leadership Practitioner Apprenticeship/MSc Programme – Find out more at Webinar on 3 October

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>

They are also **holding a webinar on Monday 3 October at 4pm** to find out more information about the programme, meet some of the team and ask any questions you may have about the programme or application process. You can register for the webinar at this link:

<https://bham.radiusbycampusmgmt.com/ssc/eform/zzN68Lx7kB5kx67c020p.ssc>

Help for employers to better understand the education and skills landscape

Gatsby Charitable Foundation and a range of partners have come together to help demystify the Education and Skills landscape for Employers. Supported by the DfE, CBI and Chamber of Commerce among others this new set of resources aims to provide a simple, quick reference guide to the type of support that is available.

This new resource is called [Education Landscape](#) and it explains how a business can engage with schools, colleges and universities, and the wider skills system, showing examples of the different ways business can benefit. The resources can be adapted by councils to share with their local businesses and supply chains. Education Landscape is a useful tool to better understand the various opportunities, initiatives and schemes that currently exist to support employers. Please share these free resources and downloadable guides with any relevant colleagues, spread the word across your networks and ideally pass on through the appropriate challenges to your local businesses.

As Councils play an invaluable role in reaching as many local businesses as possible, these resources have been created to support your council's communications activity. If you would like to know more about becoming more actively involved see the [partner support page](#) or contact the [Strategic Development Network](#).

Good Youth Employment Symposium 2022

Birmingham, 9th November 2022

Join over 100 HR leaders and decision makers in-person at the Good Youth Employment Symposium, Awards and 10th Anniversary celebration at IET Birmingham on 9th November 2022.

71% of young people* say they're not convinced employers want to hire young people. It doesn't have to be that way. Learn how to attract, engage and retain young talent at the Good Youth Employment Symposium, including:

- How best to support young people with quality opportunities from early school engagement and work experience right through to traineeship & apprenticeships.
- How to support young people with additional barriers and challenges, maximising engagement and potential from those from diverse backgrounds.
- How to be a quality employer for young people. Over half of young people don't think employers have an inclusive approach to hiring them. See how to rebuild that trust and break the mould.
- How to create quality developmental opportunities and their benefits such as mentoring, coaching, training and learning.
- How the young people in your network can be your own champions and supporters.

A diverse range of speakers from public and private sectors will be sharing their insights on the day, including some voices from local government: Emma Slade, Early Careers Consultant, Surrey County Council and Dr Fiona Aldridge, Head of Insight and Intelligence, West Midlands Combined Authority

You can find out more about the event, including a full agenda, list of speakers and ticket prices here: <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/good-youth-employment-symposium/>.

IFATE Updates

- Take your chance to transform transport and logistics training - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/transform-transport-and-logistics-training/>
- Applications now open for employers seeking to improve apprenticeship standards (30 Sept deadline) - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/applications-now-open-for-employers-seeking-to-improve-apprenticeship-standards/>

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