

Local Government Association

NEWSLETTER

Date: December 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 last LGA Apprenticeships Newsletter of 2022. Still a few things to cover this month, which we'll get to in just a second. But first, from all of us here at the LGA we want to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2023.

Now read on...

REMINDER: 2022-23 LGA Apprenticeships Surveys Deadline 5pm 11 Jan 2023

Just another reminder that **the deadline** for both of the LGA's Apprenticeships Surveys is coming up on **11 January 2023**. A big thank you to those councils that have taken part already. Remember that all councils that do take part in the survey will get an individual report showing benchmarking data for their council and an indicative assessment of their current progress against the Apprenticeships Maturity Model, so there's an extra incentive to take part this year. Both surveys are being carried out online.

It's come to our attention that some of the original emails sent to councils with the links to fill in both surveys have ended up getting caught in councils' spam filters. If you have not received an email from me with the links to surveys, please do the following:

- Use the following link to complete the Organisational Survey. Please ensure you provide us with an email contact so we can identify which council the submission has come from (and contact you if we need to follow up) - <https://eu.research.net/r/apprenticeshipsfinal>
- There are individual collectors for each council for the apprentice health and wellbeing survey. This is to enable us to keep the responses anonymous while still allowing us to filter the responses by region, council type, and (if we get enough responses) by council. **A spreadsheet containing all the links to this survey for each council in England is attached.** If you've not received yours already, please look up your council to select the correct link in the attached and circulate it to your apprentices (including those in maintained schools if this is possible as we are looking to ensure we have a good subsample from this group of apprentices).

Response rates so far from apprentices at those councils taking part are excellent, but we still don't have responses from a wide enough range of authorities to make it as representative as we'd like, so we'd be grateful if more councils could circulate their link to their apprentices so they have the choice to take part.

2021/22 Public Sector Target Data Published

The government has now published the Public Sector Apprenticeships Target dataset for 2021/22, the final year the target was in operation. The dataset includes all data submitted by public sector bodies, including councils, that was received by government by mid-November 2022.

The main headlines are:

- Councils created 13,350 apprenticeship starts in 2021/22 – an increase of 8.6%
- Maintained schools starts have dropped to 3k down from 3.8k, despite overall school starts rising to 7.1k
- 47 councils and combined authorities met their PS Target, up from 29 last year
- The sector average rose slightly to 1.3% of headcount against the 2.3% target, up from 1.2%
- This again puts us third-bottom when compared with other parts of the public sector, only above non-maintained schools and 'other' public sector organisations.

I have put together my usual briefing on what the data says (see attached word document) as well as extracting the full data set from the bowels of the government website where it resides. To make it easy for councils to compare data year-on-year, I've put the dataset for each of the five years of the target on a different tab (see the second excel spreadsheet attached). It should be noted that data for previous years has been updated with some late-reporting councils so totals for each year do not perfectly match earlier reported totals, meaning the sector actually did slightly better in each year the target was in force than previously thought.

LISTEN AGAIN: Our Webinar on High Value, Low Volume Apprenticeships

Thanks again to everyone who took part in our webinar on High Value, Low Volume Apprenticeships earlier this month, the latest in our series on Apprenticeships with Impact. Particular thanks to colleagues at Cumbria County Council, Kent County Council and Peterborough City Council for joining us to share your excellent case studies.

The link to listen back to the webinar is now available for anyone who missed it or wants to revisit anything we discussed. Due to technical problems on the day, we weren't able to be joined by Debbie Hiller from Peterborough for her case study, and Rebecca Rhodes gallantly stepped in to cover the item. But thanks to the wonders of modern technology and the patience of Debbie and Rebecca, we've been able to record her saying what she would have said had she been able to join us and have spliced it into the recording.

The slides from the webinar are attached to this newsletter and you can listen back to the recording of the session here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2667984084287363584>

Job Opportunity: Apprenticeships Coordinator, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

There's a new job opportunity available to join the team at RBKC as their new Apprenticeships Adviser. The role is full time and will implement and manage the council's internal apprenticeship programme, which currently has 120 apprentices undertaking learning from entry level to degree level.

You can find out more about the role here: <https://careers.newjob.org.uk/RBKC/job/London-Apprenticeship-Coordinator-RBKC605628-KEC/881075101/>

The closing date is 16 January.

National Apprenticeship Week 2023: Themes and Presentation

You might have already seen this in the latest Employer Newsletter from DfE's Skills Development Managers, but if not, Government has announced that each day during the annual week-long celebration of all things apprenticeships will be themed as follows:

Monday 6 Feb	NAW 2023 is Live
Tuesday 7 Feb	Employer
Wednesday 8 Feb	Apprentice
Thursday 9 Feb	T Level
Friday 10 Feb	Celebration
Saturday 11 Feb	Parents' and Carers' Day
Sunday 12 Feb	Selfie Sunday

Further information about what's planned, and presentation slides used at the recent NAW23 surgery are attached to this newsletter. More information on the LGA's plans for NAW 2023 will be announced in next month's newsletter.

IFATE Updates

- Have your say on how qualifications work within apprenticeships
<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/newshub/news-events/have-your-say-on-how-qualifications-work-within-apprenticeships/>
- 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

Best wishes

Jamie and Nigel

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