

March 2019

This edition will cover:

## Learning Provider and Employer resources

- Government consultation – review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England
- Consultation on allocations methodology for the 16 to 19 discretionary bursary fund
- Advanced learner loans prospectus and catalogue
- Change to the feconnect web address
- Post-16 audit code of practice

## Centre support

- The National Care Forum Annual Conference 2019

## Funding policy news

- Apprenticeship funding rules 2018 to 2019
- Register of apprenticeship training providers – subcontractors
- The ESFA list of qualifications approved for funding 14 to 19 (formerly known as section 96)
- Draft adult education budget funding rules 2019 to 2020
- Apprenticeship funding bands
- European Social Fund match funding requirements

## Funding opportunities

- Level 2 Award in Customer Service for Health and Social Care Settings



## Learning Provider and Employer Resources

Government consultation – review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the government launched the consultation on the review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England.

The Department for Education (DfE) is consulting in two stages and the first stage of the consultation focuses on the principles, scope and the broad process the review will follow.

The government is consulting on:

- only providing public funding for qualifications that meet key criteria on quality, purpose, necessity and progression
- not providing public funding for qualifications for 16 to 19 year olds that overlap with T Levels or A Levels
- in August 2020, withdrawing approval for funding for older versions of qualifications at level 3, where there are newer versions that have been re-developed to meet performance tables rules
- in August 2021, withdrawing approval for funding for qualifications with no or low publicly funded enrolments.

The consultation will close on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Please send any queries via email to [Post16Level3andBelowReview.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:Post16Level3andBelowReview.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk).

**POST 16 LEVEL 3 AND BELOW CONSULTATION**

---

## Advanced learner loans prospectus and catalogue

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published the prospectus for advanced learner loans in the funding year 2019 to 2020. This document sets out how they designate qualifications for loans.

The main changes for 2019 to 2020 are:

- awarding organisations no longer have to sign the Learner Records Service agreement before asking the ESFA to designate qualifications
- a new monthly deadline for awarding organisations to send notification forms.

ESFA has also published the first edition of the catalogue of qualifications designated for loans in 2019 to 2020. In the Hub, they will add loans funding validity for these qualifications on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

If providers have any further queries, please contact the service desk.

**SERVICE DESK**

---

## Consultation on allocations methodology for the 16 to 19 discretionary bursary fund

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the DfE launched a consultation outlining proposals to revise the allocations methodology for the 16 to 19 discretionary bursary fund.

This consultation will be of interest to any provider with a 16 to 19 discretionary bursary allocation.

Providers can submit your views on GOV.UK. The consultation closes on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.

If you have a query about the consultation, please  
email [1619DiscretionaryBursary.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:1619DiscretionaryBursary.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk).

CONSULTATION PAGE

---

## Change to the feconnect web address

The ESFA changed the web address for the feconnect online forum on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

From Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the new address for feconnect is now [feconnect.education.gov.uk](http://feconnect.education.gov.uk).

The email address is staying the same, so subscriptions to emails will continue to work as normal.

---

## Post-16 audit code of practice

The ESFA has updated the post-16 audit code of practice for 2018 to 2019.

The audit code sets out a common standard for the provision of assurance for all post-16 providers, including sixth form and Further Education (FE) colleges.

They have also updated the regularity self-assessment questionnaire to help sixth form and FE colleges evidence compliance for their auditors.

AUDIT CODE



Centre  
Support

## The National Care Forum Annual Conference 2019

There are significant changes in the wider community that are impacting on Care including integration of health, housing and care, the rise of technology, changing demographics, emerging communities and pressures on workforce and funding.

The provision of great care in the future will rely on the Adult Social Care sector taking control of how it engages with these changes.

The conference is for CEOs, Trustees, Senior Teams and Leaders from across the Social Care sector, who are passionate about embracing the future.

**NCF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



## Funding Policy News

### Apprenticeship funding rules 2018 to 2019

The ESFA has published version two of the apprenticeship funding rules for 2018 to 2019.

The rules apply to all providers, employers, and employers-providers receiving apprenticeship funding from the ESFA.

They have made changes to this document due to the recent announcement on changes to co-investment. Other changes made are set out in the summary of changes section.

For the first time, the funding rules are available in a web-based version making them more accessible and easier to use.

**APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING RULES**

---

### Register of apprenticeship training providers – subcontractors

The ESFA wish to remind providers that all organisations wanting to access the ESFA funding to deliver apprenticeship training must now be on the register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP). This includes subcontractors delivering less than £100,000 of apprenticeship training a year. All subcontractors must be listed on the RoATP from August 2019.

All organisations wanting to deliver apprenticeship training as a subcontractor from August 2019, that are not already listed on the RoATP, should apply by the end of April 2019 to be confident of being admitted to the register prior to August 2019.

Lead providers will need to make sure that their subcontractors are aware of this if they wish to continue to partner with them from August 2019 onwards.

**RoATP**

---

## The ESFA list of qualifications approved for funding 14 to 19 (formerly known as section 96)

The title of the section 96 website has changed to the ESFA list of qualifications approved for funding 14 to 19.

This website shows which qualifications are approved for funding for students who are at least aged 14 but are not yet 19 and which age ranges the qualification has been approved for.

The ESFA has made this change so that:

- the title of the website more accurately describes the information that it contains
- they can describe the qualifications funding approval process for pre and post-19 in a simpler and consistent way.

**SECTION 96 NAME CHANGE**

---

## Draft adult education budget funding rules 2019 to 2020

The ESFA has published the draft adult education budget (AEB) funding rules 2019 to 2020 on GOV.UK.

The rules apply to all providers of education and training who receive AEB funding from the ESFA.

They have made changes to this document due to devolution of adult education functions from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019. Other changes made are set out in the summary of changes section.

This draft version is for consultation and they are asking for feedback and comments where the requirements could be made more concise and clearer.

Please send any comments or feedback to [AEBRules.FEEDBACK@education.gov.uk](mailto:AEBRules.FEEDBACK@education.gov.uk) by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

---

## Apprenticeship funding bands

The list of apprenticeship standards shows the apprenticeship standards that have an approved assessment plan and are ready for employers and training organisations to use.

The frameworks spreadsheet sets out the funding bands that will apply for existing apprenticeship frameworks.

**FUNDING BANDS**

---

## European Social Fund match funding requirements

These apply to providers who have a contract to deliver training to employers who don't pay the levy. These providers may be accessing funding that can be used as match funding for the European Social Fund (ESF).

**ESF FUNDING**



## Level 2 Award in Customer Service for Health and Social Care Settings

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 14 and over and is designed to act as an introduction and enable learners to develop the knowledge and understanding required to work with customers within the Health and Social Care sector.

**NEW QUALIFICATION**