



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 310
25 May 2016

Welcome

In this issue of Update, our weekly round-up of business-critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) colleges, other training organisations and direct grant employers:

1. **Apprenticeship Reforms: Withdrawal of Frameworks**
2. **College Financial Planning Template: 2015 to 2016**
3. **Monitoring Plan 2015 to 2016**
4. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey: Interim Report**
5. **Supporting Apprentices Service: Mental Health Support**

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1. Apprenticeship Reforms: Withdrawal of Frameworks

Information

In March, we announced the first batch of apprenticeship frameworks to be **removed**.

We have now **published** a second batch of 60 apprenticeship frameworks that we will withdraw for new starts from 1 December 2016. These frameworks had a low number of reported starts in the 2014 to 2015 and the 2015 to 2016 funding years or have provision covered by developing apprenticeship standards. This change will not affect those apprentices currently completing their apprenticeship on these frameworks.

For further information or related queries, please refer to the **Apprenticeship Changes** page on GOV.UK or contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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2. College Financial Planning Template: 2015 to 2016

Information

We have published the **College Financial Planning Template 2015 to 2016** and associated guidance on GOV.UK.

Colleges must submit their completed financial plans to their respective funding body by **31 July**.

The financial plan should show the expected out-turn for 2015 to 2016, the budget for 2016 to 2017 and the forecast for 2017 to 2018. If you are completing the template as part of an Area Review submission, you should consider extending the period up to 2019 to 2020. This will confirm financial viability and progress against key financial benchmarks.

For further information or related queries, please email **Provider Financial Management**.

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3. Monitoring the Funding Rules 2015 to 2016

Information

Later this week, we will publish version 2 of the [Monitoring the Funding Rules 2015 to 2016](#) document.

The plan lists the new areas that we will monitor for the 2015 to 2016 funding year. You can use the data reports and monitoring plan to contribute to your assurance that you are following the funding rules and to help address data inaccuracies quickly.

We will also publish guidance on how to access the reports and any action you may need to take if you discover an error at the end of June.

For further information, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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4. FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey: Interim Report

Information

The 2015 to 2016 survey opened on 29 March and runs until 22 July. Colleges and other training organisations can now access their first interim report on the [Provider Extranet](#). This includes the results of your employer customers during the 'provider-led' phase.

We have updated the interim report format allowing you to conduct a more detailed analysis of your performance, especially if you aim to exceed your minimum number of responses. You have the option to select breakdowns by size and sector, staff receiving training and course details.

For further information, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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5. Supporting Apprentices Service: Mental Health Support Information

We have collaborated with the Department for Education to trial a scheme tailoring access-to-work support for apprentices with mental health issues.

Remploy will deliver this free service and it will initially operate in England in the following regions:


- North West
- North East
- South
- London

This free service will support apprentices who are feeling low, upset and struggling to keep up with their apprenticeship. It is completely confidential and run by fully trained professionals with expertise in mental health.

For further information, please email **Remploy**.

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