

AELP Recommendations for action

The emphasis on making training opportunities available wherever you live is why AELP is pressing for properly sustained and guaranteed support in the non-levy paying business community and this is not just a reference to apprenticeships. Growing programmes like traineeships requires responsive funding and proper measurement. English and maths, along with digital skills, must be properly funded and the learner supported whatever programme they are undertaking.

In our view, the Government should take immediate steps to implement the following recommendations:

1. Guaranteed apprenticeship funding for non-levy paying employers of at least £1bn, no matter what levy is unused, and non-levy payers on the Apprenticeship Service as soon as possible to generate a genuine employer led system.
2. An immediate review of the impact of employer contributions on the SME apprenticeship starts with data published on a monthly basis for levy and non-levy starts.
3. Monthly responsive funding for traineeships and proper measurement of the primary official outcomes of progression.
4. Adequate funding for maths and English within apprenticeships with delivery being part of the apprentices' off-the-job training where appropriate.
5. Support and develop level 2 programmes across all sectors as a first step for a young person or an adult needing to retrain.
6. The Institute for Apprenticeships working with key stakeholders to ensure that all existing and new apprenticeship standards are fit for purpose, their assessments are valid and reliable and there is adequate funding to deliver a quality programme – until these criteria are met, learners should not be started on new standards. Delivery should be inspected under one framework and end point assessment should have one quality standardisation organisation.
7. Tendering of the full £1.5bn Adult Education Budget along with other training initiatives to ensure targeted and value for money delivery across regions and sectors.
8. A fully integrated approach across employment and skills initiatives embedding traineeships and apprenticeships as the route to sustained employment.

