

Update

Issue 8
26 May 2010

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Welcome to the eighth edition of Update, our weekly communication to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback please get in touch by emailing: update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk. All back copies and the latest version of Update are available on the Skills Funding Agency website: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/funding/allthelatest/providerupdate/>.

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Train to Gain Funds redirected into Apprenticeships Information

Among the announcements made by the Chancellor, George Osborne yesterday, was a plan to redirect £200 million of Train to Gain funds: £150 million to Apprenticeships and £50 million to capital funds. The Train to Gain budget is now £783 million.

We expect that that the additional Apprenticeship funds will generate 50,000 additional Apprenticeship places for small to medium sized enterprises. See the item below for further information on the capital programme.

This change means that there is no cut to overall programme funding, nor is there any additional money for provision. Money has simply been redirected from Train to Gain to Apprenticeship and Capital programmes.

Ministers have made clear their desire for providers to switch funds from Train to Gain to Apprenticeships. We expect providers that currently deliver both programmes will be able to do this fairly easily, although we will produce further guidance as necessary.

The Skills Funding Agency continues to work with ministers to clarify future policy priorities for all our funding areas and the National Apprenticeship Service is doing the same for Apprenticeships. In this context we are keen to provide as much certainty as possible during the coming period while being open and transparent about the changing policy environment.

Train to Gain redirected into Capital Programme

Information

The Chancellor and Chief Secretary announced yesterday that £50 million of Train to Gain funds would be redirected to further education capital projects. The announcement explained that the Government expects that the public investment in capital will attract an additional £100 million of private funds to establish a fund of £150 million.

We are convening an emergency meeting of the Association of Colleges Capital Reference Panel next week to consult on how we intend to use this fund. The Panel will consider a proposal that prioritises funds on colleges that did not benefit significantly from capital funds from the Learning and Skills Council.

We expect to provide more details in the next fortnight and to move forward with these proposals very quickly.

The Delivery Plan for 2010/11

Information

The Skills Funding Agency is keen to be as open and transparent as possible in its operations and plans for delivery. To this end we intend to publish our full Delivery Plan in July, which will set out how we intend to deliver all the commitments made in the Skills Investment Strategy issued in November 2009 (<http://bit.ly/cbm5DT>).

The Delivery Plan is a direct response to the instructions given to the Skills Funding Agency in the Skills Investment Strategy and will also incorporate any changes that the new government intend to make to policy for academic year 2010/11. A first draft of this plan will be available shortly; we will send the link in a future issue of Update.

Period 9 Employer Responsive Qualification Success Rates released

Information

The Data Service released the Period 9 Employer Responsive Qualification Success Rate reports and guidance on the Provider Gateway (<http://bit.ly/c6mwhg>) on 21 May 2010. Full methodology documents, guidance, frequently asked questions and Quick Reference Guide to Calculation Methods can be viewed on the Data Dictionary (<http://bit.ly/9nFZiU>) section of the Data Service website.

Useful telephone numbers and websites

Information

- Employers (up to 5000 employees) - Train to Gain - 0845 600 9 006 or www.businesslink.gov.uk/traintogain
- Employers (5000+ employees) - National Employer Service - 024 7682 5815 or <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/employers/>
- Learners/individuals – Careers Advice Service - 0800 100 900 or www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk
- National Apprenticeship Service - Employers call 08000 150 600 or visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/employers.aspx>
- National Apprenticeship Service - Learners should visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Be-An-Apprentice.aspx>
- Skills Pledge - 0845 600 900 6 or www.businesslink.gov.uk/skillspledge
- Skills Funding Agency enquiries - Switchboard - 0845 377 5000 or www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk
- The Data Service - 0870 267 0001 or www.thedataservice.org.uk

The Skills Funding Agency funds and regulates adult further education and skills in England.

An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

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