

Update

Issue 11
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**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Welcome to the eleventh edition of Update, our round up of business critical information 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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Broad ambitions for Further Education Information

On 17th June, John Hayes MP set out his [broad ambitions for Further Education](#). These include a range of freedoms and flexibilities that will be made available to colleges for the 2010/11 academic year. Guidance Note 4 will clarify how the Skills Funding Agency will implement these freedoms and flexibilities, setting out operational arrangements for the payment and performance management of colleges and other training organisations, including employers.

Guidance Note 4 will be available on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#) shortly.

Young Person's Guarantee – work focused training provision in Flexible New Deal Phase 2 districts

Information

Following recent policy announcements made by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Skills Funding Agency will no longer be providing work focused training in the Flexible New Deal Phase 2 districts.

The Skills Funding Agency would like to thank those providers who prepared bids for this work. However, following the change of policy, we will not be taking this procurement activity forward. We apologise for the inconvenience, but you will appreciate that this decision is as a result of change in Government policy following the General Election.

Understanding the Qualifications and Credit Framework

Information

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is a new way of recognising achievement through the award of credit for the achievement of units and qualifications. The QCF is a key strand of the Government's Vocational Qualification Reform Programme. The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for implementing the framework across the wider post-19 skills system in England, and for delivering the changes made to the Personal Learning Record to support the additional Qualifications and Credit framework services which will operate in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

An [interactive guide](#) on the Qualifications and Credit Framework has been developed to help learning providers, careers advisers and awarding organisations support the learners they are working with.

Effect of duplicate records on Learner Responsive 08/09 Qualification Success Rates

Information

There has been an issue with the accuracy of data submitted by some providers in F05 returns for 08/09. This has led to anomalies in the data matching (i.e. the creation of "duplicate records"), which has affected the learner responsive success rate reporting. This has caused a few providers' success rates to be lower than their performance would merit.

For further details on this and the one-off action being taken to address this, please visit the [news section](#) on the [Information Authority website](#).

Train to Gain – latest research now available

Information

Since Train to Gain began, evaluation has been conducted amongst employers to assess their views on the service. The most recent research, "Wave 5", has assessed the views of

the learners themselves and takes a wider look at employers' opinions. All of the [Train to Gain evaluation reports](#) are now available to view on the Skills Funding Agency website.

Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) changing to The Learning Records Service (LRS)

Information

From September 2010, Managing Information across Partners (MIAP) will be called The Learning Records Service (LRS). MIAP's existing free services, products and applications will be merged and new functionality to the Personal Learning Record for the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) will also be introduced.

A new enhanced and consolidated [website](#) will be launched in the autumn, which will include tailored guidance and information from the former MIAP and UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP) websites in one central, easy-to-use location.

For further information on the LRS, please telephone 0845 602 2589 or [email](#).

Next Step course directory

Information

The Skills Funding Agency has recently completed a series of 24 workshops providing training on the new Next Step course directory, which will form a key component of the new integrated adult careers service. The directory will provide a comprehensive view of all Skills Funding Agency funded provision, and will be available in August.

YPLA information

Information

The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) has launched an [e-bulletin](#). It has been created for local authority directors of children's services, academy principals and independent specialist providers. You can sign up for web alerts and back copies will be accessible on their [website](#).

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

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

The Skills Funding Agency complies with The Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and information on our Privacy Policy can be found at: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/privacy.htm>.