

Welcome to Issue 33 of our e-bulletin - we hope you find it useful and informative.

This is addressed to:

- Local authorities - Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services and 14-19 leads.
- All YPLA funded providers – Principals/Heads of Academies, colleges with 16-19 provision, sixth form colleges, independent specialist providers and independent providers.

Local authority Directors of Children's Services are asked to please forward this e-bulletin to Heads of their maintained schools with sixth forms.

If you would like us to add recipients to this distribution list then please send their e-mail address to ypla.bulletin@ypla.gov.uk.

Copies of all e-bulletins will be posted on the [News](#) section of our website. You can also sign up for alerts to new documents posted on the YPLA website by registering for our [web alert service](#).

All statutory guidance and legislation linked from this site continues to reflect the current legal position unless indicated otherwise, but may not reflect current Government policy.

Key headlines:

FOR INFORMATION OR ACTION:

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Information for FE colleges, sixth form colleges and independent private providers

Article 1 - Minimum Levels of Performance applying to the 2012/13 academic year

Both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Education (DfE) are reviewing policies for setting standards for future years.

In its consultation document '*New Challenges, New Chances*' (August 2011) BIS has set out its intention to review and streamline the FE assurance system, while safeguarding public funding and ensuring quality and is seeking views on how it can achieve this. The [consultation](#) closes on 21st October 2011.

DfE will also be consulting on options for a standard that can apply across all 16-18 provision, including school sixth forms, to inform student and parent choice, in line with the Schools White Paper commitment. The two departments will work closely as they develop these proposals over the coming months.

In view of the work that is currently taking place, no changes to the process on Minimum Levels of Performance (MLP) are proposed for the coming year, or to the Minimum Levels thresholds that were published last year. Updates on the detail of the process and production of reports will be communicated as and when required via the regular Skills Funding Agency updates and YPLA bulletins to the sector.

MLP arrangements will again be undertaken jointly by the Skills Funding Agency and the YPLA. 2010/11 performance data will be used to inform Notices to Improve where performance is below the MLP threshold. These will be issued in Spring 2012 and apply in 2012/13. School sixth form provision will remain out of scope of the process this year, because 2010/11 was a pilot year for schools with post-16 provision, in respect of submitting success rate information (which forms the basis of the MLP calculation).

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Information for providers who submit the ILR return

Article 2 - Learner Information Suite V19.01 goes live

The Learner Information Suite (LIS) V19.01 is a software application made available to providers to assist in preparation of single Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data.

The Data Service has published the first full release of the Learner Information Suite (LIS) V19.01. This is now available to download from [the Data Service website](#).

The LIS V19.01 will **convert** flat files to XML format, and **amalgamate** any combination of ILR files. Further details on this release are available from the Data Service [website](#).

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Information and action for providers who submit the ILR return

Article 3 – 2011/12 Online Data Collections system goes live

The Data Service has released the [Online Data Collections system](#) (OLDC) for

2011/12. This means that learning providers can now start to submit ILR data for 2011/12. The YPLA plans to use the **R04** return to inform 2012/13 allocations. As previously communicated to providers that make ILR returns, the YPLA strongly recommends that providers submit early data returns (eg R02 and R03) to familiarise themselves with the new returns. The **return date** for R02 is **06 October 2011**. Further details are available from [the Data Service website](#).

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Information and action for sixth form colleges, FE colleges, independent private providers, independent specialist providers

Article 4 – Providers advised not to use proxy learning aims for 2011/12

The Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) are advising providers not to use proxy aims when they are enrolling new learners this academic year.

In April this year, providers were asked to start removing proxy aims from their 2010/11 Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data, as the funding organisations were confident that the learning aims database (LAD) was well-populated and being kept up-to-date.

The same message still applies for 2011/12. Further details are available from *the information authority* [website](#).

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Information for Academies with a sixth form, maintained schools with a sixth form, sixth form colleges, FE colleges

Article 5 - Learner Achievement Tracker Value Added Reports

This year, the Data Service has once again been commissioned to produce the Learner Achievement Tracker (LAT) value added (VA) reports to the specification set out by the YPLA, using 2010/11 awarding body information. The reports that are generated feature as part of the data that will continue to be used by Ofsted in their inspection of all post-16 provision.

As signalled in its statement of intent <http://www.education.gov.uk/performance/tables/>, the Department for Education (DfE) has discontinued the value added measure used in the Key Stage 5 tables. DfE intends to replace this in future years with a more straightforward value added measure, and the existing LAT VA will be used as the starting point for this. In line with this, DfE will take on responsibility for future production of a value added measure.

What happens next?

Schools and colleges have a fixed window of opportunity for submitting amendments to the data used for calculating LAT VA via the key stage 4 and 5 checking exercise; this year the period for submitting amendments runs from 26 September to 10 October <https://tableschecking.education.gov.uk/>

The 'unamended' LAT VA reports will be available for providers via the provider gateway from the end of October this year. Once the amended reports are published in late January 2012, the YPLA and Data Service cannot guarantee that they are able to make

further corrections due to the time and cost involved.

Further information relating to the LAT VA measure can be found at <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/ga/lat-va-tool/>

Website links

<http://www.ypla.gov.uk/>

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>

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Information and action for all providers in receipt of youth and/or adult discretionary learner support

Article 6 – Reminder - Youth and Adult discretionary Learner Support MI 2010/11

This note is a reminder for all providers in receipt of youth and/or adult discretionary Learner Support in the 2010/11 academic year.

The YPLA is currently collecting the annual Management Information return for the spend of both **youth and adult discretionary Learner Support (dLS) for the academic year 2010/11**. The YPLA is collecting the management information for adult dLS on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency.

The data is being collected via the online web portal which can be accessed at: <http://dls.ypla.gov.uk/data>. This is a secure area which requires a user name and password.

Providers are asked to submit their 2010/11 dLS data **by 31st October 2011 at the latest**.

If you have any queries about this, please email dlsenquiries@ypla.gov.uk.

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Information and action for LLDD co-ordinators and MI managers in providers who submit the ILR return

Article 7 – Recording S139a LDA learners on the ILR

Providers will be aware that we currently have in place an interim arrangement for the funding of learners with a S139a Learning Difficulty Assessment. It is the intention of the YPLA and the Skills Funding Agency to move away from the interim approach for 2012/13 allocations, provided the data for 2010/11 is robust. To ensure the allocations can be calculated accurately, and to help us move away from this arrangement and better reflect our respective legal duties, providers are requested to diligently check and record LLDD learners with S139a Learning Difficulty Assessments accurately on the 2010/11 ILR (field L29).

For details of the legal requirements, please refer to paragraphs 140 – 146 of the 2010/11 [Adult Learner Responsive Funding Requirements](#). For details of the relevant ILR fields in 2010/11 please refer to the [ILR guidance](#) page 70, and for 2011/12 please refer to the

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Information for Academies and local authority finance leads

Article 8 – Academy funding 2012/13

Following the consultation on Academy funding options for 2012/13 Ministers have considered the responses and have decided to go with a methodology that minimises change for individual Academies in 2012/13 before the wider funding reform is ready.

Further information on what this means for you can be found on the Department for Education's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/becominganacademy/b0061399/academy-funding/academy-funding-201213

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Information and action for all open Academies

Article 9 – GAG3 return

The YPLA has written to all open Academies to inform them that there is no longer a requirement that Academies send the YPLA a GAG3 return in respect of academic year 2010/11. It confirms our response to Academies who have raised this issue through our enquiry point. This return would normally have been returned to the YPLA by 30th September 2011. Please note, however, that if there has been a significant deterioration in your forecast budget outturn for 2011/12 since you sent YPLA your full-year forecast of 2010/11 on form GAG2, you should contact us by email to AcademiesFinancialMonitoring@ypla.gov.uk so that one of the External Assurance team can consider the situation. A copy of the letter can be found on the [YPLA website](#).

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Information and action for all open Academies

Article 10 – Academy Trusts become exempt charities

On 1 August, Academy Trusts (Academy proprietors approved by the Department for Education) automatically became exempt charities under section 12(4) of the Academies Act 2010.

Exempt charities are subject to the same legal rules as other charities but are exempt from regulation by, and hence cannot register with, the Charity Commission. Instead, exempt charities are generally regulated by some other body or authority. The Principal Regulator for Academy Trusts is the Secretary of State for Education, with the YPLA as his agent.

Following the change to exempt status, Academy Trusts have been removed from the register of charities maintained by the Charity Commission and the Commission's website

reflects this change (<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>). Academies are no longer required to submit an annual report and financial statements to the Charity Commission, but must continue to do so to Companies House and the YPLA. However, Academy Trusts retain the benefits and responsibilities of charitable status.

The Charity Commission is in the process of writing to Academies to advise that they have been removed from the Register of Charities. As part of this communication, Academies are being advised that they should no longer use their charity number or describe the charity as registered.

To find out more about the future regulation of Academies as charities, please see the [updated guidance on Academies](#) and [exempt charities](#) and other [guidance information](#) on the Commission's website.

For further information, please email academyquestions@ypla.gov.uk

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Information for FE colleges, Academies, sixth form colleges, maintained schools with sixth forms and independent private providers

Article 11 – Education Maintenance Allowance Take-up report

The latest EMA take-up report (August 2011) has been published to the [EMA website](#).

This spreadsheet details the total number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the current academic year.

This is updated on a monthly basis.

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