

## T Levels update for LEP Network Skills Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Timetable

- The first 3 classroom based T levels will be available from the Digital, Construction, and Education and Childcare routes. Specific T levels from each of these 3 routes have been chosen for delivery in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, these are:
  - Digital route: Software applications design and development
  - Construction route: Building services engineering
  - Education and Childcare route: Education
- On 16 January we published information on how providers who meet the criteria can apply to deliver the first T levels in 2020. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invitation-to-express-an-interest-to-deliver-t-levels-in-2020-to-2021-academic-year>.
- We want this initial delivery of T levels to get off to a high quality start, and providers will need to meet certain key criteria in order to be considered to deliver programmes in the first phase.
- The next 6 nominated routes will be launched in September 2021 with all eleven routes available as planned by September 2022.

### Investment

- In the spring 2017 budget, the government announced the investment of an additional £500 million per year in England's technical education system
- This allows us to increase hours of learning by over 50% for young people on the technical education routes, from 600 hours per year to over 900 hours per year, including a high-quality technical work placement.

### Consultation launches – T levels and Occupational Maps

- We launched a consultation on T level implementation at DfE's inaugural Skills Summit on 30 November. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementation-of-t-level-programmes>
- The consultation asks questions around the technical qualification design, work placements, quality assurance, accountability – as well as how we can meet the needs of all learners and ensure appropriate progression from a T level.
- As T levels are introduced, we expect to withdraw funding for other qualifications that that do not meet quality expectations, serve a distinct purpose, or support students' progression. The consultation asks for views on these principles.
- The Institute for Apprenticeships also launched a consultation in December on its draft occupational maps, seeking views on how they could be improved. This can be found at <https://consult.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/institute-for-apprenticeships-occupational-maps/>

### Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- In Autumn last year we held a series of awareness raising events for 16-19 providers, which helped them to understand more about T levels and the implications for them. These were well attended and received positive feedback.
- We are currently holding consultation events (in partnership with the AoC), open to anyone with an interest in T levels. The aim of these events is to help respondents develop an informed response to the

consultation. Those attending have included representatives from GFE colleges, independent training providers, LAs and LEPS, among others.

- We are also holding specific breakfast events for employers (in partnership with the British Chambers of Commerce) and a separate event for SEN providers.

### Work placements

- We have been building our evidence base to identify best practice and challenges to delivering substantial work placements. The consultation on T level implementation will help to provide information on what support employers might need.
- We are also commissioning a research project to look at the capacity of employers in different routes to offer work placements and identify key industry-specific barriers.
- Work placement models are being piloted by 21 providers this academic year with a large range of employers, for students on level 2/3 vocational and technical courses. The pilots are being evaluated and will report in early autumn 2018.
- The first £74m from the £500 million funding for T levels will be made available from April 2018, to help providers establish the infrastructure and resources needed to deliver T level work placements. This Capacity Delivery Fund will help institutions to hire dedicated resource to build relationships with local employers, many of which will be smaller, untapped employers.
- We ask that institutions work collaboratively with local employer networks, such as Education Business Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure that demand for work placements is met.

### Provider Readiness

- We will work with providers to understand how they will need to adapt to successfully deliver T levels and consider what support is needed.
- We announced £20m in the Budget to help providers prepare for the delivery of T levels and to help teachers prepare for the change.