

Welcome to the LGA Apprenticeship newsletter for **July 2018**, highlighting the latest news and developments on apprenticeships that are relevant to local authorities. Please feel free to circulate this to your own networks.

## **Joining the KHub**

The KHub is the place to find all of our information and best practice as well as to engage in discussions with colleagues from across the country. If you've not yet joined, please first register using the following link <https://khub.net/sign-up>. Once you have registered, please email [Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk) to be invited into the apprenticeship levy group. The direct link to our group is <https://khub.net/group/apprenticeship-levy-group-2016-2020/group-home>. Please note we are not currently accepting any membership from schools, academies and if your Council is set-up as shared/outsourced service please provide your [.gov](mailto:gov) email address.

**Got an urgent question on apprenticeships? Email us on our 24/7 query line on [info@sparks.org.uk](mailto:info@sparks.org.uk).**

## **Public Sector Reporting**

We start this month with some disappointing news. Despite lobbying from the LGA and feedback from a number of councils the ESFA have taken the decision that they will not be extending the 250 word limit per question in the narrative section of the online public sector reporting form. Although our request was viewed sympathetically, the evidence submitted, from both ourselves and the ESFA Account Managers who also fed back was deemed to represent only a small percentage of employers. In addition, the word count on reports already submitted was analysed and they found that the majority of employers did not make full use of the 250 words available, with some stating the restriction helped to keep the narrative succinct. They have provided a commitment to review this policy in advance of the reports due in September 2019, but won't make any changes during this reporting period.

This is obviously disappointing news. For those of you who have not yet submitted your reports we will be publishing the exemplar narrative that we have previously promised to circulate later this week. You'll be able to find that alongside the other documents on the public sector reporting process on the KHUB [here](#).

Councils are required to publish the Data Publication in a way that is easily accessible to the public, for example on the council's website. This must also be sent to DfE. Please share links to your published data returns on your website with the LGA – email them to [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk).

## **10% Transfer**

In more positive news, as many of you will hopefully have seen, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Ann Milton has announced that the restrictions on the number of employers that levy payers can transfer to will be lifted from July. Employers will now have the freedom to transfer to as many other employers as they want to, so long as they don't exceed the 10% cap.

Relaxing the restrictions has been something the LGA has been lobbying the government on for several months now, so it is pleasing that they have listened to us, and other employers and lifted the restrictions at the earliest possible opportunity.

You can find out more in the government's press release [here](#), including more information about Norfolk County Council experience as the first employer to transfer funds.

## **Government's Schools Guidance Published**

The government's apprenticeships guidance for schools has now been published and is available to download [here](#). This is quite a useful guide for schools and replaces the previous guidance document issued in February 2017. The LGA had the opportunity to feed into drafts and highlight some of the key issues that local authorities had reported back to us. We hope you find this a more useful document and are able to use it to increase interest among your maintained schools.

The ESFA has also updated its Amazing Apprenticeships website with a page specifically dedicated to apprenticeships in the schools workforce. You can find that [here](#).

### **LGA Bespoke Support Offer**

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in our bespoke support offer of apprenticeships consultancy support. Applications closed on 1 June. We had 29 applications, all of which had managed to demonstrate some level of need for the support we could provide. We were able to successfully make the case internally for more resources and **we are now able to support all 29 applications**. The successful councils are:

Camden	North Somerset
Dorset	North Yorkshire
Dudley	Oxfordshire
Gloucestershire	Plymouth
Hackney	Rotherham
Halton	Stockport
Hampshire	Surrey
Havering	Sutton
Kingston	Tameside
Lambeth	Waltham Forest
Lancashire	West Sussex
Liverpool City Region (Combined bid from all 6 LAs)	Wigan
Luton	Wolverhampton
Newham	York
Norfolk	

Initial scoping discussions with each council are now taking place and work will begin with the first tranche of councils soon. We are hoping this work will uncover a lot of good practice and new ideas, documents and tools we can share more widely with the rest of the sector, which we will highlight in future newsletters, so keep an eye out for future editions.

## **EPA system and South West Council EPOA**

The LGA sponsored South West Council to procure an EPA system and register as an EPA. We are happy to announce South West Council has been Approved as an End-Point Assessment Organisation for the following Standards

- [Business Administrator](#)
- [Operational Delivery Officer](#)
- [Team Leader/Supervisor](#)
- [Operations/Departmental Manager](#)
- [HR Support](#)
- [HR Consultant Partner](#)

South West Councils are also seeking approval for the following additional Standards: *Regulatory Compliance Officer and Revenues and Welfare Benefits Practitioner*, these Standard will fit well with Local Government and South West Council are looking for expressions of interest from potential assessors who currently/previously work in these two occupational areas. If you are interested or know someone who might be contact [fay.edwards@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:fay.edwards@swcouncils.gov.uk)

## **Trailblazer and Standard update**

- The **Level 3 Teaching Assistant Standard** has now been approved for delivery. The apprenticeship will last around 18 months and has a maximum funding band of £5,000. Find out more [here](#).
- The **Public Health apprenticeship standard** is now out for consultation, please see the consultation page here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/public-health-practitioner-level-6-apprenticeship-standard>, if any councils who employ public health practitioners or know of Districts Councils who do please do forward this message on. For further information contact [claire.cotter@phe.gov.uk](mailto:claire.cotter@phe.gov.uk). Consultation closes **13th July 2018**.
- The end point assessment for **Revenue and Welfare Benefits Officer Standard** has now been approved and published. The trailblazer group are waiting for final banding and ministerial approval. For further information contact [Julie.Maycock@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.Maycock@cambridge.gov.uk)

To see Apprenticeship Standards that are in development the list can be found [here](#) This is not an exhaustive list and we would like colleagues to provide us with an update on current trailblazers/standards you are involved in. Please contact [Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk)

## **Highlighting Best Practice**

One of the things we want to use this newsletter for is highlighting good practice and case studies from around the sector. We've set up a folder on the KHUB to upload examples of good practice (which you can find [here](#)). We will be adding to this over the next few weeks and will be highlighting a different case study in each of our newsletters.

This month we're focusing on **Apprenticeship Strategies** and highlighting work by Cornwall and Devon Councils. Cornwall Council's Apprenticeship Strategy is available [here](#) on the KHUB, while Devon County Council's slide pack on their apprenticeship strategy and actions is available [here](#).

If you are doing something interesting or innovative on apprenticeships and want to share it more widely with the sector as a case study, please contact Jamie Saddler on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk)

### **Apprenticeship Awards for Local Government**

Winner - 2018 Kent CIPD HR Awards (Excellence in Learning & Development) - Medway Council

Winner – 2018 London Learning Consortium's Festival of Learning, Professional Awards Category, Employer of the Year – Medway Council

Winner – 2018 London Learning Consortium's Festival of Learning, The Apprentice of the Year – Medway Council

Winner – 2018 The Mayor's Community and Excellent Award- Walsall Council

### **Apprenticeships News in the media**

#### **Employers used just 10 per cent of their levy since it was introduced**

*Paul Offord, FE week, 6th June 2018*

[Read more here](#)

#### **NHS apprenticeship fall by a third**

*Billy Camden, FE week, 22 Jun 2018*

[Read more here](#)

#### **Growing number of teens prefer apprenticeships to university, says charity chief**

*Catherine Wylie, Independent, 1 July 2018*

[Read more here](#)

#### **BBC boss to advise DfE on apprenticeships**

*George Ryan, Times Educational Supplement, 3 July 2018*

[Read more here](#)

#### **Institute for Apprenticeships' T-level takeover delayed, again**

*Billy Camden, FE week, 4 July 2018*

[Read more here](#)

#### **Great Debate on apprenticeships: time for stability, or major change?**

*Billy Camden, FE week, 6 July 2018*

[Read more here](#)

### **Key Dates For Your Diary**

Event	Topic	Date
Webinar #5	Schools: Building a Case for Apprenticeships for School Staff	Friday 13 July 9.30am - 10.30am

		Book your place <a href="#">here</a>
KHub Q&A Session (Schools theme)	Ask us anything about apprenticeships!	Thursday 19 July 9.30am - 10.30am Find the Thread <a href="#">here</a>
Webinar #6	Working with the ESFA Funding Rules: July 2018-March 2019 - Final Funding Rules Full Briefing	Friday 10 August 9.30am - 10.30am Book your place <a href="#">here</a>
Webinar #7	ESFA Funding Rules: July 2018 - March 2019 - Final Funding Rules Update	Friday 10 August 11.30am - 12.30pm Book your place <a href="#">here</a>

## Previous Newsletters

Missed one of our previous newsletters? They are now archived on the KHUB. You can find copies at the links below:

[February 2018](#)

[April 2018](#)

[May 2018](#)

## Your suggestions/ideas

If you have any suggestions for what you'd like to see in future newsletters, have items you want to add yourselves, want to sign a colleague up to our mailing list or want to **unsubscribe** yourself from the mailing list, please contact Sadique Miah on [Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk).

Best wishes

Sadique, Jamie and Nigel

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