

## Local Government Association

# NEWSLETTER

**Date: April 2020**

We just wanted to provide you with the latest update on a variety of issues surrounding Apprenticeships, T-Levels and COVID-19.

### **Post-Webinar Q&A**

We are just in the process of finalising this document and we will be then sending a copy to everyone who was on the webinar as well as uploading the document to the KHUB. This should be ready likely tomorrow. Apologies this is taking longer than planned to produce, the questions covered a lot of ground and there are a significant number of issues to try to unpick.

### **Next Iteration of Government Guidance**

We understand from conversations with government that the next iteration of the COVID-19 and Apprenticeships guidance is likely to be published in the second half of this week. We'll send round another update when the guidance is published with a summary and where you can find more details.

### **Guidance on financial support for education, early years and children's social care**

The government has released some additional guidance on the financial support that is available for organisations in education, early years and children's social care. This includes general guidance on various elements of the funding and financial support that is available as well as advice on how this might apply to various different sectors, including schools, further education and apprenticeships. You can read the guidance [here](#).

### **Update to Teacher Apprenticeship End Point Assessment**

The Teacher Apprenticeship Trailblazer Group has announced that temporary alternative arrangements are being put in place for the lesson observation element of the End Point Assessment (EPA) for this Apprenticeship Standard due to the impact of COVID-19. The lesson observation element can now be awarded based on assessment of observations during the consideration of the Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) award. The discussion element of the EPA is expected to go ahead as normal and these provisions only apply to apprentices whose EPA was due to take place before the end of the current academic year. You can read more [here](#).

### **Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers (RoATP)**

As you may be aware, the RoATP is closing for new applications due to the impact of COVID-19. However the ESFA has now agreed that employers of key workers can by exception continue applying to join the register as employer providers.

- To make an application, employers should consult the [application guidance](#) and speak to their account manager. Their account manager will work with them to complete and submit the appropriate form.

- Submitting an exceptional application is not a guarantee of acceptance - all applications will undergo a full assessment in the normal way.
- Employers of key workers are as defined in [DfE's advice to schools](#).

Further information is available in last week's [ESFA Update](#).

## T-Levels

Lastly, an update went out from government on T-Levels in light of the current COVID-19 disruption. In case you missed it, we've reproduced the email below:

*The Government remains fully committed to continuing with the delivery of both T Levels and the T Level Transition Programme in 2020 and 2021 as planned. While the Covid-19 outbreak has had a huge effect, we are determined that students will not lose out on opportunities, and now, more than ever, it is vital for the economy that we have a pipeline of skilled young people to help the economy recover. The majority of 2020 providers are keen to continue with delivery, though many of course do have concerns that we will need to work through alongside them.*

*We understand that at the moment offering industry placements for young people cannot be a priority for most companies as they focus on doing what they can to protect their business and their workforce. Even after the crisis has eased it will remain challenging for companies to offer industry placements. The industry placement is however an absolutely core part of a T Level and we are determined to work with providers and with business to continue to deliver these as part of the T Level programme.*

*In addition, we have also announced:*

- *That qualification specifications for the first three T Levels have been approved by the Institute and accredited by Ofqual. While providers have seen drafts of these qualifications, this is an important step towards first teaching of T Levels in September and will allow providers to plan their course and curriculum. You can find more information on this in the [Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education news story](#).*
- *That we will not claw back Capacity and Delivery Funding for providers who are unable to deliver their targets for industry placements this academic year, given it will in many cases be impossible for students to be on site for a work placement. We will ask providers for evidence of the work that they are doing in this area, including building links with businesses and doing what they can to make sure that they are well set up for Industry Placements for next year. While offering placements will of course remain challenging even after restrictions are eased, students must be work-ready before they undertake Industry Placements, so for next academic year we would expect them in most cases to be weighted towards the latter part of the course.*

*There is of course much work to do before first teaching of T Levels in September, and before T Levels are embedded throughout the education system, but we are committed to ensuring that these qualifications, developed with industry, are successful.*

*If you have any questions please contact your account manager.*

We'll provide further updates as soon as we get them.

Jamie

**Jamie Saddler**

Apprenticeships Adviser

Local Government Association

t: 07780 226 832 | e: [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk)