

**Local Government Association**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**Date: February 2021**

**Reminder:** If you've not yet joined us on the KHUB you can sign up to our apprenticeships group [here](#).

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

Hi everyone,

Here's the final instalment of our three-part newsletter this week for National Apprenticeship Week.

We wanted to end the week on a positive, so this instalment focuses on case studies and successes that some of our councils have had on everything from part-time flexible apprentices, to schools and levy transfer. There's also a link to where you can listen back to our webinar from Wednesday on Maintaining Momentum during COVID, which contains three more councils talking about their experiences during the pandemic, as well as updates on forthcoming T-Level drop-in sessions and where you can find our COVID-19 Workforce Surveys.

If there's anything you want to see in a future newsletter, don't hesitate to email Jamie on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk).

We hope you've had a positive, successful and productive National Apprenticeship Week.

### **Listen back to our webinar on Maintaining Momentum during COVID**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our webinar on Wednesday, which I thought was a really good session. Particular thanks to Nathalie Smith (Wiltshire), Misha Liddiatt (Somerset), Siraj Mayet (Kirklees) and Richard Daulton (ESFA) for giving up their time to take part in this.

The webinar covered a lot of ground, with an overview of the national picture from the ESFA, case studies from Wiltshire Council, Somerset County Council and Kirklees Council on their approaches and a really good panel discussion at the end.

If you missed the webinar and want to listen back to it, you can do so [here](#).

During the webinar I quoted some statistics on how the councils and the local government workforce have been affected by the pandemic. These come from our regular COVID Workforce Survey, carried out by the LGA every fortnight. If you want to read any of the reports for yourself, they are publicly available on the LGA website here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-workforce-survey-research-reports>

### **New and Updated Case Studies Folder in the KHUB**

We're looking to restructure some of our material in the KHUB to make it easier to find. As part of that we've today created a new 'Case Studies' folder in the KHUB where we'll be

bringing together case studies from around the sector on all aspects of apprenticeship programmes.

As well as including previously available material, like the two schools case studies from East Sussex and Hampshire County Councils from our Schools Toolkit, we are also publishing some new case studies today. Firstly, we have the first two of our second round of case studies on apprenticeships in schools from the London Borough of Hillingdon and Telford and Wrekin council. These will be the first in a series of case studies highlighting different councils' approaches to creating apprenticeships with their maintained schools, including testimonies from the schools they've been working with on the impact apprenticeships have had in their organisations. We'll highlight some more case studies from councils on schools in the coming weeks.

We've also added a series of case studies shared with us by the London Borough of Camden about their apprenticeship programme, from their approach to flexible apprentices, to stories from their apprentices and managers about their experiences.

We'll aim to add more case studies in the coming weeks to this folder, so stay tuned. And if your council is doing something you want to showcase in a case study let me know on [jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saddler@local.gov.uk)

You can find the case studies folder [here on the KHUB](#) (must be logged in for link to work), or you can find it by following the below steps in the KHUB Group:

LGA Apprenticeships Group > Library > 10. Case Studies

## **Levy Transfers – Big Progress on the South Coast**

We've been getting news in recent days from councils on the positive progress they are making on their Levy Transfer programmes.

**Brighton and Hove City Council** is making nearly £200,000 available to local businesses through the apprenticeship levy transfer scheme to help boost take up of apprenticeships in the city. They are relaunching their levy transfer scheme for another year to provide funds to support eligible employers take on new apprentices and develop existing programmes. The bidding process is open from 10 February to 10 March and the council's apprenticeships team will allocate funding from April.

Eligible employers will be a non-levy payer based in Brighton & Hove and be either a local business; an organisation in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector; or a school in the city that does not pay into the council's apprenticeship levy. Employers who apply for apprenticeship funding will be expected to actively support the aims of Brighton & Hove's City Employment & Skills Plan or show how the levy funding will support redundant apprentices or progression from kick start placements; their business' recovery from COVID or the city's aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

If you want to find out more, you can visit [Brighton's Apprenticeship page](#) or email the council on [apprenticeships@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

Brighton aren't alone on the south coast either in making headway with Levy Transfers. **Hampshire County Council** recently announced they had invested £1m of their levy funds with other employers through transfers. By the end of December the council had funded 234 apprenticeships, with 152 of these in the care sector working with 29 care employers. Hampshire have also given priority to small and medium enterprises, public bodies such as

District Councils, the emergency services and construction companies through their transfer programme.

You find out more about what they've achieved on the [Hampshire County Council website](#), while if you want to hear more about how they achieved it, make sure you [register to join our webinar on levy transfers](#) on 31 March (2pm – 3.30pm), where a representative from the council will explain all. The webinar will also feature me giving an overview of transfers and how to get the most out of them, more council case studies, and representatives from ESFA providing an update on the latest policy changes for transfers coming over the Summer.

## **LGA T Levels Drop in Sessions**

In 2020, the government has launched a new technical qualification called T Level. The LGA, supported by the Department of Education, is offering support to councils to promote their council as a career destination for young people. We are asking councils to provide one young person a T level industry placement from September 2021. Offering a T Level Industry Placement is a great opportunity for councils to retain local talent and gain extra capacity for sector specific project work with no employer cost. We are hosting a series of drop in sessions throughout February, March and April to help you gain an understanding of T Levels and what they can do for your council.

For dates and time for the session [Book here](#). If you have any questions contact [Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk)

## **Apprenticeships in the News**

### **Association of Apprentices launches to support trainees and boost retention**

*Billy Camden, FE Week, Friday 12 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Former FE lecturer turned MP appointed new Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network chair**

*Fraser Whieldon, FE Week, Thursday 11 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **All apprenticeship providers told to reapply to RoATP yet again**

*Billy Camden, FE Week, Wednesday 10 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Thurrock Council's support for National Apprenticeship Week**

*Thurrock Gazette, Wednesday 10 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **National Apprenticeship Week to showcase how apprentices are building future of our region**

*Oldham Evening Chronicle, Tuesday 9 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Swindon council plan aims to help employers as National Apprenticeship Week starts**

*Aled Thomas, Swindon Advertiser, Monday 8 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

### **Bradford Council marks National Apprenticeship Week 2021**

*Yusef Alam, Bradford Telegraph and Argus, Friday 6 February 2021*

[Read more here](#)

## Previous Newsletters

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

## 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@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sadique.miah@local.gov.uk)

Best wishes

Jamie, Sadique and Nigel

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