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**Funding Summary - May 2017**

**Prepared by: Rob George, rob@rgfe.co.uk, 07931 843000**

**Appendices;**

No appendices this month

**Introduction**

This is probably the shortest Funding Summary I have produced in the 5 years and 5 months I have been sending this out.

We have seen the new apprenticeship funding system start as of 1st May which has coincided with purdah. This resulted in the revised funding rules being rushed out at the end of April, with many unanswered points of clarification remaining unanswered.

RoATP version 2 has been published with most providers that failed at the first hurdle now being listed.

The shortfall of non-levy apprenticeship allocations to providers for May to Dec 2017 continues to be a major issue for many providers, however an ESFA letter sent to all contracted providers does indicate that growth will be given in August and October, with the usual caveat of subject to affordability. Most providers are taking the view that growth will be allocated to cover new apprenticeship enrolments and continue enrolling at their normal rate. However subcontractors to primes do seem to be suffering badly as this pool of funding dries up. AELP predicts that many subcontractors will go out of business before we have resolution of this issue.

The AEB ITT results will not be released until after the general election, again giving providers little planning time for funding spend which commences on 1st August. Apparently the ITT was massively oversubscribed as seems to be the norm for any funding at the moment.

**Apprenticeship funding and performance management rules 2017 to 2018 V3**

*2 documents issued here;*

* *the provider agreement which amends the non-levy performance management rules to cover May to Dec 2017, together with the addition of the AGE grant performance management process*
* *Addendum to the apprenticeship funding and performance management rules May 2017 to March 2018 sets out separate rules for subcontracting delivery of apprenticeships for non-levy paying employers from May to Dec 2017, effectively allowing the previous subcontracting rules to apply through to December*

These documents set out the funding and performance management rules for employers, employer-providers and training providers delivering the new apprenticeship programme from 1 May 2017.

The funding rules cover the period May 2017 to March 2018 and apply to all apprenticeship programmes starting on or after 1 May 2017. This includes both apprenticeship frameworks and standards.

The funding rules form part of the terms and conditions for funding apprenticeships by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Training providers can contact us through our Business Operations Service Desk at servicedesk@sfa.bis.gov.uk or telephone 0370 2640001. You can also contact your provider management manager/adviser.

**Apprenticeship training providers - RoATP**

*The latest version was published on 17.5.17, this can be found at*

https://roatp.apprenticeships.sfa.bis.gov.uk/download

The register lists the organisations that are approved to deliver apprenticeship training to employers using the apprenticeship service. The list includes organisations that were successful in making an application at the first opening (October 2016) and second opening (March 2017).

The 3 provider types are:

* main provider - organisations that can be selected by levy paying employers to deliver apprenticeship training, or selected by another main provider to work as a subcontractor
* employer provider – levy paying employers who are permitted to provide training to their own staff or to apprentices in their connected companies. They cannot deliver training to other unconnected organisations
* supporting provider - organisations that only deliver as a subcontractor for contract values between £100,000 and £500,000 per year in total

**Responding to employer requests for levy-funded apprenticeship training**

You can now respond to employer apprenticeship training requests and update apprentice details in the Skills Funding Service (SFS). You can find out more in the guide to SFS user roles.

To access the service, you need to set up as an ‘Apprenticeships Editor’ in our Information Management Services.

This will allow you to work with your employer online to add and approve apprentices’ data on the apprenticeship service.

**Advanced Learner Loans 2017 to 2018: changes to subcontracting**

The decision to remove subcontracting from the Advanced Learners Loans programme from 1st August 2017 was announced on 22nd February 2016, to enable providers sufficient time to bring the delivery in house or, if necessary to cease such delivery.

Further to our previously published advanced learner loans funding rules 2017 to 2018, this is a reminder that, as referenced in paragraph 20, you must deliver your loan provision to loans learners directly.

**Advanced Learner Loans: launch of 2017 to 2018 application service**

A reminder that the 2017 to 2018 application service will be available from 15 May 2017 for learners who wish to start eligible qualifications from 1 August 2017 funded with a loan.

You must issue a learning and funding information letter to these learners, including for offenders in custody, who are considering funding their qualification with a loan.

**Learning Aim Reference Service 2017 to 2018: update to table and field definitions**

We have published the table and field definitions for the learning aim reference service for the 2017 to 2018 funding year. The document is available through the learning aim search page on the hub.

This document is for software suppliers and colleges and training organisations that write their own software. It provides the complete set of tables and fields that will be available in the downloadable database for the 2017 to 2018 funding year.