

Funding Summary - August 2017

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Appendices;

1. Funding and Performance Management Rules Apprenticeship Training Delivery for Employers not using the Digital Account (non-levy)
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3. Grading New GCSE's from 2017
4. Updated SASE Regulations "Live" as of 22nd August 2017

Introduction

I am sure the focus of most people's month has been the completion of the ITT for apprenticeship non-levy procurement, this has been a significant task and as detailed below has now been extended to 8th September at 12.00 noon.

AEB contract values were notified in early August with some very strange results. New providers with no direct track record appear to have done as well, if not better, than existing providers with an excellent track record. Allocations appear to have been worked out by a simple pro rata process region by region, resulting in some huge contract reductions for existing providers. Let's hope this is not repeated in the non-levy procurement.

Revised rules continue to be issued by the ESFA as detailed in this summary, together with significant guidance on non-levy funding claims and data matching. This simple new apprenticeship system certainly seems much more complicated to most of us operating in the sector.

Finally we have the announcement of the new ESFA Chief Executive, Eileen Milner takes the helm in November, I have no doubt she will have a full in tray.

Extension of deadlines for non-levy procurement

The procurement exercise for training provision to non-levy paying employers opened at the end of July and was due to close on September 4. However, the provider market has shown considerable interest in the procurement exercise and we have been responding to an unprecedented number of queries.

We want to ensure that all providers get the opportunity to take into account the information we have provided and then reflect this into their bids if necessary, so we are therefore extending the deadlines by a short period. The new deadlines are as follows:

- tender clarification deadline – Friday, 1 September at 12 noon
- deadline for responses to tender clarifications – Tuesday, 5 September at 5pm
- tender submission deadline – Friday, 8 September at 12 noon

These amendments apply to all potential providers. We believe that this short extension will give providers the best opportunity to submit a high quality bid in a fair way. It will not impact on the rest of the procurement delivery timetable and we will still be awarding contracts in December for a January 2018 start.

Updated apprenticeship funding and performance-management rules

More details can be found in appendix 1.

We have published an updated version of the apprenticeship funding and performance-management rules that will apply to apprenticeship starts from 1 May 2017 to 31 March 2019. The only substantive updates are to the performance-management rules; the funding rules have not changed.

This document sets out the funding and performance management rules for the 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019 funding years. For the 2018 to 2019 funding year this document is a draft and we reserve the right to make changes to these rules in line with government policy.

Apprenticeship technical funding guide (from 1 May 2017)

We have published version 3 of the technical guide to the apprenticeship funding system from 1 May 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-technical-funding-guide>

This explains how funding will work for apprenticeship frameworks and standards starting on or after this date, including how we will calculate provider payments.

Version 3 includes further information about how we prioritise apprentices to be funded from an employer's account, data matching and a new section about the actions needed at end of the funding year.

Changes made from version 2 of this document

7. Further details added to the prioritisation section – from paragraph 75.
8. Further details about data matching with the apprenticeship service – from paragraph 96.
9. A new section explaining price episodes – from paragraph 132.
10. Additional information in paragraphs 142 and 163 of the changes in circumstances section.
11. A new section with information about the end of the funding year – from paragraph 184.
12. Updates for ILR changes in 2017 to 2018, where some ILR elements have been renamed.

Latest batch of apprenticeship withdrawals

Earlier this year we asked for feedback on a fourth batch of proposed framework withdrawals.

We recognise that we are in a period of considerable change for the sector, so to maximise stability we have now postponed the announcement of the fourth wave of frameworks to be withdrawn until the autumn. Once finalised, we will publish them on GOV.UK.

We will delay the original withdrawal dates from April 2018 to a later date, which will account for the postponement of the announcement, and will ensure we give a sufficient notice period to the sector.

Apprenticeship funding bands

More Standards have been added to the master spreadsheet.

Updated apprenticeship standards: funding bands spreadsheet.

Sets out the funding bands that will apply for existing apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards.

Apprenticeship service updates

Since the introduction of the levy and launch of the apprenticeship service thousands of levy paying employers have set up an account, enabling their training providers to get paid.

The service is constantly evolving following user research and feedback and recent new features include:

- employers can now set the priority order in which their providers are paid
- providers and employers can see on-screen alerts if any information needs to be amended before payments can be made
- daily email notifications if things need to be reviewed and actioned
- employers can remove an organisation from their account

We would encourage employers to use the in-service feedback buttons to provide feedback so we can continue to develop the service further.

If you are non-levy paying employer, guidance is available on the steps you need to take to recruit an apprentice.

Help and support

Call the National Contact Centre helpline on 08000 150 600 or email:

helpdesk@manageapprenticeships.service.gov.uk.

Apprenticeship funding for levy-contracted apprentices: ensure your ILR matches information agreed with employers in the apprenticeship service

To receive funding the individualised learner record (ILR) you submit must match the information you have agreed with employers in the service.

To help you identify any records that do not match, we provide you with an apprenticeship data match report. You should use this to identify any ILR or apprenticeship service records you need to amend.

Any changes to the agreement recorded in the apprenticeship service need to be agreed by you and the employer.

For payments due in August, changes in both systems need to be completed, and where appropriate an updated ILR submitted by 6pm on Friday 4 August.

You must review where the data has not matched between the systems and make the necessary changes as soon as possible. The final date, for changes relating to delivery from May to July 2017 to be paid, is for R14 on 19 October for apprenticeship service changes and for submitting an ILR.

For more information on data matching, see the apprenticeship technical funding guide for starts from 1 May 2017.

AGE Programme Closure

Financial Year 2017 to 2018 The AGE programme ended for new starts on 31 July 2017. The last date to flag learners as requiring an AGE grant, for starts from 1 January to 31 July will be the R14 ILR return which closes on 19 October.

Please ensure that any learners starting prior to 1 August are recorded with the correct LDM code by this date. Please note, no AGE payments will be made on the 2017 to 2018 ILR data. Any delivery over contracted values will be considered, if affordable, at the end of the programme.

To assist providers, we are planning to issue an AGE report for R13 (data submitted 14 September 2017) so that any queries can be addressed before the final cut-off date of 19 October 2017

Exam results 2017

As young people receive A Level and GCSE results on 17 and 24 August, now is an ideal time for employers to consider how they might maximise the apprenticeship funding available to them, either through the apprenticeship levy or government co-investment, to benefit their business and their sector.

We have also created a toolkit to support employers looking to recruit into apprenticeship positions, with apprenticeship messaging, media and social media content and key information to promote your apprenticeship vacancies, through recruit an apprentice.

A second toolkit aimed at young people, careers advisers and parents is also available, sharing the benefits of apprenticeships and how to find and apply for apprenticeship opportunities.

Apprenticeship service registrations and commitments to June 2017

This release provides headline experimental statistics on the use of the apprenticeship service. These include apprenticeship service account registrations (ASAs) and numbers of commitments, where an apprentice who is expected to go on to start has been recorded in the system.

Guidance about these changes and paying the apprenticeship levy is available. For more further education (FE) statistics, please refer to the FE and skills statistical first release (SFR), and the FE data library.

We may adjust the content and timing of these statistics, depending on user feedback and data reporting.

Find apprenticeship training: ensure your apprenticeship data is up to date

Find apprenticeship training is an online service for employers to select apprenticeships and find training providers who offer that training. The service, launched last autumn, now has around 5,000 users per week.

Please make sure your apprenticeship data is kept up-to-date. We recommend that MI staff work with their marketing or business development colleagues on this data collection to make sure:

- the list of apprenticeships you offer is accurate
- the training sites and coverage reflects your provision
- your additional information is suitable for employers

There is information on how to submit your data. Any changes you make will be visible in the live service the following day.

For further help completing this data collection, please contact the Course Directory Support Team or call 0844 811 5073.

Funding rules monitoring - employer co-investment

Where apprenticeship training is not funded from a digital account (non-levy payers), employers must co-invest 10% of the agreed training cost up to the maximum value of the funding band. If an employer's digital account balance is less than that month's earnings for an apprentice, co-investment is required from the employer for 10% of the remaining earnings (up to the funding band maximum).

You must report any payments received through the ILR and keep evidence that these contributions have been collected. We will take into account any refunds made to the employer when determining if the 10% has been collected. We will withhold the completion payment if you do not collect the employer contribution.

You may agree a schedule of co-investment payment with the employer which does not match monthly payments made by us, provided the employer has paid a matching 10% of the programme earnings to date at our quarterly data-points as set out in the Funding Rules (June, September, December and March).

At least every quarter you must:

- have collected the matching co-investment from employers
- report the cash value on the ILR of total employer contributions received from the beginning of the apprenticeship to the end of the quarter on the ILR in June, September, December and March

To help you to monitor whether you collect the 10% co-investment, when you submit your ILR records you will be able to see:

- the employer contribution that you have recorded on your ILR records in the 'Apprenticeship Indicative Earnings' report.
- how earnings will be paid, either through co-investment, from a digital account, or a combination of the two, through your 'Apps Monthly Payment' report
- the co-investment required from employers for each month, for each apprentice in your 'Apps Co-Funding Contributions' report
- the employer contribution that you have recorded and how this compares against the amount we expect you to have collected up to the ILR return that month in the 'Recording co-investment payments' BIRST report (number 30).

Becoming an end-point assessor for apprenticeships: Future Apprenticeship workshops

Are you thinking of becoming an end-point assessor for apprenticeships? The Education & Training Foundation are hosting 3 events to help kick-start your preparations and professional development:

- Wednesday, 11 October 2017 (Manchester)
- Wednesday, 13 December 2017 (Birmingham)
- Tuesday, 30 January 2018 (London)

These events will help you understand what makes a good end-point assessor and will feature sessions that develop your skills and build your knowledge of end-point assessment methods and practices. You will also have the chance to meet Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations and understand their requirements.

To find out more and book a place, visit the Education & Training Foundation website.

Adult Education Budget Funding and Performance Management Rules 2017 to 2018 - Version 2

This document sets out the adult education budget (AEB) funding and performance management rules for the 2017 to 2018 funding year (1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018).

The rules apply to all providers of education and training who receive AEB funding from the Secretary of State for Education acting through the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

The main change from Version 1 is the inclusion of performance management rules. Based on provider feedback we have also changed the workplace learning rule (paragraph 157) back to the rule published in 2016 to 2017. This change will support eligible learners enrolling on courses that can be delivered in the workplace for 2017 to 2018.

There is also more information about the legal entitlements for full funding for eligible adult learners:

- English and maths, up to and including level 2, for individuals who have not previously attained a GCSE grade A*- C or grade 4, or higher, for individuals aged 19 and over
- first full qualification at level 2 for individuals aged 19- to- 23
- first full qualification at level 3 for individuals aged 19- to- 23

plus local flexibility to deliver tailored provision for adults, including qualifications and units and/or non-regulated learning, up to Level 2.

These rules apply to all providers of education and training who receive adult education budget funding from the ESFA.

ESF individualised learner record returns

Between August and October, you must include all your European Social Fund (ESF) learners who started on or before 31 July 2017 in your 2016 to 2017 individualised learner record (ILR) returns.

From September, the calculation date for payments will follow the 2017 to 2018 ILR return schedule. This calculation will use your latest 2016 to 2017 ILR submission.

As the calculation date will occur whilst the 2016 to 2017 collection is open you must not remove any ESF learners from your submission. If any learners are not included in the file used to calculate payments, then your funding for 2016 to 2017 for those learners will be withdrawn.

Publication of DfE performance tables on college websites

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding agreement requires colleges to publish a link to the national 16 to 18 performance tables on their websites and ensure this is easily accessible to website users.

You must ensure your website contains this link and meets the full requirements set out in the guidance on what academies, free schools and colleges should publish online by the end of the 2017 autumn term.

The Department for Education (DfE) will be sampling college websites for compliance after Christmas.

ESFA business plan

We have published our business plan for the financial year 2017 to 2018. It sets out our:

- key objectives
- operational priorities
- ways of working
- people plan

The business plan highlights how we will support the Department for Education's key objective of reforming the education system.

We will report against every objective in the 2017 to 2018 Annual Report and Accounts using the performance indicators from the business plan to measure our success.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-business-plan>

2017 to 2018 post-16 funding agreements and contracts – new clauses

We have introduced new clauses in the 2017 to 2018 post-16 funding agreements and contracts in respect of requirements to report safeguarding incidents.

This has resulted in a number of requests for further detail about why we've added the clauses, the circumstances in which you should make such reports and the information we need. We have published some further information on this issue.

Informing ESFA about serious safeguarding incidents

ESFA has included new safeguarding clauses in the funding agreements and contracts for 2017 to 2018. Whilst the local authority and the institution have primary duties in respect of safeguarding, the Secretary of State (SoS) has a general duty to promote the wellbeing of children in England under section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. ESFA's role therefore, is to provide assurance to the SoS, in meeting her general duty, that the right organisations are taking action to keep all pupils and students safe.

For this reason, we want to be made aware when an institution is itself the subject of an investigation by the local authority or the police. We do not require details of all the safeguarding incidents an institution reports to the local authority or to the police, only where the institution itself, or one of its subcontractors, is subject to investigation. In such circumstances, we require the Chair or Chief Executive of the institution (or senior designated safeguarding lead) to email Enquiries.EFA@education.gov.uk.

ESFA will need to know the name of the institution, the nature of the incident and confirmation that it is, or is scheduled to be investigated by the local authority and/or the police. The relevant clause will be amended at the first opportunity to be clearer on this point, either in-year or for 2018 to 2019

New CEO of the Education and Skills Funding Agency appointed

The Department for Education (DfE) has today announced that Eileen Milner has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and will take up the post in November this year.

The ESFA is an executive agency of the DfE that is accountable for funding education and training for children, young people and adults.

Eileen will replace Peter Lauener, the current Chief Executive Officer of the ESFA, who has held the post since 1 April 2017 and in predecessor organisations since April 2010. He will step down at the end of November.

Eileen began her career in education and is a proven leader. She brings extensive skills and experience gained from working in a range of roles across government as well as the public and private sector. This includes considerable experience at a senior level at the Care Quality Commission, where she is currently the Executive Director of Customer and Corporate Services, as well as Northgate Information Solutions - a software and services business with a large presence in public services in the U.K.

Funding and Performance Management Rules Apprenticeship Training Delivery for Employers not using the Digital Account (Non-Levy)

Originally issued as attachment 7 with the ITT for non-levy employer delivery. I paste below the key points at the start of the document.

Apprenticeships performance-management rules for August 2017 to March 2019

We have updated these rules to include:

- Updated arrangements for apprentices that started before 1 May 2017 (carry-in apprentices) and for which the 2016 to 2017 Funding Rules apply
- Updated arrangements for apprentices that start between 1 May 2017 and 31 December 2017 in non-levy employers and for which the 2017 to 2018 Funding Rules apply
- New arrangements that will apply to new apprenticeship starts in non-levy employers from 1 January 2018 and for which the 2017 to 2018 Funding Rules apply

These performance-management rules supersede previous versions.

Generic rules that apply to all delivery

P1. It is our intention to fund apprentices until the end of their programmes, subject to affordability, the application of the relevant funding and performance-management rules and reflecting funding previously paid by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (including the Skills Funding Agency).

P2. We will use our approach to funding to make sure learning provision is of a high quality. We will use your track record to assess your ability to deliver education and training to the required standard. Your track record will include Ofsted grades, minimum standards of performance, financial health, financial management and control and your previous delivery against your contract.

P3. As part of our financial assurance work, we will continue to monitor compliance with the funding rules. We will contact you where we identify you have submitted data that does not meet our funding rules and individualised learner record (ILR) requirements. You will be required to correct inaccurate ILR and earnings adjustment statement (EAS) data.

P4. The rules in this document apply to both apprenticeship frameworks and standards. We use the generic term 'apprenticeship' for all types of apprenticeships, unless we state otherwise.

P5. We use the term 'Contractor's Allocation' to mean your contract value, as set out in Appendix 1 of your contract.

P6. You must fund the delivery of both apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards from your 'Contractor's Allocation'. This includes any additional payments that you must pass to employers. You must also fund the delivery of English, maths, learning support and learner support (learner support relates to pre-May 2017 carry-in only), where applicable.

P7. We will pay you on the basis of your actual delivery each month up to the value of your Contractor's Allocation for the relevant financial year. We will calculate the value of your actual delivery using the latest validated ILR and EAS data you provide.

P8. We have no responsibility to pay any amount over your allocated funding for the funding year or financial year. If you deliver more than your Contractor's Allocation, you do so at your own risk.

P9. You cannot vire funds between 16 to 18 traineeships and 16 to 18 apprenticeships.

P10. You cannot vire funds between 16 to 18 and 19+ apprenticeships.

P11. We reserve the right to increase or decrease the number of performance-management points we operate, in line with delivery against the funding available for apprenticeships and/or in line with paragraph 5.5 of the Invitation to Tender for the non-levy procurement.

P12. We reserve the right to adjust your Contractor's Allocation if there is a risk that demand for apprenticeships may exceed the national funding available.

P13. Allocations and performance-management decisions are subject to affordability within the available budget at the time.

2017 to 2018 contracting arrangements

This document sets out the Education and Skills Funding Agency contracting arrangements for the 2017 to 2018 contracting year and describes the various contract agreements you can expect to receive, relevant to your circumstances and agreed programme of delivery.

Once published, please take the time to review your contract documents and associated appendices as they will provide a detailed breakdown of your allocation of funding, along with the associated terms and conditions relevant to your contract and funded activity.

These documents will be issued and signed through the usual route using our Skills Funding Service (SFS).

Contract period

For providers with a contract for services, there will be a short term allocation for the Adult Education Budget (AEB). As previously communicated, this will be an extension to existing contracts, to ensure continuity of delivery and allow AEB procurement activity to be concluded and outcomes communicated.

Grant providers (colleges, school sixth form colleges, universities and local authorities), who have an AEB allocation, will receive a 12-month contract to deliver this funding.

Employers (direct grants), who have an AEB allocation, will receive a 12-month AEB allocation.

In addition, there will be an August to December non-levy funding allocation whilst the new non-levy procurement exercise takes place. Carry-in allocation for apprenticeships that started prior to 1 May 2017 and carry-in allocation for the AEB funding provision, where applicable.

16 to 18 traineeship providers will receive an allocation for a 12-month period.

If applicable, you may also receive contracts/agreements and variations for:

- European Social Funding
- 16 to 19 funding
- Advanced Learner Loans
- Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16 to 24-year-olds
- National Career Service

Pending the outcome of the AEB procurement exercise, successful applicants may also receive a separate contract for services for AEB funding.

Arrangements for non-levy funding, post 31 December 2017, will be dependent on the actions agreed by ESFA following the results of the non-levy procurement exercise and will be communicated separately at a later date.

Independent learning providers

You will receive an extension to their 2014 to 2017 terms and conditions:

- Adult Education Budget allocation for 3-month period - 1 August 2017 to 31 October 2017
- 16 to 18 traineeship allocation for 12-month period – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- carry-in apprenticeship allocation for starts before 1 May 2017 – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- non-levy apprenticeship allocation – 1 August 2017 to 31 December 2017

Not all of the above funding provision may apply. You will need to refer to appendix 1 of your contract/agreement for a detailed breakdown of your allocation.

Colleges, school sixth form colleges, local authorities and universities

You will receive new terms and conditions for the 2017 to 2018 funding year:

- Adult Education Budget allocation for 12-month period – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2017
- 16 to 18 traineeship allocation for 12-month period – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- carry-in apprenticeship allocation for starts before 1 May 2017 – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- non-levy apprenticeship allocation – 1 August 2017 to 31 December 2017

Not all of the above funding provision may apply. You will need to refer to appendix 1 of your contract/agreement for a detailed breakdown of your allocation.

Higher education institutes (universities and independent learning providers)

You will receive new terms and conditions for the 2017 to 2018 funding year:

- carry-in apprenticeship allocation for higher and degree apprenticeship starts before 1 May 2017 – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- non-levy apprenticeship allocation – 1 August 2017 to 31 December 2017

Employers (direct grants)

You will receive new terms and conditions for the 2017 to 2018 funding year:

AEB allocation for 12-month period

- 16 to 18 traineeship allocation for 12-month period – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- carry-in apprenticeship allocation for starts before 1 May 2017 – 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018
- non-levy apprenticeship allocation – 1 August 2017 to 31 December 2017

Not all of the above funding provision may apply. You will need to refer to appendix 1 of your contract/agreement for a detailed breakdown of your allocation.

Grading New GCSE's from 2017

Nine things you should know about 9 to 1 GCSE grades

1. GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
2. New GCSE content will be more challenging.
3. Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s.
4. English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.
5. Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.
6. The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
7. In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.
8. Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.
9. You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A* to G scale in the infographic below.

Ofqual
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Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	D
2	
1	
U	U

Updated SASE Regulations “Live” as of 22nd August 2017

The 6th version of the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE) was published on 19th July 2017. This introduced a number of key changes to the range of acceptable qualifications for both English and Maths. However, the changes could not take effect until Parliamentary approval had been received. This approval has now been received and the changes, previously published in July, will be effective from Tuesday 22nd August 2017.

This notification gives more detail on the specific amendments that have been made to this version of the SASE regulations.

Summary of Changes:

1. The list of acceptable English and Maths qualifications has been expanded. This now includes some Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish qualifications. Please note that GCSE English Literature is also now back in scope.

Please refer to Sections 5, 6, 28 & 29 of SASE for specific details of English & Maths qualifications that are now acceptable.

2. The minimum requirements for the new numerically graded GCSEs have been included:-

- For a Level 2, Intermediate Apprenticeship, the minimum acceptable Grade is a 2 (remains as an E Grade for older GCSEs)
- For a Level 3, Advanced Apprenticeship, the minimum acceptable Grade is a 4 (remains as a C Grade for older GCSEs)

3. For Apprentices with special educational needs, learning difficulties or disabilities (NB: specific criteria have to be met and evidenced), exemptions are in place for the regular English and Maths minimum requirements. This exemption allows the Apprentice to use an Entry Level 3 qualification in English or Maths as an acceptable alternative.

Please refer to SASE Sections 15 – 23 for further details of how Providers are required to both assess and evidence whether or not they have learners who meet the “exemption” criteria.

4. The use of a British Sign Language (BSL) qualification (at the required level) is now approved in place of the regular English qualification minimum requirement. This is only for Apprentices who use BSL as their primary

Please refer to SASE Section 5 (f) and 28 (f) for further details on the acceptance of BSL qualifications.

ICT Requirements

Please note that there have been NO changes to the list of acceptable ICT qualifications for SASE Apprenticeships.

Impact of the SASE Changes

The changes coming into effect on 22nd August 2017 will apply not only to all those starting an Apprenticeship on, or after, this date but also to those currently on an Apprenticeship programme who have not yet completed.

Removal of the 5 Year Rule for All Apprentices

It has also been confirmed that the “5 year rule” requirement for Apprentices, starting before 6 April 2015, has now been removed. This means that there are now no date achieved criteria for English, Maths and ICT qualifications for any Apprentice, irrespective of their Apprenticeship start date.

Updated Transferable Skills Guidance

The Federation have updated their Transferable Skills Guidance document to reflect the changes taking effect from 22nd August 2017.

Changes to ACE

There are now 2 new, optional radio buttons on the Framework Tab of ACE. They only relate to Apprentices who meet the specified SASE criteria relating to the use of either a BSL or an Entry Level 3 qualification. Where appropriate, ACE claimants will be required to tick one of these radio buttons and agree to an online declaration that the named Apprentice does meet the SASE criteria and wishes to submit an appropriate BSL or Entry Level 3 qualification as evidence of their achievement of the required English and/or Maths requirements of their Apprenticeship framework. Training Providers are required to retain suitable evidence that the Apprentice did meet the exemptions criteria, as stated in the July 2017 version of SASE. This may be required for future auditing purposes by the E&SFA.

Please note that, the new Automated Data Transfer Facility in ACE will be updated to include a search of a learner's PLR for a suitable qualification, where either BSL or Entry Level 3 exemptions have been declared in ACE.

AFO

In the short term, all current SASE frameworks will have a red banner notification added to the front cover to alert readers to the recent SASE changes to the English and Maths requirements. In addition, a preface page has been inserted giving further details of these changes.

Please note that the English and Maths tables, within the Transferable Skills section of each framework document, have not yet been updated to reflect the recent changes. This will be done over the next few months. If you are in any doubt as to the requirements of a framework, please contact the relevant Issuing Authority/Certification Body for further guidance.