



Skills Funding  
Agency

# Business Update

Issue 17  
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## Welcome

In this edition of Business Update, our monthly round-up of business-critical news and information from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

1. [National Apprenticeship Awards 2016:Update](#)
2. [Supporting Apprentices Mental Health Support Service](#)
3. [New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey](#)

Each month, Business Update will inform you of our 'products' and services and their potential to make a positive impact upon your business.

Please share **Business Update** with your colleagues, who might like to register for **web alerts**. This will notify them by email when we add new editions to our website.

If you have any feedback, please email **Business Update**.

# 1. National Apprenticeship Awards 2016: Update

## Action

The National Apprenticeship Awards have achieved great success, challenging the nation's top apprenticeship employers and apprentices to come forward and show how apprenticeships have made a real difference to their organisation.

Regional and National [sponsorship opportunities](#) are now available. The National Apprenticeship Awards sponsorship benefits could include:

- exclusive 2016 category title ownership
- high profile branding on the awards presentation stage
- exposure on awards category event materials
- various media opportunities extended to official awards partners

Last year 800 guests attended the national ceremony including Nick Boles MP, Minister for Skills, Nadhim Zahawi MP, The Prime Minister's Apprenticeship Advisor, government officials, finalists, and many company directors.

The awards featured in regional, trade and national publications including a supplement in The Telegraph.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a sponsor please register your interest by emailing [apprenticeshipawards@sfa.bis.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeshipawards@sfa.bis.gov.uk).

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# 2. Supporting Apprentices Mental Health Support Service

## Inform

The Department for Work and Pensions have collaborated with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to trial a scheme tailoring Access to Work support to apprentices who have been identified as having mental health issues.

Remploy will be delivering this service. They recognise the importance of a healthy and productive workforce. It will help your apprentices overcome any difficulties they are experiencing at work due to mental health issues, so that they can remain a valuable asset to your company.

The service includes:

- Advice on simple adjustments that could be implemented to help individual fulfil their apprenticeship
- Help for apprentices to identify successful coping strategies that will support their success
- A step-by-step support plan for apprentices to follow, helping them to get back on track.

Further information can be found on the Remploy [website](#). There are downloadable leaflets aimed at [employers](#) and [apprentices](#). Or contact [apprentices@remploy.co.uk](mailto:apprentices@remploy.co.uk)

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### 3. New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey

#### Consultation

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched a series of short surveys to seek your views on new apprenticeship proposals, draft apprenticeship Standards and draft assessment plans submitted by our Trailblazer employer groups:

- [Survey on brand new apprenticeship proposals](#)
- [Survey on draft apprenticeship Standards](#)
- [Survey on draft assessment plans](#)

Your feedback will help ensure that any Standards taken forward for development meet the training needs of relevant occupations and new apprenticeships are viable, high quality and widely supported by business.

There are a wide variety of occupations being considered for apprenticeships this month including Locksmith, Activator coach and Financial Advisor.

The surveys close on Friday 15 July; BIS will upload approved Standards and assessment plans to the [Apprenticeship Standards](#) page of GOV.UK

For further information or to receive regular updates on the latest bids, please email [Apprenticeship Trailblazers](#).

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