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Education & Skills

Funding Agency

ESFA Update further education: 20 January 2021 Published 20 January 2021

Correspondence

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- The mid-year funding claim window will open at 9am on Monday 8 February 2021. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone, and time and resources are under strain. However, we will still require you to submit an accurate mid-year claim so we have visibility of the challenges you are facing, which will inform the design of the year end reconciliation process.

You will need to submit a claim if you receive funds through:

19 to 24 traineeships and COVID-19 skills offer)

- Please submit your mid-year funding claim by 5pm on Friday 19 February 2021. This is slightly later than we originally published. The claim form will be available on **Submit** Learner Data.
- learner support for ESFA AEB procured (adult skills and 19 to 24 traineeships) paidon-profile • grant funded - Advanced Learner Loans Bursary (ALLB) Once you have submitted your claim you will also be able to view it on the Manage your

• grant funded – ESFA adult education budget (AEB) (adult skills, community learning,

- Education Skills for Jobs White Paper and response to Philip Augar's independent government commissioned report, which highlighted a number of recommendations for
- post-18 education. 4. Information: rapid asymptomatic testing
- The weekly testing of the education workforce should have begun as should testing for secondary school age students who are currently attending college.

tested if they are attending college onsite.

2713 in Scotland and Northern Ireland. 5. Information: extension of the Get Help

with Technology programme to support

disadvantaged students in FE

students in further education to access remote education.

• devices that providers already own.

in the following weeks.

being fulfilled within 5 working days of being placed.

Further education providers will be eligible to receive devices where they have students that are aged 16 to 19 who are in receipt of free meals, and where they have students aged 19 and over with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are also in receipt of free meals. Allocations of devices follow the same process as the existing scheme for schools and

The Get Help with Technology programme is being extended to support disadvantaged

received an invitation from the department. To ensure we can fulfil orders, further education providers will be invited in waves. Further education providers who are already registered on the system because they have 14 to 16 provision will be invited to order devices for their 16 to 19 cohort later this week. Other further education providers are due to be invited in waves from week commencing 25 January. Device allocations will also be proportionately increased to reflect that <u>DfE secured</u>

additional devices for schools and further education providers this year. Providers

Providers will be able to state a preference for the types of device they will receive,

scheme for schools, further education providers will own the laptops and tablets

based on the <u>four types of device available</u> and subject to availability. Like the existing

provided under this scheme and can lend these to the young people who need them the

most. These devices must only be used for publicly funded students aged 16 to 19 and

those aged 19 and over with an Education Health and Care Plan. Providers eligible to

receive devices will also be able to access support for connectivity for disadvantaged

students where they do not have access to the internet at home.

invited to order from 25 January will receive allocations that include this uplift from the

outset. Providers invited to order before 25 January will receive allocations without the

uplift and will receive a further invitation to order additional devices to reflect the uplift

5.1 Get funding and support to set up a digital education platform

• 16 to 19 provision only: requests to continue with "whole programme subcontracting" arrangements in 2021 to 2022 • excluding ESF provision and local authorities: cases made to the agency If providers do not think they can reduce their subcontracting COVID-19 restrictions have caused increased pressure amongst providers and, in response, we delayed publishing the follow-up document to the consultation response.

When it goes ahead, this publication will set out further detail of what we expect from

providers in relation to each reform proposal, including the requests to the agency set

the request, where this should be sent to, and by when. We have removed the deadline

We have been clear from the outset that we want the volume of subcontracted activity

out above. Further information will be provided regarding what should be included in

of 31 January 2021, and new timelines will be published in the follow-up document.

in the sector to reduce and we still expect all providers to continue to work toward

implementing all aspects of the reforms. Removal of the specific deadlines set out

above does not detract from that, but does demonstrate the agency is taking a more

considered pace with enforcement, to lessen the burden on providers in the current

7. Information: 16 to 19 funding allocations

• our timeline lets you know when you can expect your allocations. We update the timeline on a regular basis, so do keep checking back to see the latest updates • we have confirmed the data sources for student numbers and other formula elements we're using to calculating 2021 to 2022 allocation

• we have <u>published</u> the page where you will find information to help you understand

We have also published details about how 16 to 19 funding will work in academic year

If you have any queries please contact us using our online enquiry form.

request outcomes 2021 to 2022

8. Information: high needs place change

free schools, further education colleges and independent learning providers.

We have published the <u>high needs place change request outcomes: 2021 to 2022</u> that

will inform the funded place numbers for the 2021 to 2022 academic year in academies,

You should review the published outcomes as soon as possible to ensure the numbers

reflect those expected. If an institution is not listed, this means no change was notified

for that institution and the published 2020 to 2021 place numbers will be used as the

Local authorities, academies or further education institutions can contact ESFA to query their 2021 to 2022 place numbers between 20 January 2021 and 5 February 2021.

9. Information: apprenticeship service

Following the announcement to extend incentive payments for hiring a new apprentice

The latest version of the agreement will be available for employers to accept through

accept the latest agreement if they wish to apply for incentive payments for apprentices

who start their apprenticeship between 1 February 2021 and 31 March 2021, where they

10. Information: consultation on alternative

arrangements for vocational and technical

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic means that the government is of

the view that it is not viable for external exams and assessments to go ahead for some

vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) this year.

their apprenticeship service account from 1 February 2021. Employers will need to

We will also update the <u>apprenticeship funding rules</u> to reflect the extension.

until end March 2021, we have updated the ESFA Apprenticeship Agreement for

competency or to gain a licence to practise, we think that these assessments should continue to take place in school or college, where this is possible, subject to public health guidance. It is really important we get views on these proposals, so on Friday we launched a joint consultation with Ofqual on the alternative arrangements for awarding Vocational and

Technical qualifications where exams don't go ahead. Our aim is to ensure that there is a

However, for VTQs that require a practical assessment to demonstrate occupational

Professional and employer-led bodies can apply to join, through the first window for applications, up to 4 February 2021. You can <u>read more in the Institute's news story</u>.

Virtual Careers PLAN FOR **Fair 2021** Wednesday 27th January - Exhibition day

There is something wrong with this page Yes No

14. Your feedback: Publish to the course

course directory' platform, we would appreciate your input, sharing with us your

Your feedback will help us better understand how it is currently used to shape and

inform the changes we are looking to make as we work to improve the facility.

experience, specifically your experience of the Bulk Upload feature.

<u>Take part in our short survey</u>. All input is gratefully received.

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement of the 'Publish to the

There is also guidance on the apprenticeship service about COVID-19. colleges onsite 5. Information: extension of Please check **GOV.UK** regularly for updates. the Get Help with Technology programme to 2. Reminder: mid-year funding claims for 2020 to 2021

education and skills funding. If you have any queries about this, please contact your Territorial Manager.

3. Information: FE and Skills White Paper release The <u>Department for Education</u> will publish tomorrow (21 January), the post-16 Further

of adults who are attending colleges onsite The government's asymptomatic testing strategy will help to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus in education settings. The asymptomatic testing programme in secondary schools and colleges for staff, pupils and students, will help to identify asymptomatic positive cases.

In some cases, adults will be attending colleges onsite. These adult students can be

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the government's current

testing policy for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms, you should continue to

book a test via the NHS website or by calling 119 in England and Wales, or 0300 303

are based on estimates of the number of: • students in receipt of free meals (FM) in FE aged 16 to 19 and those over 19 with an EHCP where they are also in receipt of FM in FE and,

The department will invite the majority of 16-to-19 providers to register with the service

before the end of January and at this point providers will be notified of their allocations.

Providers will need to complete some pre-order information and then will be able to go

on and place their order once this has been verified. Currently the majority of orders are

Note, you cannot access to the Get Help with Technology service until you have

Find out how your college can apply for government-funded support to access one of two free-to-use digital education platforms. You can choose from either Google Suite for Education or Microsoft Office 365 Education. All colleges in England are expected to provide remote education so that their teachers and students can continue learning through online virtual classrooms. Find out more about the programme.

6. Information: subcontracting returns

to January deadlines

arrangements in 2021 to 2022

2021 for the following:

climate.

2021 to 2022

your allocation

change process guidance.

Employers.

are eligible to do so.

For further information visit GOV.UK.

qualifications

employer agreement

2021 to 2022.

following consultation response - extension

Earlier this year ESFA published the <u>response to the subcontracting consultation</u>. We

16 to 19 provision only: requests to continue with existing "distance learning"

updated you in November to extend the deadline from 31 December 2020 to 31 January

We have updated our 16 to 19 funding allocations information for academic year 2021 to 2022:

basis of the 2021 to 2022 allocation. More information about the enquiry window can be found in the high needs place

fair, equitable and robust awarding of qualifications this academic year, and would encourage learners, staff, and providers to respond as we are keen to hear your views. The consultation can be accessed on GOV.UK.

11. Information: webinar for colleges on

The apprenticeship service is pleased to bring you the next in our series of support

how colleges can support employers to access funding though the apprenticeship

what the challenges are for colleges in transitioning to an employer led funding

12. Information: applications are open for

Applications have opened for the new Employer Directory for apprenticeship EQA.

to a simplified EQA system in August 2020. The changes will see EQA delivered by

Ofqual or, for integrated degree apprenticeships, the Office for Students (OfS).

The Institute is also setting up a new group of professional and employer-led

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education announced its plans to move

organisations – called the Employer Directory - for Ofqual and OfS to draw on industry

If you would like to apply, visit the employer directory page on the Institute's website.

expertise. This will keep employers at the heart of protecting quality in apprenticeships.

influential employer external quality

webinars. Join us on Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 12 noon when we will be discussing

supporting employers to access

apprenticeship funding

The webinar will include information on:

how employers could be supported

what the experience should feel like for the employer

• an update from a college about their experience

assurance (EQA) directory

For more information, please see our webinar registration page.

service.

model

13. Information: National Careers Service **Virtual Careers Fair** The National Careers Service Virtual Careers Fair takes place next week on 27 to 28 January, bringing together a range of speakers to talk about their current opportunities

This is a chance to hear to hear from organisations about their opportunities, and hear

The event will also have qualified National Careers Service advisers on hand throughout

to provide advice and guidance, whether it's talking further about the careers on display

People can register their place and receive notifications as new sessions are added by

the experiences of people doing the jobs; what to expect, what skills they need, and

and give first-hand industry insight. The event is split into two days:

13.1 Wednesday 27 January: Exhibition day

13.2 Thursday 28 January: Virtual Jobs Fair

routes in. As well as other useful careers resources available on the day.

The Fair will give people the chance to see vacancies in their local area.

or answering any other questions people have about their next steps.

visiting our **Eventbrite page**.

experts

local area

directory

#IdeasForCareers2021 nationalcareersservicevcf.eventbrite.com

Learn about different sectors and hear from industry

See current vacancies and other opportunities in your

Thursday 28th January - Virtual jobs fair

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