



Skills Funding Agency

The Agency Story

Further education and training creates skills which contribute to growth and prosperity. Our role is to deliver the government's skills priorities: to deliver more high-quality **Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities; raising standards** across vocational training, with a particular focus on English and maths; and **reviewing our qualifications**, not only to drive up the standards of vocational courses but also so we can have a coherent and comprehensible skills system.

To do this we operate nationally but ensure that we are adaptable and responsive enough so that local delivery can happen for individual employers and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). We must continue to:

- convert government policy into practice – ensuring that learners are able to access the right level and kind of skills that employers need to help the economy grow. This also includes a role for the Agency in providing advice on how policy affects employers and providers
- use the funding rules to buy the best quality provision— and intervene if we have to, when provision fails to meet our requirements
- provide assurance to government, and therefore to the public, that we are getting what we have paid for and that we can properly account for £4.6 billion of public money.

We support government, employers and learners, by developing informed users of skills and learning provision, through the National Apprenticeship Service, the National Careers Service and the provision of education and skills information.

We intervene if we have to - when colleges, training providers and employers or provision fail to meet our requirements.

We provide a unique package of technical services (including the procurement, allocation and management of funding, the audit and assurance of funding and intervention if quality falls or funds are at risk) to our customers, stakeholders and suppliers, which enable us to fund and regulate the sector for the benefit of learners and employers.

We are continuing to develop our systems and processes so that there is more automation for our suppliers and they can access their funding data in a more self-service format – in real time and when they want to.

Since the Agency was created in April 2010 the government has changed, skills policy has changed, our customers and stakeholders have changed, our ways of working have changed; what has remained constant is our desire to improve what we do and how we do it. The annual Business Plan sets out what this looks like in practice at any given point in time.