This bulletin is intended for colleges, schools, local authorities and other providers. You can read articles for academies in the full version of the e-bulletin on our website.

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Information: Implementation of funding reform for 2013-14 allocations

We are implementing a series of major reforms to the way that education funding is calculated.

These changes were announced by ministers in June and July 2012. The reforms will improve fairness and transparency, and streamline and simplify existing arrangements. The role of the Education Funding Agency is to calculate and apply these new funding formulae.

There are different elements to the reforms depending on the phase of education. Everyone who receives funding from us will be affected by these changes. You can read greater detail about the 2013/14 allocations at the following pages.

- School funding reform: final arrangements for 2013-14
- 16-19 funding formula review

We are committed to explaining these reforms as clearly as possible and will be holding a number of events to support the information on the above pages. In addition we are meeting with local authorities and stakeholder groups as part of our regular cycle of meetings to go through the details with those bodies.

Our post-16 events will have a detailed, technical focus and will cover the following topics:

- the key aspects of the post-16 funding formula reform;
- calculating post-16 allocations, and;
- a high-level summary of funding for High Needs Students.

The sessions are suitable for business managers, heads of organisations or finance directors from organisations receiving post-16 funding from us. Attendees are limited to one per institution to each event.

For details of events and how to book visit the post-16 funding reform events page.

Action: 16-19 Bursary Fund MI returns

We are asking all providers and local authorities, who were given an allocation of the 16-19 Bursary Fund in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years, to submit two management information (MI) returns in October 2012:

1. An in-year 2012/13 return. This will ask for details of the actual number of
students enrolled (at the point the MI return is submitted) who fall into the defined vulnerable groups only. Information about discretionary bursaries is not required in this return. We will use the data provided in this return to allocate additional funding to providers whose total 2012/13 allocation does not meet the costs of awards to vulnerable group students. The data may also be used to inform future allocations.

2. An end of year 2011/12 return. This will ask for details of the number of bursaries awarded for both vulnerable student bursaries and discretionary bursaries over the full 2011/12 academic year. The data provided in this return will be used to inform the evaluation of the scheme and may be used to inform future allocations.

These MI returns can be accessed and submitted from 1 October 2012. The final date for submissions is 31 October 2012.

Where in-year 2012/13 returns are submitted by 31 October 2012 and identify the need for additional funding for vulnerable group student bursaries, two-thirds of the additional amount will be released in early 2013, with the remaining one-third being paid alongside the scheduled payment in April 2013.

We will email each provider and local authority, in the week commencing 24 September, with details of how to access, complete and submit the returns.

Local authorities are being asked to submit returns on behalf of those providers listed on their Annex C, with whom the EFA does not have a direct funding relationship.

Please forward this message on to relevant staff within your organisation.

If you have any questions about the MI returns, you can contact us by email at 1619bursaryfund.EFA@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Information: Update to the 16-19 Bursary Fund: 2012/13 guide for providers

We have updated the 16-19 Bursary Fund guide for 2012/13. Version 2 (September 2012) of this document is now available on our website.

In Version 2, we have changed the information in paragraph 43. We have removed the requirement for a young person placed in independent provision by a local authority (and where the local authority is funding that place) to have a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) to be eligible to apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

The Guide now states:

43. In 2012/13, where a young person has been placed by a local authority in independent provision and where the local authority is funding that place, the school should approach the host local authority to access the appropriate support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund for eligible students.
We are aware that there may be a number of reasons why a local authority places young people in independent provision, and they may not all have an LDA. These young people should therefore have equal access to apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Please note this change only relates to publicly-funded students attending independent provision; students who attend independent provision whose place is not publicly funded are not eligible for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

If you have any questions about the 16-19 Bursary Fund, you can email us at 1619bursaryfund.EFA@education.gsi.gov.uk

Information: Proposals to reform SEN support and provision

The Department for Education has published draft provisions to improve the support provided to those children and young people with special educational needs and their parents. This will be included in the Children and Families Bill.

Highlights of the proposals include:

- A more streamlined assessment process, which integrates education, health and care services and involves children, young people and their parents.
- A new 0-25 Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan, which replaces the current system of Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments.
- A single system with the same rights for all young people, regardless of their age.
- A new requirement for local education, health and care services to commission services jointly, to ensure that the needs of young people with SEN and disabilities are met in each area.
- Young people will have the right to appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal if they are unhappy with their arrangements.

These proposals are supported by the bringing together of all funding for those with high-cost additional needs into a single system. The purpose is to enable an integrated EHC Plan by ending the current different funding treatment for different types of institution providing for the same young people.

The draft provisions would ensure that parents, young people and children are on the same footing whether they attend (or wish to attend) a maintained school, an academy, or a further education or sixth form college.

The Education Committee is conducting pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government’s proposed reform of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The Committee invites written submissions of evidence addressing seven general and 10 specific points. The Committee asks for written submissions in accordance with their guidelines by noon on 11 October 2012.
**Action: Final Individualised Learner Record return for 2011/12 due**

The R15, the final Individualised Learner Record (ILR) return for 2011/12, is due on **16 November 2012**. You must submit this return if you receive ILR funding from the Education Funding Agency. We will use the data to:

- inform full year reconciliation
- inform 2013/14 allocations
- inform success rates

If you have any queries or issues with submitting this return, please call the Data Service’s Service Desk on 0870 267 0001 or email servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk quoting ‘R15’ in the subject header.

Please note that the **2012/13 R02 Individualised Learner Record (ILR) return** is due on 4 October. We will not use this return, although you are encouraged to make early returns to ensure you are well-placed to make good-quality R04 returns in December.

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**Information: 16-19 provision procurement completed**

We have completed two procurements and would like to thank all participants for their interest.

**Addressing gaps in provision for 16-17 year olds**

We evaluated bidders against the individual requirements for each area.

They had to demonstrate:

- proven experience of delivering relevant learning programmes;
- good quality outcomes for learners; and
- a successful track record of providing sustainable progression routes for young people.

You can see the full list of successful providers, who will start delivering for the academic 2012/13 year in September.

The process is being repeated for 2013/14. We will ask local authorities to submit evidence of gaps by the end of November, ahead of a procurement round next year.

**Replacement provision: Birmingham**

A contract for provision of Foundation Learning in 2012/13 was withdrawn from an existing provider in Birmingham due to an ‘Inadequate’ Ofsted inspection. Following an
Information: The Skills Show, 15-17 November, Birmingham NEC

The UK’s biggest skills and careers event, The Skills Show is a unique annual celebration that will inspire the fashion designers, web developers and engineers of tomorrow with exciting opportunities in further education, skills and Apprenticeships.

Young people can meet employers and talk with real people about real jobs at the show, which will take place from 15-17 November at the NEC Birmingham. There is a lot going on at the show and plenty to get involved with such as visiting the interactive ‘Have a Go’ section, offering visitors the chance to try a ‘bite-size’ taster of a new skill, trade or profession.

The show offers visitors the chance to speak with colleges, universities and learning providers from across the UK, about the different entry routes into a host of career sectors.

The Skills Show, which is jointly supported by the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service, is free to attend. All you need to do is register your details by visiting the website or calling the hotline.