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

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Information: High needs students funding reform

We are bringing together all funding for students with high cost additional needs. We are doing this as part of the 16-19 funding formula review. It will be done using common principles, in which local authorities will be both commissioner and funder.

The changes will give an enhanced role to local authorities. Each will have a single budget to cover their education funding responsibilities for all high needs children and young people aged 0-25 resident in their area.

We asked local authorities to check the data we hold on high needs students aged 16-24 from their area and requested that they forecast where their students will study in 2013/14. The deadline for this was 30 September, although local authorities are invited to continue to engage with us about their data until mid-December.

In November/December we will be sharing a shadow allocation and guidance with independent specialist providers, non-maintained special schools, special academies and maintained special schools.

We will make these available through the Information Management (IM) Portal. The shadow allocations will show what the allocation would have looked like if the new system was in place in the 2012/13 academic year.

In December, we will be issuing provisional high-needs student numbers to local authorities (LAs) by institution against the provisional budgets already issued. We will also be issuing provisional numbers by LAs to providers. We will publish more information on this, and about further proposals, in the next e-bulletin.

You can read background information to post-16 funding and academies funding on our website.

Action: High needs students funding briefings

We are extending the invitations to a short series of academy briefings on high needs students funding to all specialist providers. This is as part of the implementation of funding reform for 2013/14.

Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis only until the capacity of each venue has been reached.

North

Wednesday 21 November, Holiday Inn Royal Victoria, Sheffield
Information: Increased rate for Work Placement aim now live on LARA

In October we increased the rate for the Work Placement Within Foundation Learning aim. You can see the letter from Peter Mucklow, Director of Young People, announcing this to the Association of Employment and Learning Providers on our website.

We can now confirm that the increase has been implemented on the Learning Aims Reference Application (LARA).

The increased rate applies from 1 August 2012 for foundation learners who have started a substantial work placement in this academic year. All the rules regarding the aim apply as before and are contained within the guidance.

Information: Protection of school playing fields and public land

We have revised advice on the protection of school playing fields and public land. This covers local authorities, governing bodies, foundation bodies, trustees, diocesan authorities, voluntary bodies, academies and sports organisations.

The revised version (November 2012) is now available on our website, along with an updated Section 77 application form (SATPF1).

Please ensure that relevant colleagues are made aware of the new update.

If you have any questions about the new advice or the updated SATPF1 application form, please email us at schoolsassets.EFACAPITAL@education.gsi.gov.uk
Information: Updated data for local authorities

We produce data and MI tools with information about young people aged 16-19 (up to 24 for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities).

Local authorities (LAs) can use these tools to make strategic decisions about what is on offer for young people in their area. LAs can now access the latest update of the Data and MI tools on the Information Management (IM) Portal.

The updated data includes a:

- 16-19 FE pivot table for the LA. This includes 2011/12 full-year ILR data (as at September 2012);
- regional FE pivot table (available upon request);
- young person’s achievement of L2 and L3 pivot table.

Further information, including a user guide is available on our website. LAs and institutions continue to have access to the pivot tables and MI reports released on the IM Portal in June.

Please contact your EFA Territorial team with any queries.

Information: Learner Achievement Tracker reports

We have published new reports for the Learner Achievement Tracker Value Added (LAT VA) measure (now known as Level 3 VA).

The measure analyses the progress of 16-18 year-old students undertaking graded Level 3 qualifications. It compares their progress to the average progress made by similar learners nationally for the same qualification and subject, based on their prior attainment at Key Stage 4 (typically GCSEs).

The VA scores are calculated by comparing the expected outcome at Level 3 based on prior attainment at KS4 with the grade the student actually achieved at Level 3, using awarding body data.

Where can I find institution reports?

For 2011/12, Level 3 VA data will still be on the Provider Gateway but will be made available in a folder called ‘Level3VA’ on the Document Exchange.

Within the folder you will find a sub-folder called ‘L3VA-Restricted’ containing an Excel workbook which will include student, subject, qualification and Sector Subject Area information for the school, college or academy.
The report will include sensitive student data and so the ‘L3VA-Restricted’ sub-folder will only be accessible to the school, college or academy.

The unvalidated 2011/12 Level 3 VA reports were made available on 1 November, and access to information, support and guidance can be found on our website.

**Information: Financial Management and Control Evaluation returns**

This information affects independent specialist providers and commercial and charitable providers where the EFA is the assurance lead.

We have removed the annual requirement to submit a Financial Management and Control Evaluation (FMCE) return with immediate effect.

The Skills Funding Agency has also announced the removal of the FMCE requirement for those training organisations where it is the lead assurer.

Our external assurance team may still undertake reviews of providers’ financial management and control arrangements to assure itself in this area. Any such reviews would be undertaken on a case by case basis following a risk assessment process.

You may therefore wish to continue to use the FMCE self-assessment process. However, you will no longer have to provide us with an annual return.

We hope that this step will be welcomed by providers. We have already removed the requirement for sixth-form colleges to return an FMCE.