

Working with government and employers to develop policies and deliver high quality, learner centred, employer focused, demand-led skills development, valued by all.

Issue 983, 22 July 2020

My final Countdown

I'm leaving this week,
But it is not farewell
And maybe I'll come back
Jane says, hell no?
I guess it is simple
Goodbye AELP (goodbye AELP)
Will things ever be the same again?

It's my final countdown. My final countdown!

And if you need the tune to sing along to – [why not use this?](#)

João Santos, deputy head of unit in the directorate general for employment, social affairs, and inclusion at the European Commission, commented on apprenticeships across Europe saying they remain “probably the best model possible” to train people.

Over my five years, I think this view has now become well established in the UK across business and government.

What has also become well established is the importance of ITPs and the importance of the Further Education system. Catch up funding announced this week talked about “colleges, sixth form colleges and 16-19 providers” – not an add-on for providers, not a less advantageous scheme – equality of support for ITP learners.

[The APPG for Apprenticeships issued its report](#) this week with a couple of very sound recommendations. Again, providers mentioned as a key element to the success of the programme.

[Guidance from the Apprenticeships Minister to IfATE](#) also mentioned the importance of engaging with providers.

The point I am making is that ITPs are finally considered well and truly part of the system. I rarely have to say, “and training providers”. It is understood how important they are to the FE system and how important FE and skills are to the training and education system, let alone the economy and society. It is by no means perfect but, week by week, the attitude and approach seem to be changing and that is possibly the most important shift we have seen over the past 5 years.

300 words and that is it – over and out. Thank you again for all your support and good luck to Jane and the team.

Mark Dawe | Chief Executive | AELP



The post-16 vocational sector has certainly come a long way over the last 5 years of Mark's tenure as CEO. As he said in his leader last week, it is now being listened to and is influencing policy in a way that was almost unimaginable not so long ago, and AELP, with Mark at the helm, can claim a lot of credit for having driven this change.

As Mark moves on, we certainly won't be letting these opportunities pass us by. We will be building on them, making the most of the opportunities that have opened up by making sure that you, AELP members, have every opportunity to engage with what is going on at every level you can.

We will therefore be working hard to further develop our offer to you;

- to open up even more routes for you to directly contribute to policy discussions;
- to invite even more of the best speakers in the sector to provoke discussion, debate and learning amongst your staff in our webinars and event programme;
- to develop the best support resources possible so you can continue to build the expertise of your own staff and the sector of the capacity as a whole to play its crucial role in the rebuilding of the UK economy as we emerge into a post-pandemic world;
- ensuring you get the latest and most accurate insights into developments right across the sector in policy, learning, delivery, funding, safeguarding, and all the other aspects that make this sector so vital.

This is a fantastic time to be taking on this role, and I am hugely excited at the prospect of doing so. My confidence about the future is strengthened by knowing that AELP has a very strong team in place across all areas of the organisation.

I very much look forward to speaking and working with as many of our members as possible, to hearing how you want us to keep the momentum going, and what more we can do to help your organisations to be the very best they can be.

Jane Hickie | Managing Director | AELP



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Policy

MPs: Apprenticeships must get 'substantial investment'

The APPG on apprenticeships have called on the government to make a substantial investment in apprenticeships to support the UK's economic recovery, a group of MPs has said. The report sets out 15 recommendations to support and accelerate the growth of quality apprenticeships in the UK including a national policy for free travel for apprenticeships by 2021, reform of the apprenticeship levy to create greater flexibility and pausing expiry of levy funds for six months to support businesses.

[You can read the full report here.](#)

DfE offers £96m grant for 16-19 tutoring after Covid catch-up fund U-turn

The government has changed its stance on the decision to exclude 16 to 19 providers from its £1 billion Covid catch-up fund. A one-off, ring-fenced grant of up to £96 million will be stumped up to provide "small group tutoring" for disadvantaged 16 to 19 students whose studies have been disrupted by the pandemic. The £1 billion fund has two streams: £650 million additional funding for the 2020-21 academic year to help school pupils catch up on education missed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and £350 million will pay for the establishment of a National Tutoring Programme.

[The government's announcement can be found here.](#)

Chancellor launches Comprehensive Spending Review

The Chancellor has launched the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The Review, which will be published in the autumn, will set out UK Government departments' resource budgets for the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 and capital budgets for the years 2021/22 until 2024/25, and devolved administrations' block grants for the same period.

Claudia Harris to step down as Careers and Enterprise Company CEO

The chief executive of the Careers and Enterprise Company is to step down to run a firm that supports mid-career switchers to train as software engineers. John Yarham, who has been acting CEO since Harris began a period of maternity leave in November, will continue to lead the organisation until a permanent CEO is appointed.

Gordon Marsden: the Government's Higher Technical Education proposals lack substance

Last week brought yet another education revamp in the form of a shake-up of higher technical education. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson underlined its urgency saying “we’ve been training people for the jobs of yesterday instead of the jobs of today and tomorrow”.

But will this revamp—embedding a suite of new qualifications equivalent to levels 4 and 5 tailored to higher tech—deliver Williamson’s pledge? Will it do the business both for business and for the learners it needs to attract?

[You can read the full article here.](#)

Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education: strategic guidance for 2020/21

The Department for Education has published its strategic guidance to the IfATE for 2020/21, which provides directions to consider when carrying out its duties to ensure quality apprenticeships and technical education reform. This document is introduced by a letter from Skills and Apprenticeship Minister Gillian Keegan to Jennifer Coupland, chief executive of the IfATE.

[You can read the full paper here.](#)

ESFA annual report and accounts for 2019/20

The ESFA has published its annual reports and accounts for 2019/20. 3,338 non-levy employers registered on the apprenticeship service between January and March 2020 and the ESFA delivered 115 compliance reviews on ITPs. 2,067 providers now on RoATP and 894 providers removed.

[You can read the annual report and accounts here.](#)

Research and Consultations

AELP and Bud survey on apprenticeships

Apprenticeship providers have had to make many immediate and fundamental changes to their businesses and operations to adapt to the recent national emergency. Moreover they now have to begin planning ahead for the shape of their businesses, and the economy and sector as a whole, as the pandemic recedes.

Management of apprenticeship information is just one example of this and this



Maximising Apprenticeship Performance

AELP/Bud survey seeks to explore these challenges a little further to understand the issues and challenges that have been faced by apprenticeship providers during Covid-19.

[You can fill out the survey here before 31 July 2020.](#)

Start the Survey

Events



Business Recovery
Conference

Headline sponsors



The AELP Autumn Conference
9 - 10 September 2020

The 'Business Recovery Conference'

WEBSITE NOW LIVE 

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Toby Perkins, MP, Shadow Minister for Apprenticeships & Lifelong Learning**
- **Andy Street, Mayor, West Midlands Combined Authority**
- **Paul Joyce, Deputy Director of Further Education & Skills, Ofsted**
- **Peter Mucklow, Apprenticeships Director, ESFA**
- **Matthew Fell, Chief UK Policy Director, CBI**
- **Kirsty Evans, Acting Director of Further Education, ESFA**
- **Rob Nitsch, Chief Operating Officer, IfATE**
- **Phil Beach, Executive Director, Ofqual.**

We expect more speakers to be confirmed shortly.

Across the two days, the event's main themes will be:

1. *Post-Covid employment and skills challenge*
2. *Re-engagement with young people and employers*
3. *Regulation and funding of the skills sector post-pandemic*
4. *Provider operational methodology in new circumstances: best practice*
5. *Ofsted's approach to inspection, Ofqual regulation and future of assessment*
6. *Role of data and research in supporting the recovery effort*

Sponsored by [Learning Curve Group](#) and [Cognassist](#), the **AELP Business Recovery Conference** is ideally timed to support providers as they work with employers, apprentices and learners to get the economy moving again.

Conference fees:

The online ticketing arrangements will allow delegates from the same member provider to attend different sessions for a set fee. Each booking entitles up to 10 delegates from that organisation access to the Business Recovery conference.

AELP Member Rate: £100 + VAT

Non-Member Rate: £275 + VAT

Visit the conference [website](#) today and register your interest.

WEBSITE NOW LIVE!





AELP Member Exclusive Meetings

Upcoming Sector Forums

All sector forum meetings are now being held on-line via GoTo Meeting or GoTo Webinar.

To register please email memberevents@aelp.org.uk

For any further information regarding any of our sector groups please email cswales@aelp.org.uk

Logistics and Transport – 30 July, 10:30am – 12:00pm

The next Logistics and Transport sector forum meeting is being held via Webinar on Thursday 30th July from 10:30am until 12:00pm – this is the rescheduled date for the meeting that was due to be held in May. We have confirmed speakers from AELP, IfATE and Skills for Logistics. Register your interest via memberevents@aelp.org.uk and we'll send you the registration link.

Upcoming #aelpwebinars



What's on your mind?

Thursday, 23 July 10.00 – 11.00 am BST

Facilitator: Dr. Louise Karwowski, Head of Science, Cognassist

Guest Speaker: Chris Kingsbury, National Partnerships Manager, Remploy

Research shows that the rate of mental health problems in people with a learning disability is double that of the general population (Cooper, 2007; Emerson & Hatton, 2007; NICE, 2016). Cognassist's data shows that hidden learning needs can affect over 25% of apprentices. So, how can we effectively support individuals during their learning journey and make real, long-term improvements to support their mental health?

[Sponsored by Cognassist](#)

[Register for your free place »](#)

Sponsored by



Chief Executive's COVID-19 Member Update

Thursday, 23 July 2.00 – 3.00 pm BST

A weekly update from AELP's Chief Executive, Mark Dawe during the COVID-19 crisis.

[Sponsored by The Skills Network](#)

Exclusive for AELP members

[Register »](#)

Sponsored by



In Conversation with the ESFA- Recovery Plans

Friday, 24 July 10.00 – 11.00 am BST

Complementary for AELP members

This session will discuss the skills and employment aspects of the recent government recovery package in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with covering redundancy support for displaced apprentices or those at risk.

[Register »](#)



Effective Observation of Teaching and Learning

Tuesday, 28 July 10.00 – 11.00 am BST

Facilitator: Dr Chris Jones, Former HMI and Specialist Adviser for Further Education and Skills

This webinar looks at the relationship between observations of teaching and learning, the quality of education, teacher knowledge and staff development. The session will review how providers can build a strategy around observations of teaching and learning to derive evidence of learner progress over time, teacher knowledge and expertise, and the quality of education.

[Register »](#)

Understanding Emotional Intelligence

Wednesday, 29 July 10.30 – 11.30 am BST

Facilitator: Christine Edwards QTLS, Creating Excellence

This webinar will consider the core aspects of Emotional Intelligence (EI) and review the benefits to organisations in understanding and developing EI within teams.

[Register »](#)

Ofsted expectations regarding off-the-job training, progress reviews and assessment practice

Thursday, 30 July 10.00 – 11.00 am BST

Facilitator: Richard Moore, Richard Moore Solutions

This webinar will examine the key parts of the 'learner journey' for apprentices through the lens of an Ofsted inspector, highlighting what are always the 'game changers' regarding crucial aspects of that journey such as initial assessment, off-the-job training, English and mathematics, progress reviews and assessment practice.

[Register »](#)

Transforming the apprenticeship delivery model to succeed in the 'new normal'

Thursday, 30 July 2.00 – 3.00 pm BST

Facilitator: James Swaffield, Operations Director at QA and Brad Tombling, Apprenticeship Delivery consultant at Bud

James Swaffield will provide valuable insight into planning and delivering a digital change programme within an ITP, from a strategic perspective. This will be particularly useful for anyone who's organisation is looking to adopt new technology and adapt their business delivery for the 'new normal'.

[Sponsored by Bud](#)

[Register for your free place »](#)

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Maximising Apprenticeship Performance

Webinar Recordings on Demand also available [here](#)

Please [click here](#) to subscribe to the events mailing list

JULY

- 28 July Webinar [Effective Observation of Teaching and Learning](#) £49 Online »
 29 July Webinar [Understanding Emotional Intelligence](#) £49 Online »
 30 July Webinar [Ofsted expectations regarding off-the-job training, progress reviews and assessment practice](#) £49 Online »
 30 July Webinar [Transforming the apprenticeship delivery model to succeed in the 'new normal' - Sponsored by Bud](#) £0 Online »

AUGUST

- 04 August Webinar [Ofsted nominee training for those managers new to the role on inspection](#) £49 Online »
 05 August Webinar [Traineeships Policy Update](#) £49 Online »
 11 August Webinar [Supporting the effective delivery of Functional Skills in English – Level 1 and 2](#) £49 Online »
 12 August Webinar [Key Challenges for Organisations seeking to implement wide scale Virtual Classroom Delivery](#) £49 Online »
 13 August Webinar [How learning providers can support victims and survivors of domestic abuse](#) £49 Online »
 14 August Webinar [In Conversation with the ESFA](#) £49 Online **Member Exclusive** »
 18 August Webinar [Ofsted nominee training for those managers who are experienced in the role on inspection](#) £49 Online »
 21 August Webinar [AELP Policy Webinar](#) £0 Online **Member Exclusive** »
 25 August Webinar [Supporting the effective delivery of Functional Skills in mathematics – Level 1 and 2](#) £49 Online »
 27 August Webinar [Improving Bid Success](#) £0 to members £99 non members Online »

SEPTEMBER

- 02 September Webinar [Creative Assessment Methods for Learning Sessions](#) £49 Online »
 04 September Webinar [In Conversation with tbc](#) £0 Online **Member Exclusive** »
 09-10 September Conference [The Business Recovery Conference](#) £100 Online »
 18 September Webinar [AELP Policy Update](#) £49 Online **Member Exclusive** »
 22 September Webinar [Curriculum sequencing](#) £49 Online »
 23 September Webinar [The Relevance of Learning Theories to Practical Teaching and Training](#) £49 Online »



AELP Member Exclusive Meetings

JULY

- 30 July [Logistics and Transport](#) Online »

SEPTEMBER

16 September [Hospitality and Catering](#) Online »
23 September [Construction](#) Online »
24 September [Creative & Design](#) Online »

OCTOBER

07 October [Hair and Beauty](#) Online »
15 October [Engineering, Manufacturing and Automotive](#) Online »
28 October [Digital & IT](#) Online »
29 October [Land-based](#) Online »

These events are complimentary for AELP members to attend.

If any organisations are interested in Sponsorship of our SIG and Sector Forum groups please contact gbuttironi@aelp.org.uk (SIGs) and cswales@aelp.org.uk (Sector Forums).

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