

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

## Issue 987, 21 August 2020

We were all geared up this week to respond to the issues surrounding the GCSE results, but then came the welcome announcements on teacher assessed grades. Some employers of new apprentices like to see good GCSE grades, particularly in maths and English, and hopefully now we won't hear any sad stories on this aspect of the matter after Thursday.

While most focus has understandably been on the fall-out from the use of the now notorious algorithms for the results, my comments in FE News ([here](#)) on enforcement of the Baker Clause did not go unnoticed. I've had a couple of interesting conversations this week on the issue at a senior level and it is clear in some quarters, including on the backbenches at Westminster, that patience is running out on why a well-intentioned piece of legislation is lacking teeth. All I can say is 'watch this space'. When recent events have shown that the need for well-informed choices is greater than ever, we must ensure that more of next year's exam-takers are aware of the advantages of apprenticeships and other technical education options.

We had a meeting on Tuesday with a group of levy paying employers with their external providers also present and it was encouraging to hear that apprenticeship recruitment is still very much part of their workforce strategies irrespective of the pandemic's impact. The financial incentives for employers, which were announced in the Chancellor's summer statement, were probably not a big consideration for them but we are getting feedback from members that the incentives could well bring smaller employers onto the apprenticeship programme for the first time. With independent forecasts now predicting on average an unemployment rate of 6.6% for 2021, this has to be good news.

### A busy autumn

I was warned when I took this job that August isn't necessarily a quiet time. A deluge of updates on funding rules and other developments means that Simon Ashworth won't have any difficulty filling up an hour on his monthly [Policy Update webinar](#) this Friday morning. As well as looking at the immediate requirements, AELP has been considering the autumn diary which includes: the Comprehensive Spending Review; the FE Reform white paper which will cover apprenticeships; a devolution white paper; IfATE's funding bands review; major procurements; and other possible consultations. Among all that is a signal that adult education will be as much on our agenda as programmes for young people. The AELP Board is structured to represent the interests of smaller and larger providers and together with its sub-groups and our regional networks, we like to think that we fairly represent all of our members. But when things are really busy, which at the moment seems like nearly all the time, it may be the case that we don't always succeed. Therefore I encourage you to use your network chair or contact Simon or me directly if you have a pressing concern on a policy issue.



## Business Recovery Conference 9-10 September

We are still waiting for what we hope will be a couple of big name speakers to confirm their presence at our Business Recovery Conference next month. But if you look at the agenda on the conference website (<https://na.eventscloud.com/website/15018/>), there's no need to delay in booking your organisation's place. Thanks to our sponsors, Learning Curve Group and Cognassist, it's just a tenner each for every delegate if you make full use of your £100 place. One of our board members was telling us this week that he has already suggested which sessions each of his operations team should watch. We hope that there will be plenty more members who will want to follow his example.

Have a good weekend!

*Jane Hickie | Managing Director | AELP*

[Back to Top](#)

Please click on the header links to jump to section

### [Policy](#)

- FE college capital funding allocations
- Deadline for subcontractor declarations
- Preparing final ILR returns for 2019 to 2020
- AEB funding and performance management rules 2020 to 2021
- Stats watchdog to launch review into Ofqual's results algorithm
- £40m funding package for transport to support 16-19 learners in FE settings
- ESFA launch the redundancy support service for apprentices (ReSSA)
- Model Contracts

### [Research and Consultations](#)

### [Events](#)

- Online AELP Business Recovery Conference, 9-10 September 2020 - Book your place now!
- Free Ofqual webinar: what does a successful application look like?
- New Apprenticeship Service webinars from September 2020
- Upcoming Webinars
- Webinar Recordings On Demand

# Policy

## FE college capital funding allocations

In June 2020, the prime minister announced that an initial £200m, out of the £1.5bn in capital funding that will support the upgrading of the FE estate, will be brought forward to 2020/21.

This will support FE colleges to undertake immediate remedial work in this financial year to upgrade the condition of their estate and provide a boost as the country and its education system emerges from lockdown. More details on the wider funding programme will be made available in the autumn of 2020.

The grant letter and allocation amount are now available on [Manage your education and skills funding service](#). The agreement must be signed by 4 September 2020 to receive this grant in September.

## Deadline for subcontractor declarations

Organisations delivering ESFA funded adult programmes from apprenticeships to traineeships, including those FE institutions delivering 16 to 19 provision, must declare their subcontracting arrangements by 31 August 2020.

The current declarations relate to the following periods:

- 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 for the delivery of any apprenticeship non-levy and levy funded provision;
- 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020 for all other adult education;
- 16 to 19 programme for the year from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020 (noting schools and academies are exempt)

The process for collecting subcontractor declarations is through the [Manage your education and skills funding service](#).

You will need one of the following MYESF roles to complete and submit a declaration:

- contract authoriser
- contract manager
- data returns and claims authoriser

[If you have any questions, you can contact the ESFA by submitting an online enquiry form.](#)

## Preparing final ILR returns for 2019 to 2020

There are two more opportunities to submit Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data for 2019 to 2020.

It is important that your data is submitted error free, accurate and complete because errors or incomplete returns can impact on the payments your organisation receives. The data cannot be updated or amended after R14 has closed.

[You can find details of the R13 and R14 collection dates on GOV.UK.](#)

## AEB funding and performance management rules 2020 to 2021

The ESFA has published an updated version of the funding and performance management rules for 2020/21.

This version includes changes to the 2020 to 2021 version 2 document, which the ESFA published in July 2020. This document sets out the updated position on traineeships, subcontracting, breaks in learning, learner support and performance management. The rules apply to all providers of education and training who receive AEB funding from the Secretary of State for Education acting through the ESFA.

If you have a specific query about a section or paragraph in the funding rules document, please use the [ESFA online enquiry form](#) or speak to your territorial lead contact.

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

## Stats watchdog to launch review into Ofqual's results algorithm

The government's statistics watchdog is to launch a review into how Ofqual's controversial results algorithm was developed.

The review will look at statistical models used for exam grading to "highlight learning from the challenges faced through these unprecedented circumstances".

It will not look at the implications of the model on individual results, or take a view on the way to award grades in the absence of exams.

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), which is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority watchdog, will lead the review.

## £40m funding package for transport to support 16-19 learners in FE settings

On 8 August, the Government announced new measures to ease public transport as children and young people return to education in September.

This included new funding for additional dedicated home to provider transport (including ITPs), which will be distributed to Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) who will receive more than £40m funding for the autumn term to help them create extra capacity and allow more students to use alternatives to public transport, whilst social distancing measures remain in place.

Funding allocations are based on the number of children and young people in the area and how far they have to travel to schools and FE settings. FE providers are encouraged to work with LTAs to ensure that the needs of FE students are reflected in local plans.

LTAs will be asked, through the grant arrangements, to spend this funding to support school and FE transport. The grant arrangements will make clear that they must assess the travel needs of FE students, local plans must consider FE students and they should engage FE providers when deciding how to spend the money.

LTAs will also need to consider local priorities and allocate funding accordingly. They may choose to provide coach services for 16-19 students directly or, for example, allocate funding to individual colleges to arrange their own transport services where this is needed as a result of social distancing on public transport. LTAs will also have the flexibility to use the funding to meet the needs of local families, which could include hiring more coaches, buses, private hire vehicles, minibuses, or other modes of transport to supplement public transport.

The announcement also encouraged students and staff who have the option to walk, cycle or use a scooter to do so, with the drive for active travel being backed by £2 billion of government investment. This will be supported by a new campaign due to be launched shortly to reduce demand on public transport at peak times and minimise overcrowding in the autumn to ensure that public transport is available for those who do not have an alternative.

New guidance on dedicated school transport is also due to be published shortly. Although primarily aimed at local authorities, this guidance will also be relevant for FE providers with their own dedicated transport.

[You can find more information here.](#)

## ESFA launch the redundancy support service for apprentices (ReSSA)

To support apprentices who have been made redundant or think they might be in the future, the ESFA has launched the Redundancy Support Service for Apprentices (ReSSA). Apprentices can call 0800 015 0400 to get free advice, find new opportunities, and access local and national support services offering financial, health and wellbeing, legal and careers advice.

Apprentices will be given advice for finding alternative employment, plus information about financial support and talking to someone about how they are coping.

[You can find more information here.](#)

## Model Contracts

We are delighted to let you know that the updated versions of our Model Contracts are now available for apprenticeship providers. These were an incredibly highly-valued member benefit last year, saving literally thousands of pounds for businesses in legal fees, and with our partners at VWV we have been carefully updating them to ensure they reflect the very latest funding rules.

[Full members can log in to the AELP website and access them via the VWV portal on this link.](#)

## Events



Business Recovery  
Conference

Headline sponsors



The AELP Autumn Conference  
9 - 10 September 2020

# The 'Business Recovery Conference'



Book your place now! ➔

## Amazing Value for Money!

Did you know that AELP member organisations can purchase a ticket for £100 to enable 10 employees per organisation to watch AELP's fabulous Business Recovery Conference which takes place online on 9-10 September? That's right – it only costs a tanner each for a member of staff to watch and ask the presenters questions. And they can dip in and out during the two days, knowing that they can catch up on a recording of any session or workshop which they missed.

Guided by a group of AELP Board members, the content of the conference has been structured to appeal to provider leaders and be invaluable to operational managers. So if listening to politicians and regulators on post-pandemic recovery plans doesn't rock your boat, then you will find a vast array of choices instead on how providers can work best with employers and learners to support the recovery at a local level.

The agenda for the conference, kindly sponsored by [Learning Curve Group](#) and [Cognassist](#), is being updated regularly but here is a reminder of some of the sessions you can watch:

- Re-engaging employers and learners, especially getting young people out of the house
- Blended models of learning delivery for different skills programmes
- Growing an effective Traineeship programme
- Opening a training centre safely after lockdown
- Provider risk management including HR and legal obligations
- Ensuring that a provider is financially resilient

- The role of leadership and management in ensuring post-lockdown regulatory compliance
- Promoting mental well-being
- Using data effectively for better programme delivery

Visit the conference [website](#) today and book your place today!



## Free Ofqual webinar: what does a successful application look like?

Join Ofqual and Autoexel to find out more about applying for Ofqual recognition. Autoexel delivers EPA for standards in the automotive industry, and were successful in gaining Ofqual recognition in May 2020. This is an opportunity to hear first-hand about their experience of Ofqual's recognition process. Delegates will gain an understanding of what it means to be Ofqual-recognised and the support available to help with your application.

Webinar details: **10-11am, 26/08/20**

To register: please email [strategic.relationships@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.relationships@ofqual.gov.uk)

## New Apprenticeship Service webinars from September 2020

The Apprenticeship Service is holding several webinars from September 2020 aimed at employers, training providers, employer-providers, EPAOs and any organisations/individuals with an interest in the apprenticeship service.

All webinars are hosted by subject matter experts to help service users to understand more about the apprenticeship service and the apprenticeships programme.

Topics include:

- the value of assessment in apprenticeships
- how to apply for an incentive payment for hiring a new apprentice
- how to support employers to apply for an incentive payment for hiring a new apprentice
- funding rules update (coming soon)
- off the job training update (coming soon)

[You can sign up now.](#)

You can watch all apprenticeship service webinar recordings on the [ESFA's YouTube channel](#).

## Upcoming #aelpwebinars



### **AELP Policy Member Update Webinar**

Friday, 21 August 2020 | 10.00 am - 11.00 am BST

A complimentary monthly update from AELP's Chief Policy Officer Simon Ashworth on Policy.

Sponsored by [The Skills Network](#).

[Register »](#)

---

Sponsored by



### **Supporting the effective delivery of Functional Skills in mathematics – Level 1 and 2**

Tuesday, 25 August 2020 | 10.30 am - 11.30 am BST

**Facilitator:** Christine Edwards QTLS, Creating Excellence

This webinar will help to understand some of the key challenges and different approaches that are needed to allow learners to be successful in the attainment of the necessary knowledge and skills needed to achieve a pass.

[Register »](#)

---

### **How learning providers can support victims and survivors of domestic abuse**

Wednesday, 26 August 2020 | 10.00 am - 11.00 am BST

**Facilitator:** Lewis Robertson, Safeguarding Consultant, ECP

The aim of this webinar is to raise awareness of the impact abusive relationships can have, the challenges in speaking out and the impact domestic abuse can have on people in the work/learning environment.

[Register »](#)

---

### **Improving Your Bid Success**

Thursday, 27 August 2020 | 10.00 am - 11.00 am BST

**Facilitator:** Steve O'Hare, Director, SCLO Consulting

This webinar will give you an overview of the key elements which help improve success and put in place the steps required to win more work.

[Register »](#)

---

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

[Back to Top](#)

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

## AUGUST

- 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 »  
 26 August Webinar [How learning providers can support victims and survivors of domestic abuse](#) £49 Online »  
 27 August Webinar [Improving Bid Success](#) £49 Online »

## SEPTEMBER

- 02 September Webinar [The Relevance of Learning Theories to Practical Teaching and Training](#) £49 Online »  
 03 September Webinar [Traineeships Procurement](#) £49 Online »  
 09-10 September Conference [The Business Recovery Conference](#) £100 Online »  
 15 September Webinar [Staying safe online – keeping learners and your staff safe online](#) £49 Online »  
 17 September Webinar [Effective leadership and management](#) £49 Online »  
 22 September Webinar [Curriculum sequencing](#) £49 Online »  
 24 September Webinar [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - why it matters](#) £49 Online »  
 29 September Webinar [Preparing for the new style Ofsted visits this autumn](#) £49 Online »  
 30 September Webinar [Improve your PPT presentation skills](#) £49 Online »

## OCTOBER

- 08 October Webinar [The Apprenticeship Infrastructure Audit](#) £49 Online »



## AELP Member Exclusive Meetings

## SEPTEMBER

- 07 September SIG - [Foundation](#) Online »  
 16 September [Hospitality and Catering](#) Online »  
 23 September [Construction](#) Online »  
 24 September [Creative & Design](#) Online »  
 29 September SIG - [Learning Support](#) Online »

## OCTOBER

- 07 October [Hair and Beauty](#) Online »  
 14 October SIG - [Schools and Education](#) 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](mailto:gbuttironi@aelp.org.uk) (SIGs) and [cswales@aelp.org.uk](mailto:cswales@aelp.org.uk) (Sector Forums).

[Back to Contents](#)



[View as a Web Page](#)

© Association of Employment and Learning Providers  
2nd Floor, 9 Apex Court, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 4JT

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission, in writing, of AELP