

## Inside this issue...

PAGE 2

- Apprenticeship Reforms
- National Apprenticeship Week

PAGE 3

- Skills Funding Agency

PAGE 4

- National Careers Service
- Lancashire Enterprise Partnership
- Future Apprenticeships

PAGE 5

- LYAAN

PAGE 6

- Sub groups  
Q1  
Employer and Skills

PAGE 7

- Training Provider News

PAGE 8

- Dates for your Diary

## Apprenticeships General



### The Baker Clause

Lord Baker has won a major concession in the House of Lords which will force all schools to give FE provider's access to their pupils, a move which he concedes will likely be universally hated by them. The move to amend the government's Technical and Further Education Bill, put forward by Lord Baker and his fellow former education secretary Baroness Morris, has been voted through. The peer, who served under Margaret Thatcher and was a key architect of the ailing University Technical Colleges programme, accused schools of "resisting" those who tried to promote more vocational courses to their pupils. He insisted that "every word" of his proposed clause was needed because it would be "met with great hostility in every school in the country".

It means schools will now have to ensure that a "range of education and training providers" can access pupils aged between 13 and 18, to promote technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

This will no doubt be an agenda item on a future Forum Executive group meeting.

### Can you help? NAS seeking case studies of apprentices with additional needs

The National Apprenticeship Service are seeking case studies of learners with additional needs who are completing or have completed an apprenticeship.

If you have any case studies, please contact [Laura.Tiplady@sfa.bis.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Tiplady@sfa.bis.gov.uk) with the following information:

- Name of the learner
- Age
- What apprenticeship they are doing/have done
- How they fit into the `social mobility` category
- What school they attended
- Contact details of the provider so the PR company (Munroe & Foster) can contact them

It will also be important that the apprentice agrees to their information being used in a case study.

### Apprenticeship funding rules 2017 to 2018 – final versions

The SFA have published the final versions of the apprenticeship funding rules that will apply to apprenticeship starts from 1 May 2017. They have updated these

based on your feedback, which they have used to clarify content.

The documents set out the rules for apprenticeship funding, including the evidence required to support funding. They also include guidance for employers and performance management rules for training providers.

For further information, please visit the [funding rules page](#) on GOV.UK or [email the service desk](#).

## Apprenticeship reforms: proposal to withdraw fourth batch of frameworks

We are asking for feedback on the withdrawal of the fourth batch of apprenticeship frameworks. The [proposal](#) is now open, and will close at 5pm on 5 April 2017.

The frameworks included in this proposal have replacement apprenticeship standards that cover the same occupations. We expect the replacement standards to be ready for delivery by 1 April 2018. The proposed last date for new starts on these frameworks is 31 March 2018.

You can provide feedback through our online survey.

For further information, refer to the [removal of apprenticeship frameworks page](#) on GOV.UK or contact [the service desk](#).



## National Apprenticeship Week

### Fancy being part of a Guinness World Record attempt??

During National Apprenticeship Week, 'The Big Assembly' will attempt to set the record for the largest online careers advice seminar EVER!

Introduced by Robert Halfon, the Minister for Apprenticeships, and combining commissioned films by and with apprentices plus live Q&A from expert advisors, "The Big Assembly" will be focused on career options including apprenticeships. Schools, young people, parents, careers advisors and employers from across the nation have been invited to tune in at 08.45 on 7 March 2017 to take part in 'The Big Assembly' a live video stream for those across the UK wanting to find out more about apprenticeships and career options post 16. It aims to get over 5,000 log-ins and thus set a new Guinness World Records title in the process, so it promises to be an exciting and memorable event.

The East and West Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassador Network, Workpays and GetMyFirstJob have created this ground-breaking event, with sponsorship from The National Apprenticeship Service and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. Employers including East Midlands Chamber, Boots, Toyota, Highways England, Nottingham City Homes, The BBC, Derry Building Services, Derby Homes, Busy Bees, Young Professionals, Nottingham City Homes, EMH Homes, Futures Housing Group, Nottingham City Council and Uniper have offered sponsorship and a selection of career based

prizes for young people which will be awarded during the presentation including shadowing a CEO, being involved in a Boots product launch and much more.

To get involved pre-register to log on to the 30 minute online careers presentation at [www.bigassembly.org](http://www.bigassembly.org).

## Social Media during Apprenticeship Week

The hashtag is #NAW2017. You may find the [Digital Cheat Sheet](#) of interest.

## Institute for Apprenticeships IfA Board members Announced

Full details of how the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) will operate have now been published in an operational plan out for consultation, alongside the names of 8 board members.

The operational plan sets out the IfA's leading role in the ongoing Apprenticeship reform process, providing advice on funding and overseeing the quality within the new employer-led system.

The new board as expected is largely composed of employers but also includes Bev Robinson, Principal of Blackpool and the Fylde College. Antony Jenkins who's picture is below has been formally appointed as chair.

Full details of the board appointments and the consultation [are available here](#).



# National Apprenticeship Awards 2017

The search is on to find England's top apprenticeship employers and apprentices and to recognise those individuals who have made a significant contribution to apprenticeships.

Now in its 14th year, the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017 opens for entries on 15 March. There will be a range of regional and national employer categories, and the very best employer category entries will also have the additional bonus of featuring in the prestigious annual Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list.

There will also be regional and national awards for intermediate, advanced and higher or degree apprentices.

The Apprenticeship Champion of the Year is open to individuals who go above and beyond to champion apprenticeships. This category is open to apprentices and those who have made a significant contribution to apprenticeships, such as those working in schools or providing careers guidance.

The National Apprenticeship Awards are the top accolade for all the hard work put into excelling and playing a leading part in apprenticeships. The awards have a high profile and so can raise public awareness of your commitment through national, regional and sector media channels, including radio and television coverage.

Apply online at [apprenticeawards.co.uk](http://apprenticeawards.co.uk). Employer and apprentice guidance documents will be available to download from the awards application site.

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## Skills Funding Agency SFA Inform

You can now download the latest edition of Inform, the monthly newsletter about funding systems and data management from the Skills Funding Agency, [from here](#).

The news this month includes:

- Apprenticeship reform – withdrawing frameworks proposals
- Funding monitoring reports published
- Employer and learner satisfaction surveys
- ILR R07
- Learning records service release 14
- Second collection of subcontracting commitments
- Updates to the ILR validation rules

# Apprenticeship Reforms

## SFA release employer contract details

As widely anticipated, a contract between the SFA and employers to release payments to training providers after May 2017 has now been published. This agreement gives the employer the authority to access their levy funds to manage apprenticeships, and authorises SFA to pay for apprenticeship training and end-point assessment with the chosen training provider.

## Registration for Apprenticeship Service now open

Previously known as the Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS), the Apprenticeship Service is [now open for employer registration](#). All levy-paying employers are being encouraged to register now so that they can:

- create an account
- add organisations (if their organisation is connected)
- link their PAYE schemes
- invite members of their team to use the service

It should take no more than 10 minutes for employers to set up their account, but there are some things they can do in advance to speed it up. The [register to manage your apprenticeship funds page](#) gives them everything they need.

Further help and support is available by emailing [Helpdesk@manage-apprenticeships.service.gov.uk](mailto:Helpdesk@manage-apprenticeships.service.gov.uk), or by phone on 08000 150 600.



## National Careers Week 2017 – get involved

National Careers Week (NCW) starts on 6 March 2017. The NCW website has a page of [resources](#) to help you celebrate your careers work. These include ideas for PR, social media and events.

Please share this with your communications and marketing teams and use the hashtag #NCW2017 in your own communications.

## National Careers Service support

Compliment your existing careers provision and support the statutory guidance with our free Digital Workshops, E-pack of careers resources and promotional materials. [Contact us](#) to find out more!



## Lancashire Apprenticeship Growth Plan

The purpose of the Apprenticeship Growth Plan is to make the apprenticeship system work for Lancashire, encompassing the areas supported by Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Borough Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

The Apprenticeship Growth Plan has been informed by a robust evidence base including comprehensive review of skills and employment issues in Lancashire and seven sector studies focusing on high replacement demand and growth potential. The evidence base continues to be maintained and evolve to ensure that Apprenticeship Growth Plan focusses on meeting the socio economic needs for the area by directing resources and activities in an informed way.

The Apprenticeship Growth Plan provides a strategic plan for investment and collaboration in apprenticeship activities and initiatives in Lancashire to achieve Lancashire’s aims of apprenticeship growth by utilising apprenticeship reforms to the advantage of individuals, employers, apprenticeship providers and all other relevant stakeholders across Lancashire.

The Apprenticeship Growth Plan identifies key priorities and actions that should be addressed to help deliver apprenticeships to meet our growth target, local needs and opportunities. The Apprenticeship Growth Plan It covers issues of traineeships and low level apprenticeships; technical skills gaps and skills shortages; and high level apprenticeships, including degree apprenticeships.

Attachment: [Apprenticeship Growth Plan Feb 2017](#)

## Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub

Have a look at the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub <http://www.lancshireskillshub.co.uk/>



Below is a link to a PowerPoint presentation which is the third in a series of four, issued as part of the Future Apprenticeships Support Programme. We will receive the final update before the end of March 2017.

[Regional Network PowerPoint - February 2017](#)

# Lancashire Young Apprentice Ambassador Network

## Meet an Ambassador

Chelsea Parker, currently an Apprentice at Silentnight Beds working in the New Product Development Team and studying a higher apprenticeship at Burnley Uclan, attended a Careers Fair at UCLan Burnley College Campus on 31 January 2017.

The event was attended by pupils and their parents. Chelsea was there to represent her employer and to promote apprenticeships at Silentnight, as well as to promote a new 12-week taster course into the furniture industry provided by Burnley College.

Chelsea reported

“Promoting the apprenticeships at Silentnight went really well. I found that not many people know a lot about the furniture industry and what it involves, but we did generate some early interest”.

Chelsea has very clear career plans. She says “I want to push myself as high as I can go up the ladder within my work place. In 5 years’ time I would like to be more independent in my role and hopefully be able to design beds and mattresses to help Silentnight grow as a company”.



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## Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools Project. (ASK)

The LWBLEF has now been involved in the ASK project for 5 months, co-ordinating/delivering apprenticeship and traineeship information to young people in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 in schools across Lancashire, and ensuring that young people are aware of all the options available to them.

The project is funded by the Skills Funding Agency and National Apprenticeship Service and offers young people in the North, Midlands, London and the South the skills they need to get on in work.

The project works with teachers, careers advisers, parents and governors, alongside other key partners, to support schools and ensure that they meet their statutory duties regarding the provision of impartial Information Advice and Guidance (IAG), specifically in relation to apprenticeships and traineeships.

A small number of network members, Job Centre Plus staff, Apprentice and Employer Ambassadors are working with us to deliver presentations and workshops, and collectively we have already engaged with 48 schools and 3054 pupils, either through Careers Events or at bespoke apprenticeship sessions, and we have had some excellent feedback from schools. We have supported some great events in Preston and across East Lancashire, but so far activity in the Blackpool and Fylde and Lancaster regions has been limited. Schools have been resent a letter and flyer to remind them about the services available through the project and we are hoping to get some sessions in these areas on the back of this.

In recent weeks we have on occasions struggled to get a deliverer to cover some sessions. If you are able to help by delivering a presentation, or by running a workshop to guide pupils in registering on the Find an Apprenticeship website, we do need your support. You can contact Helen [helen@lancsforum.co.uk](mailto:helen@lancsforum.co.uk) if you are able to provide support.

Another way you can help is by signing up as an Apprentice Champion. A core part of the ASK project includes identifying and recruiting 1,000 Apprenticeship Champions in schools across England to support the promotion of apprenticeships in their local areas. Raeleen and Helen have already signed up. Here's [the link](#) to sign up.

# Sub Groups

## Quality Improvement Sub Group



### Transforming Teaching, Learning and Assessment Changing Mind-sets in Formative Assessment

As mentioned at the February Forum meeting we have been successful with the TLA tender and that we would go through to the next stage.

The first project steering group meeting has taken place with Jo Higgins who many of you may know from LSIS days. Preston's College will take the lead on the project but we will be using the Quality Improvement sub group and wider membership to advise and take part in the project.

### Project Summary

Develop both formative assessment materials and delivery staff skills to support learning and assessment in readiness for the new Apprenticeship standards and End Point Assessment. Create a culture shift and mindset change to embed formative assessment which informs future delivery plans and enables learners to monitor development over time.

### NW FES Group

Simon Clarke from NLTG as Chair of the Lancashire Forum QI Sub group, sits on the NW Reference Group. Attached below are a number of publications that were issued at the last meeting. Simon feeds back outcomes from meetings at the Quality Improvement meetings

Attachments:

- [English GCSE invite to Runshaw event jan 2017](#)
- [FES reference group ppt AR findings Dec 2016](#)
- [Ofsted and inspection presentation slides for SFA NAS employer events](#)

### Dates for QI Sub group meetings for the remainder of the year.

All meetings are 10am -12noon

25th April 2017	Blackburn College
20th June 2017	Runshaw College
19th September 2017	Training 2000
28th November 2017	Myerscough College

[Minutes of the meeting 21st February 2017](#)

### Employer & Skills Sub group

Lisa Moizer from the Skills & Employment Hub attended the meeting to update members on the Apprenticeship Growth Plan that had now been signed off.

The Action Plan ties in all the work being done with LESEP - NEET, AtoE, the ASK project and the Employer and Apprentice Ambassador Networks.

The group discussed using the next meeting on the 17th May to promote one of the priority sectors and it was suggested the Digital sector be selected. It could be marketed as a "Digital Skills Panel" with key businesses from the sector being invited, including Digital Lancashire.

Attached: [Apprenticeship Growth Plan Feb 2017](#)

Dates for E&S Sub group meetings for the remainder of the year. All meetings are 2-4pm and at Preston's College unless otherwise notified.

17th May 2017  
12th July 2017  
18th October 2017  
6th December 2017

# Training Provider News

## Blackburn College

Blackburn College has joined forces with Darwen-based Herbert Parkinson to launch a range of educational opportunities with the textiles manufacturer, backed by John Lewis. Herbert Parkinson, which is wholly owned by John Lewis, will now have their educational needs met by the number one college in England for Apprenticeship success.

The new agreement between Herbert Parkinson and the College has led to the College's Apprenticeship offer being approved by John Lewis. Chris Precious, Business Development Officer at Blackburn College said: "John Lewis Central Education and Training Team wished to formally recognise and ratify Blackburn College's training. This involved a formal audit of our training and delivery with their team. "For Blackburn College this means formal recognition of the quality and specialism of our skills training and the seal of approval from a major UK retailer."



Herbert Parkinson currently has 12 employees undertaking Apprenticeship training with Blackburn College. Upon completion of the Apprenticeship, candidates will progress to full-time employment as partners within the John Lewis partnership. Stuart McDonald, Head of Branch at Herbert Parkinson, said: "Herbert Parkinson has been investing in apprenticeships for several years. Just recently the business invested in a new Learning Centre and a dedicated apprenticeship Cell in operations, where the apprentices manufacture the 7 Day Curtain Hanging Samples for all the John Lewis stores, a great example of the John Lewis Partnership investing in UK Apprentices. "Working alongside Blackburn College, it's great to see the benefit this brings to the business. From an academic perspective, our apprentices' gain hands-on tuition, both in the Learning Centre and in the operational Cell, which results in an industry-recognised academic qualification. "From a business perspective, Herbert Parkinson views this as an investment in the future.

"The quality of training provided by Blackburn College provides hands-on experience in Operations, and has a direct business impact on; quality of product; wastage and productivity. "Both the business and our apprentices' benefit from this longer term view. I would have no hesitation in recommending Blackburn College as a training provider."

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## Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing Risk (LOcHER) project

Attached and below is some information regarding the LOcHER project (LOcHER flyer, sample posters created by learners and sample project briefs) for you to consider.

The project is aimed at young people and has been piloted at 3 colleges across the country. The aim is to provide young people who are leaving school/college and entering the world of work with a knowledge of Occupational Illnesses (in particular, long latency illnesses), the causes and controls. By engaging young people in the project, it is hoped that a range of materials and resources will be developed which can be shared with peer groups of similar age to help share the message. By using language and techniques through which peer groups can relate to, the project should act as a catalyst to reduce future instances of occupational ill health.

The project supports the Health & Safety Executives #HelpGBWorkWell strategy which was launched in 2016.

I was involved in the pilot project here at Preston's College and have since become involved as one of the engagement leads in an attempt to recruit more colleges, and schools to participate.

This link is to a video that was produced by our Science Learners in relation to efficiency of different types of face masks as used in industry:

<https://youtu.be/y7H33WKT17Q>

You can also find more information on the website:

[www.locherproject.com](http://www.locherproject.com)

If you click on the contact us link on the website and request a 'log in', you will be able to review additional sections which will provide you with a wider overview of the project and its aims.

If you did decide to take this on as a project, any posters, videos etc would be branded with your organisation logos to give you and your learners any credit. Resources could be kept just for use within your organisation but it is hoped that you would share them via your websites, social media, through the project leads etc to help spread the message.

I am happy to come along and have 2 different presentations – one for staff to provide a background and reasoning for the project and then one for the learners to give them ideas of what they would be expected to do.

Dave Foy from Preston's College has kindly sent the information on the project. The project is to be discussed via the Forum's QI sub group but if members require any further information or would like to discuss this is a possible project for your learners please get in touch on the number below.

Dave Foy CMIOSH FIIRSM RSP - Estates, Health & Safety Manager, Preston's College  
Telephone: (01772) 225101 or email [dfoy2@preston.ac.uk](mailto:dfoy2@preston.ac.uk)

Attachments: [LOcHER-flyer-AllQuotes](#)  
[LOcHER dust mask efficiency](#)  
[LOcHER extraction and mask](#)  
[LOcHER wood dust comes from timber](#)  
[LOcHER brickwork project brief](#)  
[LOcHER Joinery project brief](#)  
[LOcHER Welding Poster](#)  
[Welding Poster](#)  
[LOcHER Automotive Technologies project brief](#)  
[LOcHER Health Social Care project brief](#)  
[LOcHER office business project brief](#)  
[Poster](#)  
[Poster 4 extinct version](#)

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## Training 2000

A former Training 2000 apprentice is taking her career to the next level as potentially the youngest Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Trainee in the UK.

Regional Buildings Assessments (RBA), in Rishton, initially hired Kelsey as a business administration apprentice to support the surveying practice, which offers specialist property surveys, and its operation in the office.

After completing both Level 2 & 3, the business recognised her potential and saw the opportunity for Kelsey to progress onto an industry qualification and she is currently 6 months into a degree level diploma in residential surveying & valuation through a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors approved qualification route (RICS).

RBA Principal Partner and Kelsey's manager Steve Roberts said that in his experience within the industry, this makes Kelsey almost certainly the youngest surveying trainee in the UK and will make her the youngest RICS approved residential surveyor in the country once qualified in 2018.

Steve added: "It was fantastic to see Kelsey grow throughout her apprenticeship and really help the business at the same time as developing skills and confidence.

We are as excited as Kelsey that she is now taking on this fantastic opportunity to become a qualified surveyor, and just goes to show the skills she gained through her apprenticeship together with the great transferable qualities, acumen and ethos Kelsey developed with Training 2000."

## Dates for your diary...

Dates of meeting in 2017  
[Here are the dates](#) of all Forum meetings including, Board, Executive Group and the 2 sub-groups, Quality Improvement and Employer and Skills

Next Forum Meeting  
When: 10th May 2017  
Where: Preston's College  
Time: 9.30 for a 10am start  
Chair: Lisa Bloomfield

National Apprenticeship Week 2017  
The tenth National Apprenticeship Week 2017 (NAW 2017) will take place from Monday, 6 March to Friday, 10 March 2017. The SFA will be celebrating the tenth anniversary with apprenticeship achievements from the past decade.

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