

# Update

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**Skills  
Funding  
Agency**

## Welcome

Welcome to Update, the Agency's weekly round-up of business-critical information and news for colleges, providers and key stakeholders in the further education (FE) learning and skills sector.

Please remember to share Update with your colleagues who might also like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email each time we communicate a new issue or if we publish any important announcements to the Agency's [website](#). You can also connect with the Agency on [Twitter](#).

We always welcome your feedback so please feel free to contact us by emailing the [Update mailbox](#).

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## **Funding Guidance 2011/12 – Adult Skills Budget Funding Claims and Audit Returns**

### **Action**

The Skills Funding Agency has published its Adult Skills Budget Funding Claims and Audit Returns [document](#) which sets out details of the funding claims required from colleges and other providers receiving adult skills budget and who are paid on profile for some, or all, elements of it.

There is guidance for providers on how they should make their funding claims by using the funding claim form, called [Annex A](#).

Providers are asked to note that the mid-year claim is due to be returned to the Agency on the 06 February 2011.

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## **Discretionary Learner Support second in-year forecast – 2011/12 Action**

In line with the published Discretionary Learner Support (DLS) guidance documentation, all providers in receipt of DLS are asked to submit their second in-year forecast by **6 February 2012**.

Providers should return their mid-year forecasts to the Central Delivery Service [mailbox](#) no later than 6 February. This allows the Agency to use these estimates to adjust allocations in-year where appropriate. Any identified surplus funds from providers may be removed and recycled to support those providers with budget pressures. However, any additional funding cannot be guaranteed.

The DLS Funding Guidance is available on the Agency [website](#).

If you have any queries, please contact your Relationship Manager in the first instance.

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## **Consultation on a proposed college merger – Southwark College and Lewisham College**

### **Information Consultation**

Southwark College and Lewisham College governing bodies have submitted a merger proposal to the Agency's Chief Executive. The proposed date for the merger is 1 June 2012.

A consultation document from the colleges can be obtained:

- through the Agency [website](#)
- by emailing [providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk)
- by writing to: The Chief Executive, Skills Funding Agency, Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT.

The Agency will publish a report on the outcomes of the consultation and take them into account when evaluating the colleges' final proposal. A recommendation will then be made to the Secretary of State who makes the final decision.

Copies of the consultation document in other formats can be requested from [providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk).

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## **Communicating the Skills Investment Strategy Information**

On 1 December 2011, the Government published [New Challenges, New Chances: The Skills Investment Statement 2011-2014: Investing in a World Class Skills System](#), setting out the Skills Investment Strategy (SIS), key policy objectives and operational drivers for the further education and skills sector.

The Agency has developed an implementation plan to support these announcements to define the key priorities for the SIS, which is currently being delivered to providers by relationship teams during January and February 2012.

Questions and answers arising from these briefings are available on the Agency's [website](#) and are categorised under generic subject headers.

As each Agency region completes its provider briefings, we will update and refresh the questions and answers on the [website](#), so please visit this regularly throughout January and February.

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## **Take part in National Apprenticeship Week 6 – 12 February Information**

The fifth annual National Apprenticeship Week is fast approaching and takes place from 6 – 10 February 2012.

If you are supporting the Week by running events and activities, please complete and return our [activity form](#) so we can include your event detail on the [online calendar](#) on [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk). You can also support our social media activity for the Week and can find further details [here](#).

You can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [@apprenticeships](#) on Twitter. Please include the #NAW2012 hash tag if you promote activities on Twitter, so we can then follow this and re-tweet.

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## **Unit Delivery Trials 2011/12 – Additional briefing document available soon Information**

An additional briefing document will be available on the Agency website from 1 February 2012. This has been produced to offer updated information to providers participating in the 2011/12 Unit Delivery Trials. The Trails are supported through the single Adult Skills Budget. A refreshed list of units in scope for the Trials is available on the [website](#).

Further information will be circulated through Update soon.

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## **Applications welcomed for training managers for WorldSkills 2013 – closing date 27 January!**

### **Information**

Further the article appearing in [Update – 91](#), the National Apprenticeship Service is seeking to appoint volunteer training managers/ WorldSkills experts to train competitors for WorldSkills Leipzig 2013.

Training managers/ WorldSkills experts for the WorldSkills Competition play an important role in contributing to the raising of standards in Apprenticeships and vocational education by sharing best practice with professionals at the forefront of skills development from around the world.

For further information on the role and the requirements of a training manager/ WorldSkills expert, visit the WorldSkills [website](#). The deadline for all applications is this **Friday 27 January 2012**.

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