

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting 14 January 2020

Item No 10

Title: Recommendations of the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group

Executive Summary

On 5 December 2020, the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group considered a number of reports, including:

Apprenticeship Levy School Finance Update, including

- Overview
- School Engagement
- Training Provision
- Update on Levy Transfer
- Frameworks
- Financial Position
- New Apprenticeship Starts
- Looking Forward

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report from the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group held on 5 December 2020;
- b) Ratify the Group's recommendations.

Background

On 5 December 2020, the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group considered a number of reports. A summary of the key issues and recommendations arising from the Working Group's considerations of the items are provided in this report.

Overview

91 new requests for AL funding received and approved since the last meeting. A further 262 are on-going, with 31 awaiting enrolment. 64 school staff have now completed their AL training.

The total value of apprenticeship requests for this window of opportunity are at approx. £672,500.

School Engagement

The team have carried out 27 direct schools visits since the last meeting. In addition, 3 LASBM workshops have been held and a presentation has been provided for LASSH, plus a number of cluster meetings.

The team has hosted an information session for potential transfer schools and held a successful apprenticeship marketplace event. Apprentice Ambassadors have also been used to support in promotion and produced videos. 2 videos were shared with the Group.

A total of 26 Levy paying schools have yet to engage with the team in any way, representing about 9% of the total. This figure is a reduction from 84 a year ago.

Members welcomed the team's involvement with LASBM and suggested possible options for further engagement with schools, which included place articles in the governors' newsletter and presenting to the full schools forum at the March 2020 meeting.

Training Provision

- **Outdoor Activity Instructor L3**
A number of schools had expressed an interest in an Outdoor Education Apprenticeship and the team were looking to work with an existing provider and partner with other providers including a school.
- **Teacher L6**
This is a postgraduate route to teaching delivered over 15 months, which the team are looking to develop from September 2020, now that it is deliverable by SCITT providers.

The team had arranged a meeting with Paul Duckworth to discuss what options may be available promote AL in schools.

The group welcomed the course developments and the contact with Paul Duckworth, and made some suggestions around the development of the Outdoor Activity course.

Update on Levy Transfer

The annual Levy Transfer pot is circa. £368,000. 11 transfer requests going ahead, with 3 still awaiting enrolment in the first window. 5 schools are currently being supported by the transfer

Frameworks

The last date for new starts for all remaining lice apprenticeship Frameworks will be 31 July 2020. All starts from 1 August 20120 will be on now, employer designed standards.

Some concern was expressed about the non-availability of some courses under the revised framework and the impact that this may have in supporting some young people.

Financial Position

An update on the financial position of the schools levy fund was provided:

Annual Schools Levy fund approx.	£1.4 million
Spend across Levy schools in 2017/18	£20,098
Spend across Levy schools in 2018/19	£319,075
Spend so far this year 2019/2020	£364,358
Total Forecast spend this year	£644,999
Total spend to date	£703,529
Transfer committed	£87,000
Committed spend until March 2024	£3,767,570

It was noted that the use of school AL funding remained a concern, with the risk of funding being returned to central government if it remained unspent, although there was some uncertainty about the actual date when funding would begin to be paid back.

New Apprenticeship Starts

An analysis of new apprenticeship starters was provided, as set out below:

	17-18	18-19	19-20
Schools	77	170	87
LCC	105	190	183

The reduction in the number of apprentices being taken on by schools was noted.

Looking Forward

Going forward, priorities for the AL team are:

- Growing the number of Apprentice Ambassadors in our schools;
- Continue to attend school visits & cluster meetings, promoting the benefits of apprenticeships;
- Contacting schools directly to finish engagement;
- Getting feedback from schools;
- Focusing communications on specific training needs and tailored support;
- Continuing to identify & support schools in new apprenticeships;
- Identify more schools to support with a transfer of funds;
- Continue to look for new apprenticeships suitable for schools,

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the information**
- b) Requested that the views expressed be considered in AL developments.**