

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting 2 July 2020

Item No 11

Title: Recommendations of the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group

Executive Summary

In June 2020, the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group were provided with an update related to school apprenticeship levy developments. This report provides a summary of the developments.

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report from the June 2020 Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group

Background

In June 2020, the Apprenticeship Levy Steering Group were provided with an update related to school apprenticeship levy developments. A summary of the key issues are provided in this report.

School Apprenticeship Levy Update

56 new Requests for Funding have been received and approved since Nov. 2019, with approximately **185** on-going, **15** awaiting enrolment and **144** completed. The total value of apprenticeship requests for this window of opportunity are at approx. **£475,500** over the duration of the apprenticeships.

43 School Business Managers have enrolled on Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship over 4 cohorts. 5 Senior Leaders Master Degree's are on-going. Places for 16 Outdoor Activity Apprentices to start September 2020 with Kendal College and a second cohort planned for Jan 2021. A Teacher Apprenticeship to start September 2020 with a group of 10 with Star Academies. 7 Transfer requests for non-levy schools on-going, with 5 still awaiting enrolment in the first window.

Information was provided on changes within the apprenticeship levy team, including:

- Vickie Lowton – has now been promoted to the role of Apprenticeship Team Leader.
- James Beardwood – Learning and Development Officer, will take over as the main lead and point of contact for the schools.
- David Pope – Learning and development officer, working alongside James, will support on the data and financial monitoring of apprenticeships for schools. We are also recruiting another officer to support LCC services, replacing Bee Kershaw, who left in May.
- Chelsea Mullan – New Business Support Officer, will support alongside Alan James she will support the team and James in assisting with the recruitment/placing of adverts onto the LCC website and the National Apprenticeship Service.

In terms of school engagement:

- Covid-19 has meant schools visits have not taken place due to lockdown.
- On-line learning is underway across our schools for all our apprentices.
- 29 apprentices are on a current Break in Learning, 16 due to Covid-19.
- Recruitment has been effected and is likely to remain so until schools return to normality, we currently have 2 vacancies which is significantly down on this time last year which was 30.
- LASBM have allowed us to promote our Teacher Apprenticeship on their on-line community. The May edition of the apprenticeships newsletter has gone out!

The current Financial position was summarised as follows:

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 across Levy schools in 2019/2020	£565,245
Spend so far this year 2019/2020	£98,305
Forecast spend this year approx	£780,000
Total spend to date	£1,001,067

Transfer committed	£170,250
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Information was provided on new apprenticeship starts, as follows

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Schools	77	158	116
LCC	98	181	245

Information was also provided on the total of 358 apprenticeships to date, with a breakdown of the numbers in each framework.

A number of frameworks are being switched off, including:

Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools (L2)
Supporting Teaching & Learning in Physical Education & School Sport (L3)
CYP Workforce (L2)
Business Administration (L2)
Playwork (L2)
Business Administration (L4)

The last date for schools to request new starts on any of the remaining live apprenticeship frameworks was May 31st 2020. Any requests after this date will need to be for new apprenticeship standards.

Further information was also provided on the new apprenticeship standards, including Outdoor Activity Instructor L3 and Teacher L6.

An Update on Levy Transfer was also shared and included the following information

- Annual Levy Transfer pot of approx. £368,000.
- 7 Transfer requests going ahead, with 5 still awaiting enrolment in the first window.
- Supported 7 schools when all enrolled.
- We have recently met with the ESFA to discuss a resolution to the pooled payroll transfer issue.

Key issues looking forward included:

- Growing the number of Apprentice Ambassadors in our schools.
- Intention to resume school visits & cluster meetings from September if we are able to do so.
- Contacting schools directly to promote apprenticeships and to help with any recruitment needs.
- 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.

- Newsletter to introduce new team supporting schools apprenticeships at end of June.
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The Working Group:

- a) **Noted the information provided.**