

XX April 2013

Dear Colleague

14-16 Year olds enrolled directly in further education colleges and sixth form colleges for 2013/14 academic year

As you are aware the government has published their intention that from August 2013 further education (FE) colleges and sixth form colleges (SFC) will be able to enrol 14-16 year olds direct on a full time basis for key stage 4:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/qandlearning/a00218341/wolf-review-recommendation-19>.

The College Implementation Group, made up of principals from 10 FE colleges and the Association of Colleges (AoC), met throughout 2012. The work of the group has enabled us to take forward recommendation 19¹ from Professor Alison Wolf's review of vocational and educational training. This effectively opens up access to FE provision by making explicit a legal right for FE colleges and SFCs to directly recruit 14-16 year olds to continue Key Stage 4 education within an institution other than a school.

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) will fund directly 14-16 year olds whose parents/carers decide their son or daughter will be better suited to a FE environment for Key Stage 4.

The decision to offer places to this age group is for the FE institution or SFC to take. However, for 2013/14 academic year, ministers have decided that only FE institutions that meet certain criteria will be directly funded. The criteria for direct funding for 14-16s in 2013/14 are to:

- be Good or better on most recent Ofsted assessment; or
- be Satisfactory and improving;
 - Satisfactory rating with significant improvement in the past 4 years
 - Improving is defined as published performance tables data average point score per student at level 3 GCE A/AS in 2008 with the score in 2011
- have completed a self-assessment against the "readiness to open checklist" published alongside the College Implementation Group's report and for this to be signed off by the chair of governors and the principal

¹ 'Make explicit the legal right of colleges to enrol students under 16 and ensure that funding procedures make this practically possible. Colleges enrolling students in this age group should be required to offer them a full KS4 programme, either alone or in collaboration with schools, and be subject to the same performance monitoring regime (including performance indicators) as schools'

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/qandlearning/a00218341/wolf-review-recommendation-19>; and

- have written to the relevant EFA Territorial Director stating the intention of the institution to recruit directly, confirmation that the institution has met the criteria, and indicating the year in which 14-16 recruitment will start. This letter should be submitted by the end of June for a September 2013 start.

The financial payment per pupil will be calculated by applying 14-16 pupil numbers to the 16-19 funding methodology. In addition, colleges will be able to claim additional funds for those pupils who are eligible for a pupil premium.

Funding for 14-16 year olds will be from the pre-16 dedicated schools grant (DSG) and will be paid to colleges by the EFA on a financial year cycle 2014-15, rather than the usual academic year 2013/14.

Student numbers returns received by the EFA in November will allow for the calculation of funding to be set aside in the DSG prior to the 2014/15 distribution to local authorities (LAs). The first scheduled payment for 14-16 year olds in full-time education enrolled at an FE college or SFC will be made in April 2014.

We are aware that you will want to know a) which institutions will be offering this provision and b) which students take up this offer. We are, therefore, putting arrangements in place to provide a full list of institutions to all LAs in July and student lists by LA in January 2014.

In addition to the above, I can confirm that:

- where institutions are working directly with an LA and/or school to provide education to 14-16 year olds this can and should continue
- 14-16 year old students doing a level 3 course will continue to be funded as they are now; and
- we will fund any college for home educated young people aged 14-16 from September 2013.

Further information on the requirements that FE colleges and SFC need to meet and the issues that they should consider before committing to direct recruitment is available on the DfE website on the following link.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/qandlearning/a00218355/quality-and-funding-for-enrolling-full-time-14-16s>.

Yours sincerely

Territorial Director

•