

XX April 2013

Dear Colleague

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

I am writing to confirm the operational details for direct recruitment of 14-16 year olds on a full-time basis. This work will effectively open up further education (FE) provision by making explicit your legal right to directly recruit 14-16 year olds and for funding to flow directly to the college from the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Thanks are due to the members of the College Implementation Group and Association of Colleges (AoC) for their work on the implementation of recommendation 19<sup>1</sup> from Professor Alison Wolf's review of vocational and educational training.

From August, the EFA will fund FE colleges and SFC directly for 14-16 year olds whose parents or carers decide their son or daughter is better suited to an FE environment for Key Stage 4.

The decision to offer places to this age group is for you as an FE institution to take. However, for 2013/14 academic year, ministers have decided that only FE institutions that meet certain quality criteria will be directly funded. The criteria for direct funding in 2013/14 are to:

- be Good or better on most recent Ofsted assessment; or
- be graded 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;  
(<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/qandlearning/a00218341/wolf-review-recommendation-19>) and;
- have written to the relevant EFA Territorial Director stating your intention to recruit directly, confirmation that the institution has met the criteria, and the year 14-16 recruitment will start. This letter is to be submitted by end of June for September 2013 start. The EFA will confirm receipt of your intent.

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<sup>1</sup> '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'

In outline, you will need to record directly funded full-time 14-16 pupils through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) from September. You will need to deliver the requirements of Key Stage 4 to this group of pupils. Funding per pupil will be calculated by applying 14-16 pupil numbers to the 16-19 funding methodology. Alongside this funding will be the facility to claim additional funds for those pupils who are eligible for a Pupil Premium. We will ask you to assess eligibility for this funding and notify us in January 2014.

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

Student numbers received in November will allow for the calculation of funding to be set aside in the DSG prior to 2014/15 distribution to local authorities. The first scheduled payment for 14-16 year olds in full-time education enrolled at an FE institution will be made in April 2014 and will be profiled through to March 2015. Further details will be included in the 2013/14 Funding Guidance when it is issued at the end of April.

The requirements you need to meet and the issues you should consider before committing to direct recruitment are 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>

Funding agreements will include 14-16 year old direct provision and will make reference to our policy document "*Full-time enrolment of 14-16 year olds in FE and Sixth Form College*" and the AoC guidance. Your funding agreements will be varied at the point when we know from your data return in November 2013 that 14-16 year olds have been enrolled direct with you.

In addition to the above, I can confirm that:

- where you are working directly with a local authority 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.

Should you have any queries on the above, or wish to notify us of your intention please do not hesitate to contact us in the usual way through the territorial mailbox **[DN: add URL]**

Yours sincerely

**Territorial Director**