

Young Apprenticeship Background Information

The purpose of this annex is to provide information on the background of the Programme and its distinctive features and objectives for those who may not have been involved in the Programme to date

Background

The YA Programme provides an opportunity for 14-16 year olds to combine the practical application of skills and knowledge in a vocational context with studying for qualifications that relate to particular occupational sectors. The time spent on the Programme for each young person is 2 academic years, Year 10 and Year 11.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the delivery arrangements for the Programme. The initial phase started in September 2004 with the admission of a first cohort of around 1,000 14 year olds. The second cohort began in September 05 with the offer being extended to an additional 2,000 young people and with 3 new occupational sectors. The third cohort will begin in September 06 with the offer being extended to a further 3,500 young people and with a further 6 occupational sectors

Vision

The vision is for the creation of a small scale, high quality route at Key Stage 4 that offers *able, well-motivated* pupils, the option to pursue general or industry-specific *vocational* programmes outside school, *in partnership with employers* and involving *extended work experience*.

The route offers the chance to undertake Apprenticeships post-16. Other progression routes at age 16 also remain open.

Aim

The aim is to create a Young Apprenticeship Programme that provides young people with the skills, knowledge and experience of work in addition to the core National Curriculum subjects of English, Maths and ICT and Science. Additionally, it is hoped that by involvement with new people & different learning environments &, with the practical demands of organising their time, young people will develop maturity.

National Objectives

The national objectives of the Programme are for all young people who participate to:

- pursue approved vocationally related qualifications at Level 2

- have an appropriate and extended experience of work with a suitable employer
- have the extended experience of work contribute directly to the coursework of the chosen qualification
- prepare for and be offered clear progression routes.

Distinctive Features of the YA Programme

The Programme's distinctive features are intended to allow the participants to attain qualifications, acquire skills, competencies and, work place experience in more depth than previous opportunities allowed. The features that set it apart from other vocational opportunities at Key Stage 4 are:

- an average of 2 days per week, spent in a variety of learning settings, studying for Level 2 outcomes and within this time, undertaking extended work experience / work based learning (50 days over 2 years)
- robust eligibility and selection
- parental / guardian support for participation
- the accumulation of a nationally recognised achievement that can contribute towards an accelerated post-16 Apprenticeship
- collaborative delivery through a Partnership arrangement
- meets the statutory curriculum and is delivered as far as possible within the school timetable
- incorporates enterprise and enrichment opportunities
- completion of the Programme results in a nationally recognised Young Apprenticeship Certificate endorsed by the relevant Sector Skills Council (SSC)

Scope

The Programme is currently aimed at Year 10 pupils within Maintained Education in England who are 14 years of age (will be 15 in the 1st year of the Programme) and who are able to meet the selection criteria. It does not discriminate on grounds of gender, disability, race or religion.

Young Apprenticeships are currently offered (c1 & c2) in:

- **Business and Administration** supported by the CfA (the Council for Administration (www.cfa.uk.com look for the Young Apprenticeship button), the Sector Body for administration

- **Engineering** supported by SEMTA, the SSC for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (www.semta.org.uk)
- **Art & Design / Performing Arts** supported by Creative and Cultural Skills www.cciskills.org.uk
- **Health and Social Care** sector supported by Skills for Health www.skillsforhealth.org.uk and Skills for Care and Development www.skillsforcare.org.uk
- **The Motor Industry** supported by Automotive Skills, the SSC for the retail motor industry www.automotive-skills.org.uk
- **Hospitality** supported by People1st www.people1st.co.uk
- **Textiles** supported by SkillFast-UK www.skillfast-uk.org
- **Sports Management, Coaching and Leadership** supported by SkillsActive www.skillsactive.com