

now what!—

CORVID-19 WEB FORUM

Thursday 9 April 2020

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Webforum Protocol



You will be on mute for the duration of the webforum



Slides and webcast will be available after the session on the UVAC website



To ask questions just type into the question box and we will raise them during the session – **if we can unmute you we will !**



Raise your queries, **read our FAQs** or share what you know on the Centre for Degree Apprenticeship Forum page **HERE**

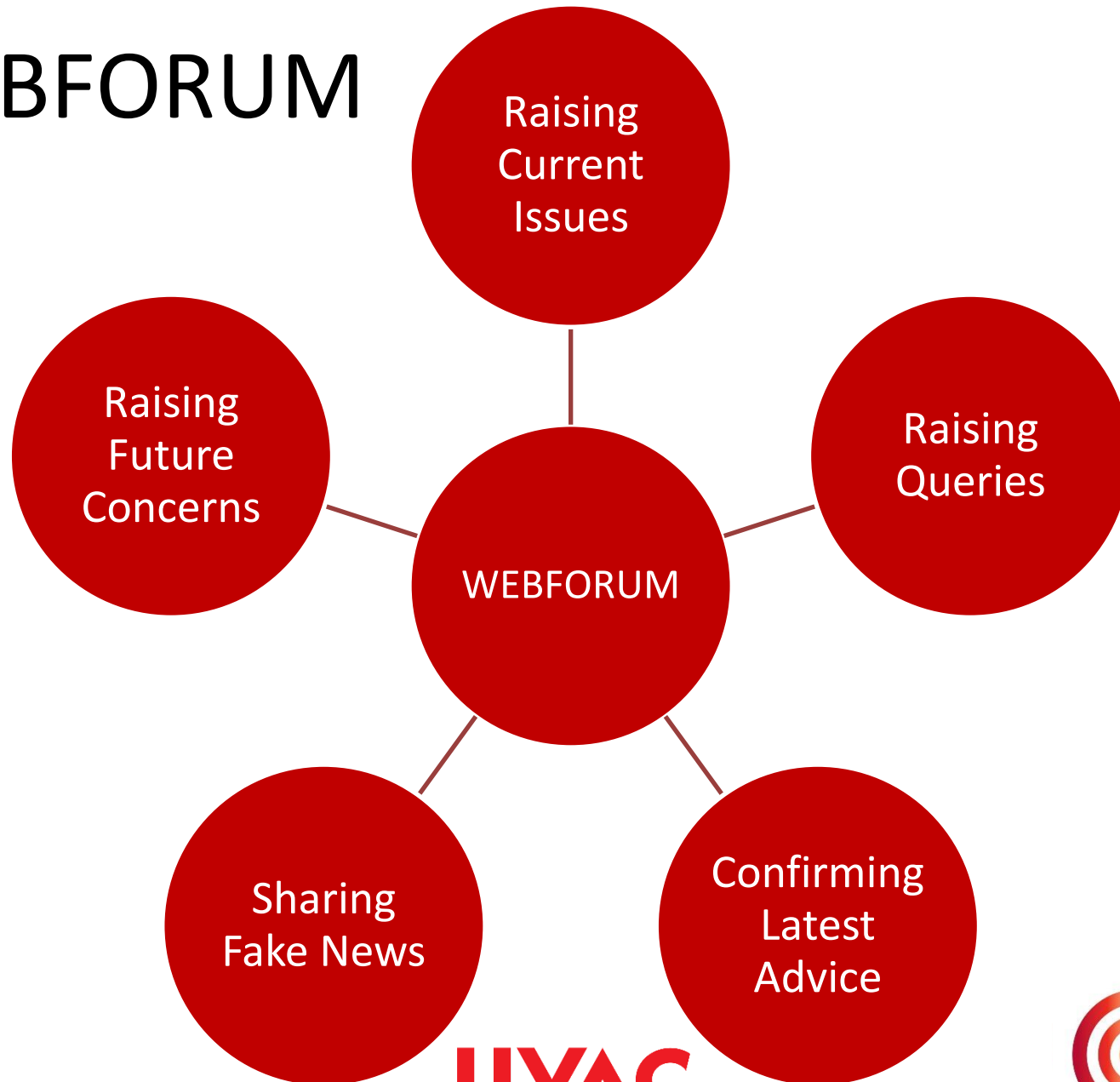


A quick feedback / hot topic request survey appears after the webinar.



April 17th Forum 12.00
Register **HERE**

WEBFORUM



Previously



covid-19 forum
Friday 3rd April

— now what! —



NEXT SESSION

Thursday 9 April 12.00 – 1.00: Register [HERE](#)

Questions in advance where possible to r.rhodes@bolton.ac.uk

Outcomes agreed at the latest Forum:

Previous Recordings

Friday 3 April [CLICK HERE](#)

1. UVAC to produce a template for advice to apprentice and employers
2. UVAC and ESFA to agree and populate a scenarios advice guide for apprenticeships during furlough

CENTRE FOR DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Mandy Crawford-Lee

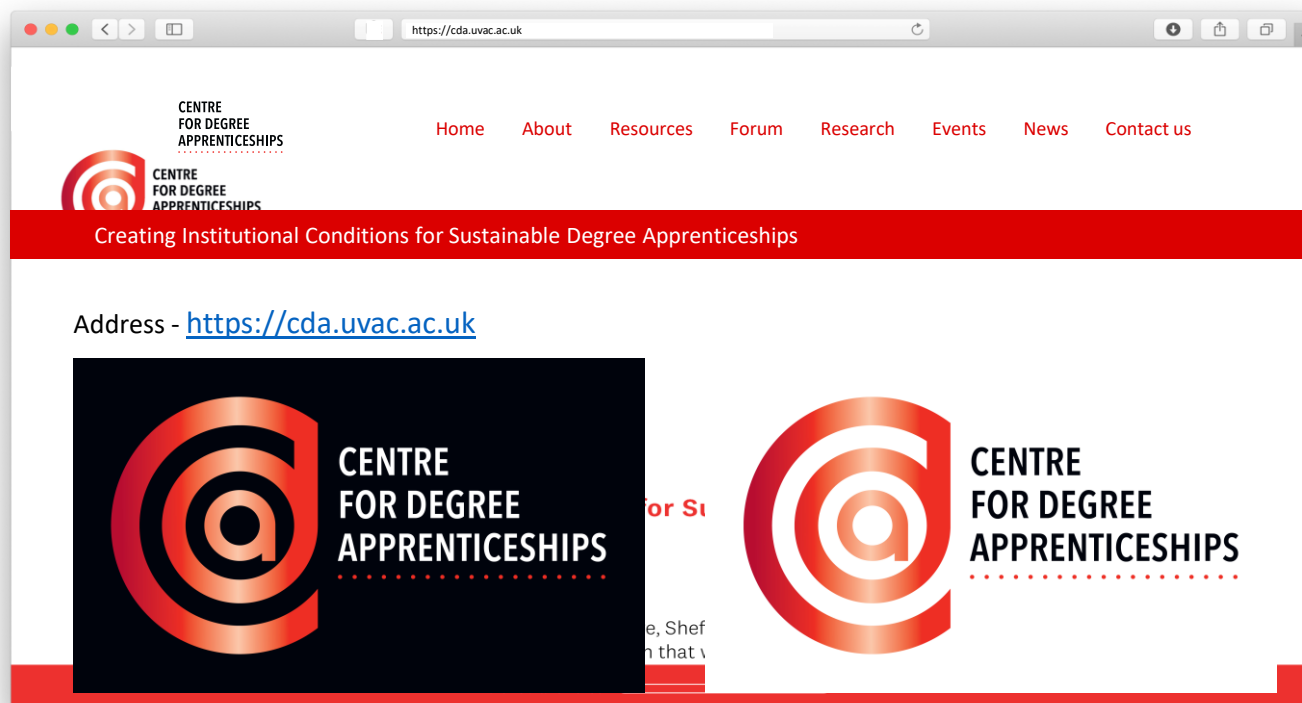
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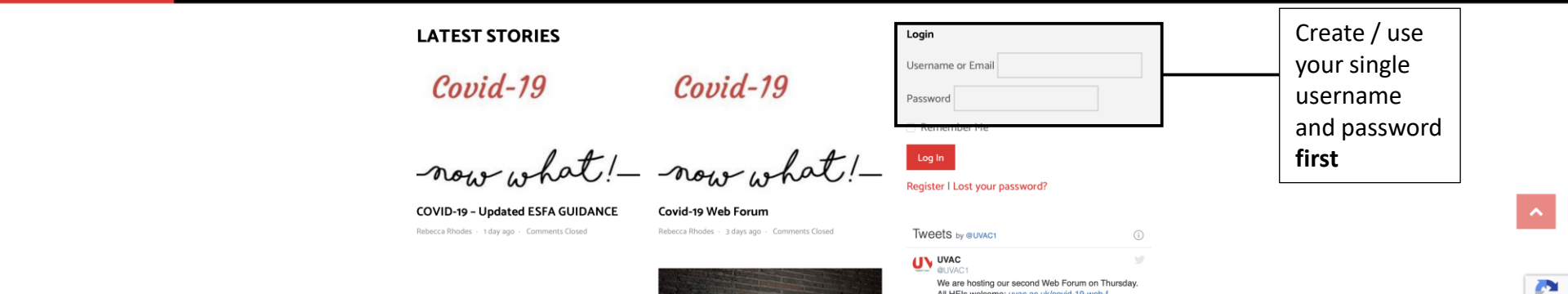
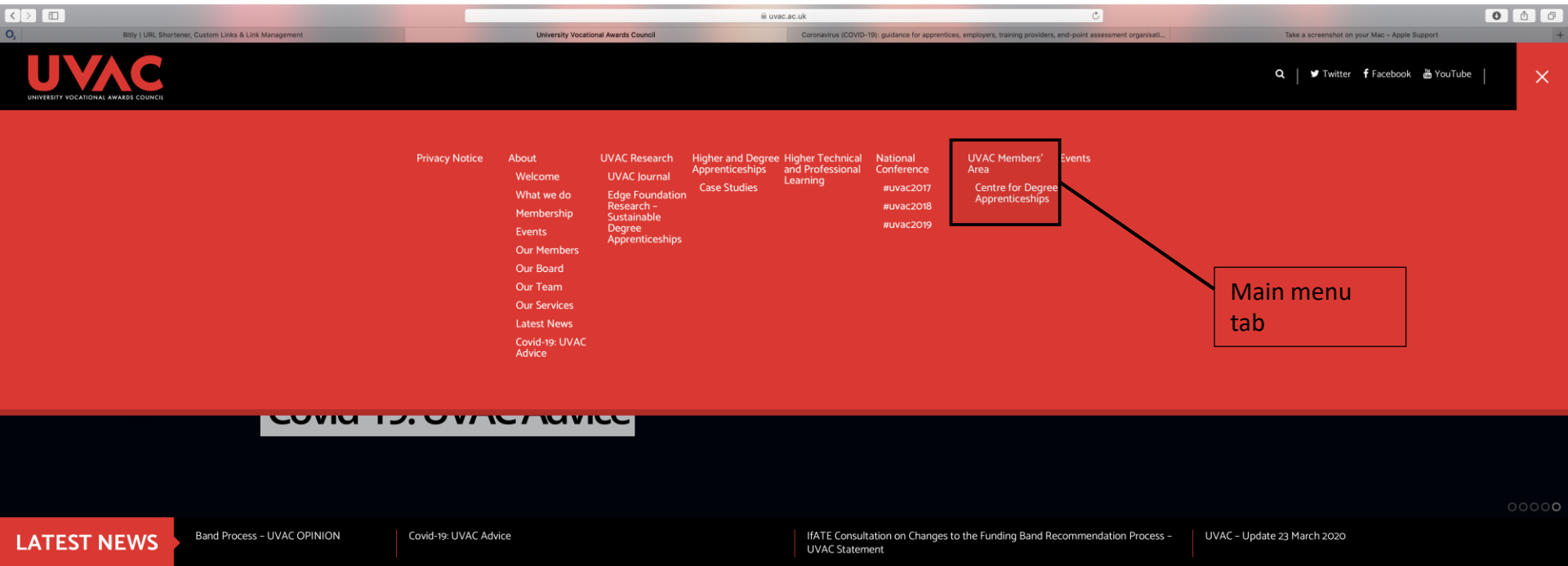
Centre for Degree Apprenticeships – Online

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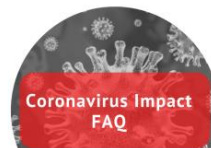


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The Centre for Degree Apprenticeships (CDA) is a network designed to help higher education providers, leaders and practitioners develop and deliver high quality degree apprenticeships that enhance productivity and social mobility.

We do this by providing and promoting [events](#) and [networking](#) opportunities to facilitate the sharing of best practice and new developments. We publish [resources](#) and [research](#) for the benefit of UVAC member organisations via their [membership](#).



Centre for Degree Apprenticeships - Resources

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Documents and Reports



Edge survey summary Feb 2020



Edge summary Feb 2020



Edge literature review - Jan 2020

CDA Launch presentations



Degree Apprenticeships - Maximising Benefits



SHU's Apprenticeship Journey



Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship



Centre for Degree Apprenticeships - Forum

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Forum

This Forum is the place for you to celebrate the success of the apprenticeship reforms for employers, skills and social mobility by sharing some of your greatest achievements and biggest challenges in delivering degree apprenticeships. You can contribute to their sustainability by sharing your ideas and practices, asking questions, and seeking solutions with the aim of opening up a radical debate about higher education, how it can be provided and accredited, and by whom.



Centre for Degree Apprenticeships - Forum

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Independent End Point Assessment – for Non Integrated Provision

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mandyc
Moderator

1st March 2020 at
4:10 pm

Post count: 1

Has there been a DfE/ESFA policy change to the requirements for an independent end point assessment organisation (i.e. separate to the on-programme provider) for provision that is not an integrated degree apprenticeship providing independence can be demonstrated? There is a rumour that for nursing associate at level 5 the HE on-programme provider can also be the EPAO/service provider...?

My/the sector's understanding until now is that with the exception of an integrated degree where the validating/awarding HEI of the degree must be the EPAO (but must also demonstrate a clear separation between on programme delivery and end point), in all other instances EPA must be assessed by a distinctly separate organisation and not the on-programme provider (under any guise). So, is this new policy or advice?

Can anyone clarify?

Viewing 1 post (of 1 total)

Reply To: [Independent End Point Assessment – for Non Integrated Provision](#)

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Centre for Degree Apprenticeships - Knowledge Networks

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Events



Centre for Degree Apprenticeships Dissemination Event

February 28th, 2020 | 0 Comments

Monday 2 March 2020 10am-3.30pm Middlesex University Hendon Town Hall Building
This dissemination event will provide an opportunity to present the findings from the research undertaken in advance of publishing the project report. The [\[read more\]](#)



Apprenticeships – first network meeting on PCDA

February 28th, 2020 | 0 Comments

Tuesday, 24th March 10.00 till 14.00 at the University of Derby A knowledge sharing event for members currently delivering the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) or those who have a contract to deliver the PCDA for [\[read more\]](#)



The Centre for Degree Apprenticeships organises Knowledge Network events and publishes a webinar series in conjunction with UVAC.

Our programme is organised in direct response to topical issues in degree apprenticeship learning and implementation. Through webinars and workshops, we focus on practice and policy implications, offer an independent perspective, provide excellent networking opportunities and facilitate the sharing of best practice.

Our free events are aimed at all staff from UVAC member institutions involved with learning, teaching and administering degree apprenticeships in a higher education context.

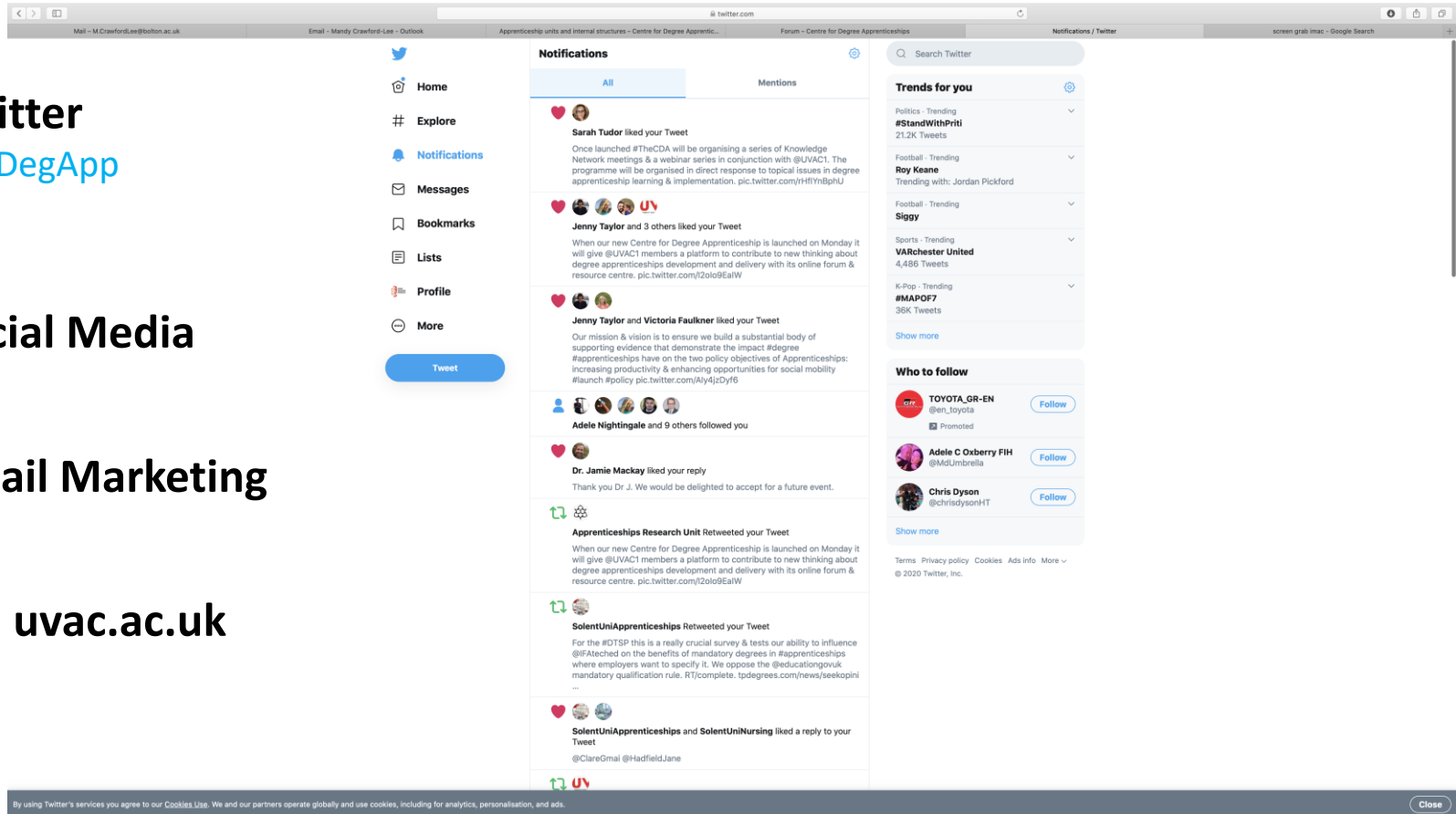
Future Events

If you have a proposal for a future Knowledge Network event or webinar or if you would like your event listed here, get in touch via our [contact form](#).



Centre for Degree Apprenticeships - Spreading the Word

- **Twitter**
@CDegApp
- **Social Media**
- **Email Marketing**
- **Via uvac.ac.uk**





POLL

1. How is your apprenticeship delivery currently affected by the corona virus?
2. How many apprentices are currently on a BiL or Furloughed ?

Poll 1 -

QUICKPOLL 3 April 2020 – 23 attendees

What is the current impact of the virus on programme delivery ?

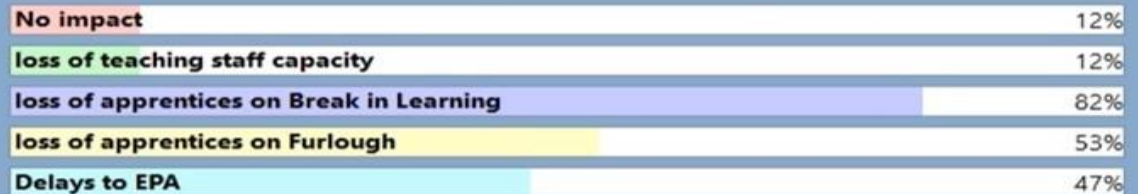
Poll Results (multiple answers allowed):



QUICKPOLL 9 April 2020 – 37 attendees

What is the current impact of the virus on programme delivery ?

Poll Results (multiple answers allowed):



Poll 2 -

QUICKPOLL

3 April 2020 – 23 attendees

How many apprentices are on a Break in Learning or Furlough ?

Poll Results (single answer required):



QUICKPOLL

9 April 2020 – 37 attendees

How many apprentices are on a Break in Learning or Furlough ?

Poll Results (single answer required):



Current Live Queries

Funding Flow e.g.

- Why can't the training element of the 20% payment held back for EPA be released

Nursing e.g.

- Arrangements to release those at gateway or part way through.. and waive the EPA ..?

Backlogs and Capacity e.g.

- What flexibilities will exist to manage the timelag in catching up BiL, late assessments and other repeat learning required which are likely to lead to longer delivery times simply to manage the volumes?

Delays in EPA flexibilities

- Ongoing frustrations with the slow response of some EPAOs to offer alternative methods for EPA, and reluctance from some EQAPs

Nursing

We are all anxious to hear about any update on the EPA for Nursing Associates and Assistant Practitioners:

1. There are a number of apprentices who are approaching or already at gateway and are ready for EPA and who need to finish their apprenticeship so that they can be fully utilised in this role;
2. For Nursing Associates, if they have completed their FD, and have their PIN, if the current “no man’s land” situation continues for much longer, these apprentices will simply withdraw and not do the EPA – with the associated financial impact on the providers (and hit on completion stats), who can do nothing in this situation;
3. The backlog of apprentices waiting for EPA, once Covid is over, will be huge – and EPAOs were already struggling to meet the demand prior to Covid – again this has the potential for a significant number of apprentices to simply withdraw, rather than wait.
4. It is important that APs are treated in the same way as NAs – the danger is that because NAs are registrable they will be treated differently, which undermines and undervalues the work that APs in Radiography, OT, Physio etc undertake.

Surely in these extreme circumstances, where all programmes for these professions keep practice assessment documentation, and, in the case of NA’s, are approved by the NMC, consideration should be given to agreeing that the completion of the FD could equate to completion of the apprenticeship- or at least the practice assessment of it? It seems illogical that GCSEs and A Level grades can be determined by individual teacher opinion, but programmes that are already robustly assessed, have a degree of independent scrutiny through external examination and have to comply with robust QA measures, would be treated in the same way given the circumstances?

Furlough - ongoing scenarios needing clarity

- There has been some debate about whether apprentices can access work emails, whilst being furloughed. It may be that some organisations/apprentices are being over cautious however, it would be helpful to have a consistent approach across HEIs. Where apprentices that are being still being enrolled they would not have a university email set up for communications and we would not always have personal email addresses as an alternative.

This Week – Latest

1. Latest guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) **updated** :

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): apprenticeship programme response](#)
- **DfE have also published** [guidance about COVID-19 in educational settings for staff, parents and carers, pupils and students](#) on GOV.UK.
- There is also [guidance on the apprenticeship service about COVID-19](#).

2. **Video** **for employers** on how to use pause and stop in the apprenticeship service to record a break in learning

3. **More guidance expected next week** – papers with Ministers on a variety of further flexibilities and proposals

ESFA Guidance 6 April

ESFA Guidance

Questions Highlighted :

- **For Apprentices**
- **For Employers**
- **For Providers**

In Summary /Key Themes:

- Break in Learning of less than 4 weeks
- No change to provider payment arrangements
- Furloughed employees can undertake activities which don't 'generate revenue' and this included volunteering
- 20 % OTJL stops in BiL

ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

Apprentices who are still working

1. Due to business continuity measures all staff are required to be available at their usual place of work in their usual job role. How can my apprentices continue their learning?
2. I am having to move critical worker staff into different and/or business critical roles that aren't related to their apprenticeship. What happens to their apprenticeship if they can't continue training?
3. I am having to move critical worker staff into different and/or business critical roles that are connected to their apprenticeship. Can they continue training?

Apprentices who are self-isolating, caring for family members, or sick

4. If I need to self-isolate, what will happen to my apprenticeship?
5. I need to take care of myself/a family member. Can I continue my apprenticeship learning at home?
6. What do I do if I think an apprentice is not well enough to work (especially in a health setting)?
7. If I can't work/attend training, will I still be paid?
8. My provider has put my apprentice on a break in learning because they can't deliver training. As the apprentice is working as normal and I want their apprenticeship to continue, can I override this break in learning?

ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

Apprentices who are working at home

9. My employer is enforcing a work from home policy and my classroom provision has been withdrawn. What are my options?

10. How do I record progress towards my apprenticeship while I am subject to different working conditions like working from home?

11. When an apprentice is working from home, can we count anything they do as off-the-job training?

12. Can I change training provider if they are offering more on-line/digital delivery?

13. Will training providers be paid more for rescheduling off-the-job training and bringing it forward?

14. Will employers and training providers need to revise the price of the apprenticeship if the delivery method is changing?

ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

Apprentices who are furloughed

15. Can training continue for furloughed apprentices?

16. If my apprentice continues to do off-the-job training, can this be more than one day a week?

18. Will I be paid for continuing my learning if I have been furloughed?

Apprentices who are made redundant

19. My employer is making me redundant. What happens to my apprenticeship?

Apprentices who are on unpaid leave

20. My employer is asking me to take a period of unpaid leave, what happens to my apprenticeship during that time?

21. What happens to the apprentice during a period of unpaid leave in terms of monies, do they have access to universal credit?

ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

The apprenticeship levy

22. Will levy payments be paused for employers?

23. Will you increase the time available to employers to spend their levy funds?

24. I am a levy-payer with funds in my account. Why can't my funds be used to continue to pay the provider even though they can't deliver training? This will help them cope with the financial impacts of COVID-19.

25. I am a non-levy paying employer recruiting for/with apprentices due to start. Can I still go ahead and reserve funds on the system?

26. What happens to my funding reservation as a non-levy employer if my apprentice can't start?

27. Can you release early the 20% completion payment that would normally be withheld until the end of apprenticeship training to manage cash flow challenges faced by training providers?

28. Should employers use the 'Stop' or 'Pause' apprentice facility in the apprenticeship service?

ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

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ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

Apprenticeship assessment

29. I am on a fixed-term contract which would ordinarily have given enough time to complete the training and the end-point assessment. If the training is delayed, and I have not completed my EPA before I leave employment, can I do the end-point assessment afterwards?

30. What will happen if I am not well enough to take my end-point assessment?

31. Gateways are being delayed and we cannot complete the end-point assessment in the required timeframe. Can we extend the EPA timeframe due to the current disruption?

32. Where the end-point assessment plan states that assessment must be conducted face-to-face, but cannot be under the current circumstances, can we conduct these remotely?

33. How will invigilation of assessments be conducted remotely?

34. If the current situation continues for a long period of time, would you consider awarding the apprenticeship without the end-point assessment?

ESFA Coronavirus Guidance version 6 April

35. Can the timeframe for completion be extended if the completion of EQA activity cannot take place?

36. We can deliver part of the end-point assessment, but some sections require direct observation. How do we deal with these components?

37. Can EPAs be staggered to ease pressure on EPAOs?

38. Apprentices are ready for EPA but can't take it. Should they be paid more than the Apprenticeship Minimum Wage now?

POLICY UPDATE

Adrian Anderson

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Further Information



Listen to the 9 April Webcast: [HERE](#)

NEXT WEEKS FORUM: 12 noon 17 April Book [HERE](#)



- Queries: email me r.rhodes@Bolton.ac.uk or post
- [questions on the COVID-19 Forum Page](#)
- [FAQs](#)



- [ESFA COVID Response for apprenticeships](#)
- [IFATE Response for end-point assessment :](#)
enquiries.ifa@education.gov.uk
(title in the subject box: EPA_Covid 19 plus your org name)
- DfE coronavirus helpline – Telephone 0800 046 8687