

now what!—

CORVID-19 WEB FORUM

Friday 17 April 2020

Adrian Anderson, UVAC

Mandy Crawford-Lee

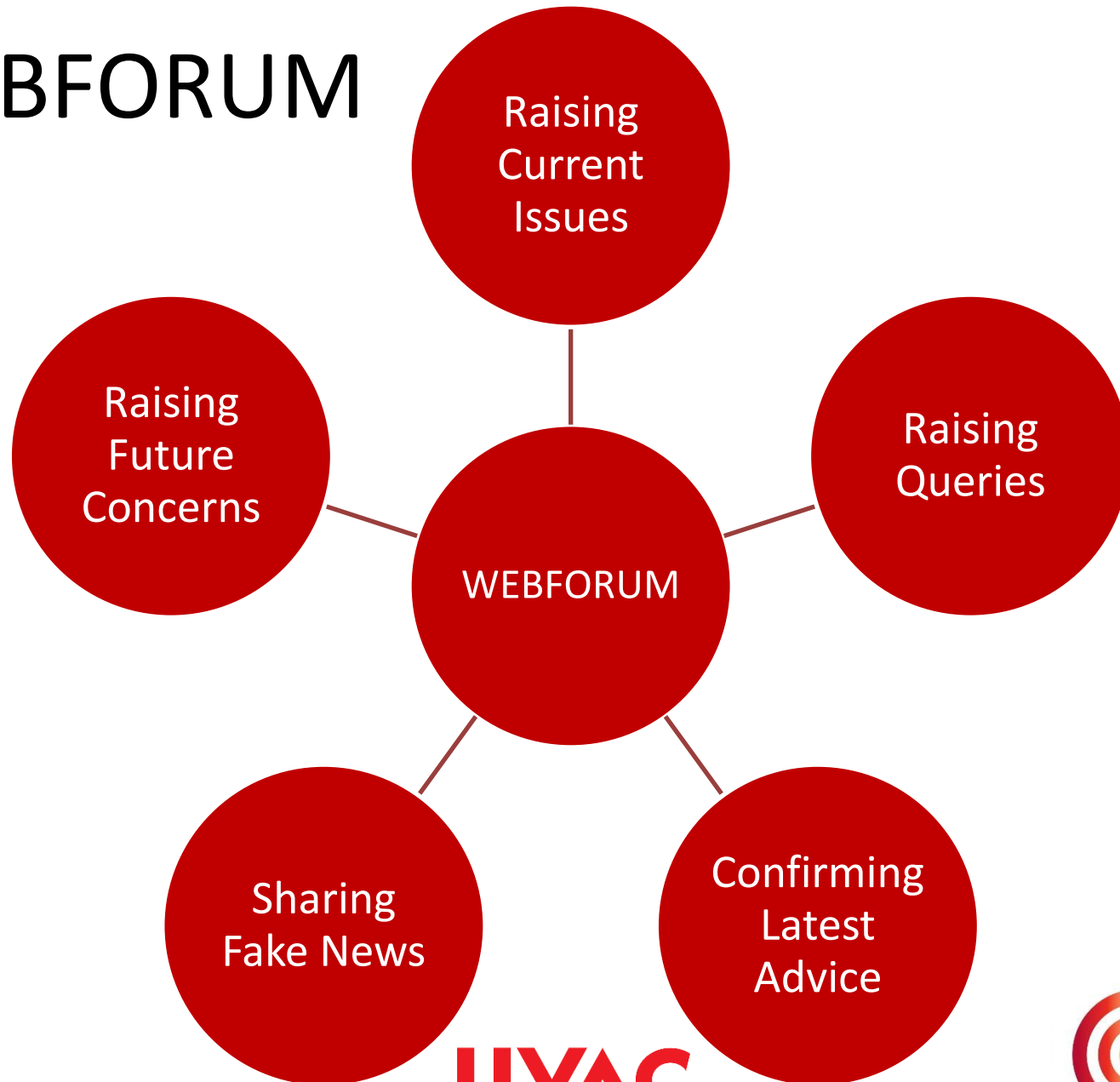
Rebecca Rhodes, UVAC

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WEBFORUM



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 24th Forum 12.00
Register **HERE**

Current Live Queries

Funding Flow e.g.

- Why can't the training element of the 20% payment held back for EPA be released.. Yes still on this one
- Indications that EPAOs are not reducing their fees to reflect changes in the EPA - who will take this forward ..?

Learner Survey

- Is this cancelled ..?

Senior Leader Apprenticeship

- What does the consultation mean ?
- What is the likely funding band review outcome and how can we plan for this

Nursing and wider :

- What the 'new flexibilities' actually mean
- Application of this flexibility for midwives and other professions

Previously



covid-19 forum
Thursday 9th April

— now what! —

NEXT SESSION

Friday 17 April 12.00 – 1.00: Register [HERE](#)

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

Outcomes agreed at the latest Forum:

1. UVAC to produce a template for advice to apprentice and employers (see template below)
2. UVAC and ESFA to agree and populate a scenarios advice guide for apprenticeships during furlough
3. UVAC to produce, based on the Staffs University template, a template for employers and apprentices to confirm arrangements for Furloughing apprentices. (see Furlough Declaration template in the Additional Resources section)

Previous Recordings:

Thursday 9 April [CLICK HERE](#)

Friday 3 April [CLICK HERE](#)



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 ?

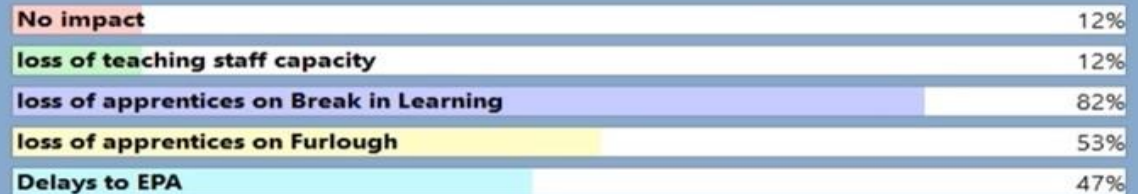
Poll Results (multiple answers allowed):



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):



Apprenticeship Learner Satisfaction Survey

- Is the survey cancelled ?



Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department for Education have stopped the Learner Satisfaction Survey 2019-20. The Department consider it an ethical imperative to reduce the impact and burden on the public during this crisis, notwithstanding the increased likelihood of shifting priorities, reduced response rates, and potentially skewed outcomes. The Department will inform providers of the launch of the Learner Satisfaction Survey 2020-21 survey when a new date has been agreed.

LATEST NEWS

Mar 2020 Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department for Education have stopped the Learner Satisfaction Survey 2019-20.

Feb 2020 The Employer Satisfaction Survey will not be running this year. Satisfaction of employers collected through a new feedback form for the apprenticeship service. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Proposed release: **September 2020**

Cancellation date: **8 April 2020 2:36pm**

Statistics release cancelled

As the demand increases for statistics and data to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department for Education has had to change its data gathering and release practices, focussing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our statement of 26 March 2020 explains this further (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics#announcements>) and, in line with guidance from the Office for Statistics Regulation (<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/covid-19-and-the-regulation-of-statistics/>), the decision has been made to stop this publication. We will inform providers of the launch of the Learner Satisfaction Survey 2020-21 survey when a new date has been agreed. We will keep users updated of further changes via the Department for Education Statistics website.

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Position – EPAO

In response to the [announcement from the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education \(IfATE\) on the 9th April](#), we are awaiting guidance from the IfATE and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) with regards to how we are to process eligible apprentices through gateway and claim the Apprenticeship certificate. Although the announcement has been made, the IfATE and ESFA have not provided details of the required changes in procedure for processing gateway and awarding the certificate for qualifying apprentices.

The evidence requirements for gateway remain unchanged and we expect the procedure for processing and checking gateway evidence to be the same as operated now. However, we would usually invoice for the remaining EPA fee at the gateway stage which would need to be paid before the End Point Assessment (EPA) date. The anticipated guidance from the regulatory bodies will allow us to revise its EPA process in regards to the interaction and data sharing with the ESFA; align with other EPAO's and comply with the External Quality Assurance (EQA) obligations.

Over the past weeks we have had lengthy discussions with the IfATE, ESFA and other End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAO's) to establish a smooth process for enabling Nursing Associate (NA) Apprentices to achieve their EPA during the Covid-19 crisis. Please be reassured that the EPA Team here are doing everything they can to make sure apprentices are not disadvantaged and can progress their careers.

For providers who are ready to send or have already sent us their booking forms and gateway evidence, we will accept this through our usual process but please bear in mind that until we have the updated guidance we will not be able to process for reasons mentioned afore.

I will be in contact with you once I have new information.

Position - HEE

Response from HEE to a NA group who are due to start EPA training and refresher sessions:

'My interpretation is that the guidance is only relevant to those who have gone through gateway so if you have a cohort that isn't due to go through until June it would be sensible to prepare them as if they are sitting the EPA and if the current period does extend to that point then apply the guidance at that point. I think the ESFA/IFA would prefer those who still can sit EPA to do so and therefore I don't think your June 18 cohort would currently be given the proxy award of the EPA.'

I'm really worried about the employer and learner experience here – HEE won't provide any timelines as to when this period therefore planning is really hard (appreciate with Covid its an unknown entity). Our group are going to be significantly impacted yet we have to plan for it going ahead in case the guidance changes in a short space of time - Sean

Nursing EPA Flex

3 core queries:

Detail:

- What this means in practice - what are the detailed arrangements ?
- **We need this now**

Comms:

- What communication is / has / is planned to go to employers who are expecting the changes to take effect now !
- **We need this now to manage expectations**

Stability:

- When it will end
- **We need a commitment now to extend this to future cohorts / dates to provide certainty, and review this when the date is reached**

Nursing (and wider) Queries

- Assistant Practitioner EPA - No dispensation - unlike NA, due to it not being registrable, but the new arrangements are not really reasonable given the pressure on staff. There is also no recognition that some may work in the community. Ann

Nursing Queries

- When we are likely to get information for providers about the process for approving NAs under the new arrangements? All our NAs and their employers assume that because the announcement has been made that the NAs will get confirmation soon- a matter of days!- Ann
- The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education / Nursing talks about the changes to the EPA process only applying to the qualifying apprentices during the Covid-19 crisis. So if you had a cohort finishing say on May 15 and the crisis officially ended a week later (for arguments sake), would they still qualify for these emergency measures, or would they have to undertake the EPA as originally planned? Just need to be clear what message to give to our Nursing Associate Apprentices who are close to completing- Laila
- The implementation of the EPA for Nursing Associates, our EPAO seems a little unsure how to apply the new rules and what the cost structure will be from them given there is no formal assessment required - Patrick

Nursing



POLL

Would you find an urgent webforum on the Nursing Apprenticeship & EPA helpful if we could arrange this for next week ?

If YES, please tell us which organisations and who (key people) you want to see there – type this into the question line

This Week – Latest

1. Latest coronavirus response guidance (COVID-19) **no updates this week :**
2. **English & Maths** [notice from OfQUAL published](#) – guidance expected ‘after Easter’ following [Minsters letter](#)
3. **QARs** [will not be published for 2019/2020](#) academic year at institutional level
4. **RoATP**
 - [Flexibility](#) to allow employers of staff in key worker, as defined by [DfE’s advice to schools](#), to apply to the employer provider route by exception
 - [Conditions of Acceptance](#) window for first delivery of apprenticeships extended to 24 (previously 12) months of being listed on the register, or in any 24 (previously 12) month period.
5. **Cabinet Office PPN** to public sector bodies on [Supplier Relief](#) payments to ensure continuity of services

THE FUTURE

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Live Future Focuswhats on your longer –term mind

- Senior Leader: The Level 7 Senior Leader Apprenticeship: does the taking out of the MBA requirement mean that we will not be allowed to include an MSc or any HE qualification to support the knowledge development of this standard, and are we expecting a big hit on funding for Management apprenticeships in any case?
- Patrick
- (and would universities who have modelled the impact of the proposed funding band changes share their workings with other institutions ? [these can come into UVAC and be shared anonymously]
- What is the long-term impact on Ofsted ? Gilmar

CLICK FOR THE FUTURE FOCUS SURVEY **HERE**

POLICY UPDATE

Adrian Anderson

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What is in the FAQ ...

covid-19 Forum Frequently Asked Questions



HOW TO RAISE QUERIES & QUESTIONS

1. Email questions in advance of the forum session to r.rhodes@bolton.ac.uk
2. Post queries, views, suggestions on to Centre for Degree Apprenticeships [COVID-19](#) Topic Forum via the [CDA Home Page](#)
3. Raise queries by either route post on to the CDA forum site or email me r.rhodes@Bolton.ac.uk



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – see also CORE RESOURCES on the back page

Slides (Webcast link is in the Resources slide)

[Thursday 9th April](#)

[Friday 3rd April](#)

Templates

[Furlough Declaration & Notes](#)

Other

[Treasury Advice on Criteria for Furlough](#)

[Updated IFATE advice on Nursing Apprenticeships](#)

[OFQUAL Announcement on English & maths](#)

[OFQUAL Summer 2020 Advice for Vocational, Technical & Other Qualifications](#)

[QAA Covid-19 Thematic Guidance](#)



QUICK POLL RESULTS

Resources from Today's Session

[UVAC Senior Leader Position Statement](#)

[UVAC Letter to the IfATE CEO](#)

[HASO Guidance on Nursing EPA Flexibilities](#)

[Learner Satisfaction Survey Cancellation Letter](#)

[UVAC Position Statement – Senior Leader Consultation](#)

[Qualification Achievement Rate Announcement](#)

Further Information



Listen to the 17 April Webcast: [HERE](#) – this seems to be missing the opening intro slides but the core content is there!

NEXT WEEKS FORUM: 12 noon 24 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