

THE PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME

Dear Colleague

Colleges have raised with us a number of concerns about the funding of the Prince's Trust Team Programme. We have reviewed the position in the light of experience in the first year of study programmes and the associated funding per student methodology. We have also been working through a number of issues with the Trust in relation to the English and maths content of the Team Programme. I am now in a position to confirm future arrangements to you.

English and maths condition of funding

We have looked at the work the Trust has been doing to embed English and maths within the Team Programme in order to support young people to progress towards GCSE standard. The Programme will now embed within it the development of English and maths skills that will enable participants to progress subsequently towards GCSE grade C standard or higher. The Trust has provided us with details of how this has been piloted in 2013/14 and how they will be working over the next 12 months to embed fully its delivery within the Team programme at all their delivery centres. On this basis the Team Programme has been approved as a stepping stone towards a GCSE in these subjects and will therefore be treated as meeting the condition of funding for English and maths in 2014/15 and beyond.

Programme Cost Weighting

The most recent independent review of programme cost weightings commissioned by the department recommended an increase to the weighting for the Team Programme because of the evidence it found of the costs necessarily incurred. We had previously reduced its weighting for 2013/14 as part of the wider changes to programme weightings introduced as part of funding per student.

Ministers have now agreed to implement this recommendation. The weighting will be increased from 1.0 to 1.2 for allocations from 2016/17, at the end of the current Formula Protection Funding which protects institutions against changes to programme weightings and other formula changes made for 2013/14. Because of the lagged approach we use to calculate programme weightings, any students recruited from this August will count in generating this higher programme weighting in 2016/17 allocations. We are announcing this now, as recommended by the independent review, because the Team programme is generally delivered in the 450-539 hours band and the funding for students in this band has been reduced for the 2014/15 year.

For clarity, these two measures do not apply to all of the Trust's qualifications or programmes, only where the student is registered with the Trust to complete the full Team Programme. A learning delivery monitoring code has been assigned (LDM331) so you can definitively identify students on the Team Programme to us through the ILR. This will be notified formally to you by the Skills Funding Agency through their ILR web page as usual

Taken together these measures should remove the uncertainty around the funding of the Team Programme and enable you to finalise arrangements with the Trust for delivery from August this year.

I hope this will help sustain your efforts to engage young people who might otherwise not be in education, employment or training, and enable them to progress successfully to further study and work.

Yours sincerely

Peter Mucklow

National Director for Young People

Education Funding Agency

Young People's Division

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