

# FE Week gets technical ~ FE loan survey

In the last week of April 2012 a total of 232 staff from 151 colleges completed this Lsect online survey. A summary of the results are published here, including some of the comments.

## Should the FE loans scheme be delayed or scrapped? (tick all that apply)

Delay and or scrap	161	69%
Neither delay nor scrap	71	31%
	<b>232</b>	



### Susanne Stent, Principal, Huntingdonshire Regional College

"Support for LLDD needs to be urgently worked through. I am currently being told that it 'may come out of existing ALS' and so not follow HE structures. Fine, but this needs to be confirmed and funding added to this budget."

### Camilla Race, Employment Services Manager, Bishop Auckland College

"The sector has not been fully consulted on this issue and therefore the Government are pushing something through that will have serious implications for recruitment on to higher level provision as well as disadvantaging learners who are financially challenged"

### Sue Verner, Student Advisor, Wakefield College

"Good idea in principal, just a lot more work for a sector which is losing funding and jobs rapidly!"

## How do you rate public awareness of the FE loans scheme (1 being no awareness, 10 being very aware)

Awareness	Public	%
Not very aware 1-4	207	89%
Aware 5-7	22	9%
Very aware 8-10	3	1%
	<b>232</b>	



### Martin Southward, Finance Manager, Lakes College West Cumbria

"Isn't it just another name for reduction in funding of adult education, I think in some geographical areas it will be a huge disincentive for people to take part in FE and improve their prospects."

### Phil Hastie, Vice Principal, Stockton Riverside College

"FE loans only make sense from a treasury accounting position. FE loans will further undermine the responsiveness of FE to support local labour market change and retraining for regeneration."

### Jacque McDonnell, Assistant Managing Director Business Services, North West Kent College

"This could work well but it may put people off from doing level 3 or higher apprenticeship if these are not seen necessary for employment"

## How do you rate awareness among your senior management (1 being no awareness, 10 being very aware)

Awareness	Managers	%
Not very aware 1-4	39	17%
Aware 5-7	96	41%
Very aware 8-10	97	42%
	<b>232</b>	



### Debbie Ward, Director of Planning & Funding, Salford City College

"Very poor communication, nobody outside FE has any idea, and very few within FE understand and are fully aware of the issues & implications."

### Jon Rathmill, Funding & ILR Team Leader, Canterbury College

"This policy is being implemented far too quickly with not enough consideration given to the long-term consequences. The types of student this will affect are simply not going to enrol if they have to take out a loan. They will continue find work where they can and simply see that their access to further and higher education has been permanently blocked."

### Julie Hinchliffe, Assistant Principal: Skills & Curriculum Development, Bradford College

"Will affect the ability of potential students, in poorer parts of the country, to access further education."

## How do you rate awareness among your teachers & support staff (1 being no awareness, 10 being very aware)

Awareness	Teachers etc	%
Not very aware 1-4	132	57%
Aware 5-7	92	40%
Very aware 8-10	8	3%
	<b>232</b>	



### Jean Feely, Acting Director of Curriculum, Burton & South Derbyshire College

"The FE loans policy is flawed. If - as the media leads us to believe - the average age for first time mortgage holders is 37yrs, what impact will an FE loan e.g for Access to HE, followed by an HE loan have on this figure? I worry about what will happen to aspiring professionals and the potential reduction in movement across socio-economic boundaries for bright but poor individuals."

### Craig Owen, Director of College Information Services, Kendal College

"I have huge concerns that this will decimate Adult apprentice take - up at Level 3 - particularly within certain sectors i.e. Hospitality, Hairdressing, Beauty, Health & Social Care, Retail"

### Jon Buxton, Funding and Performance Manager, Stockton Riverside College "

Will there be additional funding available to Colleges to cover additional costs of administration?"

## How prepared is your college to implement the scheme? (1 being not prepared at all, 10 being very prepared)

Not prepared 1-4	128	55%
Prepared 5-7	88	38%
Very prepared 8-10	16	7%
	<b>232</b>	



### Lesley Fooks, Head of Student Administration, Lewisham College

"I am worried that the consultations will take so long - we as Colleges will get little time to prepare internal systems - we need the full details as soon as possible - just like the implementation of 16 - 18 Bursaries everything will be last minute"

### Geoff Sorrell, Deputy Principal, City College Norwich

"There's likely to be an impact on student numbers but the Adult Skills Budget provides some flexibility for organisations. Tough on students though particularly if they want to go on to HE and need to do the same again."

### Steve Hewitt, Strategic Funding, Enrolments & Examinations Manager, Morley College

"Much as I dislike it, I can't see loans going away in the medium-term, there are no other obvious ways to make the cuts we have been told we need to make. If there are no loans, where is the money for L3 courses going to come from? Having said that, I can easily foresee the Student Loans Co having a massive meltdown and colleges losing out on big piles of money..."