



Social work apprenticeship briefing: options for employing a Practice Educator

The following guidance is as a result of discussions with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) about the implications of engaging a Practice Educator as part of a Social Worker apprenticeship.

As part of the discussion with ESFA the following points were agreed:

- 1) The Practice Educator is delivering relevant training. In this context, relevant training,

Given the above information, there are 3 likely options for the Practice Educator role. These are:

- 1) Where the employer's personnel (e.g. the practice educator) is delivering OTJ and this employer wants to access apprenticeship funding: in this case the employer must be on RoATP, no exceptions.
- 2) Where the employer's personnel (e.g. the practice educator) is delivering OTJ and employer does not want to access apprenticeship funding: in this case the employer does not need to be on RoATP.

If the PE role is being funded from elsewhere (and apprenticeship funding is not being used) then this sits outside of the ESFA remit and the apprenticeship funding rules regarding subcontracting.

- 3) Where the practice educator is delivering OTJ but is employed by, or is seconded to, the main provider. If the apprenticeship funding is staying with the main provider, and is not being passed to a delivery subcontractor, then there would be no requirement for the employer to be on RoATP, as technically this party is not delivering the training.

The ESFA's apprenticeship [subcontracting guidance](#) states that if an individual is seconded to a main provider who 'directs and manages the secondee in exactly the same way as they do their other tutors and assessors' the funding rules are met in terms of subcontracting not taking place.