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## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Perspective newsletter for 2012. In this issue we will inform you of a number of updates to the **Sunesis portfolio**, our **funding masterclass** and **client day**, as well as covering some important news stories from the sector.

As ever, if you have any queries or feedback about any of the items in this newsletter then please feel free to give us a call on 0121 506 9667.

## Nick Linford joins Perspective

Perspective is pleased to announce the arrival of Nick Linford to the Perspective group as a non-executive director.

Nick has a history working in the education sector and is passionate about the contribution that the post-16 learning and skills sector makes to both learners and the UK economy. Nick has played a leading role in the use of funding, performance, data quality and curriculum planning in both the learning and skills sector. Nick has joined Perspective to assist with a new project that will support SFA-funded prime contractors manage relationships with their subcontractors, whilst also assisting with pre-existing products in the Perspective portfolio.

Commenting on his new role at Perspective, Nick commented *"I'm pleased to announce my appointment with Perspective as a non-executive director. I've been impressed with Perspective's work to date in progressing, managing and funding thousands of learners and I hope my understanding of the education sector can further progress Perspective's ability to assist and benefit learners in the future."*

As well as his role at Perspective, Nick is current managing director of Lsect, an education management company that specialises in post-16 funding, performance and data within the learning and skills sector. Nick also founded FE Week in June 2011, a leading online and paper-based newspaper detailing the latest news, updates and events in the further education sector.



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## Events

We will be attending the following events over the coming month:

### 31 January

**LSIS** – How to Improve your Bid Writing Skills – Park Inn, Harlow.

### 2 February

**AELP** – This Year’s In Tray Annual Conference – Leeds United FC, Leeds.

### 7 March

**Apprenticeships England – Making Apprenticeships Work** – HQ of the Household Artillery Company close to Moorgate in the City of London.

### 13 March

**Lsect** – Spring College Data Conference – Morley College, London.

Be sure to come and see us if you are attending as well.

## Exciting Changes to Sunesis

We are excited to announce our first update to Sunesis in 2012. Our release cycle will occur three times a year – at the beginning of February, April and August. The first release of this year has some exciting new changes to the home screen which will make navigation of the

system even easier. There are a number of other key areas of functionality that will make up this release at the beginning of February. More information and official release notes will be made available next week.

## Client Day

We have had a great deal of interest from our client base about the funding masterclass and client day that was advertised in this month’s edition of the Bitesize. We will be announcing the guest speakers next month, who specialise in a number of key areas across the sector. This will be an extremely worthwhile day for all of you looking to learn more about funding changes, Ofsted, audits and the

overall funded learning landscape, as well as updates from Perspective about the Sunesis product.

The funding masterclass will be held on 27th March and will cost £195 per delegate. To register for the event please contact Richard Thom on 0121 506 9140 or by email at: [richard.thom@perspective-uk.com](mailto:richard.thom@perspective-uk.com).

## INDUSTRY NEWS

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### Apprenticeships Challenge University Degrees on Pay Scale

A recent report undertaken by investment specialist Skandia into earning opportunities for Britain's young people has highlighted that those who secure a good apprenticeship could earn almost as much as graduates over a lifetime.

Although the report found that degrees remain the best route to long-term financial gain, apprenticeships are fast catching up with those who undertook degrees in terms of projected earnings over a lifetime. The study used primary and secondary data to build up a picture of the employment and earning options open to young people in light of growing youth unemployment.

The report found that whilst an average graduate should earn £1,611,551 over a working career of 45 years (at today's prices) an apprentice in the construction sector could earn £1,503,726 over the time frame, whilst someone in the Health Care, Public Services and Care sector could earn £1,494,547.

### Government to Reduce Apprenticeship Funding

The government has announced plans to reduce the national funding rate for 16 to 18 apprenticeships by two percent over the coming year. This is despite under-spending on the scheme by £15 million during 2010/11.

A spokesperson for the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) said: "The YPLA announced in its 16-19 Funding Statement in December 2011 that the national funding rate for 16-18 Apprenticeships will be reduced by two per cent in 2012/13. At the end of March, the Agency will publish the Funding Rules for 2012/13, which will include the national funding rates."

This announcement comes in the wake of a record level of youth unemployment, with unemployment in the 16-24-year-old sector increasing by 52,000 during the three months ending in November 2011, reaching 1.04 million overall.