

FE Week gets technical

On Monday 16th April a total of 194 colleges and training providers completed the Lsect online survey. The numerical results are published here in full, including some of the comments.

What do you think of the introduction of a 12 month minimum duration for 16-18 year-olds?

Very good idea	109	56%
Quite good idea	57	29%
Not sure	7	4%
Bad idea	18	9%
Very bad idea	3	2%



Mark Connolly, Apprenticeships Contract Team Leader, Kirklees College said it was a **very good idea**

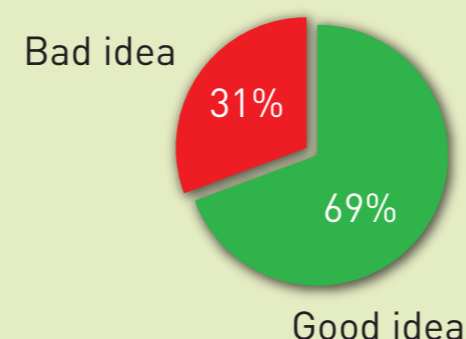
"To help ensure development not just assessment. Also to maintain credibility with employers, many of whom already question the duration compared to their own 'time-served' experience of old style apprenticeships. Apprentices need time to not just acquire new skills but embed them and develop in the job. 16-18s in particular develop and mature a great deal and need time to practice and hone their skills."

Simon Bozzoli, Managing Director, Future Un-Limited said it was a **very bad idea**

"The minimum duration has been introduced because of a failure of the SFA to monitor its contracts effectively. Our apprenticeships can be effectively delivered over a 6 to 8 month period (business administration) and 80% of those completing them then progress onto a 12 month level 3 apprenticeship. Forcing providers to deliver long duration apprenticeships will reduce the level of support we are able to provide (less frequent employer visits and assessments) to apprentices in the crucial initial 6 month period of the training programme."

What do you think of the introduction of a 12 month minimum duration for 19+ year-olds?

Very good idea	43	22%
Quite good idea	70	36%
Not sure	31	16%
Bad idea	42	22%
Very bad idea	8	4%



Paul Allford, Funding & Curriculum Manager, National Construction College (ConstructionSkills) said it was a **very good idea**

"You might be able to carry out the technical learning but would lack the experience and a completed apprenticeship implies competence."

John O' Donnell, Employer Responsive Director, Wigan & Leigh College said it was a **very good idea**

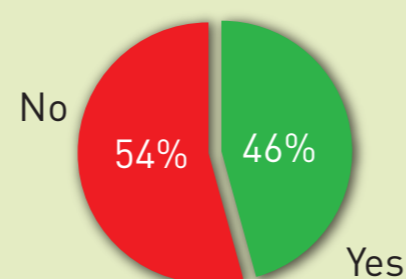
"Will help to stop the 12 week 'apprenticeships' that give the brand a really bad name and hopefully force out some of the providers that are just in it for the money."

Keith Horan, Distance Learning Support Manager, NTQUK said it was a **very bad idea**

"Whilst I can see the thought behind it, I feel that each adult brings a different set of skills to their apprenticeship. Not all of these can be measured as Recognition of Prior Learning. The learner and provider may be disadvantaged/penalised for having an existing skill base."

Do you think the rapid 25+ apprenticeship growth is a good thing?

Yes	64	33%
No	76	39%
Not sure	54	28%



Breda Leyne, Learning and Development Consultant, Cogito Development Projects said this is **not a good thing**

"Because I agree it is Train to Gain re-badged. No aversion to employers training staff to level 2 but it has been at the expense of new entrants to workplace."

Clements Philip, Employer Engagement Manager, Warwickshire College is **not a good thing**

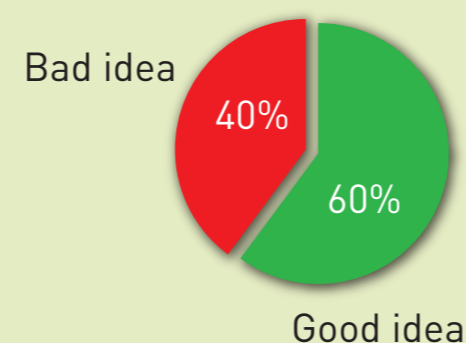
"Apprenticeships should be all about training young people and helping them to improve and advance. There should be training opportunities for 25+ but not generally as an apprentice. Numbers should be rebalanced towards majority being from the 16-18 group."

Linda Martin, Development Director, HIT Training Ltd thinks that it is **a good thing**

"Why would it be a bad thing - surely upskilling of a workforce is a good thing regardless of age. In many sectors the average age of the workforce will be in the late twenties - mid thirties, so not to include this age range is curtailing opportunities to all for lifelong learning."

What do you think of the idea of a minimum employer fee for 19+ apprenticeships?

Very good idea	40	21%
Quite good idea	49	25%
Not sure	46	24%
Bad idea	40	21%
Very bad idea	19	10%



Ian Nash, Partner, Nash&Jones Partnership said it was a **very good idea**

"In my research across eight OECD countries in the late 1990s, all countries except the UK set strict financial requirements on employers. UK employers have got used to expecting cash to come from government."

Andy Daw, Assistant Principal Employer Engagement, Kingston Maurward College said it was a **very good idea**

"Clarity of message - that is of course all apprenticeships have a value to an employer - if there was some parity that might be useful"

Linda Martin, Development Director, HIT Training Ltd said it is a **very bad idea**

"Employers are under considerable economic pressure and the timing of any fees needs to be considered. Medium term and with a clear introduction and timeframe into fee the concept may have validity. There needs to be recognition of a significant culture change required from employers - when you have had free training for a period of time the move to fee paying needs to be staged"