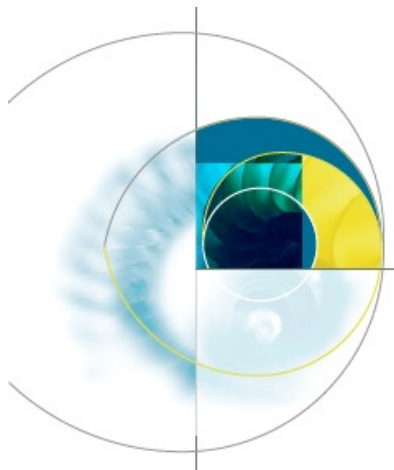


# The Lifelong Learning Entitlement England's new funding system



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# What is the LLE?

A transformative new funding system in England for post-18 year old learners creating a single funding system for both higher and further education.

It aims to replace the current higher education undergraduate student loans scheme by:

- creating an expanded funding regime that includes modular and flexible programmes allowing learners to study qualifications differently and take breaks (up to age 60)
- enabling loans to be provided for short courses and chunks of study
- allowing flexibility of location of study (i.e. across different universities) and levels with some funding for maintenance support, and
- providing a new 'Student Loans Company' portal for learners to track their loan usage, remaining entitlements, and possible next steps.

It will roll out from January 2027.

# Why is it being introduced?

## **Impacts of COVID**

Rapid technological change demanding 'train, retrain and upskilling' of workforce

Loss of expertise through employee movement or retirement

## **Impacts of BREXIT (UK only)**

Loss of highly skilled workforce and breadth of expertise in England

Loss of benefits of being connected to Europe – i.e. partnerships, innovation, funding and research opportunities

## **Impacts of the current higher education funding model**

Debt levels of UK universities

Perceptions of the value of higher education versus the costs

Urgency of achieving new 'markets', new income streams, being distinctive

Alignment with needs of devolved governments (England, Wales, Scotland, NI)

## How it will operate for learners

- Understand **their options** for enrolling in full degree programmes, short programmes or individual modules and how to build on the latter (if wanted)
- Understand **how their loan entitlement works** and how best to use it
- Understand how **to navigate through university environments and systems** – potentially a major issue for adults/LLL/CE students

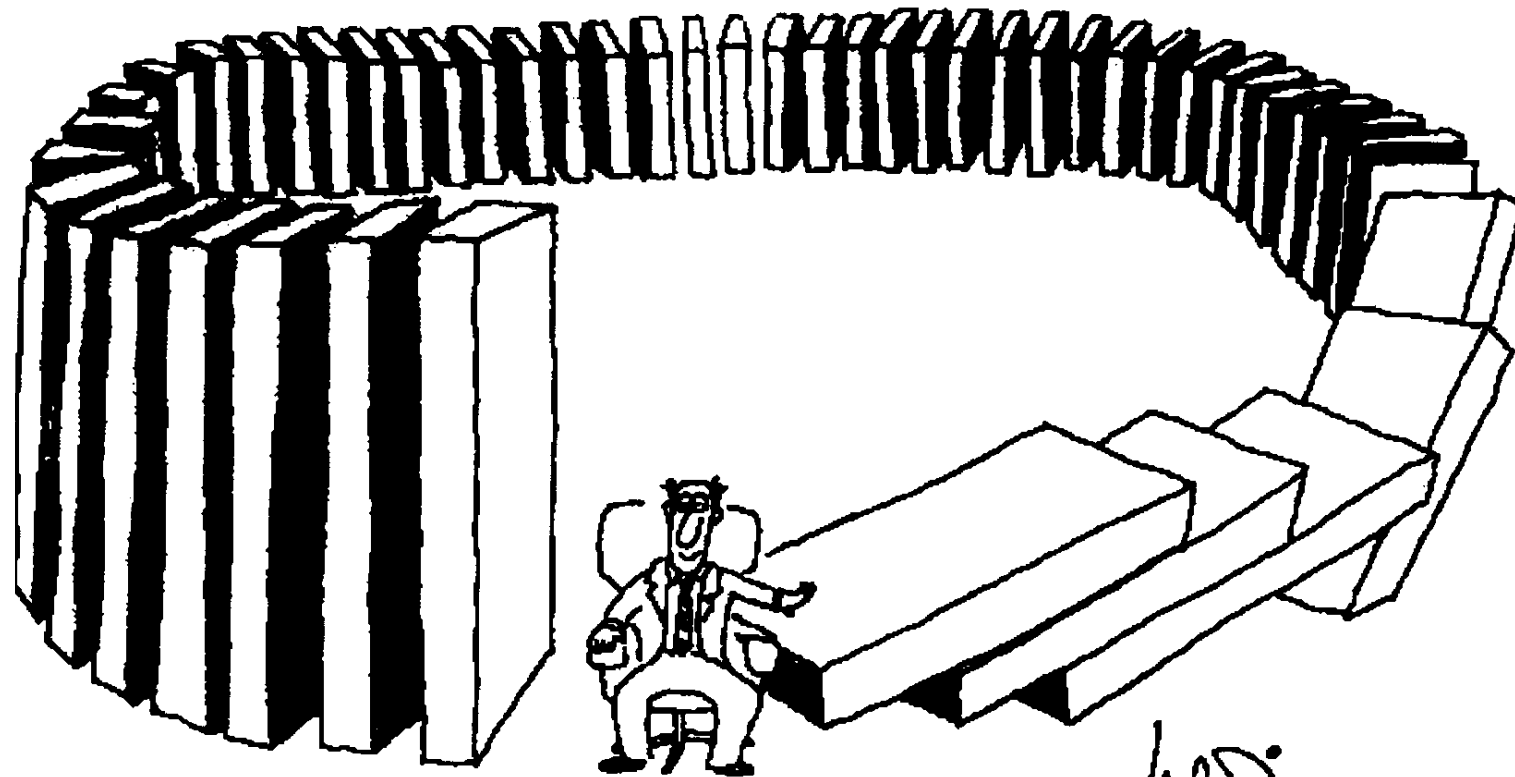
# How it will operate for universities and colleges

- Provide full and short programmes
- Quality assure both forms and systems for accreditation of prior learning/experiential learning
- Market their programmes differently and to different learner types
- Work innovatively with employers, regional/local government, FE to respond to skills needs
- Demonstrate realistic outcomes for learners from both full and short programmes
- Survive in a new uncertain funding environment
- Provide different learner support

# Challenges and concerns

*Seeing problems embedded in the context of other problems*





# Positives from an LLL/CE Perspective

- increasing understanding of the value of LLL/CE and strategic priority for UK universities.
- moving from learning as linear and sequential progression to flexible and step-on/step-off with credits accumulated across the lifespan according to individual need.
- disrupting the idea of universities for young learners on full time courses.
- breaking down barriers between further and higher education & enhancing the role of each in technical and vocational education.
- using a funding mechanism to address national issues and requiring innovative solutions

## Challenges from an LLL/CE Perspective

- LLL/CE potentially reduced to being viewed as 'learning for work' only.
- Institutional re-badging/rebranding existing programmes and modules as LLL/CE without suitable modification.
- Priorities set by central and regional government and not learner demand.