

YOUNG PEOPLE GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SKILLS

A Bill to encourage young people to stay in training and education after the age of 16 was introduced today, in the Queen's Speech.

The Government are to bring in a Bill to ensure that every young person between the ages of 16-19 will have the financial support they need for training and education.

The Child Benefit Bill is a significant step towards the Government's vision that by the age of 19 all young people should be fully ready for higher education or skilled employment.

An Education Bill to streamline the regime of school inspections to help raise standards was also introduced by the Queen.

Her Majesty said: "My Government attaches the highest importance to extending educational opportunity so that all individuals can realise their full potential and the country can benefit from the talents of all its people."

Welcoming the measures Stephen Studd, SkillsActive Chief Executive, said:

"Supporting young people to reach their full potential is essential if we are to create a skilled workforce at the heart of a productive and competitive UK. If school leavers are financially supported through attaining post 16 qualifications and training, employers will have a greater supply of the skilled professionals they are crying out for in many sectors.

"Overcoming skills gaps not only boosts the economy. Employability also has an impact on an individual's self esteem and the degree to which they engage with society. If unwaged trainees or those still completing a course have access to financial support they are far more likely to persevere and attain the skills they need to go on to be happy, successful and independent adults."