

Taking into account recommendations from the original AGE programme evaluation, one grant will be available to businesses meeting the new grant criteria as follows:

Core grant (£1,500 and must meet all of the core criteria)

- Businesses with 50 or fewer employees within local authority areas of West Yorkshire and York;
- Have never offered apprenticeships before;
- Are offering new employment as an apprenticeship opportunity to 19-24 year olds with associated apprenticeship training via a training provider approved by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
- The Apprentices must be following a recognised Apprenticeship Standard or Framework relating to our key priority sectors/skills gaps (Construction, Planning & the Built Environment, Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies, Information & Communication Technology – including digital), and
- Are paying the national minimum wage for the age of the apprentice from day 1 of their apprenticeship training (above the apprenticeship wage of £3.50). This equates to £5.60 per hour for 18-20 year olds, £7.05 per hour for 21 – 24 year olds. (*note: rates change on 1 April 2018*)

Top up (additional £500)

- Businesses who meet the core criteria and are also offering their apprenticeship at higher or degree level.