

UNISON Slams Coalition's Savage FE funding cuts

The Coalition has today announced savage cuts to Further Education funding in England.

Summary of cuts announced:

- The Further Education resource budget will be reduced by 25%, or £1.1 billion, from £4.3 billion to £3.2 billion by 2014
- This resource budget covers both the participation budget (i.e. money colleges get for learners) and other costs associated with the administration of the adult system
- So it is not yet clear at this stage how this budget cut will filter through to colleges we expect more details in the coming weeks
- The Educational Maintenance Allowance for 16 – 18 year old students is being scrapped
- There will be Unit cost reductions in the 16 – 19 participation budgets probably by cutting the amount of money colleges get for each learner
- The Train to Gain programme is to be abolished
- The entitlement to free training for a first full level 2 qualification for those over 25 is to be removed
- Further Education students over the age of 24 studying for a first full Level 3 (A level equivalent) qualification will be asked to pay fees a new student loans system is to be introduced
- There will be an increase in the fees assumption from learner's i.e. they will be expected to pay more
- Further efficiencies will also be expected in Further Education including pay restraint

These draconian cuts will have a devastating impact on our colleges and our communities. We will not stand by and watch as this government tries to destroy our vital public services.

Find out how you can get involved in our campaign against the cuts by visiting:

<http://www.unison.org.uk/spendingreview/>

You can also join the UNISON Defend Further Education Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=142274199135739>

Finally over coming days we will be putting together more detailed information on our campaign against the cuts.