

NEON – AGENDA ITEM – Student Finance England

- **Standing Item (see attached document)**
- **Launch 2016/17** – February 29th including DSA
- **NEON Mail Group** – set-up (consistency in message from DSA Operations. Peter Riley provided contacts of members, but email me directly if your name needs to be added.

Some Policy Changes

- EU Residency Ruling - Announcement that any EU nationals applying for maintenance support will be required to provide 5 years residency history, increased from 3 year residency. Full article here :-
 - <http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/about-us/practitioners-news/ssin-0616-extending-residency-requirements-for-eu-nationals.aspx>
-
- DSA Application Time Limit - Also introduced for 2015/16 apps (guidance re-issue). 9 months after the start of AY (not course start date), apps accepted if suitable justification is given (e.g. late diagnosis)
- Late apps came in 2014/15 for cohorts for AY
- **DSA Consent to Share** - Revised for 2016/17
 1. CTS with Disability Services at HEP
 2. CTS with Needs Assessor
 3. CTS with students DSA **support suppliers with whom student has in place**
(Permission to pay invoices on student's behalf now included in Student Declaration on PN1/DSA application form)
- **NMH Reference Manual** is discontinued and replaced by Section 5 of Guidance Chapters
- **Exceptional Case Review** – in Guidance– Entitlement Referral Panel (NMH and interim support funded by SFE).
- **Application Tracked** for monitoring purposes to reflect Policy / Process Changes
- **Training rolled out to Contact Advisers, DSA Offices, DSA Advisers**

Full DSA POLICY 2016/17 DOCUMENT AVAILABLE AT:-

<http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/7147/1617-policy-changes-reference-guide.pdf>

Question from South Meeting: re Best Practice monitoring of HEPs?

Any monitoring of compliance / best practice to reasonable adjustments would be done by bodies that currently carry out that type of review (HEFCE, HESA). I do not believe that SLC or BIS would be engaging in remote monitoring. Perhaps professional bodies e.g. NADP will collate and share best practice through their forums