



Apprenticeship reform programme: benefits realisation

In the [apprenticeship reform programme: benefits realisation strategy](#)¹ published in March 2017, we committed to reporting on a quarterly basis against success measures relating to increased growth, taken from the published statistical data sets.

The latest [statistical first release \(SFR\)](#)² was published on 23 November 2017. This provided finalised data on all further education and skills, including the apprenticeship programme, for the academic year 2016/17.

We have summarised progress towards our 3 million target and other growth success measures, with final figures taken from the [statistical data sets](#)³ covering the academic year 2016/17.

Update on growth

The Government is committed to reaching 3 million new apprenticeship starts in England by 2020. Final data for 2016 to 2017 academic year shows 494,900 apprenticeships have been started. This compares to 509,400 reported at this time last year for the 2015 to 2016 academic year, a decrease of 2.8%.

This takes us to 1,119,600 apprenticeship starts since May 2015, which is 37.3% of 3 million, broadly within trajectory to meet this target by 2020.

Starts in higher and advanced apprenticeship levels have increased: the highest percentage increase has been in higher apprenticeships, which have increased by 34.7% from 27,200 in 2015 to 2016 up to 36,600 in 2016 to 2017. Starts at intermediate level decreased by 10.5% in the 2016 to 17 academic year compared to the same point in 2015/16.

Starts from black, asian and minority ethnic groups

During the period August 2016 to July 2017, 55,310 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a black, asian and minority ethnic group. This compares to 53,480 for 2015 to 16.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-reform-programme-benefits-realisation-strategy>
² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660580/SFR62_Nov_2017.pdf
³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>

This is equivalent to 11.2% during this academic year, compared to 10.5% in the previous academic year. Our success measure for this group is to increase the proportion of black, asian and minority ethnic participation by 20%, to reach 11.9% by 2020.

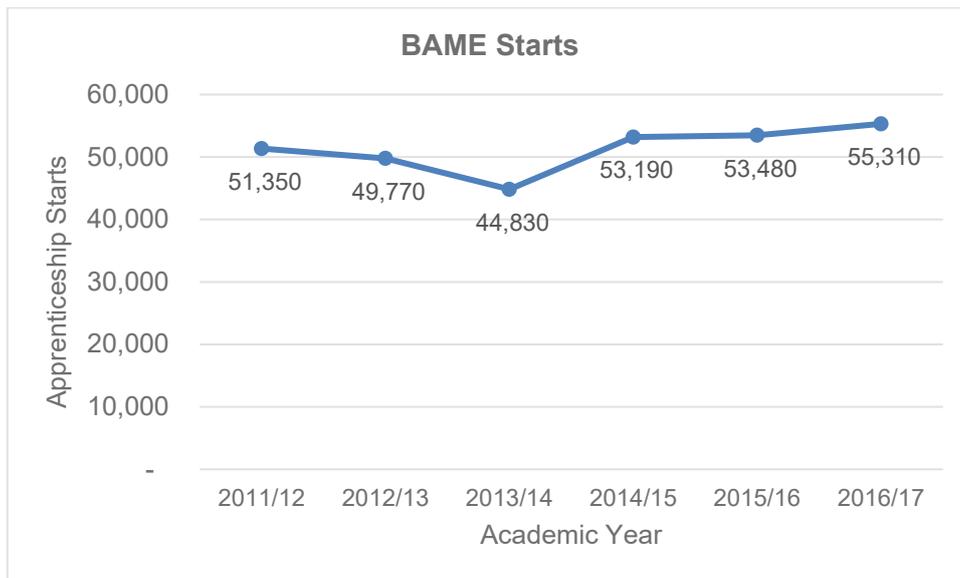


Figure 1: Black, asian and minority ethnic starts from 2011/ 2012, to 2016/2017

Learning disabilities

During the period August 2016 to July 2017, 50,930 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the learning difficulties and / or disabilities group. This compares to 50,640 for the 2015/16 academic year.

This is equivalent to 10.3% during this academic year, compared to 9.9% in the previous academic year. Our success measure for this group is to increase the proportion of learning difficulties and / or disabilities participation by 20%, to reach 11.9% by 2020.

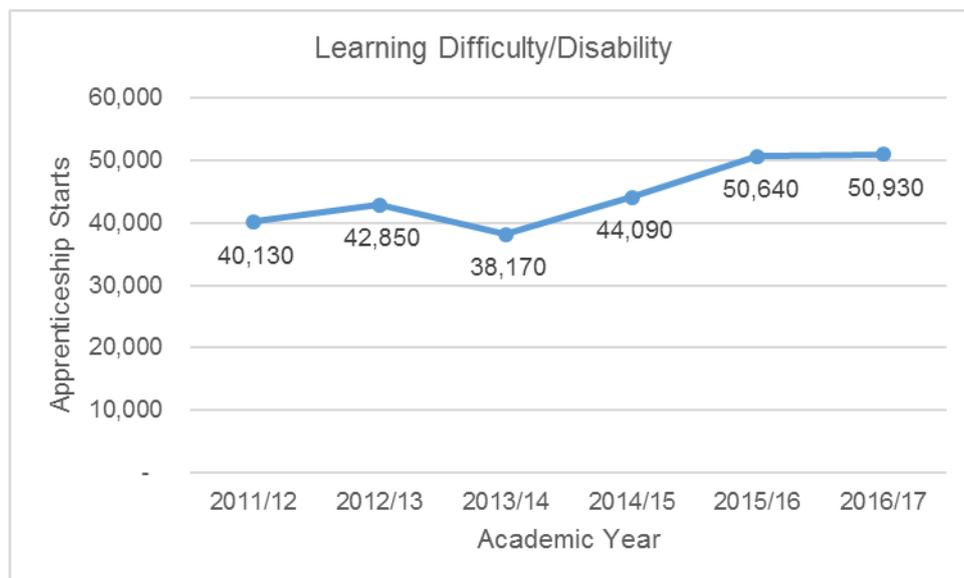


Figure 2: Learning disabilities starts from 2011/2012, to 2016/2017

Disadvantaged

Statistical data sets do not currently provide a break down of starts by disadvantaged area and further analysis is required to produce a measure of the value of engagement, as determined by sector subject area. We are currently considering our approach, and will update in a subsequent report.

Future reporting

From January 2018 the Further Education and Skills statistical first release (SFR) will be changing, please see the following note published alongside the November SFR: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661130/Annex_further_education_and_skills_changes_November_2017.pdf. Future reports will align with the publication of the SFR.

In the benefits realisation strategy, we committed to reporting against all measures on an annual basis. This will be timed to coincide with the availability of all relevant data.

Public sector bodies employing more than 250 employees in England now have a target to employ an average of at least 2.3% of their staff as apprentices over the period 2017 to 2021. They are required to report annually and the first formal submission will be available in late 2018. Progress against our success measure relating to increasing the number of public sector apprenticeships will be available from this time, and subsequently included in our report.

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