



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 29 March 2018. This contains provisional figures for the first two quarters of the 2017/2018 academic year (August 2017 to January 2018) for England.

We have summarised progress towards our 3 million target and other growth success measures, with new data taken from [statistical data sets](#)³ covering the year to date.

Update on growth

The Government is committed to reaching 3 million new apprenticeship starts in England by 2020. Provisional data for the first two quarters of the 2017/2018 academic year shows 194,100 apprenticeships have been started. This compares to 258,800 in the first two quarters of the 2016/2017 academic year, a decrease of 25%. There have been 103,300 levy-supported starts⁴ so far, of which, 82,200 were reported in the first two quarters of 2017/2018.

This takes us to 1,313,700 apprenticeship starts since May 2015, which is 43.79% of 3 million, broadly within trajectory to meet this target by 2020.

In the first two quarters of 2017/18, starts in higher apprenticeship levels have increased by 25.4% to 20,400 from 16,200 reported at this time for 2016/2017. Starts in intermediate levels decreased by 38.2% to 87,300, from 141,400 reported at this time for 2016/2017. Starts in advanced levels decreased by 14.6% to 86,400, from 101,200 reported at this time for 2016/17.

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/693581/SFR23_2018_Further_Education_and_Skills_SFR_main_text.pdf

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-march-2018>

⁴ In order to be counted as a levy supported start, the apprenticeship must have been supported through levy funds.

Starts from black, asian and minority ethnic groups

During the first two quarters of the 2017/2018 academic year, 19,700 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a black, asian and minority ethnic group.

This is equivalent to 10.1% of all starts during the first two quarters of the academic year, compared to 10.5% of all starts during the first two quarters of the previous academic year⁵. Our success measure for this group is to increase the proportion of black, asian and minority ethnic participation by 20%, to allow us to reach 11.9% by 2020.

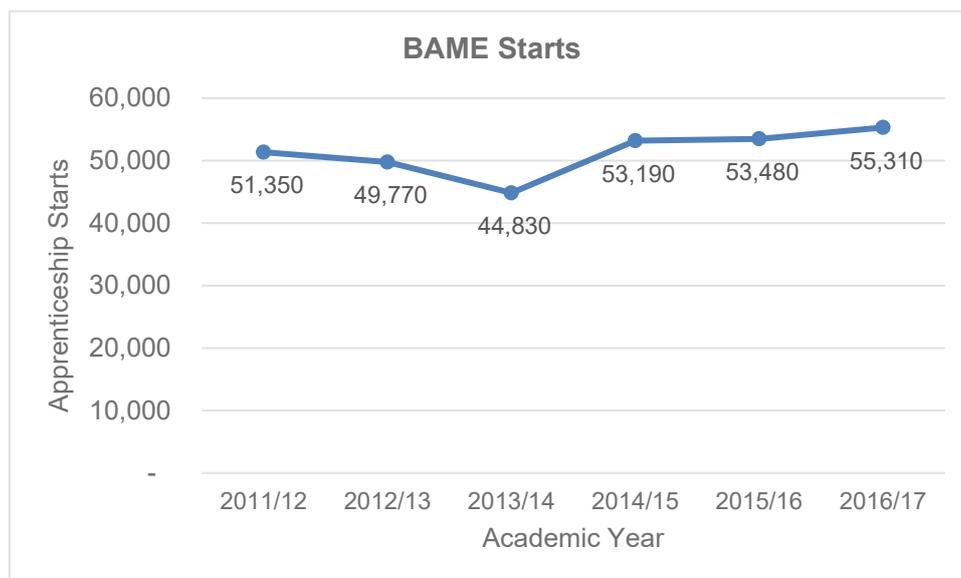


Figure 1: Black, asian and minority ethnic starts from 2011/ 2012, to 2016/2017

Learning disabilities

During the first two quarters of the 2017/2018 academic year, 22,100 apprenticeships were started by individuals with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

This is equivalent to 11.4% of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, compared to 10.5% in the previous academic year⁶. This represents an increase of 0.9%. 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.

⁵ Final full year starts proportion for black, Asian and minor ethnic group was 11.2% for 2016/2017

⁶ Final full year starts proportion for learners with learning difficulty and/or disability was 10.3% in 2016/2017

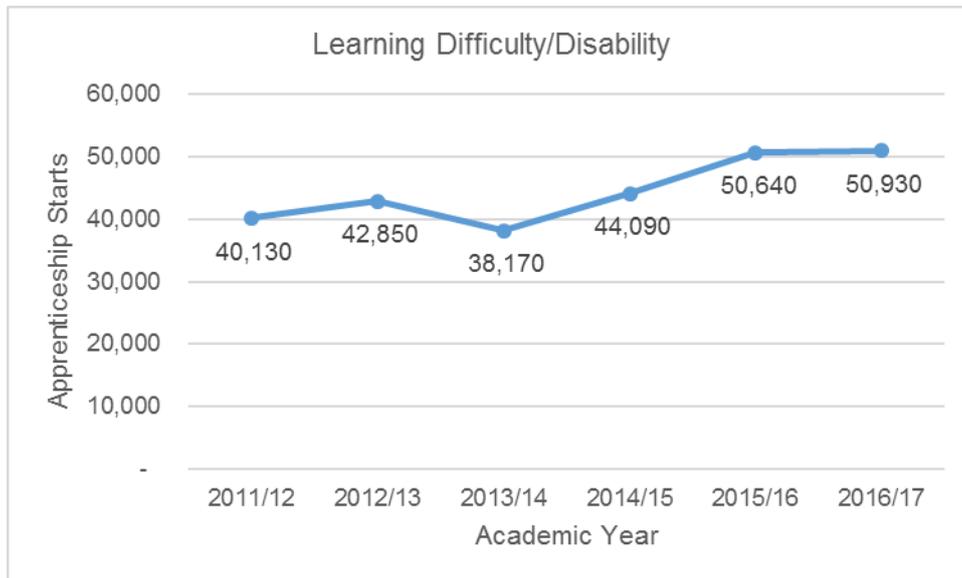


Figure 2: Learning disabilities starts from 2011/2012, to 2016/2017

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 May 2018, the Apprenticeships reform programme's benefits realisation reporting arrangements will change. In the Benefits Realisation Strategy, we committed to quarterly reporting; this will continue in the form of future quarterly statistical releases, and an annual growth report will replace quarterly growth reports of this nature.

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.