



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 25 January 2018. This contains provisional figures for the first quarter of the 2017/2018 academic year (August 2017 to October 2017) 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 (August to October 2017).

Update on growth

The Government is committed to reaching 3 million new apprenticeship starts in England by 2020. Provisional data for the first quarter of the 2017/2018 academic year shows 114,400 apprenticeships have been started. This compares to 156,000 in the first quarter of the 2016/2017 academic year, a decrease of 26.5%. This decrease was not as large as the drop between quarter 4 2015/2016 and quarter 4 2016/2017 (a decrease of 59.3%), which is likely to be associated with employers rightly taking time to make plans following the introduction of the changes to the Apprenticeship Programme in 2017. There have been 67,200 levy-supported starts so far, of which, 46,100 were reported in the first quarter for 2017/2018.

This takes us to 1,233,900 apprenticeship starts since May 2015, which is 41.1% of 3 million.

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/675884/SFR_06_2018_quarterly_apprenticeships_and_traineeships.pdf
³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships-january-2018>

Starts from black, asian and minority ethnic groups

During the first quarter of the 2017/2018 academic year, 10,700 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a black, asian and minority ethnic group.

This is equivalent to 9.3% of all starts during the first quarter, compared to 9.7% of all starts during the first quarter in the previous academic year⁴. 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.

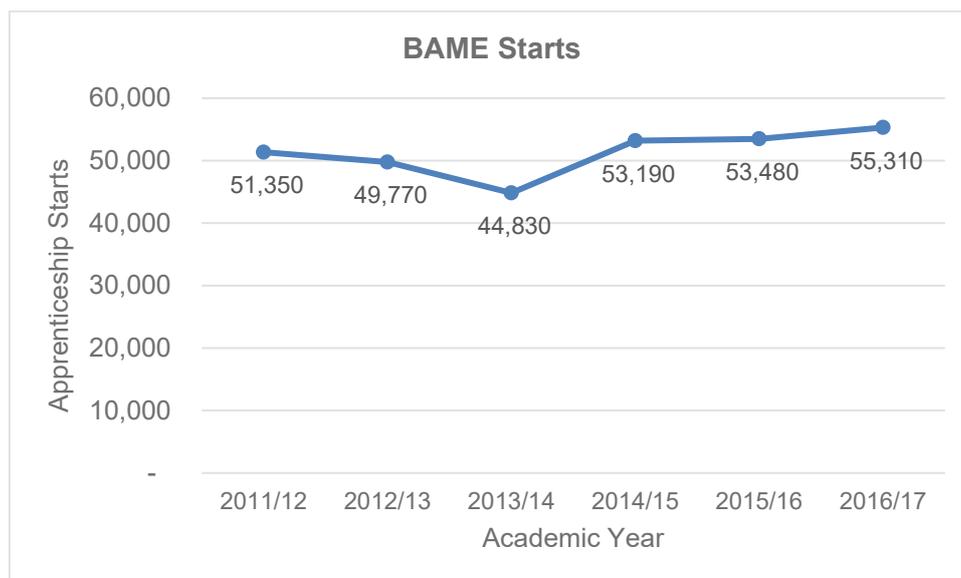


Figure 1: Black, asian and minority ethnic starts from 2011/ 2012, to 2016/2017

Learning disabilities

During the period August 2017 to October 2017, 13,500 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the learning difficulties and / or disabilities group.

This is equivalent to 11.8% during this quarter, compared to 10.7% in the previous academic year⁵. This represents an increase of 1.1%. 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.

⁴ Final full year starts proportion for black, Asian and minor ethnic group was 11.2% for 2016/2017

⁵ 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 January 2018 the Further Education and Skills statistical first release (SFR) publication arrangements changed. Please see the following [note](#) published alongside the November SFR. Future growth reports will align with the publication of the SFR and Apprenticeship & Traineeship quarterly updates.

In the benefits realisation strategy, we committed to reporting against all measures on an annual basis. This was to coincide with the availability of data. Though all measures may not have available data, we will provide a progress update against all measures following the March SFR release.

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.