



Increasing 16-18 apprenticeship uptake

Nichola Hay MBE, Chair of AELP London and COO, Estio Training
Rebecca Durber, AELP Director of Public Affairs
London Councils, December 2021





- AELP London is a membership organisation network that represents the interests of London-based organisations involved in the delivery of skills, vocational training, adult learning, and employability programmes across the capital.
- Our members get Londoners work-ready, into jobs and progressing on their chosen career paths.
- AELP London members include independent training providers, colleges, employers, local authorities and other stakeholders.
- AELP members deliver over 23,000 apprenticeships in London every year



About apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are the most popular and well-known example of work-based learning.
- They combine practical on-the-job skills training with sustained off-the-job learning, available from entry level to master's degree-equivalent.
- 7 in 10 of apprenticeships are delivered by Independent Training Providers (ITPs) all across the country, and in every sector. ITPs have a great track record of working with employers and tailoring services according to their needs
- Apprenticeships can be a great option for businesses, whether they are hiring someone new or looking to upskill an existing employee
- Young people who have started their careers as an apprentice tend to be more invested in an organisation
- There are enhanced Government incentives of £3000 per new hire apprentice. This has been extended until 31 January 2022.

Challenges

- Decline in participation: 16-18-year-old starts down 43% and 19-24-year-old starts down 31% on previous year. Level 2 starts fallen by 45% and level 3 by 33%
- Intensified shift towards higher level apprenticeships and older apprentices (25+), and away from more socially disadvantaged apprentices
- Patchy careers information, advice and guidance with lack of parity between academic and vocational routes
- Impact of teacher-assessed grades and a push to keep students in formal academic education
- Lack of wage subsidies for apprentices and enhanced subsidies for businesses coming to an end 31 January 2022
- Kickstart and other programmes potentially displacing apprenticeship starts
- Provider viability and financial recovery

What can London councils do to increase participation?

- Signpost young people to the [Find an Apprenticeship](#) service- currently over 2000 vacancies within 10 miles of City of London- at every level and in every sector
- Ensure local secondary schools are complying with the [Baker Clause](#). Statutory guidance on this suggests: Every school must ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all pupils in year 8 to year 13 for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.
- Support better joined-up, quality careers information, advice and guidance across every borough- for both young people and their parents- with parity of esteem for academic and vocational routes.
- Engage with local employers and providers on opportunities and effective signposting methods
- Work with DfE and DWP to identify NEET (or those at risk of becoming NEET) young people who have participated on other programmes such as traineeships, bootcamps or Kickstart, signposting them into apprenticeship opportunities

AELP London are here to support you

What we can offer:

- Direct engagement with providers delivering skills and employability provision- including and beyond apprenticeships
- Up-to-date, relevant, and accessible policy information, analysis, and guidance
- Specialist research, developed in collaboration with a range of sector experts
- Events, roundtables, conferences, webinars, and workshops
- Regional and sector-specific support, information, lobbying and engagement
- Networking and collaboration opportunities

QUESTIONS?

