

17+ participation, attainment and progression in London: Main research findings and recommendations

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The 17+ issue



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- RPA and the importance of sustained and high quality participation post-16
- Successful 17+ participation is the major indicator of potential success at L3 and progression from L2 to L3 by age 19
- London has made important strides in pre-16 attainment but less so in post-16 attainment at L3
- In 2013/14 IOE and London Councils have been researching this issue using secondary data and visits to schools and colleges

17+ participation



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- Participation at 16 & 17 in 2014 in London is higher than the rest of the country (**92.3%**/90.8%) and in full-time education (**88.7%**/83.2%); participation at 17 continues to rise
- Participation rates varied considerably between London boroughs depending on their level of economic and social deprivation
- The proportion of 16-18 year olds studying in school sixth forms and sixth form colleges (SFCs) has increased over the past year, while the percentage studying in general further education colleges (GFEs) has declined
- Under 3% of 16 & 17 year olds are in WBL/Apprenticeship and this has continued to fall

17+ retention



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- Almost a quarter of Year 12 L3 starters 'dropped out' of their sixth form before 18
- Only a third of school students embarking on a L2 course at 16 progressed to L3 study
- 17+ retention in A Level programmes in schools (82%) is greater than in L3 vocational programmes (59%)
- GCSE English and maths at grades A*-C are highly important in 17+ retention as are the number of GCSEs or vocational equivalents (8 not 5)

17+ attainment



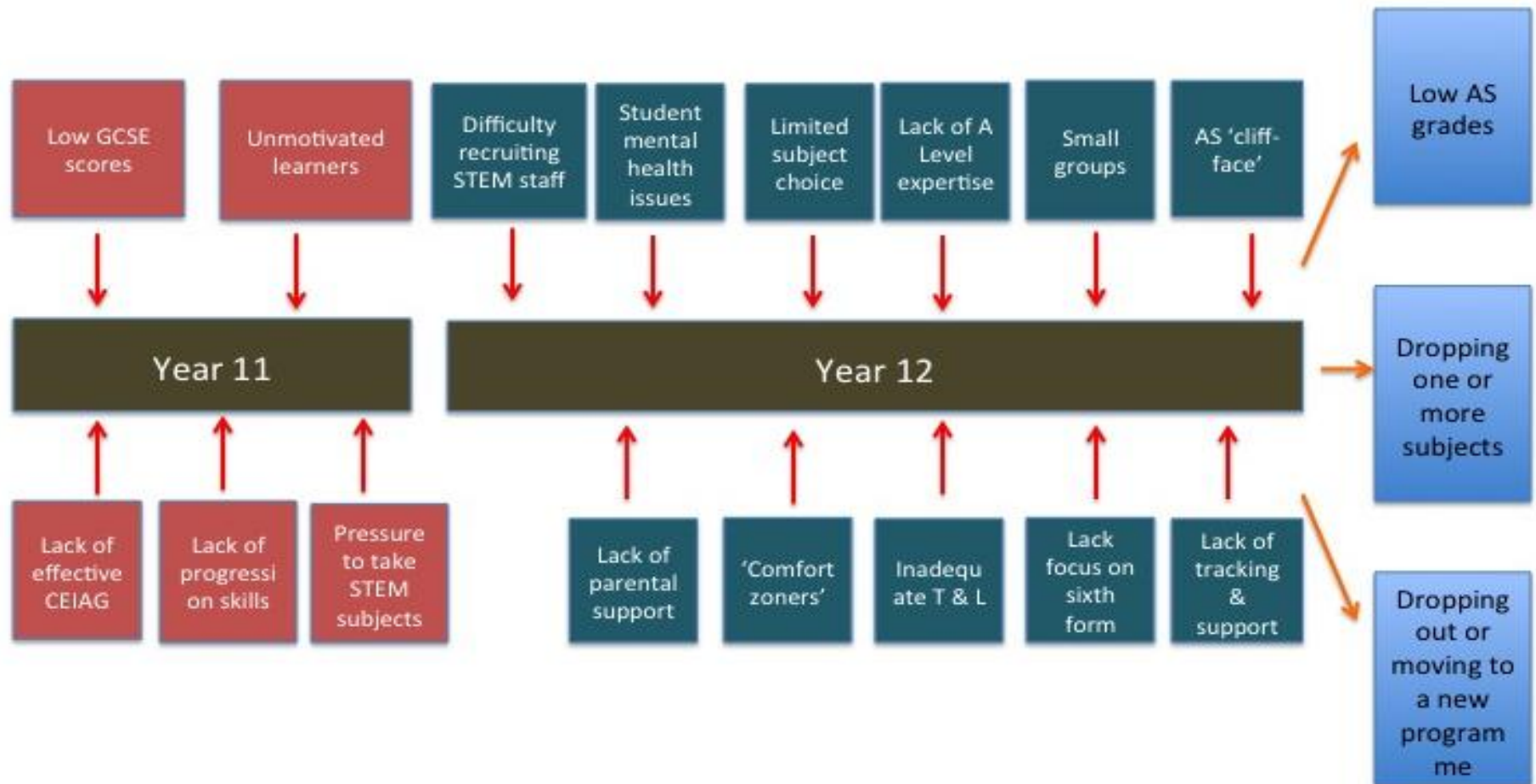
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- London is below the national average on all L3 attainment measures (except attainment of two L3 awards at 18) and notably on total points – 682 compared to 706 nationally
- Broader attainment at KS4 produces better outcomes post-16:
 - About 30% of L3 learners in London schools in 2011/12 did not have A*-C grades in GCSE E&M and scored on average 540 points
 - Those who had at least 5 GCSE A*-C grades including E&M scored on average 753 points at L3
 - Those with 8+ GCSE A*-C grades including E&M scored on average 795 points

17+ risk factors for schools



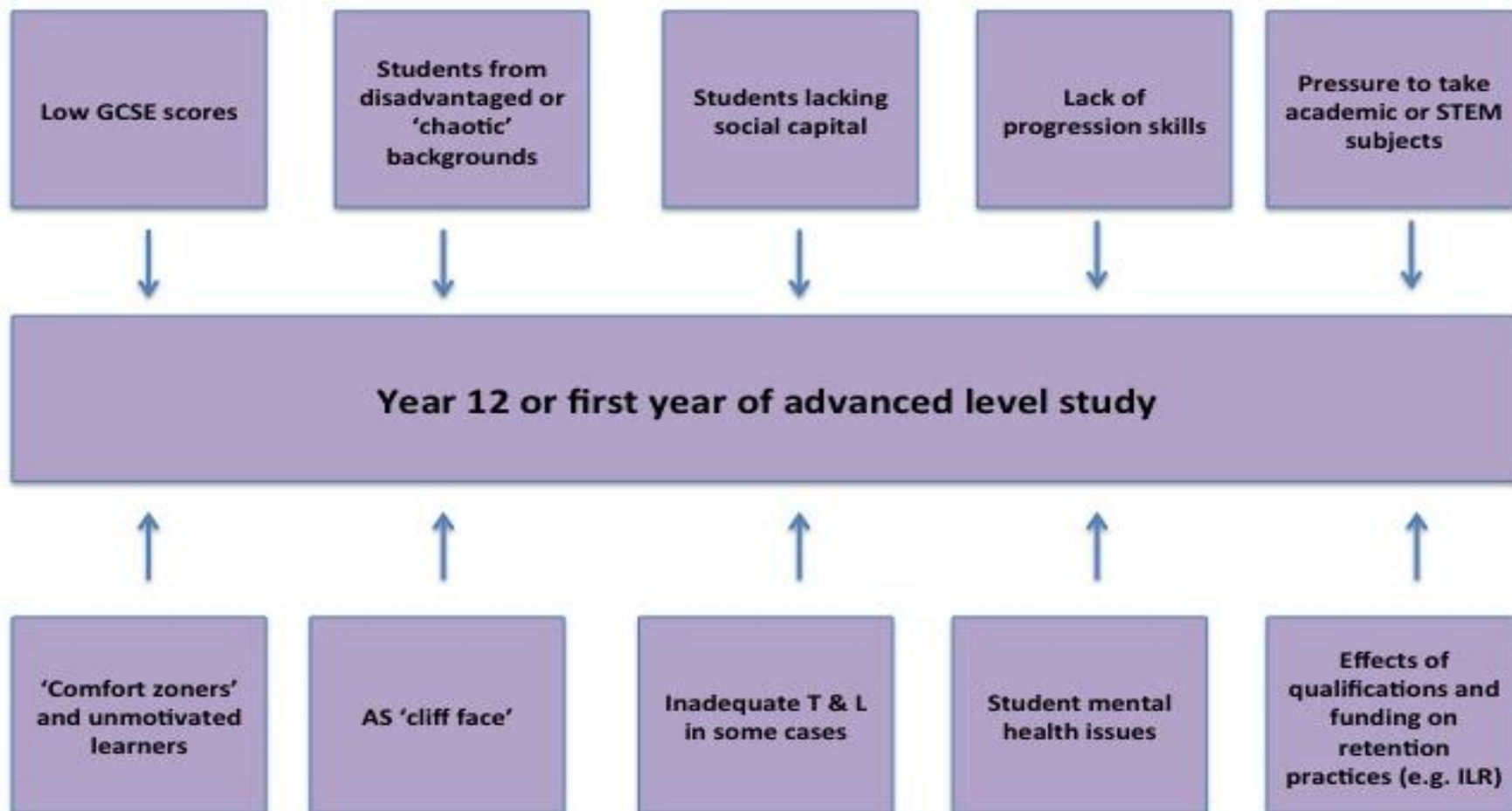
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17+ risk factors for GFEs and SFCs



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School strategies at Key Stage 4



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**Shared subject
activities
between KS4 &
Post-16**

**Sixth form taster
days**

**Pitching GCSE
teaching at the
next level up**

**Booster sessions
in maths and
science in
summer**

**Early enrolment
for Year 12 –
diagnosis & study
skills**

Year 11/12 transition

**Staged guidance
process for
post-16 choices**

**Discussion of HE
in Years 10 & 11**

**Building in study
skills from
Year 7**

**Careful guidance
in choice of
subjects at KS4**

**Year 11 team
moving up with
students**

School strategies in Year 12



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**Subject specific
support for staff &
students**

**Enrichment
activities (e.g. EPQ,
student leadership)**

**Tracking & reporting
performance**

**Mentoring, coaching
& tutoring**

Year 12 to 13 progression

**Progression to
higher education
programmes &
initiatives (e.g.
Brilliant Club)**

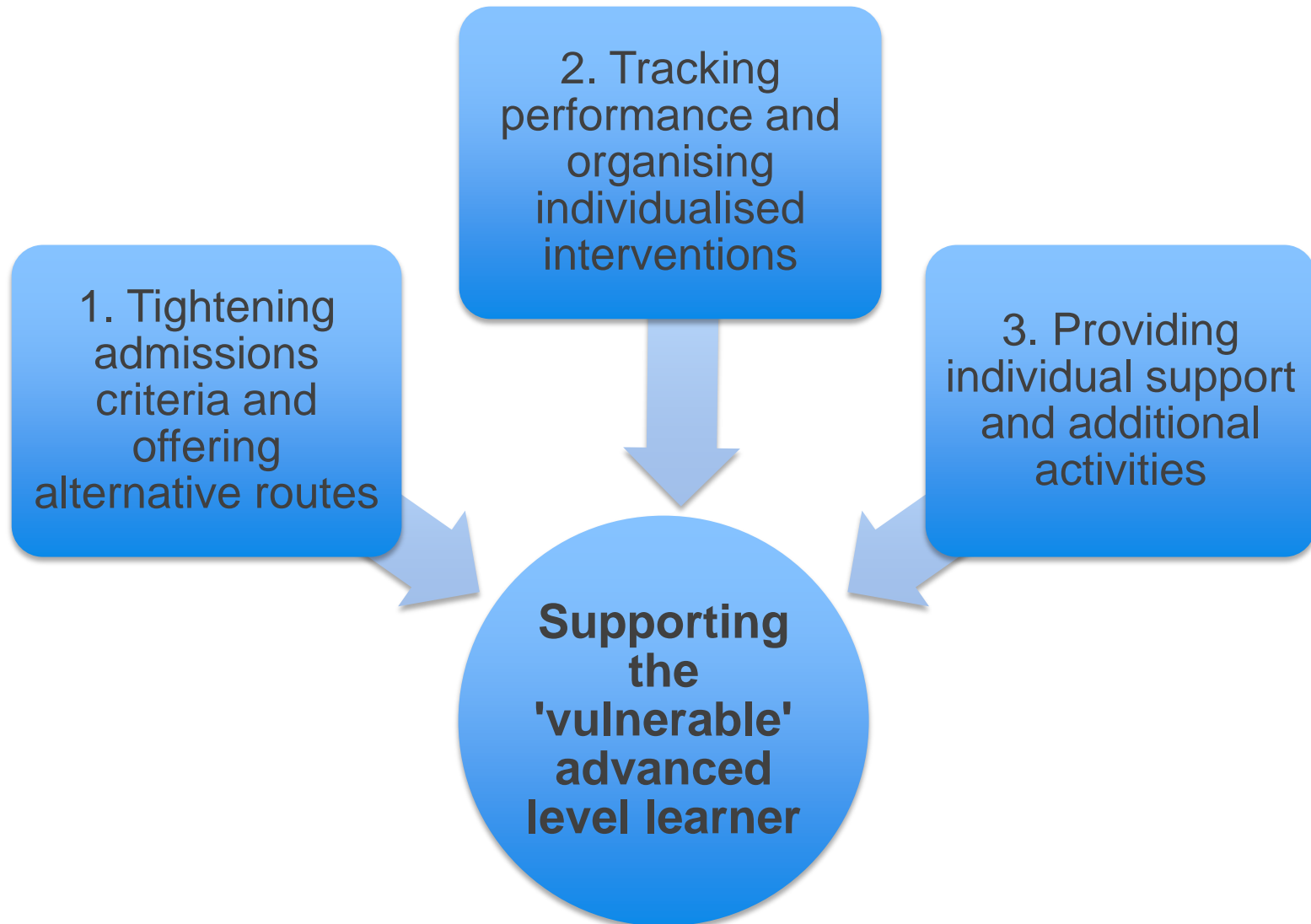
**Preparation for
employment (e.g.
work experience &
careers fairs)**

Financial support

GFE and SFC strategies at 17+



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Recommendations



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1. The need for a **pan-London focus on 17+** participation, attainment and progression
2. A **Post-16 London Challenge** focused around the 17+ issue
 - Addressing institutional and borough-based variation
 - A step change in the sharing of good practice on the 17+ issue particularly on high quality A Level teaching and learning and underpinning support systems
 - Raising performance through increased partnership working
3. Effective 14-19 **Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance**
4. An emphasis on building in **progression skills at KS4**
5. Increasing the **supply of high quality vocational (or mixed academic/vocational) L3 provision and apprenticeships**
6. Developing planned **'three-year sixth' programmes** and reinstating funding for 18 year olds