
Report to: Employment and Skills Panel

Date: 28 February 2019

Subject: **Apprenticeships across the Leeds City Region**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with an update on the Apprenticeship position across the Leeds City Region.

2 Information

- 2.1 The following analysis examines take-up of apprenticeships in Leeds City Region¹ during the last academic year (2017/18). It is based on recently finalised (R14) data provided by Education and Skills Funding Agency via gov.uk.
- 2.2 There were 22,250 apprenticeship starts in Leeds City Region during the 2017/18 academic year. This represents a considerable fall of 7,970 (26 per cent) compared with the previous year, a slightly greater decline than the England average rate of 24 per cent.
- 2.3 This decline may be linked to the transitional effects of the introduction of the apprenticeship reforms during the latter part of the 2016/17 academic year, as larger employers came under the new levy arrangements while smaller employers were affected by the introduction of co-investment arrangements, which place a greater onus on them to meet the training costs of apprentices they recruit.
- 2.4 Two of the three skills areas prioritised by the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) saw growth during 2017/18, with construction growing by 20 per cent and ICT growing by 12 per cent. Engineering and manufacturing starts however fell by 19 per cent.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, the analysis relates to all apprentices whose home address lies within one of the 10 districts of the City Region.

- 2.5 Pupils eligible for free school meals are less likely to enter apprenticeships when they leave school. There are also pronounced patterns of gender segregation by subject, with girls much less likely to enter apprenticeships in engineering, construction and ICT; which tend to offer strong pay and progression opportunities. There are also cultural barriers to apprenticeship take-up. Only 10 per cent of apprentices aged under 25 are from an ethnic minority compared with a representation of 20 per in the wider population in this age group.

A more detailed analysis of apprenticeship take-up by level, age, gender, location and subject is given at **Appendix 1**.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Panel is asked to note the Apprenticeship position across the Leeds City Region and comment on any areas for action identified.

8 Background Documents

None.

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 – The Apprenticeship Position Across the Leeds City Region