



## Ofsted report on apprenticeships

### LWBLA Briefing Note

October 2015

#### 1. Overview

OFSTED will publish this week a highly critical report on apprenticeship delivery. This is expected to focus on the quality of apprenticeship 'curriculum' (frameworks) and delivery of outcomes by Learning Providers.

The LWBLA will want to engage with Members on the content of the report and our strategy going forward.

In advance the LWBLA has looked at both the Government's own performance data for apprenticeships in London as well as the Ofsted inspections grades.

#### 2. Headline Performance

The 2014/15 performance data for 16-18 year olds has been published.

Here are the headlines:

- Just over 70.8% of all year 11 school pupils in London achieved 5 A-C's including English at Maths in 2014/15. (KS4 Full Level 2)
- For 16-18 year olds 71.1% of Apprentices and 68.2% of all 19+ apprentices successfully achieve outcomes/complete the frameworks.

In terms of the RPA there is little difference for 16-18 year olds when it comes to rates of achievement and successful outcomes, whether you go to school, college or become an apprentice in London.

#### 3. Qualitative measures

The central question is how does the quality of delivery in London compare with the rest of England?

There are currently three different dates used in Ofsted tables/reports and each produce a very different picture, so the LWBLA would welcome Ofsted publishing an up to date dataset for apprenticeship delivery in England.

The three data sets are as follows:

- Main Ofsted data set published/updated to the 28th February 2015 on the Ofsted website,



- The Chief Inspectors data report to the House of Commons Library on the 15th September 2015, and
- Individual provider reports available on a regional basis up to last week published on the Ofsted website.

*London Ofsted History of Inspections across the FE & Skills Sector  
28/2/2015*

<b>Provider Type Grade by %</b>	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
<b>Adult &amp; Community Learning</b>	9	80	7	4
<b>Independent Learning Provider</b>	9	62	22	7
<b>Further Education</b>	6	55	32	6
<b>All</b>	11	66	18	5

#### 4. Is there a problem with the quality of delivery as volumes doubled in London?

The central question is have Independent Learning providers who deliver the core volume of apprenticeships in London improved the quality of delivery as volumes doubled over the past 5 years?

The data statistics from Ofsted are emphatic: the key shift has been the movement from 'requires improvement' to 'good' according to Ofsted's own data view.

*Independent Learning Provider: Ofsted grades % and number of providers  
2010 - 2015*

<b>Dates</b>	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
<b>28/02/2015</b>	9 (5)	62 (34)	22 (12)	7 (4)
<b>31/08/2010</b>	4 (3)	41 (34)	52 (43)	4 (3)
<b>Base % Improvement</b>	+125%	+51%	-57%	+75%



Over a 5 year period there has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of delivery by Independent learning Providers in London. Over 70% of all providers now delivering publicly funded apprenticeships are outstanding or good compared with only 45% back in 2010.

*In comparison with General FE & Tertiary Colleges the differences are marked and substantial.*

Dates	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
<b>28/02/2015</b>	6 (2)	55 (17)	32 (10)	6 (2)
<b>31/08/2010</b>	15 (5)	44 (15)	41(14)	0
<b>Base % Improvement</b>	-60%	+25	-22%	+100

## 5 What is the trend across the Further Education & Skills sector in the past 12 months?

The Ofsted monthly update currently to September 2015 shows an overall decline across all provider types in the Further Education sector.

Provider Type	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Total Inspections
<b>Adult &amp; Community Learning</b>	1	9	3	2	15
<b>Further Education Colleges</b>	0	1	3	2	6
<b>Independent learning provider</b>	1	5	8	2	16
<b>University</b>	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Employers</b>	0	1	1	0	2
					40



The Adult & Community providers are comprised of two distinctive groups of providers: either Local Authorities or Independent 'not for profit' organisations.

The LWBLA believes that each have profoundly different ownership structures and delivery models and should be separately classified. The Ofsted Inspection results are as follows:

*ACL Providers (September 2014 to August 2015)*

<b>Provider Type</b>	Grades 1&2	Grades 3&4
<b>Local Authority</b>	5	3
<b>Independent Provider</b>	4	1

## 6. 2014/15 Ofsted Inspections: Further Education & Skills: Apprenticeships

<b>Provider Type</b>	% Outstanding/ Good	Actual Number	% Unsatisfactory/ Inadequate	Actual Number	Total
<b>Local Authority</b>	71%	5	29%	2	7
<b>Independent Providers</b>	54%	12	46%	10	22
<b>Employers</b>	50%	1	50%	1	2
<b>FE &amp; Sixth Form Colleges</b>	20%	1	80%	4	5
<b>Total</b>	52%	19	48%	17	36



What the Ofsted inspections in London over the past year tell us across the Further Education & Skills sector are:

- Adult & Community Learning are maintaining high standards,
- Independent Learning Providers are closely/evenly matched between providers, and
- FE & Sixth Form College grades have continued to decline since 2013.

The LWBLA believes that there is a profound risk that public policy responses will be driven by opinion rather than what the evidence tells us.

The LWBLA will send members an analysis of the Ofsted Apprenticeship report by the end of October.

Victor Farlie  
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LWBLA