

Adult Education Budget Academic Year 2023/24 (August-July)

20th December 2024

The Adult Education Budget (AEB) data publication contains summary statistics on Further Education and Skills in London, covering a range of data on learner participation, enrolment and achievement, including Mayoral areas of interest. This release is based on data for the full academic year 2023/24. In 2024/25, the adult skills fund (ASF) has replaced the funded adult education budget (AEB). Due to this there will be discontinuity in this data from 2024/25. For more information please see [Further education and skills, Academic year 2023/24](#).

This note assists in interpreting the statistics and highlights some key points and data limitations. It should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the FE sector in London during the reporting period. Thus, extra care should be taken in interpreting this data.

For a fuller understanding of the data please reference the accompanying Methodology and Table footnotes.

Summary Statistics

This release includes statistics on AEB-funded Further Education and Skills in London for the full academic year 2023/24.

Learner participation

- From August 2023 to July 2024, there were 223,820 GLA-funded learners in London.
 - Total learner participation decreased by 3 per cent compared to 230,060 in the same period in 2022/23. However, participation remains above the participation level for academic years 2019/20-2021/22. The fall in participation is partially explained by an increase in participation at Level 3 and 4.
 - Around 168,700 Londoners participated in Adult Skills and 68,550 in Community Learning. Compared to 2022/23, Adult Skills participation decreased by 5 per cent (19+ Education and Training participation¹ increased by 4 per cent at the national

¹ Official Education and Training statistics include Adult Skills plus traineeships and learning funded by advanced learner loans.

level) and Community Learning participation increased by 8 per cent (decreased by around 2 per cent nationally).

- Amongst learners participating in the AEB programme²:
 - 69 per cent were female;
 - 61 per cent were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background (including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners³);
 - The majority were aged 24-49 (61%);
 - 15 per cent consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem⁴;
 - In Adult Skills learning, 48 per cent of learner participation were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding⁵;
 - 7 per cent of the total number of learners received learner support to enrol in 48,980 courses.

The background characteristics of learners in 2023/24 and 2022/23 are largely similar.

Aims enrolments

- Learners can take more than one aim during the academic year. There were 487,700 aims enrolments in London during the publication period; 359,710 in Adult Skills and 127,990 in Community Learning.
- Total aims enrolments increased by 0.1 per cent compared to 487,100 in the same period in 2022/23. There were differences by funding stream. Enrolments increased by 7 per cent in Community Learning and decreased by 2 per cent in Adult Skills. The fall in enrolments in Adult Skills is partially explained by an increase in enrolments at Level 3 and 4 which have a higher cost of delivery.
- The most frequent course levels were Entry Level (in Adult Skills) and Other Level (in Community Learning)⁶, accounting for more than half (56 per cent) of all aims.
- In 2023/24, there were 14,570 enrolments at Level 3, which includes 9,210 Free Courses for Jobs. The number of enrolments at Level 3 increased by 18 per cent compared to the same period last year.
- In Adult Skills⁷, the most frequent sector subject area chosen was Preparation for Life and Work, which includes predominantly basic skills qualifications in English, Mathematics and English for Speakers of Other Languages, accounting for 59 per cent of all aims in the formula funded provision. Since 2019/20, some subject areas have shown a sustained and significant rise in aims enrolments, for instance Preparation for Life and Work (+29,320), Health, Public Services and Care (+10,250) and Information and Communication

² Based on Source of Funding reported for each learning aim.

³ Note that this excludes “Unknown” observations.

⁴ Based upon self-declaration by the learner. This excludes “Unknown” observations.

⁵ Disadvantage funding does not apply to Community Learning, so only Adult Skills learning is included.

⁶ Other level is recorded when another level is not applicable or if the aim cannot be classified at other levels.

⁷ In 2023/24, there was a change in the way Community Learning courses were categorised which means the vast majority of aims no longer have a subject sector area.

Technology (+9,590). Conversely, Languages, Literature and Culture (-1,150), Retail and Commercial Enterprise (-740), Science and Mathematics (-700) have not reached their pre-pandemic levels by the end of the reporting period.

Achievements (by 31st July 2024)

- In this publication, achievement statistics are counts of learning aims achieved. By 31st July 2024, around 88 per cent of the qualifications were achieved (429,060). It should be noted that a significant number of learners taking qualifications at Level 2 (8 per cent), Level 3 (20 per cent) and Level 4 (37 per cent) are still in education by the end of the publication period.

Additional figures relating to specific Mayoral policy changes

From August 2023 to July 2024:

- There were 31,030 learners taking 45,440 Entitlement learning courses. The number of participants declined by around 10 per cent compared to 2022/23.⁸
- There were 24,960 learners supported by the low wage flexibility that participated in the Adult Skills' stream of the AEB programme. They enrolled in 49,600 aims ranging from Entry Level to Level 3 (aims enrolments decreased by around 4 per cent compared to the same period in 2022/23).
- Around 18,200 learners⁹ who are out of work and outside benefit arrangements (including asylum seekers) participated in the programme undertaking 39,110 AEB qualifications. The number of participants increased by 153 per cent compared to 2022/23.
- Furthermore, 7,350 Londoners undertook 11,840 non-formula funded flex courses, which includes locally designed short courses that include units of qualifications and/or other non-accredited employability skill-related learning activities.
- The Level 3 flexibility¹⁰ supported 2,900 adult learners (or 2,920 Level 3 qualifications). The Level 4 flexibility¹¹ benefited 320 learners. These learners enrolled in approved non-prescribed vocational and technical (Level 4) qualifications of regional importance to London.
- In September 2020, the Mayor approved a series of measures to support Londoners as part of the COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package. This included three strands of delivery, comprising high value courses to 19-year-olds, sector-based work academy programmes and London Recovery Programmes. During the reporting period, the Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package supported 7,160 learners that enrolled in 15,030 qualifications.

⁸ This includes English and Maths, Level 2 and Level 3 and Digital AEB entitlement learners.

⁹ This figure includes asylum seekers.

¹⁰ The flexibility enables providers to fully fund Adult Skills fundable Level 3 vocational qualifications beyond the legal entitlements, on learning programmes of less than 12 months duration which are designed to provide progression into work.

¹¹ The Level 4 flexibility has been available since August 2022.

- There were 170 learners in British Sign Language courses¹² and 30 learners funded through the SEND funding flexibility¹³.

Further data breakdowns and additional information by provider, Sub-Regional Partnership and Local Authority District are available in the data tables:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-adult-education-budget>

¹² The GLA fully fund any learner aged 19+ whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL), or who cannot access spoken language because of their deafness and would benefit from BSL, to study for qualifications in BSL, up to and including level 2.

¹³ The SEND funding flexibility enables providers to apply to the GLA for permission to fully fund delivery of learning that upskills teaching and learning support staff to deliver improved specialist provision for adult learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

About this release

- This document provides summary information on current adult (19+) GLA funded Further Education (FE) in London. It covers learners who are studying a course in an FE College, training provider or within their local community.
- This release contains data for the full academic year 2023/24, and it is based on the Individualised Learner Records data (ILR R14) as provided to the GLA by the ESFA.
- The data in this release should be treated as Experimental Statistics as the methodologies used to produce them are still in their developmental phase.

Background information

The AEB aims to engage adults and provide the skills and learning they need to equip them for work or other learning. The overarching aim is to make adult education in London even more accessible, impactful and locally relevant.

From 1 August 2019, the Secretary of State for Education delegated responsibility for the commissioning, delivery and management of London's AEB to the Mayor.

In early 2020, the AEB Mayoral Board agreed that AEB programme data should be published following the Department for Education's Further Education and Skills data publication and in line with the UK Code of Practice for Official Statistics (which the GLA has signed up to on a voluntary basis).

The GLA published AEB programme data for the first time in June 2020. This data and subsequent publications are available here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-adult-education-budget>.

In 2024/25, the adult skills fund (ASF) has replaced the funded adult education budget (AEB). Due to this there will be discontinuity in this data from 2024/25. For more information please see [Further education and skills, Academic year 2023/24](#).

About this data release

This statistics publication includes London, Sub-regional and Borough level figures for the full academic year 2023/24. It focuses on adult (aged 19+) GLA-funded Further Education, comprising Education and training and Community learning (excluding apprenticeships, traineeships, advanced learner loans, the offender learning and skills service, and education and training services funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency). It also has an extensive breakdown on learner characteristics as well detailed information on the nature of learning aims and subjects studied.

Data sources used in this publication

Unless otherwise stated, the statistics shown in this note on learner participation, aims enrolments and achievements are based on the Individualised Learner Record data for 2023/24 (August 2023 - July 2024)¹⁴. The figures are restricted to GLA-devolved Adult Education Budget and Free Courses for Jobs.

All data has been rounded and totals have been produced from unrounded data so may not equal the sum of rounded breakdowns.

Figures include learners and learning that is active at any point during the publication period. Learner participation is the count of unique learners who meet the criteria for a given table cell. As a result, learners who meet criteria for multiple cells will be counted in each cell. Therefore, a single learner may be counted more than once in a learner participation table and the cells may not sum to the total count of unique learners.

Aims enrolments is the count of the relevant learning aims reported in the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). Learners may be enrolled in more than one learning aim.

The following data tables are described in this note¹⁵:

Table 1: Funding Model

Table 5: Learner Home Local Authority District

Table 6: Learner Characteristics

Table 7: Level of Learning

Table 8: Sector Subject Area

Table 14: Entitlements

Table 15: AEB Flexibilities

Table 16: AEB Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package

The accompanying technical document provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

¹⁴ The GLA, DfE and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) maintain a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) permitting the monthly transfer of AEB delivery data collected by providers in the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

¹⁵ Table numbering differs slightly between London, Sub-regional and London Boroughs tables. The table numbers shown here correspond to the London level tables only and are included here as a reference.

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1. GLA's Adult Education Budget (August - July 2023/24)

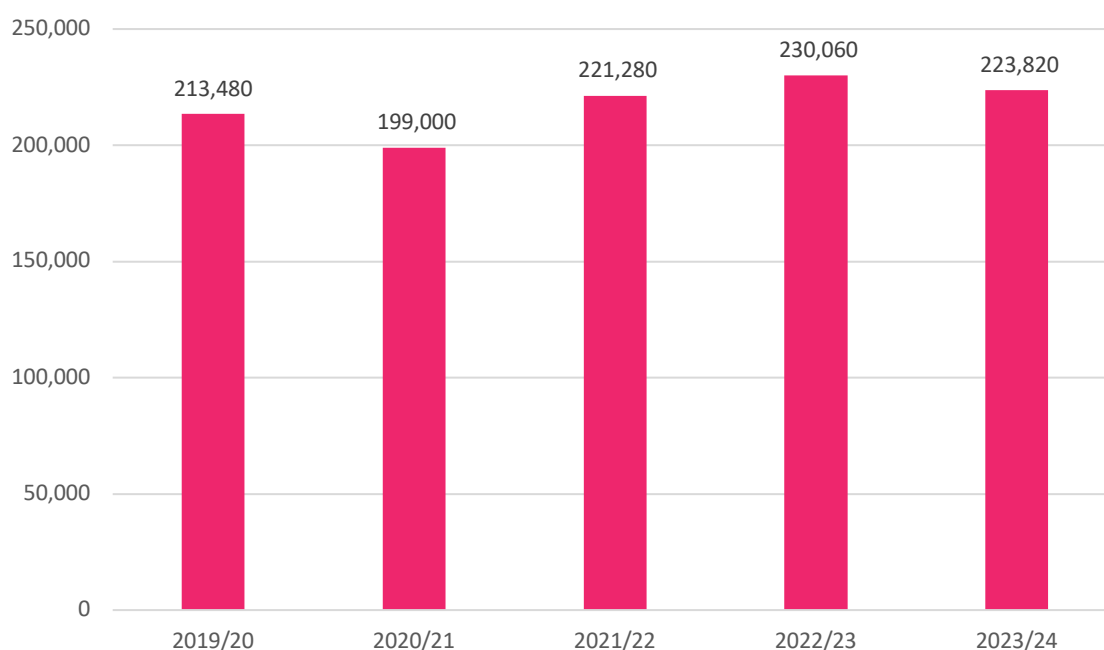
This release covers experimental statistics on AEB-funded Further Education and Skills in London based on administrative data for the full academic year 2023/24. In this section we show some headline statistics of the programme, such as AEB participation (learners and aims), demographic characteristics of the learners, course levels, sector subject areas chosen, achievements and some of the Mayoral areas of interest.

It should be noted that the pandemic has had an impact on the education sector in London. Therefore, extra care should be taken in interpreting this data.

1.1 AEB participation, August - July 2023/24

There were 223,820 adult learners participating in the AEB programme in the academic year 2023/24. Final-year data (see Figure 1) shows that total learner participation decreased by 3 per cent compared to 230,060 in the same period in 2022/23, but it remains above its pre-pandemic level (213,480).

Figure 1: Learner participation, August - July, academic years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24



Source: R14 August - July ILR data, years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Table 1 shows a significant rise in adult participation in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 in Community Learning, which relies on participation at Entry Level. In Adult Skills, learner participation has decreased in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. This decrease is seen at Entry,

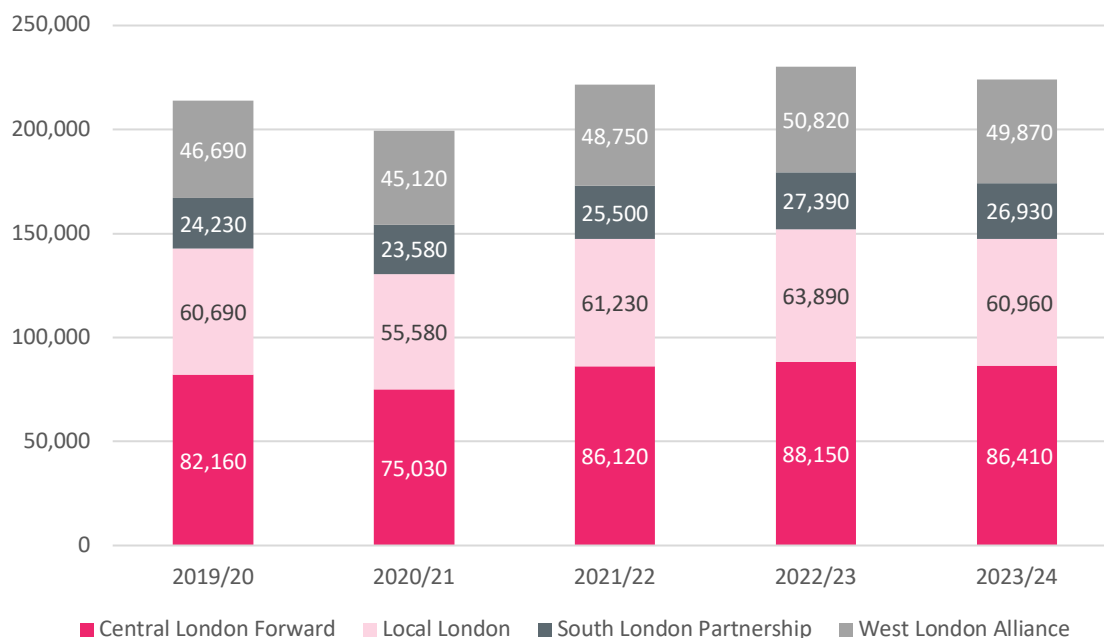
Level 1, Level 2. However, Adult Skills participation at higher levels (Level 3 and Level 4) has increased compared to 2022/23.

Table 1: Learner participation by funding category and level, academic years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

	Learner Participation, August to July									
	Community Learning					Adult Skills				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<i>Other</i>										
<i>Level</i>	72,320	51,430	56,540	58,610	56,000	70	2,660	5,970	10,080	12,290
<i>Entry</i>										
<i>Level</i>	5,850	3,940	5,100	4,790	12,450	67,020	56,940	72,290	74,880	73,660
<i>Level 1</i>	1,200	820	1,150	1,140	1,750	42,620	49,400	51,620	52,030	47,940
<i>Level 2</i>	990	790	780	520	880	55,450	65,430	64,210	66,020	57,750
<i>Level 3</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3,020	4,720	10,270	11,900	14,010
<i>Level 4</i>				-	-				30	320
Total	78,830	55,740	61,740	63,620	68,550	145,490	152,830	170,350	178,050	168,700

Source: R14 August - July ILR data, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Figure 2: Learner participation by Sub-Regional Partnership, August - July, academic years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

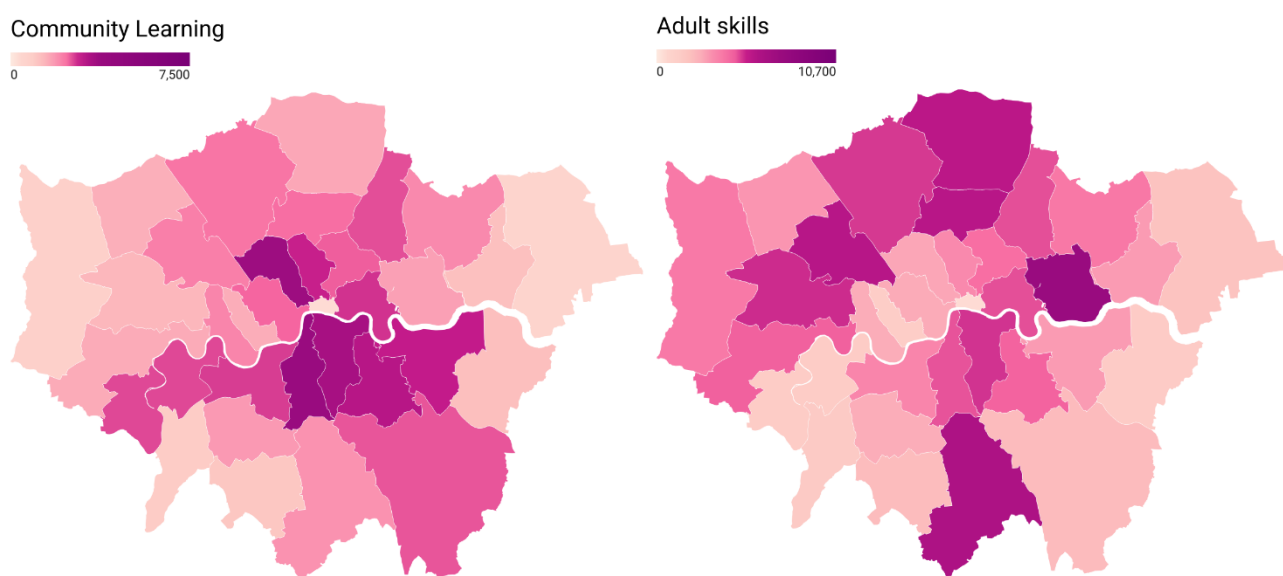


Source: R14 August - July ILR data, years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

All of the Sub-Regional Partnerships¹⁶ and London Boroughs showed significant activity during the publication period (Figure 2).

The top 5 London Boroughs with the highest number of learners were Newham (11,530), Southwark (10,330), Croydon (9,980), Lambeth (9,960) and Brent (9,320). The colour-coded map below (see Figure 3) shows the full distribution of learners by London Borough during the reporting period (where the darkest hue represents the greatest number of learners)¹⁷.

Figure 3: Learner participation by London Borough and funding model



Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data. Note: underlying data are based on the learner's home postcode on the learning start date and excludes records without a valid postcode.

1.2 Adult (19+) Demographic Summary of FE and Skills Participation

Figures 4, 5 and 6 show key demographic characteristics of the AEB learners. Of the total number of participants (223,820) in the academic year 2023/24:

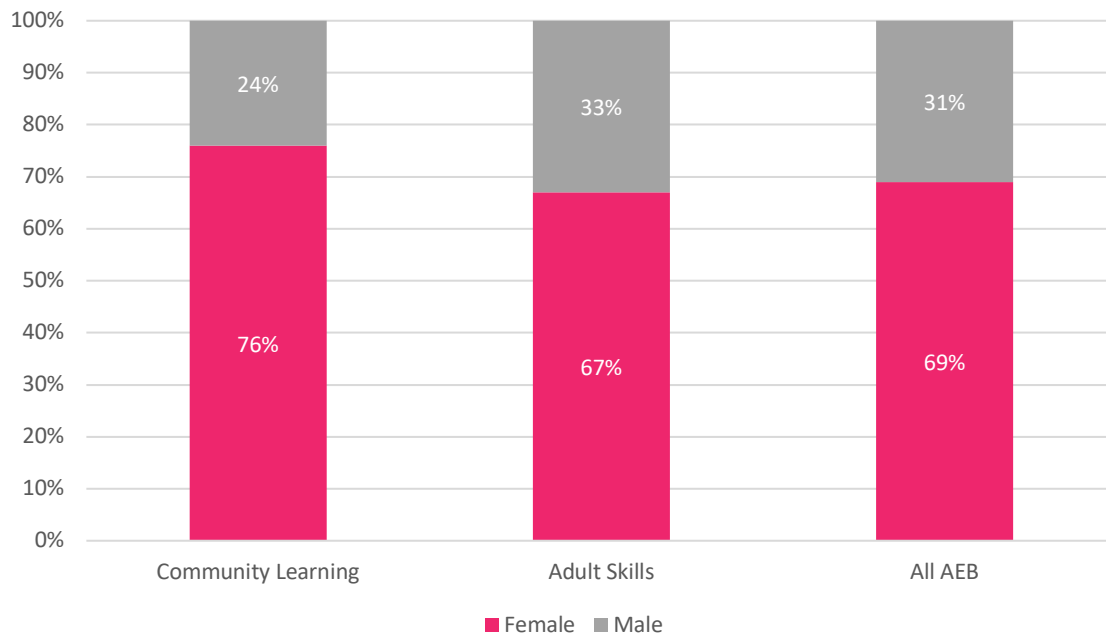
- 69 per cent were female (154,060 learners) and 31 per cent were male (69,750);

¹⁶ Central London Forward includes all learning matched to LADs of Camden, the City of London, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster. Local London includes all learning matched to LADs of Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Bromley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. South London Partnership comprises all learning matched to LADs of Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Sutton. West London Alliance comprises all learning matched to LADs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow.

¹⁷ Data breakdowns by Sub-regional partnerships are available online.

- 61 per cent were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background (131,210 learners including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners)¹⁸ and 39 per cent were from White background (85,550);
- 10 per cent were aged 19-23 (22,710 learners), 61 per cent aged 24-49 (136,520), and 29 per cent 50+ (64,580).

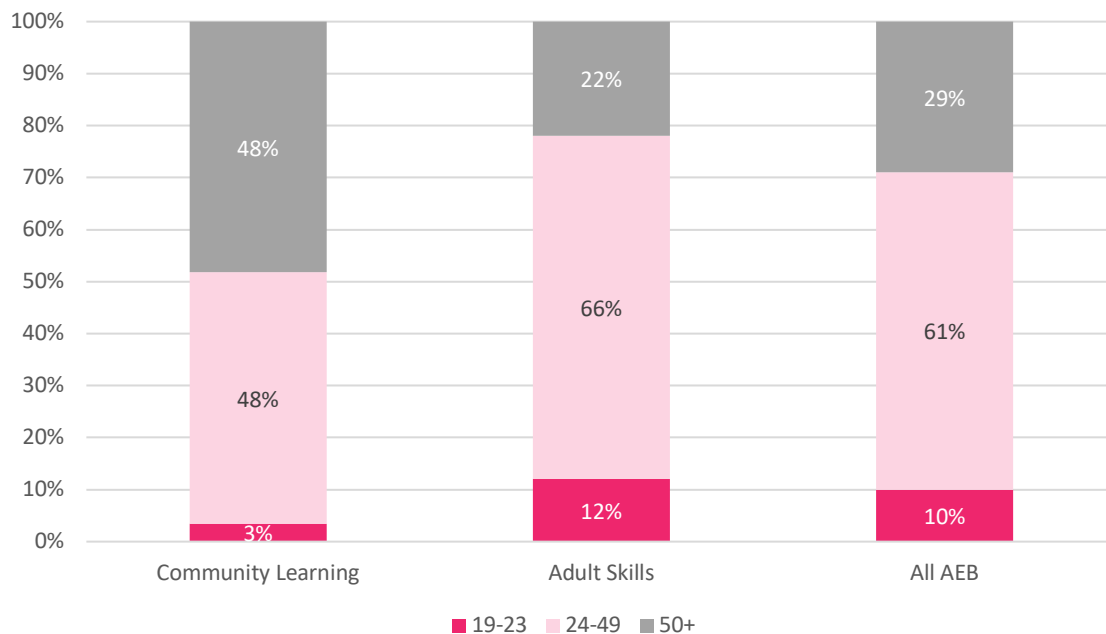
Figure 4: Demographic characteristics, Sex



Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data.

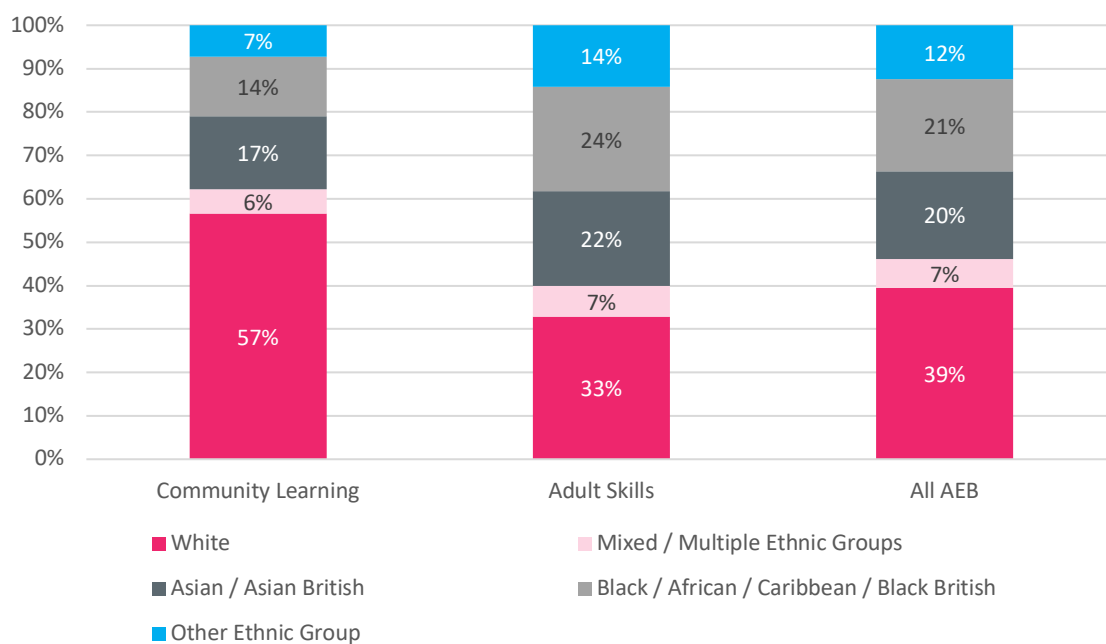
¹⁸ The percentage calculation for the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and White measures here are based on excluding instances of unknown ethnicity.

Figure 5: Demographic characteristics, Age



Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data. Note: Age is based on learner's age on 31st August of the academic year.

Figure 6: Demographic characteristics, Ethnicity



Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data.

Note: This does not include those who prefer not to say or unknown.

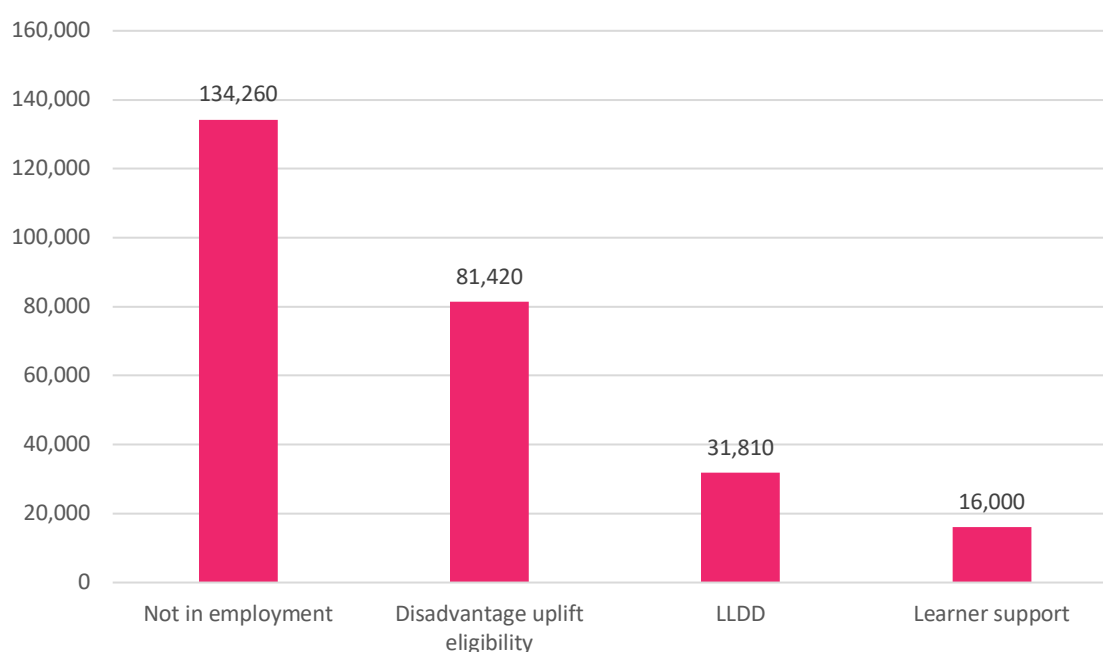
There are some notable differences by Funding Model in terms of Ethnicity and Age. Compared to Community Learning, Adult Skills engaged a higher proportion of learners from

a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background and younger learners. The background characteristics of the learners since delegation are largely similar.

The GLA also monitors background characteristics that can be used to identify certain groups in need. Figure 7 shows these non-mutually exclusive fields, which represent a significant portion of delivery:

- Amongst those self-reporting employment status (around 212,290 learners mostly in Adult Skills funding category), 63 per cent declared to be not in employment;
- In Adult Skills learning, around 48 per cent of provision in terms of funding were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding¹⁹ (81,420 learners);
- 15 per cent (31,810 learners) consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. Note that this statistic excludes cases where the information was not collected (5 per cent of the total number of learners);
- 7 per cent (16,000 learners) of the total number of participants received learner support²⁰.

Figure 7: Other background characteristics



Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data.

Note: Employment status prior to enrolment is based on self-declaration by the learner, as reported in the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). This variable is an indicative measure of employment status but is not sufficient to adequately deduce whether a person is employed, unemployed, or economically inactive, since the full suite of contextual questions needed to do so are not asked. Further, this data is not required for learners enrolled only in Community

¹⁹ Disadvantage funding does not apply to Community Learning, so only Adult Skills learning is included.

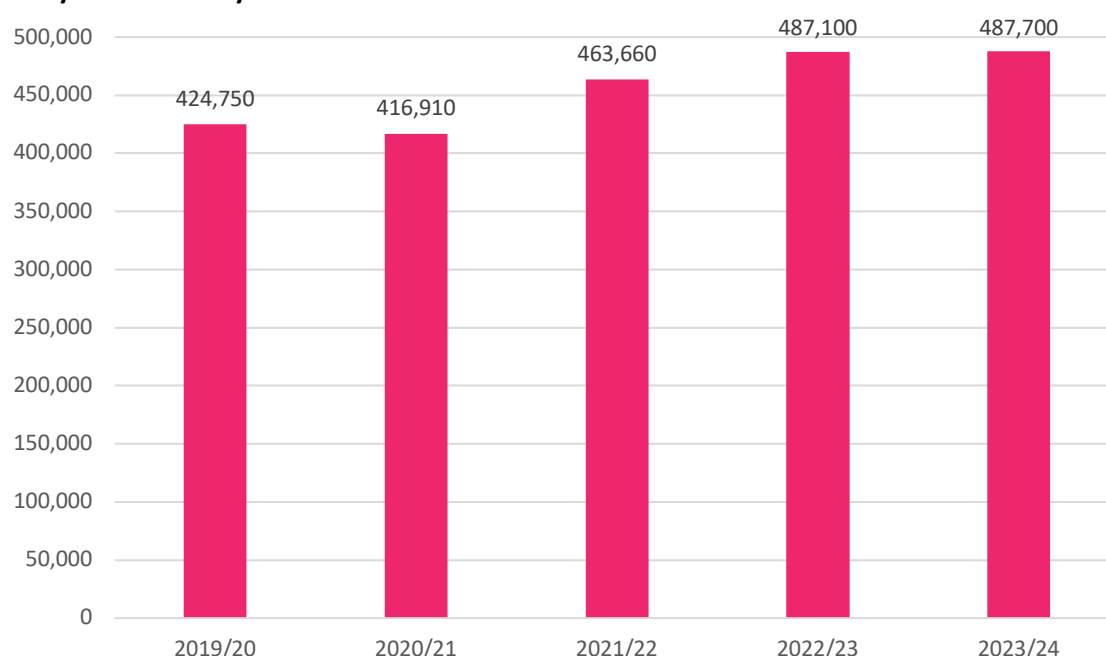
²⁰ These are learners who are reported to receive the types of learner support included in the GLA's AEB funding rules.

Learning. LLDD stands for learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. Learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem is based on self-declaration by the learner. Categories in Figure 7 are not mutually exclusive.

1.3 Aims enrolments

Learners can take more than one aim during the academic year. There were 487,700 aims over the course of the full 2023/24 academic year (on average each learner undertakes around 2 aims). Final-year data shows that the number of enrolments increased slightly compared to 487,700 in the same period in 2022/23 and is now significantly above its pre-pandemic level (424,750).

Figure 8: Aims enrolments, August - July, academic years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.



Source: R14 August - July ILR data, years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Table 2 shows aims enrolments in academic years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. From August 2023 to July 2024, there were 127,990 active courses in Community Learning and 359,710 in Adult Skills. Aims enrolments in Community Learning increased by 7 per cent compared to 119,360 in the same period in 2022/23. Aims enrolments decreased by 2 per cent in Adult Skills compared to 367,740 courses in 2022/23. This is predominately due to a rise in the number of enrolments at Level 3 and 4.

Furthermore, Table 2 shows that the aim level composition differs between Adult Skills and Community Learning. Adults Skills delivery ranges between Entry Level and Level 4 (where a significant proportion is associated to Level 2 and 3 qualifications in 2023/24). Notably, with the introduction of Free Courses for Jobs (9,210 enrolments in 2023/24), aims enrolments at

Level 3 increased by 322 per cent compared to the same period in 2019/20. At Level 4 there has been a more than 900 per cent increase in enrolments since 2022/23. In Community Learning, there has been a significant increase in enrolments at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2. Aim enrolments in Community Learning increased by 174 per cent at Entry Level, increased by 60 per cent at Level 1 and increased by 119 per cent at Level 2 compared to 2022/23.

Table 2: Aims enrolments by funding category and level, academic years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

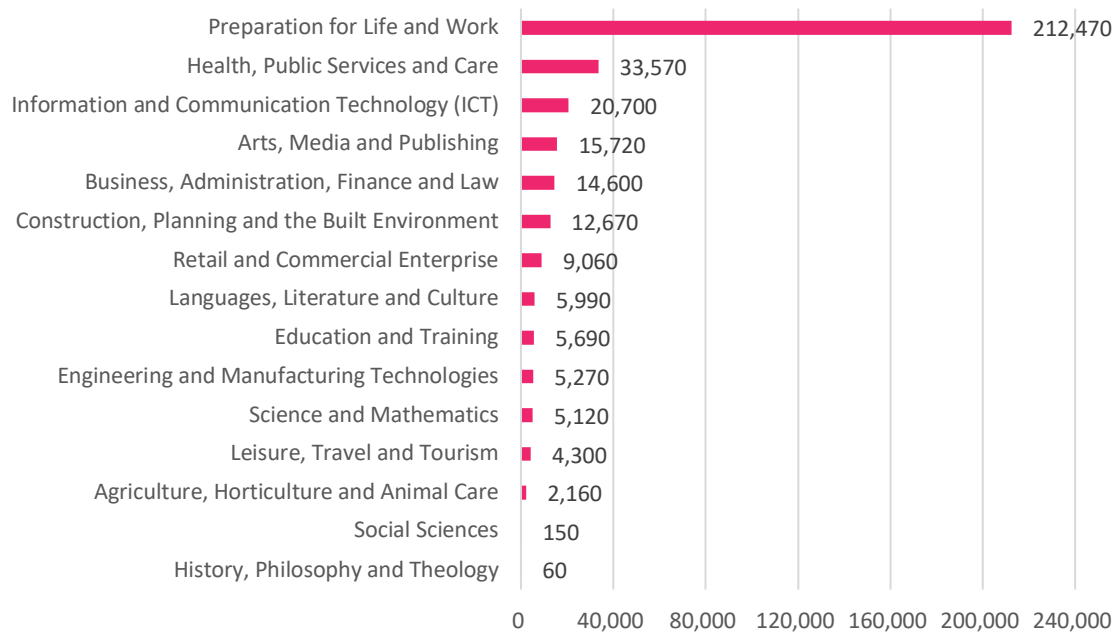
	Community Learning					Adult Skills				
	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24
<i>Other</i>										
<i>Level</i>	128,720	106,810	107,420	110,240	104,920	70	3,260	8,800	16,070	18,830
<i>Entry</i>										
<i>Level</i>	8,080	6,210	8,540	7,140	19,540	135,040	120,360	151,550	164,160	165,800
<i>Level 1</i>	1,500	1,210	1,460	1,360	2,170	72,120	83,640	87,420	86,370	80,310
<i>Level 2</i>	1,200	1,030	980	620	1,360	74,560	89,410	86,750	88,790	79,870
<i>Level 3</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3,450	4,990	10,720	12,330	14,570
<i>Level 4</i>				-	-				30	320
Total	139,500	115,250	118,410	119,360	127,990	285,250	301,660	345,250	367,740	359,710

Source: ILR R14 data, August - July 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. Note: Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two.

In Adult Skills²¹, more than half of all AEB aims enrolments correspond to Preparation for Life and Work courses. Other popular subjects include Health, Public Services and Care, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Arts, Media and Publishing, Business, Administration, Finance and Law and Construction, Planning and the Built Environment (see Figure 9). Since 2019/20, some subject areas have shown a sustained and significant rise in aims enrolments, for instance Preparation for Life and Work (+29,320), Health, Public Services and Care (+10,250) and Information and Communication Technology (+9,590). Conversely, Languages, Literature and Culture (-1,150), Retail and Commercial Enterprise (-740), Science and Mathematics (-700) have not reached their pre-pandemic levels by the end of the reporting period.

²¹ In 2023/24, there was a change in the way Community Learning courses were categorised which means the vast majority of aims no longer have a subject sector area.

Figure 9: Sector Subject Areas (Tier 1), Adult Skills, August to July, 2023/24

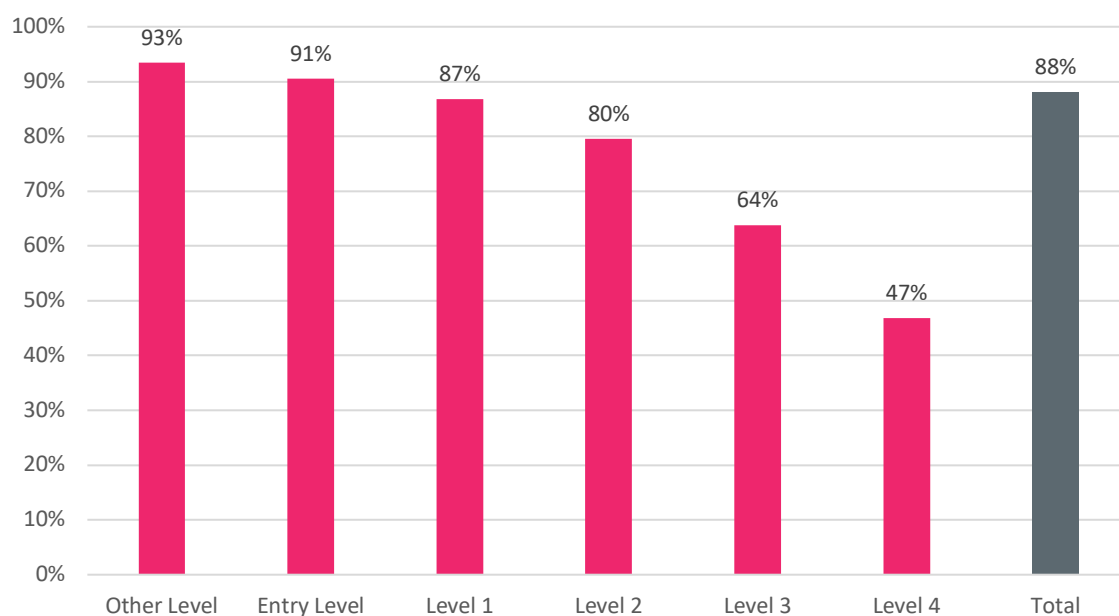


Source: ILR R14 data, August - July 2023/24. Note: Subjects are based on the Sector Subject Areas tier one.

1.4 Adult (19+) achievements in AEB-funded Further Education

In this publication, achievement statistics are counts of achieved learning aims, not unique learners. By 31st July 2024, around 88 per cent of the qualifications were achieved (429,060).

Figure 9: Achievements by level in 2023/24



Source: R14 (August - July) 2023/24 ILR data.

The achievement proportions vary by level of education (see Figure 9), which is in part explained by the fact that a significant number of learners taking qualifications at Level 2 (8 per cent), Level 3 (20 per cent) and Level 4 (37 per cent) are still in education by the end of the publication period.

1.5 Additional figures relating to specific Mayoral policy changes

The Adult Education Budget aims to be a diverse and inclusive programme that offers more opportunities for all. Aligned with this objective, the Mayor of London is particularly interested in some qualifications and learners that require more attention and support.

Entitlements

Basics skills are essential in enabling people to function in society and progress in learning and employment. Therefore, the legal entitlements play a key role amongst eligible adult learners taking English and Maths, Digital and Level 2 and Level 3 learning. Table 4 shows that 31,030 learners participated in 45,440 courses, including Digital entitlements that were introduced in the 2020/21 academic year. In terms of learner participation, entitlements decreased by around 10 per cent compared to the same period in 2022/23.

Table 4: Entitlements, 2023/24

Entitlement	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
English	16,500	18,880
Maths	16,830	18,670
Level 2	570	620
Level 3	2,080	2,320
Digital	4,470	4,960
Total	31,030	45,440

Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data.

Note: Entitlement learning is learning taken as part of the legal entitlements to full funding for eligible adult learners for English and Maths, Digital and Level 2 and Level 3 learning²². Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two.

Learners in receipt of low wage

From August 2023 to July 2024, 24,960 learners in receipt of low wage participated in the Adult Skills' stream of the AEB programme. They enrolled in 49,600 aims ranging from Entry Level to Level 3. It is worth noting that learner participation and enrolments using the low

²² See the GLA's Adult Education Budget funding rules for further information on entitlements and the methodology note for details on how entitlement learning has been identified.

wage flexibility decreased by around 7 and 4 per cent, respectively, compared to the same period in 2022/23. This decrease has been compensated by the increase in learners who are out of work and outside benefit arrangements (including asylum seekers).

Table 5: AEB Flexibilities, 2023/24

Programme	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
<i>Learners in Receipt of Low Wage</i>	24,960	49,600
<i>British Sign Language</i>	170	170
<i>Upskilling of Staff Delivering Specialist Provision to SEND Learners</i>	30	30
<i>London Recovery Flexibility - Level 3</i>	2,900	2,920
<i>Level 4 Qualifications</i>	320	320
<i>London Recovery Flexibility - Non-Formula Funding</i>	7,350	11,840
<i>Licence to Practice</i>	2,270	3,190
<i>Learners Out of Work and Outside Benefit Arrangements (Including Asylum Seekers)</i>	18,200	39,110
Total	53,700	106,590

Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data.

Learners Out of Work and Outside Benefit Arrangements (Including Asylum Seekers)

Around 18,200 learners²³ who are out of work and outside benefit arrangements (including asylum seekers) participated in the programme undertaking 39,110 AEB qualifications. The number of participants increased by 153 per cent compared to 2022/23.

London Recovery Flexibility – Non-Formula Funding

The non-formula funded flexibility enables grant-funded providers to use up to 10% of their AEB formula-funded allocation to fund locally defined learning programmes designed to respond to skills needs and to enable Londoners to progress into work. In 2023/24, 7,350 Londoners undertook 11,840 of these courses, which includes locally designed short courses which include units of qualifications and/or other non-accredited employability skill-related learning activities.

The London Recovery Flexibility for Level 3 and Level 4 Qualifications

The London Recovery Flexibility was introduced to support London during (and after) the COVID-19 pandemic. The flexibility enables providers to fully fund Adult Skills fundable Level 3 vocational qualifications beyond the legal entitlements, on learning programmes of less than 12 months duration which are designed to provide progression into work. During the

²³ This figure includes asylum seekers.

2023/24 academic year, 2,900 fully funded learners²⁴ enrolled in 2,920 Level 3 qualifications. In addition, the Level 4 flexibility (available from August 2022) benefited 320 learners. These learners enrolled in approved non-prescribed vocational and technical (Level 4) qualifications of regional importance to London.

Licence to Practice

For starts from 1 August 2022, GLA-funded providers have the flexibility to fund licence to practice accreditations for eligible learners completing and achieving a licence-linked Adult Skills funded qualification in the current academic year. This flexibility applies to two specific sectors, Construction and Hospitality, and is available for learners who are unemployed, out of work and outside benefit arrangements or are on a low wage, as defined in the GLA-AEB Funding Rules. In 2023/24, 2,270 learners participated in the programme undertaking 3,190 aims.

British Sign Language and Upskilling of Staff Delivering Specialist Provision to SEND Learners

In academic year 2023/24, 170 fully funded learners enrolled in British Sign Language courses²⁵ and 30 learners were funded through the SEND funding flexibility during the reporting period.²⁶

AEB Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package

The COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package made funding available to support London recovery by enabling providers to meet demand for learning and skills to protect, support and create jobs, under these programme strands. In academic year 2023/24, this includes Sector-based Work Academy Programmes and London Recovery Programmes. By the end of the 2023/24 academic year, 7,160 learners taking 15,030 courses participated in these programmes (similar levels were reported in 2022/23).

Table 6: Covid-19 Recovery Programmes

Programme	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
<i>Sector-based Work Academy Programmes</i>	6,170	13,150
<i>London Recovery Programmes</i>	1,020	1,880
Total	7,160	15,030

Source: R14 August - July 2023/24 ILR data.

²⁴ This figure refers to the London recovery flexibility for Level 3 only.

²⁵ The GLA fully fund any learner aged 19+ whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL), or who cannot access spoken language because of their deafness and would benefit from BSL, to study for qualifications in BSL, up to and including Level 2.

²⁶ The SEND funding flexibility enables providers to apply to the GLA for permission to fully fund delivery of learning that upskills teaching and learning support staff to deliver improved specialist provision for adult learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Further breakdowns and more information about Mayoral areas of interest are available in <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-adult-education-budget>

2. Outcomes of Londoners in the AEB

The outcomes of the GLA's AEB are monitored through the London Learner Survey (LLS). Through the LLS, the GLA are measuring how learners' lives change after they complete their learning, whether that is, for instance, improvements in their health and wellbeing, progression in work or learning or entering new employment.

The survey focuses on seven outcomes, which can be divided into economic and social outcomes, as approved by the Mayor of London in the Skills Roadmap. The economic outcomes are progression into employment, progression within work and progression into further learning. Meanwhile, the social outcomes are improved health and wellbeing, improved social integration, improved self-efficacy and participation in volunteering.

The results for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 London Learner Survey demonstrate that learners undertaking GLA funded AEB courses experience positive economic and social outcomes. Results for the 2023/24 London Learner Survey will be published in the summer of 2025.

The results from the previous academic year (2022/23) and methodological information can be accessed here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-learner-survey>

3. Additional GLA funded adult education programmes

In addition to the AEB the GLA is responsible for the funding and management of various other programmes including London Multiply and Bootcamps.

London Multiply

The Mayor's London Multiply Programme offers free training to support Londoners to get the numeracy, confidence and skills they need to manage everyday living at work and home. In the 23/24 academic year there were 17,990 learners enrolled on 24,120 Multiply aims.

An evaluation of the London Multiply Programme is currently underway and is expected to be published in the summer of 2025.

Skills Bootcamp for Londoners

The Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme aims to help Londoners aged 19+ to progress in work by giving them access to in-demand skills training and a guaranteed interview for a more sustainable, higher-skilled job and higher wages over time. The programme will also benefit employers by helping them to fill specific skills shortage vacancies, increasing productivity within their organisations.

The programme supports key sectors of the London's economy and it is aligned with the commitments made in the Mayor's Skills for Londoners strategy, Skills Roadmap for London and the helping Londoners into Good Work recovery mission.

Wave 3 data of the Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme (April 2022 – September 2023) have been recently published and can be accessed [here](#). Wave 4 ran from April 2023 to March 2024 and supported over 3,980 Londoners. Wave 5 is in progress.

4. Accompanying tables

Data source: Individualised Learner Records (ILR), except where stated.

Coverage of the data: This release includes data for the full 2023/24 academic year (August 2023 to July 2024).

The following tables²⁷ are available in Excel (xlsx) format here:
<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-adult-education-budget>

- Table 1: Funding Model
- Table 2: Provider Type
- Table 3: Community Learning by Type
- Table 4: Provider
- Table 5: Learner Home Local Authority District
- Table 6: Learner Characteristics
- Table 7: Level of Learning
- Table 8: Sector Subject Area
- Table 9: Sector Subject Area by Level
- Table 10: Sector Subject Area by Sex
- Table 11: Sector Subject Area by BAME
- Table 12: Sector Subject Area by Age
- Table 13: Basic Skills
- Table 14: Entitlements
- Table 15: AEB Flexibilities
- Table 16: AEB Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package
- Table 17: National Skills Fund, Free Courses for Jobs

5. Further information

For more information about the Adult Education Budget please see:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/jobs-and-skills/adult-education-budget>

Additional breakdowns of AEB further education statistics, not covered in this note, are published [online](#). These include for instance, breakdowns by funding model, level of learning and background characteristics, and detailed figures by Sector Subject Area (Tier 1 and Tier 2).

Please see the London Datastore Library here:
<https://data.london.gov.uk/>

²⁷ Table numbering differs slightly between London, Sub-regional and London Boroughs tables. The table numbers shown here correspond to the London level tables only and are included here as a reference.

6. Official Statistics

These experimental statistics are produced in accordance with the UK Code of Practice for Official Statistics and in agreement with the Department for Education (DfE).

Please note that DfE statistics (GOV.UK) continues as the first place that national and local authority headline statistics are published.

7. Technical information

A methodology information document accompanies this note. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

More technical information here:

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-adult-education-budget>

8. Get in touch

8.1 Media enquiries

These contact details are for journalist enquiries only.

All media enquiries should be emailed, and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Email: mayorspressoffice@london.gov.uk

For urgent media enquiries outside office hours and at weekends please call: 020 7983 4000 and ask for the duty press officer.

Please note: the Press Office is unable to assist with general queries or complaints. Members of the public can visit our Contact Us page (link below) for more details on contacting the Mayor and City Hall.

8.2 Other enquiries/feedback

Benjamin Lahai-Taylor, Economist, Skills and Employment Unit, 169 Union Street, London SE1 0LL

Email: Benjamin.Lahai-Taylor@london.gov.uk

Contact us form

We aim to respond to all written communication as quickly as possible and within 20 working days. See our [service standards](#) for more information on how we manage your

correspondence. Before contacting us, please take a look at our [contacting City Hall and the Mayor](#) pages, where you may find the answer to your query.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/contact-us-form>