

Adult Education Budget Academic Year 2020/21 (August-January)

16 July 2021

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 provisional in-year data for the first two quarters of the 2020/21 academic year.

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 taken 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 based on provisional in-year data for the first two quarters of the academic year 2020/21.

Learner participation

- From August 2020 to January 2021, there were 130,590 GLA-funded learners in London.
 - Total learner participation decreased by 20 per cent compared to 162,700 in the same period in 2019/20.
 - In this scenario, Adult Skills participation decreased by 7 per cent; and Community Learning participation decreased by 44 per cent.
- Amongst learners participating in the AEB programme¹:
 - 70 per cent were female;
 - 57 per cent were from a Black or Minority Ethnic background (including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners²);

¹ Based on Source of Funding reported for each learning aim.

² Note that this excludes "Unknown" observations.

- The majority were aged 24-49 (63%);
- 13 per cent consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem³;
- In Adult Skills learning, 49 per cent of learner participation were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding⁴;
- 5 per cent of the total number of learners received learner support to enrol in 13,010 courses.

Aims enrolments

- There were 255,040 aims enrolments in London during the publication period.
 - Total aims enrolments decreased by 9 per cent compared to 281,700 in the same period in 2019/20.
 - We observe differences by funding stream. Enrolments decreased by 29 per cent in Community Learning; and increased by 0.4 per cent in Adult Skills.
- The most frequent course levels were Entry Level (in Adult Skills) and Other Level (in Community Learning)⁵, accounting for more than half of all aims.
- Compared to the previous academic year, total aims enrolments at Level 2 and Level 3 increased by 28 and 26 per cent, respectively.
- The most frequent sector subject area chosen was Preparation for Life and Work, accounting for nearly half of all aims in the AEB programme.

Achievements (by 31st January 2021)

- Of the total number of aims (255,040), the provisional in-year data shows that⁶ 32 per cent of the qualifications were achieved (80,490).

Mayoral areas of interest

- There were 25,970 learners enrolled in 42,110 Entitlement learning courses⁷;
- 50 people participated in 90 British Sign Language courses⁸;
- In AEB learning, there were 12,830 fully funded learners due to receipt of low wage.
- The COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package made funding available to support London's recovery by enabling providers to meet demand for learning and skills to protect, support and create jobs, under these programme strands. This includes High value

³ Based upon self-declaration by the learner. This excludes "Unknown" observations.

⁴ Disadvantage funding does not apply to Community Learning, so only Adult Skills learning is included.

⁵ Other level is recorded when another level is not applicable or if the aim cannot be classified at other levels.

⁶ Note that these are not achievement rates and are not meant as a performance measure of providers.

⁷ This includes English and Maths, Level 2 and Level 3 and Digital AEB entitlement learners.

⁸ The GLA fully funds 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.

courses for 19-year olds, Sector-based Work Academy Programmes and London Recovery Programmes.

- By 31st January 2021, 4,530 learners participated in these programmes, taking 7,930 courses in London.

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>

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 first half of the academic year 2020/21, and it is based on the Individualised Learner Records data (ILR R06) 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>

About this data release

This statistics publication includes London, Sub-regional and Borough level figures for the first half of the academic year 2020/21. 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

The statistics shown in this note on learner participation, aims enrolments and achievements are based on the Individualised Learner Record data for 2020/21 (August- January 2021)⁹. These in-year (provisional) figures are restricted to GLA-devolved Adult Education Budget.

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 (August 2020 to January 2021). 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 note¹⁰:

- 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: Learners in Receipt of Low Wage
- Table 16: British Sign Language
- Table 17: Covid-19 Recovery

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

⁹ 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).

¹⁰ 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-January 2020/21)

This release covers experimental statistics on AEB-funded Further Education and Skills in London based on provisional in-year administrative data for the first half of the academic year 2020/21. 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-January 2020/21

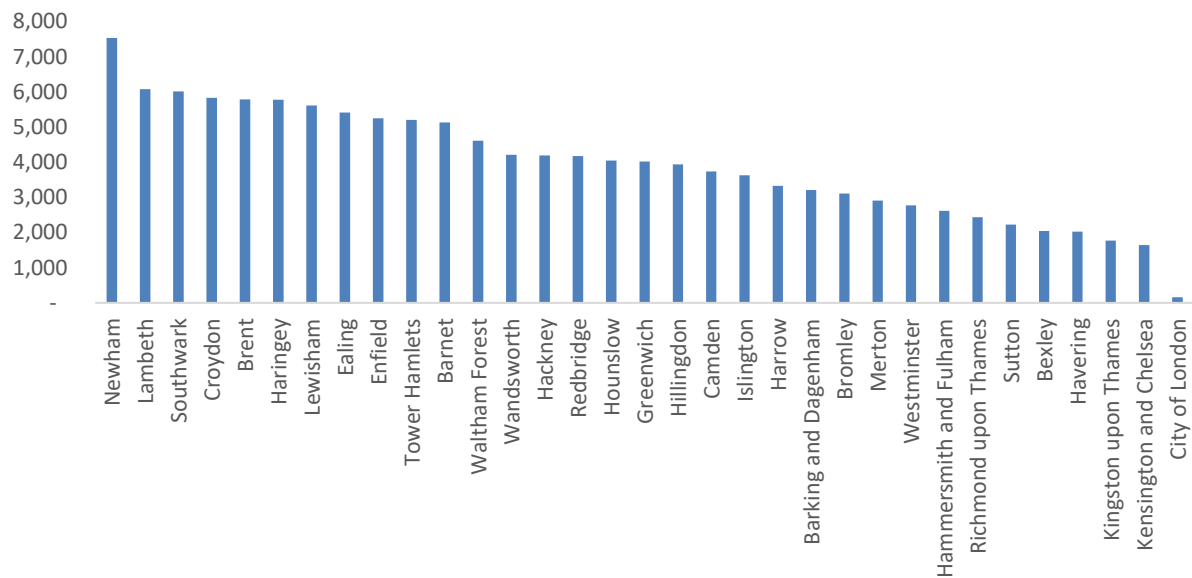
In the first half of the 20/21 academic year, there were 130,590 learners participating in the AEB programme. All of the Sub-Regional Partnerships¹¹ and London Boroughs showed significant activity (above 1,500 learners¹²) during the publication period. The top 5 London Boroughs with the highest number of learners were Newham (7,530), Lambeth (6,080), Southwark (6,010), Croydon (5,830) and Brent (5,790). The full frequency distribution of learners by London Boroughs is shown in Figure 1¹³.

¹¹ 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.

¹² The exception is the City of London that, with a relatively small population, is a historic financial district.

¹³ Further breakdowns by Sub-regional partnerships are available online.

Figure 1: Learner participation by London Borough

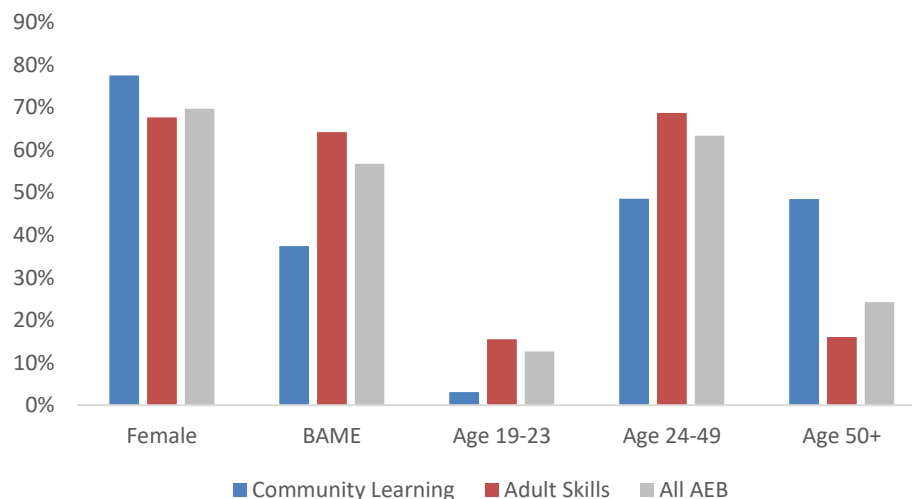


Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Note: Figures are based on 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

Figure 2: Demographic characteristics



Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

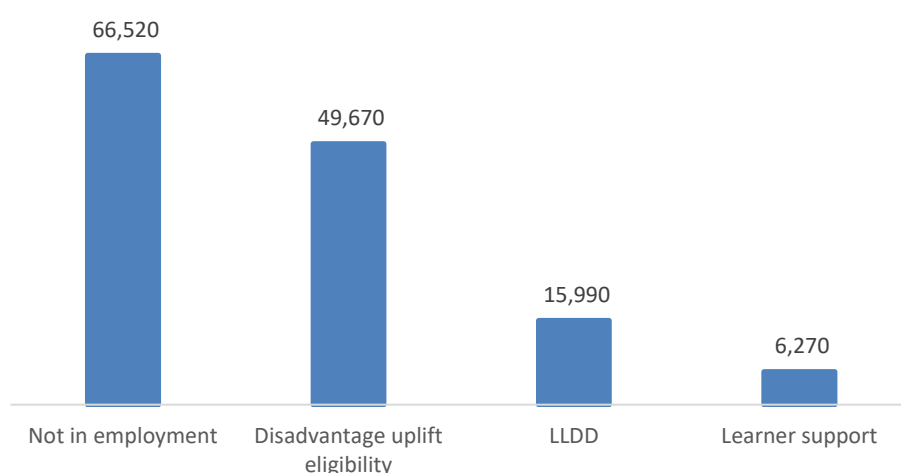
Note: Age is based on learner's age on 31st August of the academic year.

Figure 2 shows key demographic characteristics of the AEB learners. Of the total number (130,590) of participants in 2020/21:

- 70 per cent were female (90,960 learners) and 30 per cent were male (39,630);
- 57 per cent were from a Black or Minority Ethnic background (67,060 learners including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners)¹⁴ and 43 per cent were from White background (51,160);
- 13 per cent were aged 19-23 (16,510 learners), 63 per cent aged 24-49 (82,750), and 24 per cent 50+ (31,620).

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

Figure 3: Other background characteristics



Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 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 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 3 are not mutually exclusive.

The GLA also monitors background characteristics that can be used to identify certain groups in need. Figure 3 shows these non-mutually exclusive fields, which represent a significant portion of delivery:

¹⁴ The percentage calculation for the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and White measures here are based on excluding instances of unknown ethnicity.

- Amongst those self-reporting employment status (around 108,520 learners mostly in Adult Skills funding category), 61 per cent declared to be not in employment;
- In Adult Skills learning, around 50 per cent of provision in terms of funding were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding¹⁵ (49,670 learners);
- 13 per cent (15,990 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);
- 5 per cent (6,270 learners) of the total number of participants received learner support¹⁶.

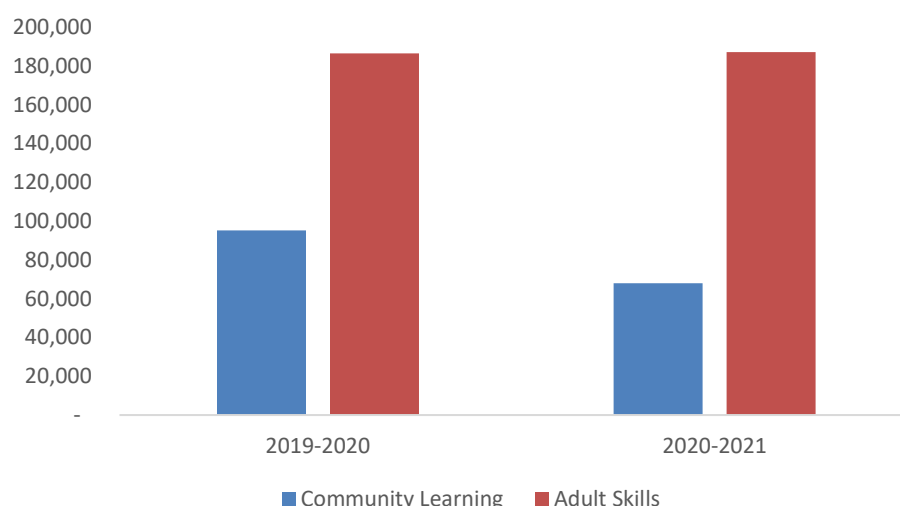
¹⁵ Disadvantage funding does not apply to Community Learning, so only Adult Skills learning is included.

¹⁶ These are learners who are reported to receive the types of learner support included in the GLA's AEB funding rules (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/skills-and-employment/skills-londoners/adult-education-budget/information-gla-aeb-providers>).

1.3 Aims enrolments

Learners can take more than one aim during the academic year. There were 255,040 aims over the course of the first two quarters of the 20/21 academic year (on average each learner undertakes 1.95 aims).

Figure 4: Aims enrolments by funding category in 2019/20 and 2020/21



Source: R06 August-January 2019/20 and R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Figure 4 shows enrolments (starts) during the first six months of the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21. In 2020/21, there were 255,040 aims enrolments in London during the publication period and the majority of these enrolments for the AEB belong to funding category Adult Skills. Total aims enrolments decreased by 9 per cent compared to 281,700 in the same period in 2019/20. However, year-over-year growth shows differences by funding stream. Enrolments decreased by 29 per cent in Community Learning and increased by 0.4 per cent in Adult Skills.

Table 1: AEB provision by funding model (i.e. Adult Skills or Community Learning) and level

Level	Community Learning	Adult Skills	All AEB
Entry Level	3,840	72,360	76,190
Level 1	910	48,020	48,920
Level 2	970	62,600	63,560
Level 3	-	4,180	4,180
Other Level	62,160	20	62,180
Total	67,870	187,170	255,040

Source: R06 (August-January) 2020/21 ILR data

Note: Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two

Table 1 shows that the aim level composition differs between Adult Skills and Community Learning. Adults Skills delivery range between Entry Level and Level 3, where a significant proportion is associated to Level 2 and 3 qualifications. Compared to the previous academic

year (baseline not shown here), total aims enrolments at Level 2 and Level 3 increased by 28 and 26 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, Community Learning tends to be concentrated at Other Level (i.e. level not applicable).

Table 2: Most popular Sector Subject Areas (Tier 1) by funding model

Most popular Sector Subject Areas - Community Learning		
Ranking	Sector Subject Area Tier 1	Enrolments
1	Arts, Media and Publishing	21,330
2	Languages, Literature and Culture	15,720
3	Preparation for Life and Work	13,800
4	History, Philosophy and Theology	4,280
5	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	3,750
Most popular Sector Subject Areas - Adult Skills		
Ranking	Sector Subject Area Tier 1	Enrolments
1	Preparation for Life and Work	110,060
2	Health, Public Services and Care	17,710
3	Business, Administration, Finance and Law	11,530
4	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	9,550
5	Retail and Commercial Enterprise	6,840

Source: R06 (August-January) 2020/21 ILR data

Almost half of all AEB aims enrolments correspond to Preparation for Life and Work courses and the vast majority is funded via Adult Skills. Other popular subjects in Adult Skills include Health, Public Services and Care, and Business, Administration, Finance and Law (see Table 2). The most popular subjects in Community Learning are Arts, Media and Publishing, Languages, Literature and Culture and Preparation for Life and Work. Detailed statistics, including additional breakdowns by level and background characteristics are available online.

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

In this publication, achievement statistics are counts of achieved learning aims, not unique learners. Figures based on provisional in-year data show that 32 per cent of the qualifications were achieved (80,490) during the first two quarters of the academic year.

It should be noted that, with provisional in-year data, there is a trade-off between achievers and continuing learners, which might be more relevant this year in the context of the pandemic. A more detailed analysis will be presented in subsequent publications and based on final academic year 2020/21 data.

1.5 Mayoral areas of interest

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. In this publication, these are Entitlements, British Sign Language courses, learners in receipt of low wage, and the COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package.

Table 3: Entitlements

Entitlement	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
English	15,470	18,180
Maths	15,940	18,500
Level 2	670	810
Level 3	3,090	3,640
Digital	940	980
Total	25,970	42,110

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 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 learning¹⁷. Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two.

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 3 shows that 25,970 learners participated in 42,110 courses, including Digital entitlements that have been introduced in the present academic year.

¹⁷ See the GLA's Adult Education Budget funding rules for further information on entitlements (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/skills-and-employment/skills-londoners/adult-education-budget/information-gla-aeb-providers>) and the methodology note for details on how entitlement learning has been identified.

British Sign Language

During the first half of 20/21 academic year, 50 people participated in 90 British Sign Language courses¹⁸.

Learners in receipt of low wage

From August 2020 to January 2021, 12,830 learners in receipt of low wage participated in the Adult Skills stream of the AEB programme. They enrolled in 19,960 aims ranging from Entry Level to Level 3.

AEB Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package

Table 4: Covid-19 Recovery Programmes

Programme	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
<i>High Value Courses</i>	150	180
<i>Sector-based Work Academy Programmes</i>	3,130	5,680
<i>London Recovery Programmes</i>	1,330	2,070
Total	4,530	7,930

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

The COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package made funding available to support London's recovery by enabling providers to meet demand for learning and skills to protect, support and create jobs, under these programme strands. In this publication are included, High value courses for 19-year olds, Sector-based Work Academy Programmes and London Recovery Programmes. By 31st January 2021, 4,530 learners participated in these programmes, taking 7,930 courses in London (see Table 4).

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

¹⁸ 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.

2. Accompanying tables

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

Coverage of the data: This release includes data for the first six months of the 2020/21 academic year (August 2020 to January 2021).

The following tables¹⁹ 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: Learners in Receipt of Low Wage
Table 16: British Sign Language
Table 17: Covid-19 Recovery

3. Further information

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

¹⁹ 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.

4. 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.

5. 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>

6. Get in touch

6.1 Media enquiries

These contact details are for journalist enquiries only.

Following the latest instructions from the Government to limit non-essential travel to help control the spread of the COVID-19 virus the Mayor of London's press office is currently working remotely.

During this time all media enquiries should be emailed and we will continue to 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.

6.2 Other enquiries/feedback

Dr Héctor Espinoza, Senior Economist, Skills and Employment Unit, Complex Analysis & Statistical Publications, 169 Union Street, London SE1 0LL

Email: Hector.Espinoza@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>