

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

03 May 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 provisional data for the first two quarters of the 2023/24 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 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 first half of the academic year 2023/24.

Learner participation

- From August 2023 to January 2024, there were 158,970 GLA-funded learners in London.
 - Total learner participation increased by 2 per cent compared to 156,550 in the same period in 2022/23.
 - In this positive scenario, Community Learning participation (44,480 learners) increased by 12 per cent (increased by around 2 per cent nationally); and Adult Skills participation (121,770 learners) decreased by 1 per cent (education and training participation¹ increased by around 5 per cent nationally).
- Amongst learners participating in the AEB programme²:
 - 70 per cent were female;

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

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

- 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 (60%);
- 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 23,920 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 290,670 aims enrolments in London during the publication period.
 - Total aims enrolments increased by 3 per cent compared to 281,560 in the same period in 2022/23.
 - There were differences by funding stream. Enrolments increased by 13 per cent in Community Learning; and increased by 1 per cent in Adult Skills.
- The most frequent course levels were Entry Level (in Adult Skills) and Other Level (in Community Learning)⁶, accounting for more than half of all aims.
- From August 2023 to January 2024, there were 52,770 courses at Level 2 and 9,370 enrolments at Level 3 (of which 4,970 were Free Courses for Jobs). In addition, there were 260 enrolments at Level 4 in the first half of 2023/24.
- In Adult Skills, 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 around 61 per cent of all aims in the formula funded provision. Compared to the same period in 2019/20, some subject areas have shown a significant rise in aims enrolments, for instance Preparation for Life and Work (+11,790), Information and Communication Technology (+6,850) and Health, Public Services and Care (+5,800). Conversely, Languages, Literature and Culture (-1,400) and Sciences and Mathematics (-1,090) have not reached their pre-pandemic levels by the end of the reporting period.

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.

Achievements (by 31st January 2024)

- Achievement statistics are counts of learning aims achieved. By 31st January 2024, when most of the learning is still ongoing, around 30 per cent of the qualifications were achieved (87,920).

Additional figures relating to specific Mayoral policy changes

From August 2023 to January 2024:

- There were 18,890 learners in receipt of low wage that participated in the Adult Skills' stream of the AEB programme. They enrolled in 31,150 aims, which is an increase of around 1 per cent compared to the same period in 2022/23.
- There were 24,880 learners and 34,270 Entitlement enrolments, including English and Maths, Level 2 and Level 3 and Digital courses. The number of participants decreased by around 10 per cent compared to 2022/23.
- Around 13,080 learners⁷ who are out of work and outside benefit arrangements (including asylum seekers) participated in the programme undertaking 22,450 AEB qualifications.
- Furthermore, 4,260 Londoners undertook 6,600 non-formula funded courses, which includes locally designed short courses which include units of qualifications and/or other non-accredited employability skill-related learning activities.
- The Level 3 flexibility⁸ supported 1,860 adult learners (or 1,870 Level 3 qualifications). The Level 4 flexibility (available from August 2022) benefited 260 learners during the reporting period. These learners enrolled in approved non-prescribed vocational and technical (Level 4) qualifications of regional importance to London.
- During the reporting period, the Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package supported 4,300 learners that enrolled in 8,410 qualifications.
- In addition, 160 learners enrolled in British Sign Language courses⁹, 10 learners were funded through the SEND funding flexibility¹⁰, and 710 Londoners undertook learning linked to licence to practice accreditations in Construction and Hospitality sectors.

Further data breakdowns and additional information by provider, Sub-Regional Partnership and Local Authority District are [available in the data tables](#).

⁷ This figure includes asylum seekers.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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 first two quarters of the academic year 2023/24, 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 2023/24. It focuses on adult (aged 19+) GLA-funded Further Education, comprising Adult Skills, Free Courses for Jobs, and Community learning (excluding Skills Bootcamps, Multiply, 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 learnings 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 - January 2024)¹¹. 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 the 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 note¹²:

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

Table 17: Free Courses for Jobs

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

¹¹ 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).

¹² 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 2023/24)

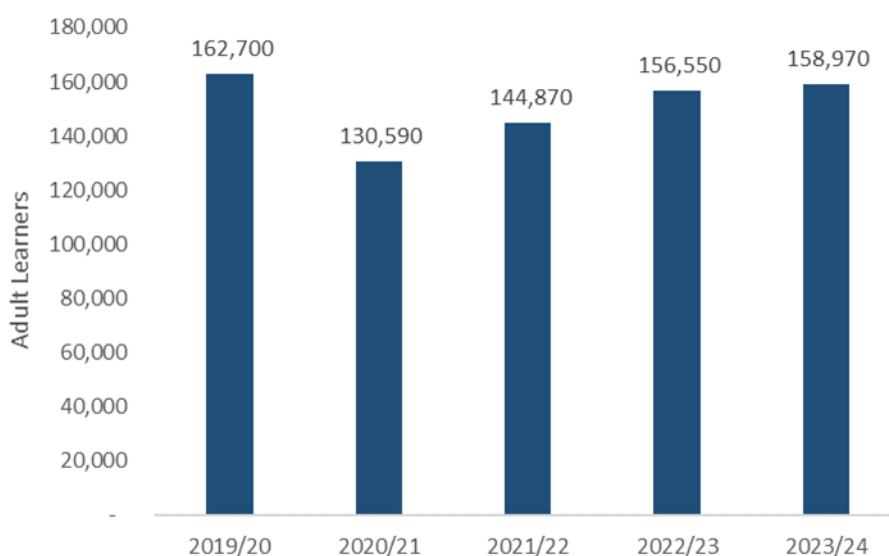
This release covers experimental statistics on AEB-funded Further Education and Skills in London based on administrative data for the first two quarters of the academic year 2023/24. In this section we show some headline statistics of the programme, such as AEB participation (learners and aims), demographic 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 - January 2023/24

There were 158,970 adult learners participating in the AEB programme in the first two quarters of 2023/24. In-year data (see Figure 1) shows that total learner participation increased by 2 per cent compared to 156,550 in the same period in 2022/23. It is now reaching its pre-pandemic level (162,700).

Figure 1: Learner participation, August - January, academic years 2019/20 – 2023/24



Source: R06 August - January 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 post-pandemic years, in both Community Learning and Adult Skills. In Community Learning, growth since 2020/21 relies on participation at Levels 1 and below. In Adult Skills, growth is supported mainly by learner participation at Other Level, Entry Level and Level 3.

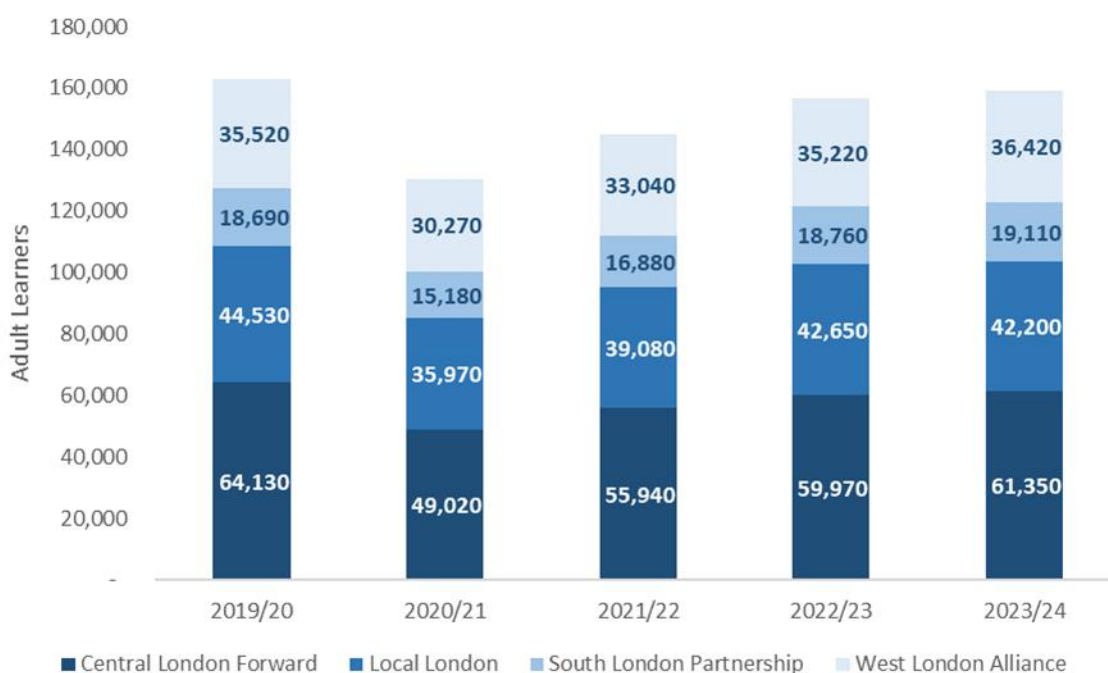
Table 1: Learner participation by funding category and level, August - January, academic years 2019/20 - 2023/24

	Learner participation, August to January									
	Community Learning					Adult Skills				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Other Level	56,680	31,470	36,820	36,260	35,540	20	20	1,720	3,560	5,980
Entry Level	4,420	2,500	3,010	2,820	8,310	54,330	39,980	50,360	57,210	57,510
Level 1	980	710	760	840	1,260	30,210	29,110	31,100	32,640	31,800
Level 2	880	750	670	520	710	36,740	42,450	38,970	41,320	39,460
Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	2,990	3,610	6,530	9,430	9,100
Level 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	260
Total	62,050	34,870	40,380	39,700	44,480	108,220	101,010	109,840	123,090	121,770

Source: R06 August - January ILR data, years 2019/20 - 2023/24.

The Sub-Regional Partnerships¹³ showed a strong level of engagement in 2023/24. Across the Sub-regional Partnerships, participation in 2023/24 was between -1 and 3 per cent above participation in 2022/23.

Figure 2: Learner participation by Sub-Regional Partnership, August - January, academic years 2019/20 - 2023/24

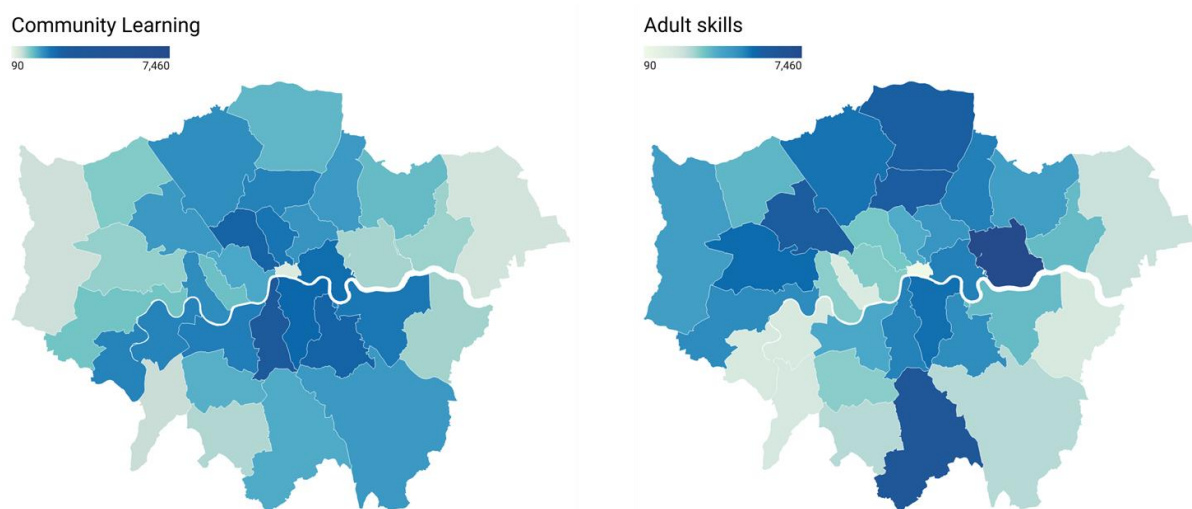


Source: R06 August - January ILR data, years 2019/20 - 2023/24.

¹³ 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.

The top 5 London Boroughs with the highest number of learners were Newham (8,070), Croydon (7,170), Southwark (7,080), Lambeth (7,030) and Haringey (6,980). The colour-coded map below (see Figure 3) shows the full distribution of learners by London Borough and funding model during the reporting period (where the darkest hue represents the greatest number of learners)¹⁴.

Figure 3: Learner participation by London Borough and funding model



Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data. Note: underlying data 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

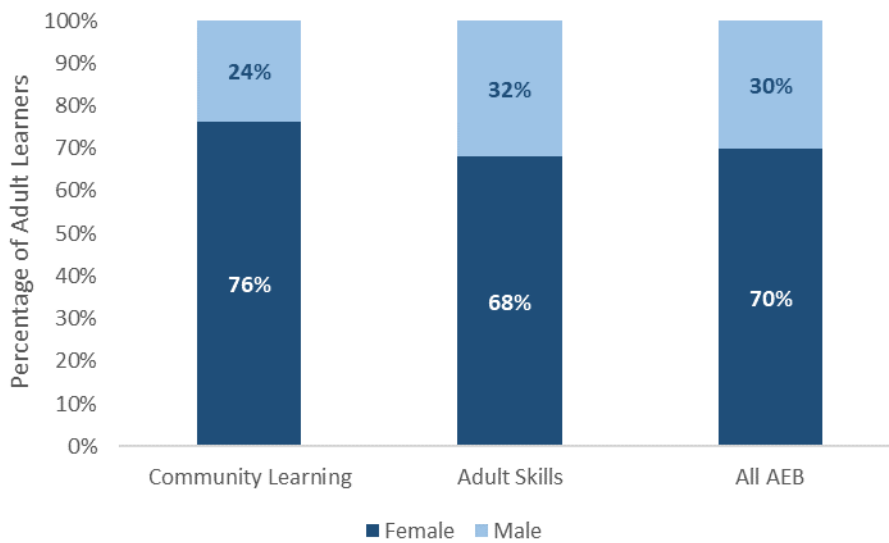
Figures 4, 5 and 6 show key demographic characteristics of the AEB learners. Of the total number of participants (158,970) in the first half of the academic year 2023/24:

- 70 per cent were female (111,070 learners) and 30 per cent were male (47,900);
- 61 per cent were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background (91,330 learners including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners)¹⁵ and 40 per cent were from a White background (58,160);
- 11 per cent were aged 19-23 (16,760 learners), 60 per cent aged 24-49 (95,990), and 29 per cent aged 50+ (46,220).

¹⁴ Data breakdowns by Sub-Regional Partnerships are available online.

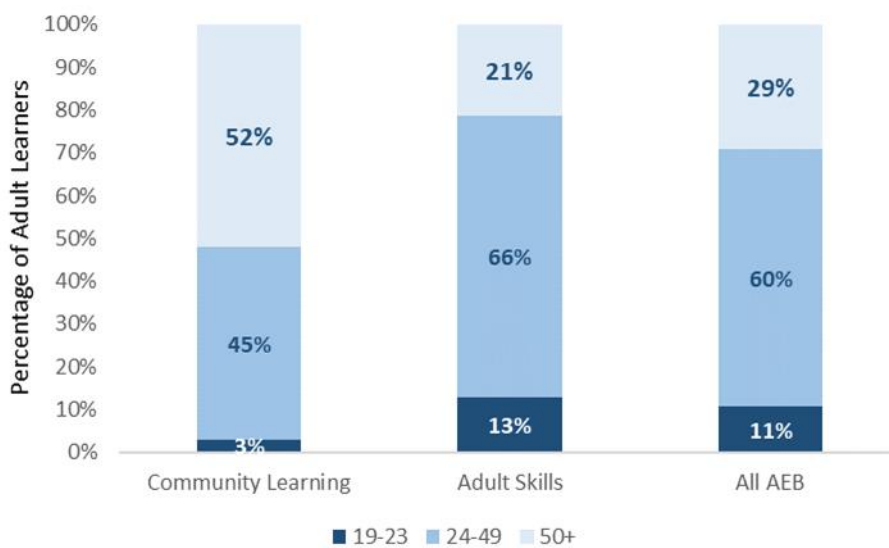
¹⁵ The percentage calculation for the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and White measures here are based on excluding instances of unknown ethnicity.

Figure 4: Demographic characteristics, Sex



Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data. Notes: In the first half of 2023/24, there were 44,480 learners in Community Learning; 121,170 in Adult Skills; and 158,970 in the AEB.

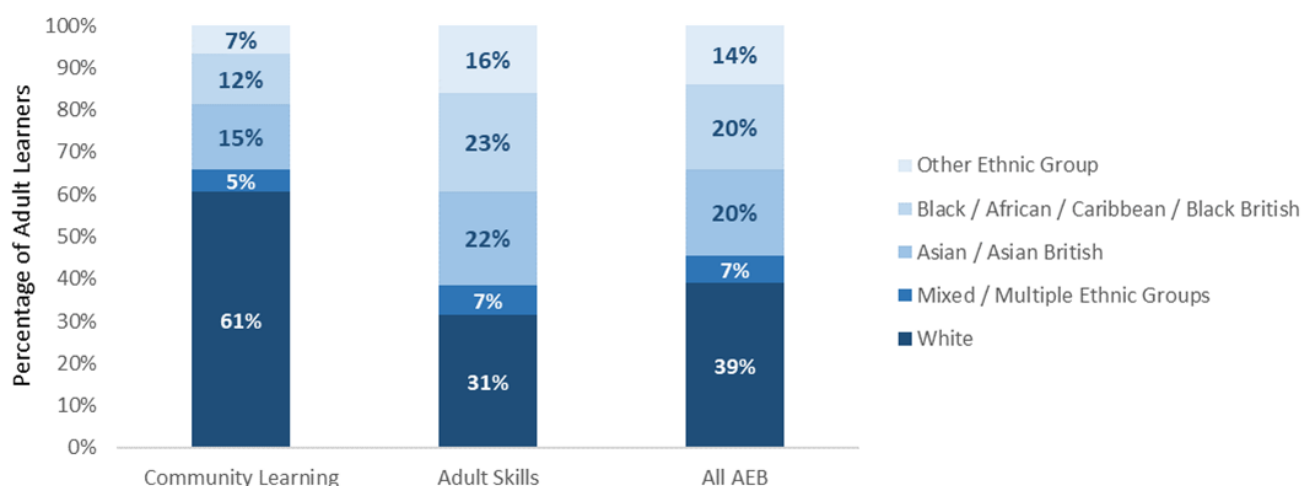
Figure 5: Demographic characteristics, Age



Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data.

Notes: Age is based on learner's age on 31st August of the academic year. In the first half of 2023/24, there were 44,480 learners in Community Learning; 121,170 in Adult Skills; and 158,970 in the AEB.

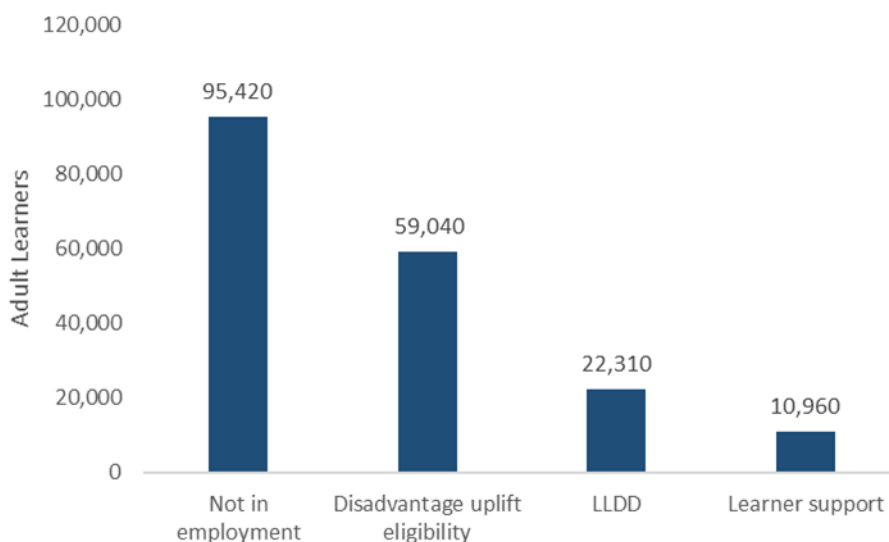
Figure 6: Demographic characteristics, Ethnicity



Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data. Notes: In the first half of 2023/24, there were 44,480 learners in Community Learning; 121,170 in Adult Skills; and 158,970 in the AEB. The figures above exclude unknowns.

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 BAME and younger learners. The background characteristics of the learners compared to previous academic years are largely similar.

Figure 7: Other background characteristics



Source: R06 August - January 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 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.

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 150,750 learners mostly in Adult Skills funding category), 63 per cent (95,420) declared that they are not in employment;
- In Adult Skills learning, around 48 per cent of the total number of learners were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding¹⁶ (59,040 learners);
- 15 per cent (22,310 learners) consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. This statistic excludes cases where the information was not collected (5 per cent of the total number of learners);
- 7 per cent (10,960 learners) of the total number of participants received learner support¹⁷.

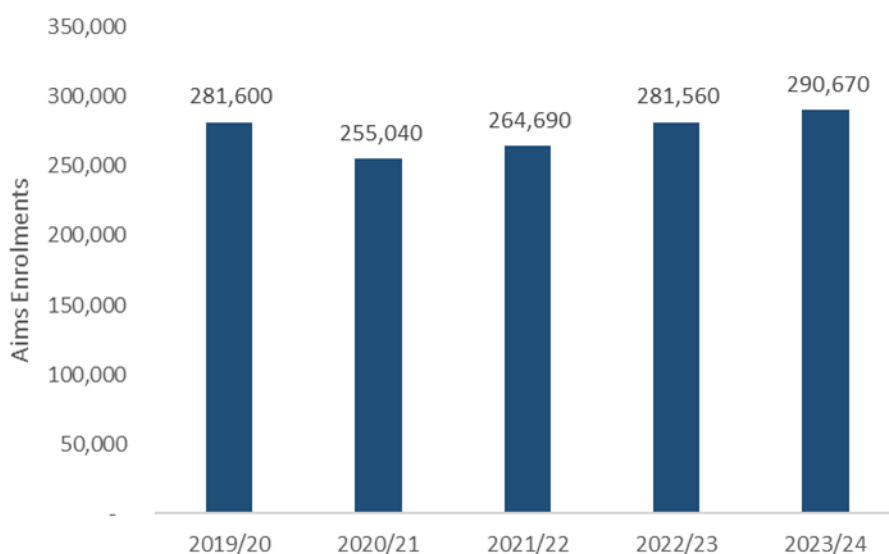
¹⁶ Disadvantage funding does not apply to Community Learning, so only Adult Skills learning is included.

¹⁷ 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/programmes-strategies/jobs-and-skills/training-providers-teaching-skills/adult-education-budget/information-aeb-providers>).

1.3 Aims enrolments

Learners can take more than one aim during the academic year. There were 290,670 aims over the course of the first two quarters of the 2023/24 academic year (on average each learner undertakes around 2 aims). In-year data shows that the number of enrolments increased by 3 per cent compared to 281,560 in the same period in 2022/23. This statistic (enrolments) has now increased above its pre-pandemic level (281,600).

Figure 8: Aims enrolments, August - January, academic years 2019/20 - 2023/24



Source: R06 August - January ILR data, years 2019/20 - 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 January 2024, there were 70,510 active courses in Community Learning and 220,160 in Adult Skills. Aims enrolments in Community Learning increased by 13 per cent compared to 62,540 in the same period in 2022/23. In addition, enrolments increased by 1 per cent in Adult Skills compared to 219,030 courses in 2022/23.

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). In Community Learning, delivery tends to be concentrated at Other Level (i.e. level not applicable).

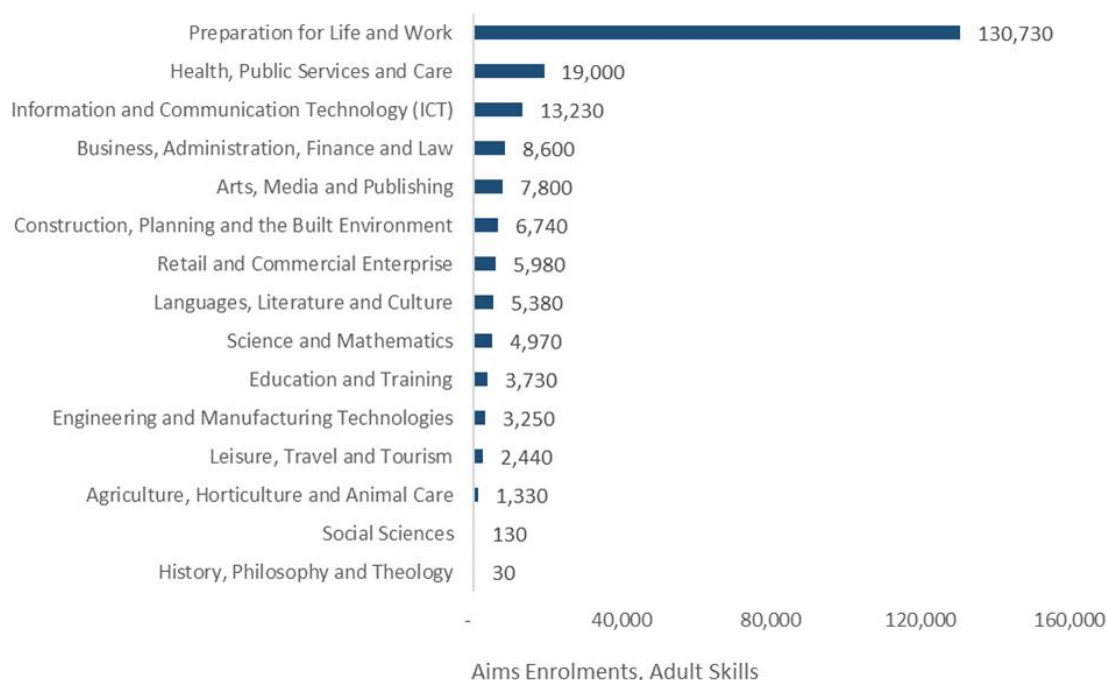
Table 2: Aims enrolments by funding category and level, August – January, academic years 2019/20 – 2023/24

	Aims enrolments, August to January									
	Community Learning					Adult Skills				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Other Level	87,360	62,160	59,360	56,890	56,410	20	20	2,290	4,690	8,850
Entry Level	5,590	3,840	4,630	4,030	11,610	88,000	72,360	88,480	101,440	100,950
Level 1	1,160	910	990	980	1,500	46,490	48,020	49,670	49,430	48,960
Level 2	1,040	970	840	640	1,000	48,650	62,600	51,600	53,630	51,770
Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	3,330	4,180	6,830	9,800	9,370
Level 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	260
Total	95,150	67,870	65,830	62,540	70,510	186,490	187,170	198,870	219,030	220,160

Source: ILR R06 data, August - January 2019/20 - 2023/24. Note: Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two

In Adult Skills¹⁸, more than half of all AEB aims enrolments correspond to Preparation for Life and Work courses. Other popular subjects include Arts, Media and Publishing, Health, Public Services and Care, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Languages, Literature and Culture, and Business, Administration, Finance and Law (see Figure 9).

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



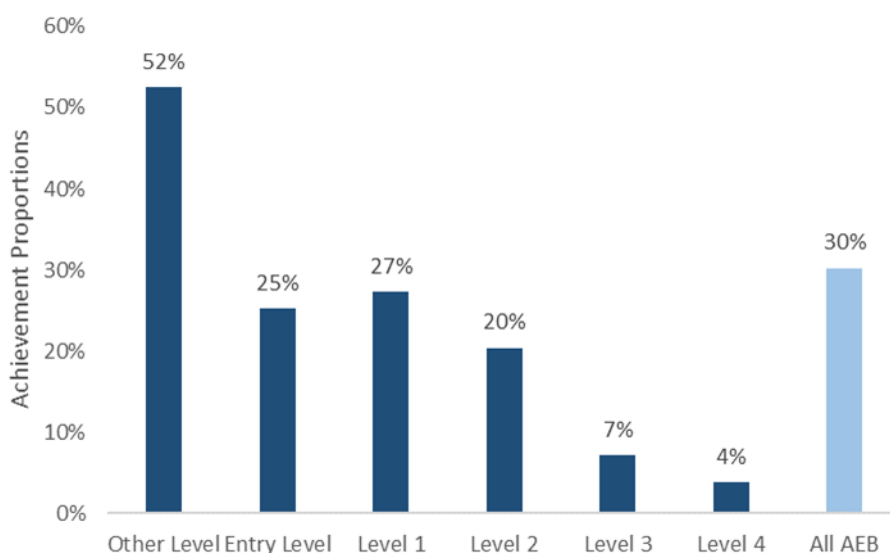
Source: ILR R06 data, August - January 2023/24. Note: Subjects are based on the Sector Subject Areas tier one.

¹⁸ 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.

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 January 2024, when most of the learning is still ongoing, around 30 per cent of the qualifications were achieved (87,920). As expected, provisional data suggests that achievement proportions vary by level of education (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: Provisional achievements by level in 2023/24 (in-year data August – January)



Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data

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 3 shows that 24,880 learners participated in 34,270 courses, including Digital entitlements (with 3,400 enrolments) that were introduced in 2020/21 academic year. In terms of learner participation, entitlements decreased by 10 per cent compared to 2022/23.

Table 3: Entitlements

Entitlement	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
<i>English</i>	13,140	14,060
<i>Maths</i>	13,120	13,960
<i>Level 2</i>	550	600
<i>Level 3</i>	2,050	2,260
<i>Digital</i>	3,230	3,400
Total	24,880	34,270

Source: R06 August - January 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 learning¹⁹. Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two.

Learners in Receipt of Low Wage

From August 2023 to January 2024, 18,890 learners in receipt of low wage participated in the Adult Skills' stream of the AEB programme (Table 4). They enrolled in 31,150 courses ranging from Entry Level to Level 3 (aims enrolments increased by around 1 per cent, compared to the same period in 2022/23).

Table 4: AEB Flexibilities

Programme	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
<i>Learners in Receipt of Low Wage</i>	18,890	31,150
<i>British Sign Language</i>	160	160
<i>Upskilling of Staff Delivering Specialist Provision to SEND Learners</i>	10	10
<i>London Recovery Flexibility - Level 3</i>	1,860	1,870
<i>Level 4 Qualifications</i>	260	260
<i>London Recovery Flexibility - Non-Formula Funding</i>	4,260	6,600
<i>Licence to Practice</i>	710	710
<i>Learners Out of Work and Outside Benefit Arrangements (Including Asylum Seekers)</i>	13,080	22,450
Total	37,700	62,930

Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data

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

From August 2022, education providers may use their discretion to fully fund learners who are out of work and are not in receipt of benefits and who are evidenced as wanting to be employed, and/or are seeking exceptional support with social integration, including those with no recourse to public funds. During the first half of the academic year 2023/24, 13,080 learners (or 22,450 qualifications) have been funded under this flexibility. It is worth noting that aims enrolments increased by 115 per cent compared to the same period last year.

¹⁹ 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.

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. From August to January 2024, 4,260 Londoners (up by 75 per cent compared to 2022/23) undertook 6,600 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 recover with respect to 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. By 31st January 2024, 1,860 fully funded learners²⁰ enrolled in a Level 3 qualification. In addition, the Level 4 flexibility (available from August 2022) benefited 260 learners during the reporting period. 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. From August 2023 to January 2024, 710 learners participated in the programme.

²⁰ This figure refers to the London recovery flexibility for Level 3 only.

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

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, 160 learners enrolled in British Sign Language courses²¹ and 10 learners were funded through the SEND funding flexibility during the reporting period.²²

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. From August 2023 to January 2024, 4,300 learners (up by 72 per cent compared to 2022/23) undertook 8,410 courses in these programmes.

Table 5: Covid-19 Recovery Programmes

Programme	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
<i>Sector-based Work Academy Programmes</i>	3,730	7,630
<i>London Recovery Programmes</i>	590	780
Total	4,300	8,410

Source: R06 August - January 2023/24 ILR data

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

²¹ 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.

²² 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).

2. Accompanying tables

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

Coverage of the data: This release includes data for the first two quarters of 2023/24 academic year (August 2023 to January 2024).

The following tables²³ 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 Ethnicity
- 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: Free Courses for Jobs

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/>

²³ 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.

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.

6.2 Other enquiries/feedback

Dr Héctor Espinoza, Supervisory Economist, Skills and Employment Unit, 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>

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