## Apprenticeship starts by Buckinghamshire residents - 2016/17 to 2020/21

Buckinghamshire has historically had a ‘small but stable’ apprenticeship profile. Pre-Covid-19, there were proportionally fewer apprentices in the local workforce than nationally, and fewer students choosing apprenticeships at the ages of 16 or 18.

The number of people starting apprenticeships has fallen (nationally and locally[[1]](#footnote-1)) over recent years, largely as a result of policy changes. However, the fall in Buckinghamshire has been less stark than nationally. Between 2016/17 and 2020/21, the number of apprenticeship starts decreased by 35% in England compared to a 17% decrease in Buckinghamshire (table 1).

##### Table 1: Apprenticeship starts for Buckinghamshire and England between 2016/17 and 2020/21

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| Buckinghamshire | 2,960 | 2,600 | 2,850 | 2,270 | 2,470 |
| England | 494,880 | 375,760 | 393,380 | 322,530 | 321,440 |

*Source: DfE 2021*

Between 2019/20 and 2020/21 the number of apprenticeships started by Buckinghamshire residents increased, whilst starts decreased nationally. The greatest increase in numbers was in the area of ‘health, public services and care’ (table 2), likely linked to an increased profile and need for people to work in this sector as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and also increased activity as a result of establishment of the Bucks Health and Social Care Academy.

Compared to 2016/17, there are now more Buckinghamshire residents starting apprenticeships in ‘health, public services and care’; ‘information and communication technology’; ‘construction, planning and the built environment’ and ‘arts, media and publishing’. Although volumes in the latter three subject areas are comparatively small. Fewer residents are starting apprenticeships in all other subject areas (with the exception of education and training where numbers fell and are now back to 2016/17 levels), with the biggest decrease in the ‘retail and commercial enterprise subject area’ (table 3).

##### Table 2: Apprenticeship starts by subject area (volume)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | 80 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 30 |
| Arts, Media and Publishing | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 40 |
| Business, Administration and Law | 850 | 780 | 880 | 750 | 770 |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | 70 | 90 | 80 | 100 | 90 |
| Education and Training | 70 | 30 | 60 | 50 | 70 |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies | 390 | 380 | 410 | 200 | 240 |
| Health, Public Services and Care | 730 | 580 | 680 | 550 | 740 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 100 | 130 | 170 | 140 | 150 |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism | 150 | 90 | 100 | 60 | 30 |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise | 500 | 460 | 420 | 350 | 330 |
| **Total** | **2,940** | **2,590** | **2,860** | **2,260** | **2,490** |

*Source: DfE 2021*

##### Table 3: Apprenticeship starts by subject area (% of total)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | 3% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 1% |
| Arts, Media and Publishing | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% |
| Business, Administration and Law | 29% | 30% | 31% | 33% | 31% |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | 2% | 3% | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| Education and Training | 2% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 3% |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies | 13% | 15% | 14% | 9% | 10% |
| Health, Public Services and Care | 25% | 22% | 24% | 24% | 30% |
| Information and Communication Technology | 3% | 5% | 6% | 6% | 6% |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism | 5% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 1% |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise | 17% | 18% | 15% | 15% | 13% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

*Source: DfE 2021*

The most significant change over the last five years has been in the level of apprenticeships being started. In 2016/17 only 8% of apprenticeship starts were ‘higher level’ apprenticeships, by 2020/21 this had increased to 37% (table 4). In part this increase is likely linked to Buckinghamshire New University growing their Higher Apprenticeship provision, a legacy of the BEST Partnership with the Bucks College Group.

##### Table 4: Apprenticeship starts by level (% of total)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| Intermediate Apprenticeship | 49% | 36% | 29% | 24% | 20% |
| Advanced Apprenticeship | 43% | 49% | 48% | 46% | 43% |
| Higher Apprenticeship | 8% | 16% | 23% | 31% | 37% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

*Source: DfE 2021*

Over the same period we have also seen a drop in the proportion of apprenticeships being started by young (under 19) people and a rise in apprenticeships being started by those aged over 25 (table 5).

##### Table 5: Apprenticeship starts by age group (% of total)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
| Under 19 | 29% | 27% | 24% | 24% | 17% |
| 19-24 | 30% | 33% | 29% | 31% | 33% |
| 25+ | 41% | 40% | 47% | 45% | 50% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

*Source: DfE 2021*

1. Apprenticeships started by people residing in Buckinghamshire [↑](#footnote-ref-1)