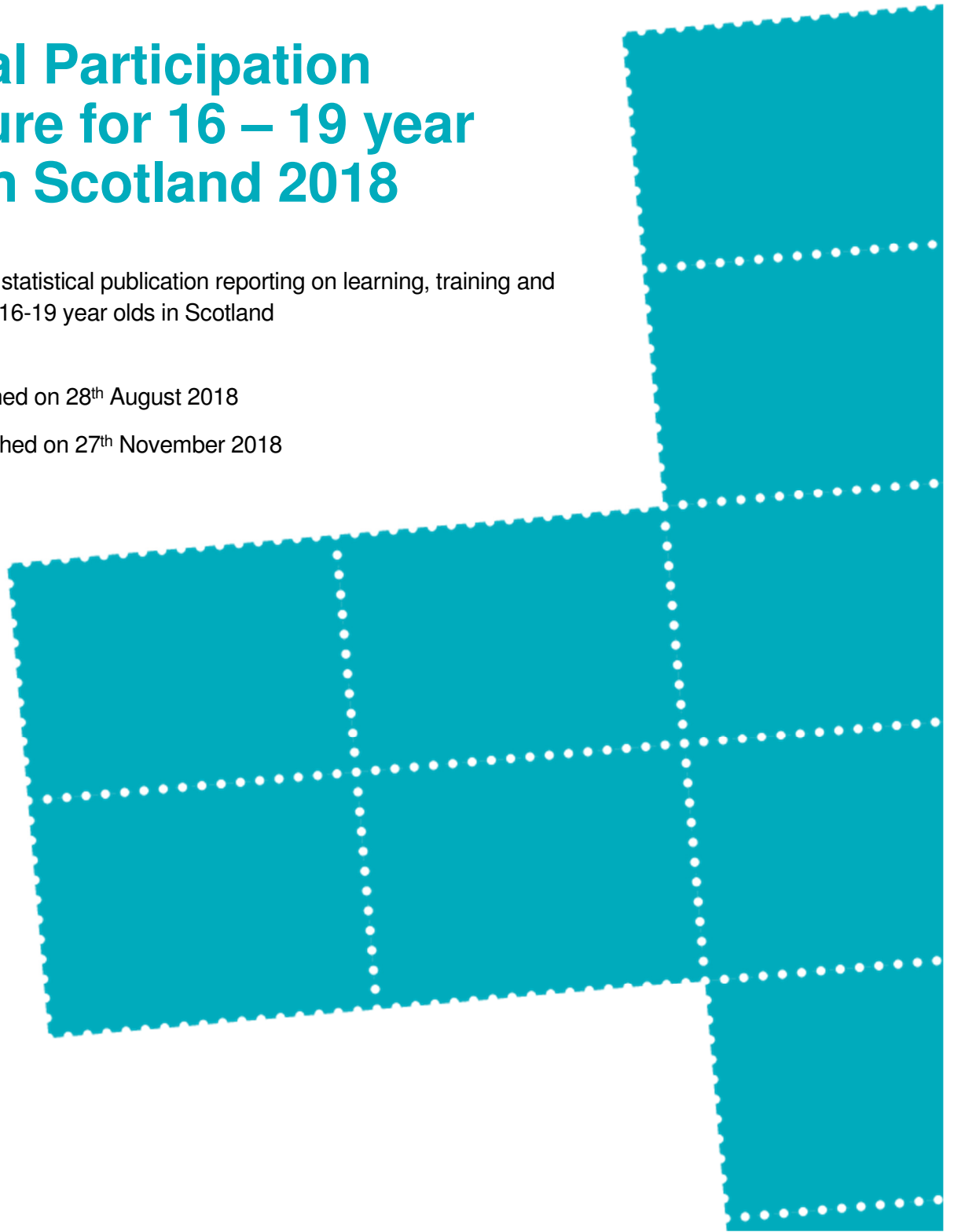


# Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2018

The 4th annual statistical publication reporting on learning, training and work activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland

Original Published on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Revision Published on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018



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## Table of Revisions

| Revision Date   | Revision Details   |                     |       |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
|---|--|---------------------|-------|------|------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|------|------|------|---|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|------|------|------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|------|------|------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|------|------|------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 27/11/2018  | <p>The quality assurance process undertaken during the preparation of the 2018 APM identified some inaccuracies in the number of people reported as identified as disabled within the shared dataset. Further investigation into the data revealed that due to a coding error the field used to identify those with a disability for statistics reporting purposes had not been correctly imported from the school pupil census to SDS Customer Support System (CSS). In addition, some pupil records were not updated in subsequent years where the census disability value had changed. Whilst this issue has impacted on SDS reporting of official statistics, it has not impacted SDS customers or the service they receive.</p> <p>To resolve the inaccuracies disability data on CSS has been individually audited with corrections made where required.</p> <p>Following the audit of disability data, a revision has been made to disability reporting within the Annual Participation Measure report for 2016 and 2017, and 2018 data will be published for the first time. The numbers affected by this error and subsequent updates made is presented in the table below.</p> <p>Due to the deletion of data in line with our data retention policy, it was not possible to validate all records for each year. The proportion of records successfully audited and validated is also highlighted in the table below. It should be emphasised that where a record has not been validated, it does not mean that the coding error has affected that record. It does mean that it has not been possible to validate the accuracy of that record.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Overview of Changes</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Count of records revised</td> <td>5,500</td> <td>6,177</td> <td>6,229</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% of full APM cohort revised</td> <td>2.5%</td> <td>2.8%</td> <td>2.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of records in APM cohort updated to identified as disabled</td> <td>3,726</td> <td>4,459</td> <td>4,841</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of records in APM cohort updated to not identified as disabled</td> <td>1,774</td> <td>1,718</td> <td>1,388</td> </tr> </tbody> </table><br><table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Result of Changes</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Originally identified as disabled</td> <td>5,861</td> <td>5,598</td> <td>5,094</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% identified as having a disability prior to audit</td> <td>2.6%</td> <td>2.6%</td> <td>2.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised identified as disabled</td> <td>7,813</td> <td>8,339</td> <td>8,547</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% identified as having a disability post audit</td> <td>3.5%</td> <td>3.8%</td> <td>4.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% of records where source was validated</td> <td>94.1%</td> <td>98.7%</td> <td>99.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Overview of Changes | 2016  | 2017 | 2018 | Count of records revised | 5,500 | 6,177 | 6,229 | % of full APM cohort revised | 2.5% | 2.8% | 2.9% | Number of records in APM cohort updated to identified as disabled | 3,726 | 4,459 | 4,841 | Number of records in APM cohort updated to not identified as disabled | 1,774 | 1,718 | 1,388 | Result of Changes | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Originally identified as disabled | 5,861 | 5,598 | 5,094 | % identified as having a disability prior to audit | 2.6% | 2.6% | 2.4% | Revised identified as disabled | 7,813 | 8,339 | 8,547 | % identified as having a disability post audit | 3.5% | 3.8% | 4.0% | % of records where source was validated | 94.1% | 98.7% | 99.9% |
| Overview of Changes   | 2016   | 2017                | 2018  |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| Count of records revised  | 5,500  | 6,177               | 6,229 |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| % of full APM cohort revised  | 2.5%   | 2.8%                | 2.9%  |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| Number of records in APM cohort updated to identified as disabled     | 3,726  | 4,459               | 4,841 |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| Number of records in APM cohort updated to not identified as disabled | 1,774  | 1,718               | 1,388 |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| Result of Changes   | 2016   | 2017                | 2018  |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| Originally identified as disabled                                     | 5,861  | 5,598               | 5,094 |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| % identified as having a disability prior to audit                    | 2.6%   | 2.6%                | 2.4%  |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| Revised identified as disabled  | 7,813  | 8,339               | 8,547 |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| % identified as having a disability post audit                        | 3.5%   | 3.8%                | 4.0%  |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |
| % of records where source was validated                               | 94.1%  | 98.7%               | 99.9% |      |      |                          |       |       |       |                              |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |                   |      |      |      |                                   |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |                                |       |       |       |  |      |      |      |   |       |       |       |

# 2018 Annual Participation Measure Summary of Key Results



**211,255** individuals

The Participation Measure covers the 16-19 year old cohort

**91.8%**

of 16-19 year olds were participating in education, training or employment.

An increase of **0.7 percentage points** from 91.1% in 2017.

**3.4%**

were not participating; those unemployed seeking employment and others unemployed and not seeking e.g. economically inactive.

A decrease of **0.3 percentage points** from 3.7% in 2017.

**4.7%**

with an unconfirmed status with over 62% being 19 years old. It is believed a proportion of those reported here could be in employment but this cannot be confirmed.<sup>1</sup>

A decrease of **0.6 percentage points** from 5.3% in 2017.



**71.3%**

in Education  
71.1% in 2017



**18.7%**

in Employment  
18.1% in 2017



**1.9%**

in Training & Personal Development  
1.8% in 2017



**1.7%**

Unemployed Seeking  
2.1% in 2017



**1.7%**

Unemployed Not Seeking  
1.6% in 2017



The annual participation measure takes account of the status for all 16-19 year olds from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. All statuses are combined to calculate the participation headline classification and the status grouping displayed.

(Percentages may not total due to rounding)

<sup>1</sup> Skills Development Scotland continues to work with the Scottish Government and HMRC to make progress in obtaining employment related data made possible through provisions within the Digital Economy (Act) 2017. Information sharing will improve service delivery and further enhance the annual participation measure. This should bring benefits in reducing the number of unconfirmed statuses. The parties are in the process of carrying out a Proof of Concept with HMRC to test whether accessing tax data will enhance the coverage of young people who are in employment and bring about these benefits.

# Executive Summary

This report marks the fourth release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level, and is the third year using the current Annual Participation Measure reporting methodology. The annual methodology takes account of all statuses for 16-19 year olds in Scotland over one calendar year (1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March). For each of the 211,255 individuals included within the annual measure cohort, the headline participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification within which each individual spent the greatest number of days.

Since August 2017, the Annual Participation Measure has been the source of the National Performance Framework indicator, “**increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work**”.

**The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment in the 2018 Annual Participation Measure was 91.8% compared to 91.1% in 2017. This is an increase of 0.7 percentage points (pp).**

#### Annual Participation rate for:

- ↑ 16 year olds was 98.9%, **an increase of 0.1 pp** (98.8% in 2017).
- ↑ 17 year olds was 94.6%, **an increase of 0.6 pp** (94.0% in 2017).
- ↑ 18 year olds was 89.9%, **an increase of 1.0 pp** (88.9% in 2017).
- ↑ 19 year olds was 84.5%, **an increase of 1.1 pp** (83.4% in 2017).

**The proportion of 16-19 year olds not participating in the 2018 Annual Participation Measure was 3.4% compared to 3.7% in 2017. This is a decrease of 0.3 pp.**

#### Non - Participation rate for:

- ↓ 16 year olds was 0.9%, **a decrease of 0.1 pp** (1.0% in 2017).
- ↓ 17 year olds was 3.6%, **a decrease of 0.3 pp** (3.9% in 2017).
- ↓ 18 year olds was 4.9%, **a decrease of 0.2 pp** (5.1% in 2017).
- ↓ 19 year olds was 4.2%, **a decrease of 0.3 pp** (4.5% in 2017).

**The proportion of 16-19 years reported as unconfirmed in the 2018 participation measure was 4.7% compared to 5.3% in 2017, a decrease of 0.6 pp.**

#### Unconfirmed rate for:

- 16 year olds **remained static** at 0.2%.
- ↓ 17 year olds was 1.8%, **a decrease of 0.3 pp** (2.1% in 2017).
- ↓ 18 year olds was 5.1%, **a decrease of 1.0 pp** (6.1% in 2017).
- ↓ 19 year olds was 11.3%, **a decrease of 0.7 pp** (12.0% in 2017).

Nineteen local authorities had an annual participation rate above the national rate, thirteen were below this rate. **The variation between the highest and the lowest annual participation rate within local authorities was 8.8 pp, a reduction from the variation of 9.3 pp in 2017.**

## 1. Introduction

In 2012 the Scottish Government made an explicit commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old in Scotland not in employment, education or training. This pledge, detailed in [Opportunities for All \(OfA\)](#), aims to ensure all young people are supported in their path to sustainable employment.

To deliver this commitment, the Government asked organisations involved in supporting young people to share their information relating to individuals to create a single shared data set. This would enable those organisations to provide informed support as and when a young person might need it.

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports on the economic and employment activity of the wider 16-19 year old cohort, including those at school. The measure is used to inform policy, planning and service delivery and to determine the impact of the OfA commitment. The APM was subsequently incorporated into the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework from August 2017 as the source of the indicator, **“increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work”**, replacing the school leaver destination follow-up. The measure is published alongside other national indicators [here](#).

The measure uses the shared data set which is managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and held on the agency's Customer Support System (CSS). Central to the maintenance of the shared dataset is the sharing of information between partners to identify what young people are doing in 'real time' between the ages of 16-19. It also allows SDS and partners to improve service delivery and provide a more tailored offer, helping to identify the right time to engage with customers.

The APM could be further strengthened by the inclusion of employment related data from HMRC. SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and HMRC to obtain this data. This key development in information sharing will further enhance the APM and help improve service delivery.

To have been included in the 2018 APM, an individual must have had a customer record on CSS and been between 16 and 19 years of age on the 31st March 2018.

## Report background

This report marks the fourth release of data on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level. It is the third publication that uses APM rather than the previous snapshot measure. The current methodology takes account of all statuses for individuals over the course of the year. This contrasts with the methodology used in 2015 which focused on an individual's status on a single day (the 'snapshot' methodology). The participation classification of each customer is calculated by combining the number of days spent in each status between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018. The overall participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification which accounts for the greatest number of days.

This fourth report contains analysis of the 2018 outcomes and, where possible, compares these to 2017 and 2016, including:

- Participation by status and age
- Participation by equality characteristics including gender, ethnicity and disability
- Participation by geography including local authority and SIMD (2016).

Throughout this report the term 'percentage point' (pp) is used to describe the difference between two percentages.

[Appendix One](#) outlines notes to readers. This includes definitions and the background to the methodology used to populate the annual measure.

In addition, [Supplementary Statistics Tables](#) are available in excel format on the SDS website.

Any comments or suggestions regarding the content of this report are welcome and can be emailed to [user\\_feedback@sds.co.uk](mailto:user_feedback@sds.co.uk).



## 2. Annual Participation Measure Headline Statistics

The headline APM statistics are set out in Table 1 below. These are based on the status records for the 211,255 individuals within the 2018 APM cohort (inclusion criteria are defined in Appendix 1).

- The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 (the 2018 APM figure) was 91.8%, an increase of 0.7 pp compared to the equivalent 2017 APM figure (91.1%).
- The proportion of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status was 4.7%, a reduction of 0.6 pp since 2017. As was the case in 2017, the majority of these (62.2%) were 19 year olds.
- The number of individuals captured within the 2018 APM cohort was 6,235 less than the 2017 measure. This change is in line with National Records of Scotland population estimates<sup>1</sup>.

SDS continues to work to reduce the proportion of those aged 18-19 with an unconfirmed status. This includes ongoing discussions with HMRC to carry out a Proof of Concept with HMRC to test whether accessing tax data will enhance the coverage of young people who are in employment.

**Table 1: 2018 Annual Participation Measure (%)**

| APM Headline                           | Age           |               |               |               |                |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|  | 16            | 17            | 18            | 19            | 16 to 19       |
| Count of 16-19 Year old Participating  | 50,104        | 49,176        | 48,003        | 46,712        | 193,995        |
| <b>% 16-19 Participating</b>           | <b>98.9%</b>  | <b>94.6%</b>  | <b>89.9%</b>  | <b>84.5%</b>  | <b>91.8%</b>   |
| Count of 16-19 Not Participating       | 436           | 1,852         | 2,626         | 2,328         | 7,242          |
| <b>% 16-19 Not Participating</b>       | <b>0.9%</b>   | <b>3.6%</b>   | <b>4.9%</b>   | <b>4.2%</b>   | <b>3.4%</b>    |
| Count of 16-19 with Unconfirmed Status | 104           | 940           | 2,746         | 6,228         | 10,018         |
| <b>% Status Unconfirmed</b>            | <b>0.2%</b>   | <b>1.8%</b>   | <b>5.1%</b>   | <b>11.3%</b>  | <b>4.7%</b>    |
| <b>Count of 16-19 Cohort</b>           | <b>50,644</b> | <b>51,968</b> | <b>53,375</b> | <b>55,268</b> | <b>211,255</b> |

<sup>1</sup> The National Records of Scotland (NRS) 2016 based population estimates stated that the number of people aged 16-19 years old was expected to decrease by 6,976 between 2017 and 2018. The annual participation measure cohort coverage has remained at 93% of the NRS projected population for 16 to 19 years olds, which is the same as the 2017 cohort.

### 3. Annual Participation Measure by Age and Status

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the APM by age. The results show that the participation rate decreases with age. Conversely, the percentage not participating or with an unconfirmed status was higher in the older age groups. Notably:

- Participation was highest amongst 16 year olds (98.9%) with the majority of 16 year olds at school (90.9%).
- The lowest rate of participation was amongst 19 year olds (84.5%). This is 1.1 pp higher than in 2017 (83.4%). 19 year olds were most likely to be in higher education (40.5%).
- 3.4% of 16-19 year olds were counted as not participating. This group included those who were unemployed and seeking employment (1.7%), as well as those who were economically inactive and others not seeking employment (1.7%).
- 71.3% of 16-19 year olds were in secondary or tertiary education, an increase of 0.2 pp on 2017:
  - 40.5% were in school (a decrease of 0.3 pp on 2017)
  - 19.8% were in higher education (an increase of 0.5 pp on 2017)
  - 11% were in further education (a decrease of 0.1 pp on 2017)
- 18.7% were reported as being in employment. This included those undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship and individuals employed on a full-time, part-time or self-employed basis. Of those in employment, 50.5% were in full-time employment and a further 34.9% were undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship.
- Of the 1.9% of 16-19 year olds in the training and other development status, 30.3% were accessing support from the Employability Fund<sup>2</sup>. The next largest proportion had an Activity Agreement<sup>3</sup> status (29.5%).

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<sup>2</sup> The Employability Fund is designed to support individuals to develop the skills needed to secure a job or progress to more advanced forms of training. Further details are available at [www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/employability-skills/employability-fund/](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/employability-skills/employability-fund/)

<sup>3</sup> Activity Agreements help school leavers to gain skills and confidence by offering access to a personal programme of learning and activity.

**Table 2: 2018 Annual Participation Measure by age (%)**

| Status Group                                   | Status  | Age           |               |               |               | 16-19 year old Total |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
|  |   | 16            | 17            | 18            | 19            |                      |
| <b>Participating</b>                           |   |               |               |               |               |                      |
| <b>Education</b>                               | School Pupil                                      | 90.9%         | 64.7%         | 10.8%         | 0.2%          | 40.5%                |
|  | Higher Education                                  | 0.0%          | 2.6%          | 33.7%         | 40.5%         | 19.8%                |
|  | Further Education                                 | 4.4%          | 12.4%         | 16.7%         | 10.3%         | 11.0%                |
|  | <b>Number in Education</b>                        | <b>48,313</b> | <b>41,398</b> | <b>32,629</b> | <b>28,193</b> | <b>150,533</b>       |
|  | <b>% Participating in Education</b>               | <b>95.4%</b>  | <b>79.7%</b>  | <b>61.1%</b>  | <b>51.0%</b>  | <b>71.3%</b>         |
| <b>Employment</b>                              | Modern Apprenticeship                             | 1.0%          | 5.0%          | 9.5%          | 10.1%         | 6.5%                 |
|  | Full-Time Employment                              | 1.1%          | 5.6%          | 12.6%         | 17.5%         | 9.4%                 |
|  | Part-Time Employment                              | 0.3%          | 1.4%          | 4.2%          | 4.4%          | 2.6%                 |
|  | Self-Employed                                     | 0.0%          | 0.0%          | 0.1%          | 0.2%          | 0.1%                 |
|  | <b>Number in Employment</b>                       | <b>1,241</b>  | <b>6,311</b>  | <b>14,080</b> | <b>17,777</b> | <b>39,409</b>        |
|  | <b>% Participating in Employment</b>              | <b>2.5%</b>   | <b>12.1%</b>  | <b>26.4%</b>  | <b>32.2%</b>  | <b>18.7%</b>         |
| <b>Training and Other Personal Development</b> | Employability Fund Stages 2 – 4                   | 0.4%          | 1.0%          | 0.7%          | 0.2%          | 0.6%                 |
|  | Activity Agreement                                | 0.5%          | 1.0%          | 0.5%          | 0.3%          | 0.6%                 |
|  | Other Formal Training                             | 0.1%          | 0.3%          | 0.3%          | 0.2%          | 0.2%                 |
|  | Personal/ Skills Development                      | 0.1%          | 0.3%          | 0.4%          | 0.4%          | 0.3%                 |
|  | Voluntary Work                                    | 0.0%          | 0.2%          | 0.4%          | 0.2%          | 0.2%                 |
|  | <b>Number in Training &amp; Other Development</b> | <b>550</b>    | <b>1,467</b>  | <b>1,294</b>  | <b>742</b>    | <b>4,053</b>         |
|  | <b>% Training &amp; Other Development</b>         | <b>1.1%</b>   | <b>2.8%</b>   | <b>2.4%</b>   | <b>1.3%</b>   | <b>1.9%</b>          |
| <b>Not Participating</b>                       |   |               |               |               |               |                      |
| <b>Unemployed Seeking</b>                      | <b>Number Unemployed Seeking</b>                  | <b>314</b>    | <b>1,191</b>  | <b>1,396</b>  | <b>785</b>    | <b>3,686</b>         |
|  | <b>% Unemployed Seeking</b>                       | <b>0.6%</b>   | <b>2.3%</b>   | <b>2.6%</b>   | <b>1.4%</b>   | <b>1.7%</b>          |
| <b>Unemployed not seeking</b>                  | Economically Inactive                             | 0.2%          | 0.8%          | 1.5%          | 1.8%          | 1.1%                 |
|  | Unavailable - Ill Health                          | *             | *             | 0.7%          | 0.9%          | 0.5%                 |
|  | Custody   | *             | *             | 0.1%          | 0.1%          | 0.1%                 |
|  | <b>Number unemployed not seeking</b>              | <b>122</b>    | <b>661</b>    | <b>1,230</b>  | <b>1,543</b>  | <b>3,556</b>         |
|  | <b>% Unemployed Not Seeking</b>                   | <b>0.2%</b>   | <b>1.3%</b>   | <b>2.3%</b>   | <b>2.8%</b>   | <b>1.7%</b>          |

Notes: See note (k) in "Appendix 1 - Notes for Readers" for information about comparison to other published statistics.

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

\* Withheld due to disclosure control

## 4. Annual Participation Measure Time Series

As detailed in Table 3, the 2018 figures show that participation continued to increase across all age groups. Points of note include:

- The largest increase in participation was amongst 18 and 19 year olds (1 pp and 1.1 pp respectively).
- The rate of employment amongst 16-19 year olds increased by 0.6 pp between 2017 and 2018, and by 1.8 pp between 2016 and 2018.
- The proportion of those classed as not participating decreased by 0.3 pp. This included a reduction, when compared with the 2017 figures, in those who were unemployed seeking (decreased by 0.4 pp) offset by a slight increase in those who were unemployed and not seeking (0.1 pp).
- The proportion of young people with an unconfirmed status has fallen steadily over the three-year period, with the largest decrease among 18 year olds – down 1 pp since 2017, followed by 19 year olds with a 0.7 pp decrease.

Analysis of the data for 16-19 year olds with a post-school status shows that:

- The participation rate for 16-19 year olds with a post-school status was 86.3% in 2018. This is an increase of 1.4 pp on the 2017 figure. A breakdown of the 2018 post-school participation rate by age shows that it was:
  - highest amongst 18 year olds (88.7%)
  - lowest amongst 19 year olds (84.5%)
  - increasing across all age groups. The highest rate of increase from 2017 to 2018 was amongst 16 year olds (2.4 pp), while the lowest increase was observed amongst 19 year olds (1.1 pp).

**Table 3: Annual Participation Measure comparison between 2016, 2017 and 2018**

| Status Grouping                           | 2016 Annual Participation Measure | 2017 Annual Participation Measure | 2018 Annual Participation Measure | Percentage Point Change 2018 on 2017 | Percentage Point Change 2018 on 2016 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Total 16-19 Cohort</b>                 | <b>(222,580)</b>                  | <b>(217,490)</b>                  | <b>211,255</b>                    | <b>-6,235</b>                        | <b>-11,325</b>                       |
| <b>Participating</b>                      | <b>90.4%</b>                      | <b>91.1%</b>                      | <b>91.8%</b>                      | 0.7                                  | 1.4                                  |
| 16 year olds                              | 98.7%                             | 98.8%                             | 98.9%                             | 0.1                                  | 0.2                                  |
| 17 year olds                              | 93.9%                             | 94.0%                             | 94.6%                             | 0.6                                  | 0.7                                  |
| 18 year olds                              | 88.0%                             | 88.9%                             | 89.9%                             | 1.0                                  | 1.9                                  |
| 19 year olds                              | 81.7%                             | 83.4%                             | 84.5%                             | 1.1                                  | 2.8                                  |
| <b>% Participating in Education</b>       | <b>71.3%</b>                      | <b>71.1%</b>                      | <b>71.3%</b>                      | <b>0.2</b>                           | <b>0</b>                             |
| 16 year olds                              | 95.3%                             | 95.7%                             | 95.4%                             | -0.3                                 | 0.1                                  |
| 17 year olds                              | 79.6%                             | 79.7%                             | 79.7%                             | 0.0                                  | 0.1                                  |
| 18 year olds                              | 60.7%                             | 60.8%                             | 61.1%                             | 0.3                                  | 0.4                                  |
| 19 year olds                              | 51.7%                             | 50.7%                             | 51.0%                             | 0.3                                  | -0.7                                 |
| <b>% Participating in Employment</b>      | <b>16.9%</b>                      | <b>18.1%</b>                      | <b>18.7%</b>                      | <b>0.6</b>                           | <b>1.8</b>                           |
| 16 year olds                              | 2.0%                              | 2.0%                              | 2.5%                              | 0.5                                  | 0.5                                  |
| 17 year olds                              | 11.0%                             | 11.7%                             | 12.1%                             | 0.4                                  | 1.1                                  |
| 18 year olds                              | 24.6%                             | 25.6%                             | 26.4%                             | 0.8                                  | 1.8                                  |
| 19 year olds                              | 28.9%                             | 31.5%                             | 32.2%                             | 0.7                                  | 3.3                                  |
| <b>% Training &amp; Other Development</b> | <b>2.1%</b>                       | <b>1.8%</b>                       | <b>1.9%</b>                       | <b>0.1</b>                           | <b>-0.2</b>                          |
| 16 year olds                              | 1.4%                              | 1.2%                              | 1.1%                              | -0.1                                 | -0.3                                 |
| 17 year olds                              | 3.3%                              | 2.6%                              | 2.8%                              | 0.2                                  | -0.5                                 |
| 18 year olds                              | 2.7%                              | 2.5%                              | 2.4%                              | -0.1                                 | -0.3                                 |
| 19 year olds                              | 1.1%                              | 1.2%                              | 1.3%                              | 0.1                                  | 0.2                                  |
| <b>Not Participating</b>                  | <b>4.0%</b>                       | <b>3.7%</b>                       | <b>3.4%</b>                       | <b>-0.3</b>                          | <b>-0.6</b>                          |
| 16 year olds                              | 1.0%                              | 1.0%                              | 0.9%                              | -0.1                                 | -0.1                                 |
| 17 year olds                              | 3.7%                              | 3.9%                              | 3.6%                              | -0.3                                 | -0.1                                 |
| 18 year olds                              | 5.5%                              | 5.1%                              | 4.9%                              | -0.2                                 | -0.6                                 |
| 19 year olds                              | 5.8%                              | 4.5%                              | 4.2%                              | -0.3                                 | -1.6                                 |
| <b>% Unemployed Seeking</b>               | <b>2.7%</b>                       | <b>2.1%</b>                       | <b>1.7%</b>                       | <b>-0.4</b>                          | <b>-1</b>                            |
| 16 year olds                              | 0.8%                              | 0.8%                              | 0.6%                              | -0.2                                 | -0.2                                 |
| 17 year olds                              | 2.7%                              | 2.8%                              | 2.3%                              | -0.5                                 | -0.4                                 |
| 18 year olds                              | 3.5%                              | 2.9%                              | 2.6%                              | -0.3                                 | -0.9                                 |
| 19 year olds                              | 3.5%                              | 1.9%                              | 1.4%                              | -0.5                                 | -2.1                                 |
| <b>% Unemployed Not seeking</b>           | <b>1.3%</b>                       | <b>1.6%</b>                       | <b>1.7%</b>                       | <b>0.1</b>                           | <b>0.4</b>                           |
| 16 year olds                              | 0.2%                              | 0.2%                              | 0.2%                              | 0.0                                  | 0                                    |
| 17 year olds                              | 0.9%                              | 1.1%                              | 1.3%                              | 0.2                                  | 0.4                                  |
| 18 year olds                              | 2.0%                              | 2.2%                              | 2.3%                              | 0.1                                  | 0.3                                  |
| 19 year olds                              | 2.2%                              | 2.6%                              | 2.8%                              | 0.2                                  | 0.6                                  |
| <b>Status Unconfirmed</b>                 | <b>5.6%</b>                       | <b>5.3%</b>                       | <b>4.7%</b>                       | <b>-0.6</b>                          | <b>-0.9</b>                          |
| 16 year olds                              | 0.3%                              | 0.2%                              | 0.2%                              | 0.0                                  | -0.1                                 |
| 17 year olds                              | 2.4%                              | 2.1%                              | 1.8%                              | -0.3                                 | -0.6                                 |
| 18 year olds                              | 6.6%                              | 6.1%                              | 5.1%                              | -1.0                                 | -1.5                                 |
| 19 year olds                              | 12.6%                             | 12.0%                             | 11.3%                             | -0.7                                 | -1.3                                 |

## 5. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status

The percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed status has decreased year on year from 2016 to 2018. This definition applies to individuals, within the shared data set, whose predominant status is 'unconfirmed' within that year. This means, that despite multi-partner data sharing and tracking of individuals, as part of service delivery, it has not been possible to identify full status information.

Table 4 below provides a breakdown, by age, of those whose status was reported as unconfirmed. Points of note include:

- The number of individuals in 2018 with an unconfirmed status was 10,018 (4.7%).
- 18 and 19 year olds are markedly more likely to have an unconfirmed status compared to the 16 and 17 year old groups.
- The majority of those with an unconfirmed status were aged 19 (62.2%). It could be that many of these individuals have taken up employment but it has not been possible to confirm this as SDS does not currently have any regular administrative data feed of employment information.
- An unconfirmed status was more common amongst males than females; the gender split for those with an unconfirmed status was 43% female and 57% male.
- Those with an unconfirmed status were also more likely to be in areas of higher deprivation (over a third lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).
- There was a decrease in unconfirmed status amongst all age groups. The largest decrease was amongst the 18 year old group with a 1.0 pp decline between 2017 and 2018.

**Table 4: Status unconfirmed by Age**

| Age          | 2018 Annual Participation Measure |                                       |                | % of age group pp Change 2018 on 2017 | % of age group pp Change 2018 on 2016 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|              | 16-19 Cohort                      | Count & % split of Unconfirmed Status | % of age group |                                       |                                       |
| 16           | 50,644                            | 104 (1%)                              | 0.2%           | 0.0                                   | -0.1                                  |
| 17           | 51,968                            | 940 (9.4%)                            | 1.8%           | -0.3                                  | -0.6                                  |
| 18           | 53,375                            | 2,746 (27.4%)                         | 5.1%           | -1.0                                  | -1.5                                  |
| 19           | 55,268                            | 6,228 (62.2%)                         | 11.3%          | -0.7                                  | -1.3                                  |
| <b>16-19</b> | <b>211,255</b>                    | <b>10,018</b>                         | <b>4.7%</b>    | <b>-0.6</b>                           | <b>-0.9</b>                           |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

## 6. Equalities

SDS has a legal duty, under the Equality Act, to ensure that services are inclusive and accessible to a diverse range of customers. To support this, equality data is collected to enable uptake of services to be monitored and any barriers faced by particular groups to be identified and addressed.

SDS' revised Equality Outcomes for 2017 – 2021 include the outcome, "Increased participation in education, training or employment amongst young people who are disabled, from a minority ethnic group, or are care experienced." It was agreed the 2016 APM would form the baseline for reporting against this outcome.

SDS recognises that care experience is not a protected characteristic but, in line with the commitment made in our Corporate Parenting Plan 2015-18, we aim to treat care experience in the same way we treat groups with protected characteristics. We are not yet able to fully quality assure our care experience data from the shared data set and have, therefore, agreed with the Scottish Government's Children and Young People Statistics Unit not to publish a breakdown of the measure by care experience. SDS continues to work collaboratively to progress a data quality exercise to enable the publication of statistics for those with care experience in the future.

The section of the report that follows provides analysis of participation by:

- Gender,
- Ethnicity; and
- Disability

The equalities data within the shared data set is sourced from school management information systems. Customer records can subsequently be updated by SDS advisers after receipt of information from the individual or their representative.

## 6.1 Gender

Table 5 provides a breakdown of participation status by gender. The results show that females (92.5%) were more likely to be participating in education, employment or training than males (91.2%). Females (76%) were more likely to be participating in education than males (66.7%), and 7.0 pp more likely than males to be participating in higher education. Conversely, there were more males than females in employment, with the figures showing a 7.4 pp difference. Almost two thirds (63.1%) of all unemployed seeking customers were male.

Table 5 shows that the percentage of both females and males participating increased between 2017 and 2018, continuing a trend from the 2016 – 2017 APM. The participation rate remained higher for females than males although the gap narrowed from 1.1 pp in 2017 to 1.3 pp in 2018.

Between 2016 and 2018 the percentage not participating fell for both females and males. This reduction was the result of a fall in those classed as unemployed seeking which has outweighed the rise in the percentage unemployed not seeking. Unconfirmed statuses have continued to decrease uniformly (0.5%) for both females and males, with males more likely to have an unconfirmed status.

**Table 5: Participation statuses broken down by gender**

|                                   | Female         |              |              | Male           |              |              | All 16-19 year olds |              |              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>2018: 16-19 Cohort (count)</b> | <b>102,877</b> |              |              | <b>108,341</b> |              |              | <b>211,255</b>      |              |              |
| <b>% of 2018 Cohort</b>           | <b>48.7%</b>   |              |              | <b>51.3%</b>   |              |              |                     |              |              |
| <b>Status Grouping / Year</b>     | <b>2016</b>    | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2016</b>    | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2016</b>         | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  |
| <b>Participating</b>              | <b>91.0%</b>   | <b>91.6%</b> | <b>92.5%</b> | <b>89.7%</b>   | <b>90.5%</b> | <b>91.2%</b> | <b>90.4%</b>        | <b>91.1%</b> | <b>91.8%</b> |
| % Participating in Education      | 75.9%          | 75.6%        | 76.0%        | 66.9%          | 66.9%        | 66.7%        | 71.3%               | 71.1%        | 71.3%        |
| % Participating in Employment     | 13.4%          | 14.5%        | 14.9%        | 20.3%          | 21.5%        | 22.3%        | 16.9%               | 18.1%        | 18.7%        |
| % Training & Other Development    | 1.7%           | 1.5%         | 1.6%         | 2.5%           | 2.2%         | 2.2%         | 2.1%                | 1.8%         | 1.9%         |
| <b>Not Participating</b>          | <b>3.9%</b>    | <b>3.6%</b>  | <b>3.3%</b>  | <b>4.2%</b>    | <b>3.7%</b>  | <b>3.6%</b>  | <b>4.0%</b>         | <b>3.7%</b>  | <b>3.4%</b>  |
| % Unemployed Seeking              | 2.1%           | 1.7%         | 1.3%         | 3.2%           | 2.5%         | 2.1%         | 2.7%                | 2.1%         | 1.7%         |
| % Unemployed Not seeking          | 1.8%           | 1.9%         | 2.0%         | 0.9%           | 1.2%         | 1.4%         | 1.3%                | 1.6%         | 1.7%         |
| <b>Status Unconfirmed</b>         | <b>5.1%</b>    | <b>4.7%</b>  | <b>4.2%</b>  | <b>6.1%</b>    | <b>5.7%</b>  | <b>5.2%</b>  | <b>5.6%</b>         | <b>5.3%</b>  | <b>4.7%</b>  |

Note: There were 37 individuals who indicated they would not wish to disclose their gender. These individuals have been excluded from the above gender analysis. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



## 6.2 Ethnicity

Table 6 provides a summary of participation rates by ethnicity. At 95.2%, the participation rate among non-white ethnic groups was 3.4 pp higher than for those identified as white. While participation rates increased across both groups the participation 'gap' increased by 0.1 pp between 2017 and 2018.

The percentage of young people from non-white ethnic groups participating in education was 87.1%. This was 15.8 pp higher than the national average. Over half (51.6%) participated in school compared to a national average of 40.5%. A similar disparity existed in higher education where participation amongst 16-19 year olds from non-white ethnic groups was 6.0 pp higher than the national average.

The dominance of education as a post 16+ choice for those from non-white ethnic groups resulted in lower representation in other statuses. Those from non-white ethnic groups were:

- less likely to be in employment;
- less likely to be unemployed;
- less likely to have an unconfirmed status.

**Table 6: Participation statuses broken down by ethnicity**

|                                   | <b>Mixed or Multiple;<br/>Asian; African;<br/>Caribbean or Black;<br/>and Other ethnic<br/>groups</b> |              |              | <b>White<sup>1</sup></b> |              |              | <b>Not Known / Not<br/>Disclosed</b> |              |              |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>2018: 16-19 Cohort (count)</b> | 10,719  |              |              | 196,568                  |              |              | 3,968                                |              |              |
| <b>% of 2018 Cohort</b>           | 5.1%  |              |              | 93%                      |              |              | 1.9%                                 |              |              |
| <b>Status Grouping / Year</b>     | <b>2016</b>   | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2016</b>              | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2016</b>                          | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  |
| <b>Participating</b>              | <b>92.9%</b>  | <b>94.3%</b> | <b>95.2%</b> | <b>90.3%</b>             | <b>91.0%</b> | <b>91.8%</b> | <b>89.2%</b>                         | <b>85.4%</b> | <b>84.1%</b> |
| % Participating in Education      | 84.6%   | 85.8%        | 87.1%        | 70.5%                    | 70.5%        | 70.6%        | 76.3%                                | 64.2%        | 62.1%        |
| % Participating in Employment     | 7.1%  | 7.2%         | 7.0%         | 17.6%                    | 18.6%        | 19.3%        | 10.6%                                | 18.4%        | 19.7%        |
| % Training & Other Development    | 1.3%  | 1.2%         | 1.1%         | 2.2%                     | 1.9%         | 2.0%         | 2.4%                                 | 2.8%         | 2.2%         |
| <b>Not Participating</b>          | <b>2.2%</b>   | <b>2.0%</b>  | <b>1.6%</b>  | <b>4.1%</b>              | <b>3.7%</b>  | <b>3.5%</b>  | <b>3.8%</b>                          | <b>5.7%</b>  | <b>5.4%</b>  |
| % Unemployed Seeking              | 1.4%  | 1.3%         | 0.9%         | 2.7%                     | 2.1%         | 1.8%         | 2.5%                                 | 3.1%         | 2.6%         |
| % Unemployed Not seeking          | 0.8%  | 0.8%         | 0.7%         | 1.4%                     | 1.6%         | 1.7%         | 1.4%                                 | 2.7%         | 2.8%         |
| <b>Status Unconfirmed</b>         | <b>4.9%</b>   | <b>3.7%</b>  | <b>3.2%</b>  | <b>5.6%</b>              | <b>5.3%</b>  | <b>4.7%</b>  | <b>6.9%</b>                          | <b>8.9%</b>  | <b>10.5%</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Note: The White ethnicity group includes young people from the following ethnicity categories: White – Scottish, White – Other British, White – Irish, White – Polish, Gypsy/Traveller and White – Other

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

### 6.3 Disability

Table 7 provides a breakdown of the 16-19 year old Annual Participation Measure (APM) cohort by disability. As part of our quality assurance process we audited the accuracy of disability data for each APM cohort. For those identified as disabled we verified the source of disability for 99.9% of records for the 2018 APM, 98.7% for the 2017 APM, and 94.1% of records for the 2016 APM. Further details about the revised disability data can be found within the [table of revisions](#) at the front of this publication.

**Table 7: Participation statuses broken down by disability**

|                                   | Identified as Disabled |              |              | NOT Identified as Disabled |              |              | All 16-19 year olds |              |              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>2018: 16-19 Cohort (count)</b> | <b>8,547</b>           |              |              | <b>202,708</b>             |              |              | <b>211,255</b>      |              |              |
| <b>% of 2018 Cohort</b>           | <b>4.0%</b>            |              |              | <b>96.0%</b>               |              |              |                     |              |              |
| <b>Status Grouping / Year</b>     | <b>2016</b>            | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2016</b>                | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2016</b>         | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  |
| <b>Participating</b>              | <b>86.0%</b>           | <b>86.2%</b> | <b>86.3%</b> | <b>90.5%</b>               | <b>91.3%</b> | <b>92.1%</b> | <b>90.4%</b>        | <b>91.1%</b> | <b>91.8%</b> |
| % Participating in Education      | 71.9%                  | 70.1%        | 69.2%        | 71.3%                      | 71.2%        | 71.3%        | 71.3%               | 71.1%        | 71.3%        |
| % Participating in Employment     | 8.3%                   | 10.1%        | 10.8%        | 17.2%                      | 18.4%        | 19.0%        | 16.9%               | 18.1%        | 18.7%        |
| % Training & Other Development    | 5.8%                   | 6.0%         | 6.4%         | 2.0%                       | 1.7%         | 1.7%         | 2.1%                | 1.8%         | 1.9%         |
| <b>Not Participating</b>          | <b>7.8%</b>            | <b>8.7%</b>  | <b>8.1%</b>  | <b>3.9%</b>                | <b>3.5%</b>  | <b>3.2%</b>  | <b>4.0%</b>         | <b>3.7%</b>  | <b>3.4%</b>  |
| % Unemployed Seeking              | 3.7%                   | 3.5%         | 3.0%         | 2.6%                       | 2.0%         | 1.7%         | 2.7%                | 2.1%         | 1.7%         |
| % Unemployed Not seeking          | 4.2%                   | 5.1%         | 5.1%         | 1.2%                       | 1.4%         | 1.5%         | 1.3%                | 1.6%         | 1.7%         |
| <b>Status Unconfirmed</b>         | <b>6.1%</b>            | <b>5.2%</b>  | <b>5.6%</b>  | <b>5.6%</b>                | <b>5.3%</b>  | <b>4.7%</b>  | <b>5.6%</b>         | <b>5.3%</b>  | <b>4.7%</b>  |

At 86.3%, the participation rate of 16-19 year olds identified as disabled was 5.5 pp lower than the national average and 5.8 pp lower than those identified as not disabled.

The participation rate for those identified as disabled has shown a slight year on year increase since 2016. Despite this, the participation gap between those identified as disabled and those not identified as disabled has widened. In 2016 the gap was 4.5 pp but by 2018 this had increased to 5.8 pp.

The majority of those identified as disabled were participating in education. However, there has been a 2.7 pp drop in the rate of participation in education by those identified as disabled since 2016.

For those identified as disabled participation in employment increased by 2.5 pp from 2016 to 10.8%. However, this was 8.2 pp lower than those identified as not disabled.

Of those identified as disabled and not participating 63% were unemployed not seeking. This is higher than the proportion of those not identified as disabled who were unemployed and not seeking (48%).

The percentage of those identified as disabled with an unconfirmed status increased by 0.4 pp since 2017, contrasting with a 0.6 pp decrease amongst those not identified as disabled.

## 7. Participation Rates Across Scotland

As part of the development work for the participation measure, several options were considered to report participation at a local authority level. Following consultation, a methodology was agreed that retains a link to the local authority where the individual was schooled for a set period before adopting the local authority in which they subsequently reside. Further detail on the methodology is provided in the background notes in Appendix 1.

In addition to local authority reporting, data based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is also presented, which uses the postcode of individuals within the participation measure cohort.

### 7.1 Local Authority

Table 8 provides a breakdown of the APM results by local authority for 2016, 2017 and 2018. This is followed by Graph A which shows the percentage point change in the APM broken down by local authority. In summary, the results show that:

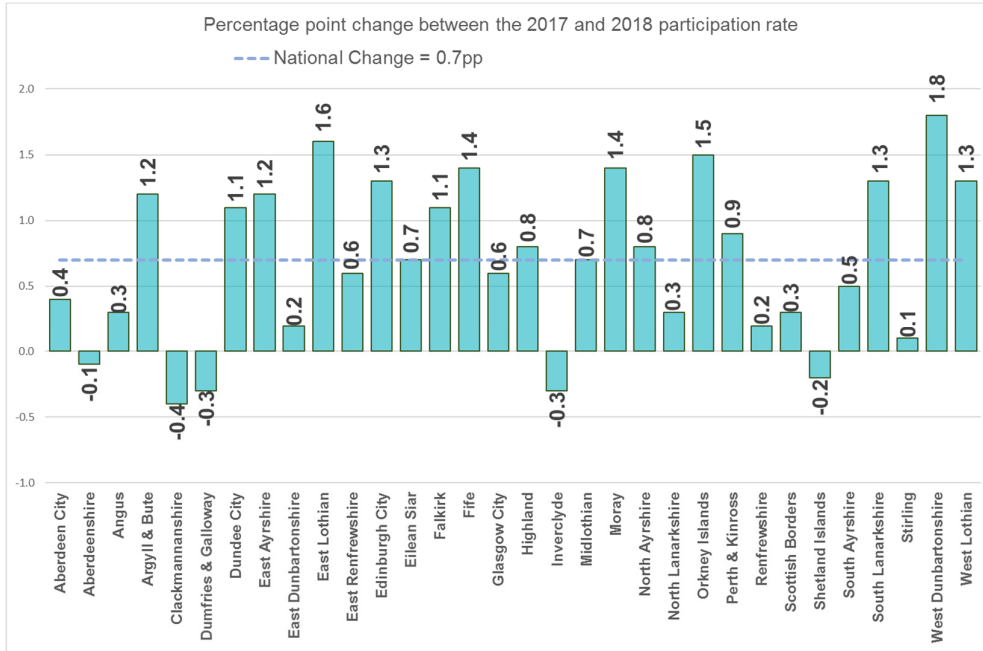
- Between 2017 and 2018 the participation rate rose in 27 of the 32 local authorities.
- Nineteen local authorities had a participation rate above the Scottish average (the remaining thirteen fell below this rate).
- The variation between the highest and lowest participation rate was 8.8 pp. The highest participation rate was in Eilean Siar at 97.6%, a rise of 0.7 pp on 2017. The lowest participation rate was in Dundee City at 88.7%, an increase of 1.1 pp on 2017.
- In comparison to 2017, there were reductions in the non-participation rate for 19 authorities and reductions in the rate of unconfirmed statuses for 22 local authorities.

**Table 8: Participation Cohort by Local Authority**

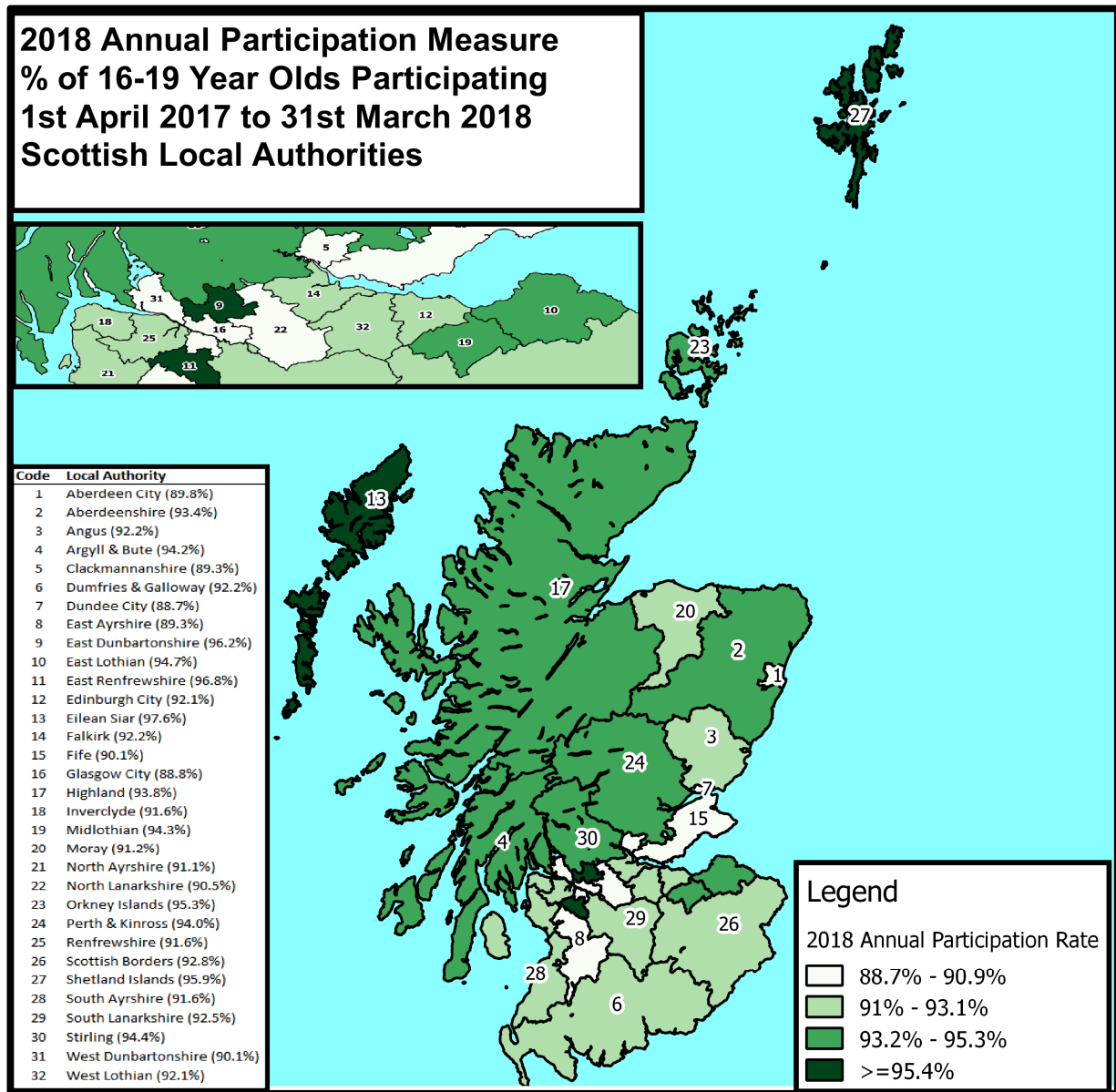
| Local Authority     | 2018 Annual Participation Measure |                     |                      | Percentage point change between 2018 and 2017 |                     |                      | Percentage point change between 2018 and 2016 |                   |                    |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|
|                     | % Participation                   | % Non-participation | % Unconfirmed status | % Participation                               | % Non-participation | % Unconfirmed status | Participation                                 | Non-participation | Unconfirmed status |
| <b>Scotland</b>     | <b>91.8%</b>                      | <b>3.4%</b>         | <b>4.7%</b>          | <b>0.7</b>                                    | <b>-0.3</b>         | <b>-0.6</b>          | <b>1.4</b>                                    | <b>-0.6</b>       | <b>-0.9</b>        |
| Aberdeen City       | 89.8%                             | 4.2%                | 6.1%                 | 0.4   | 0.3                 | -0.6                 | 0.9   | -0.4              | -0.5               |
| Aberdeenshire       | 93.4%                             | 2.2%                | 4.4%                 | -0.1  | -0.3                | 0.4                  | 0.2   | -0.3              | 0.1                |
| Angus               | 92.2%                             | 3.6%                | 4.3%                 | 0.3   | -0.1                | 0.0                  | 0.6   | 0.4               | -0.9               |
| Argyll & Bute       | 94.2%                             | 2.7%                | 3.1%                 | 1.2   | -0.1                | -1.1                 | 0.0   | -0.4              | 0.4                |
| Clackmannanshire    | 89.3%                             | 6.8%                | 3.9%                 | -0.4  | -0.7                | 1.1                  | 1.1   | -1.8              | 0.8                |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 92.2%                             | 3.4%                | 4.4%                 | -0.3  | 0.0                 | 0.3                  | 1.6   | -0.3              | -1.3               |
| Dundee City         | 88.7%                             | 5.6%                | 5.7%                 | 1.1   | -1.3                | 0.2                  | 1.0   | -2.7              | 1.7                |
| East Ayrshire       | 89.3%                             | 3.2%                | 7.5%                 | 1.2   | -0.6                | -0.7                 | 0.0   | -0.8              | 0.8                |
| East Dunbartonshire | 96.2%                             | 1.0%                | 2.8%                 | 0.2   | -0.3                | 0.0                  | 0.6   | -0.7              | 0.2                |
| East Lothian        | 94.7%                             | 2.5%                | 2.8%                 | 1.6   | -0.7                | -1.0                 | 4.1   | -1.0              | -3.1               |
| East Renfrewshire   | 96.8%                             | 1.8%                | 1.4%                 | 0.6   | 0.0                 | -0.5                 | 0.4   | 0.4               | -0.8               |
| Edinburgh City      | 92.1%                             | 3.7%                | 4.2%                 | 1.3   | -0.2                | -1.1                 | 2.2   | 0.0               | -2.2               |
| Eilean Siar         | 97.6%                             | 1.0%                | 1.4%                 | 0.7   | -0.1                | -0.6                 | 1.8   | -0.7              | -1.2               |
| Falkirk             | 92.2%                             | 4.2%                | 3.6%                 | 1.1   | -0.3                | -0.7                 | 2.4   | -1.6              | -0.8               |
| Fife                | 90.1%                             | 4.3%                | 5.6%                 | 1.4   | -0.5                | -0.9                 | 1.8   | -0.7              | -1.1               |
| Glasgow City        | 88.8%                             | 4.7%                | 6.5%                 | 0.6   | -0.2                | -0.4                 | 2.0   | -0.5              | -1.5               |
| Highland            | 93.8%                             | 1.7%                | 4.5%                 | 0.8   | -0.5                | -0.3                 | 0.4   | -0.6              | 0.2                |
| Inverclyde          | 91.6%                             | 4.2%                | 4.2%                 | -0.3  | 0.3                 | 0.1                  | 0.4   | -0.5              | 0.1                |
| Midlothian          | 94.3%                             | 3.1%                | 2.6%                 | 0.7   | 0.2                 | -0.9                 | 5.6   | -1.1              | -4.5               |
| Moray               | 91.2%                             | 3.6%                | 5.2%                 | 1.4   | 0.1                 | -1.6                 | 0.2   | 0.0               | -0.2               |
| North Ayrshire      | 91.1%                             | 3.0%                | 5.9%                 | 0.8   | 0.0                 | -0.8                 | 1.2   | -0.1              | -1.2               |
| North Lanarkshire   | 90.5%                             | 4.0%                | 5.5%                 | 0.3   | 0.0                 | -0.4                 | 1.2   | -0.5              | -0.7               |
| Orkney Islands      | 95.3%                             | 2.0%                | 2.7%                 | 1.5   | -0.3                | -1.2                 | 1.2   | -0.4              | -0.9               |
| Perth & Kinross     | 94.0%                             | 3.1%                | 2.9%                 | 0.9   | 0.6                 | -1.5                 | 1.2   | 0.4               | -1.5               |
| Renfrewshire        | 91.6%                             | 3.3%                | 5.1%                 | 0.2   | 0.1                 | -0.3                 | 0.9   | 0.2               | -1.1               |
| Scottish Borders    | 92.8%                             | 2.2%                | 5.0%                 | 0.3   | -0.8                | 0.5                  | 1.4   | -0.5              | -0.9               |
| Shetland Islands    | 95.9%                             | 1.3%                | 2.8%                 | -0.2  | 0.0                 | 0.2                  | -1.5  | -0.3              | 1.8                |
| South Ayrshire      | 91.6%                             | 2.9%                | 5.5%                 | 0.5   | 0.0                 | -0.4                 | 0.7   | -0.6              | -0.1               |
| South Lanarkshire   | 92.5%                             | 2.8%                | 4.7%                 | 1.3   | -0.5                | -0.9                 | 2.1   | -1.6              | -0.4               |
| Stirling            | 94.4%                             | 2.7%                | 3.0%                 | 0.1   | 0.0                 | 0.0                  | 2.3   | -1.6              | -0.6               |
| West Dunbartonshire | 90.1%                             | 5.3%                | 4.6%                 | 1.8   | -0.2                | -1.6                 | 1.7   | -0.2              | -1.5               |
| West Lothian        | 92.1%                             | 3.5%                | 4.4%                 | 1.3   | -0.4                | -0.9                 | 2.4   | -0.6              | -1.8               |

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

**Graph A: Percentage point change in the participation rate by Local Authority**



**Map A: Percentage Participation at a Local Authority Level**



## 7.2 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2016)

Graph B and Table 9 provide an overview of 16-19 year old activity broken down by SIMD (2016) deciles. The 2018 annual participation rate increased over every deprivation decile compared to 2017.

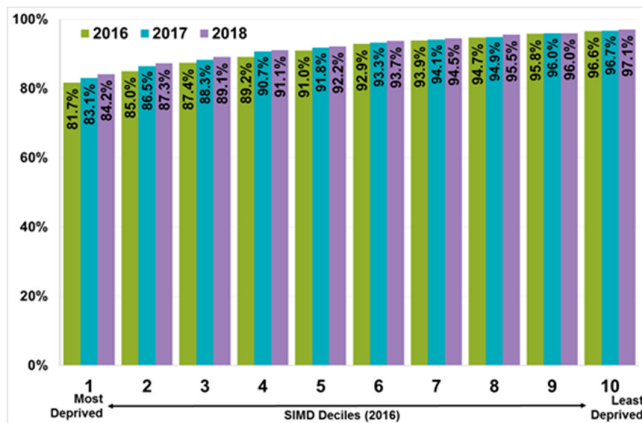
Overall, those who lived in more deprived areas were less likely to be reported as participating within the annual measure than those from the less deprived areas. There was a 12.9 pp difference in the participation rate between those from SIMD 1 (the 10% most deprived areas) and SIMD 10 (the 10% least deprived areas) deciles.

Those from the less deprived areas were more likely to remain in education compared to those from more deprived areas. The proportion of 16-19 year olds reported as participating in education from the least deprived areas (SIMD decile 10) was 83.9% compared to 61.8% for those from the most deprived areas (SIMD decile 1), a difference of 22.1 pp.

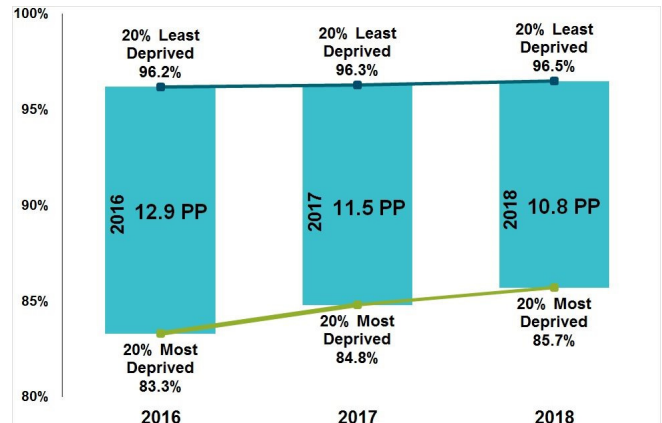
A higher proportion of 16-19 year olds from more deprived areas were unemployed seeking compared to those from less deprived areas. For example, 4.0% of those from SIMD 1 were unemployed seeking compared to 0.4% from SIMD 10. Similarly, there was a higher percentage of 16-19 year olds from more deprived areas who were unemployed not seeking compared to those from less deprived areas – 3.6% from SIMD 1 were unemployed not seeking compared to 0.5% from SIMD 10.

Graph C shows that the participation gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas continued to narrow, with the rate of variance dropping to 10.8 pp in 2018. This is a reduction from 12.9 pp in 2016 and 11.5 pp in 2017.

**Graph B: Overview by SIMD (2016)**



**Graph C: Participation Gap Between 20% Most Deprived Areas and 20% Least Deprived Areas**



More information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

**Table 9: Participation statuses by SIMD Decile (2016)**

| SIMD 2016 Decile    | % Split | Percentage of cohort |                  |                   |                   |                   |                    |                        |                    |      |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------|
|                     |         | Participating        | Within Education | Within Employment | TOPD <sup>4</sup> | Not Participating | Unemployed Seeking | Unemployed Not seeking | Status Unconfirmed |      |
| Most Deprived<br>↑  | 1       | 11%                  | 84.2%            | 61.8%             | 18.7%             | 3.7%              | 7.7%               | 4.0%                   | 3.6%               | 8.1% |
|                     | 2       | 11%                  | 87.3%            | 64.5%             | 19.8%             | 2.9%              | 5.9%               | 3.2%                   | 2.7%               | 6.9% |
|                     | 3       | 10%                  | 89.1%            | 65.3%             | 21.3%             | 2.4%              | 4.8%               | 2.6%                   | 2.3%               | 6.1% |
|                     | 4       | 10%                  | 91.1%            | 67.8%             | 21.1%             | 2.2%              | 3.7%               | 1.9%                   | 1.8%               | 5.2% |
|                     | 5       | 10%                  | 92.2%            | 69.8%             | 20.6%             | 1.8%              | 2.9%               | 1.4%                   | 1.5%               | 4.9% |
| ↓<br>Least Deprived | 6       | 10%                  | 93.7%            | 71.9%             | 20.5%             | 1.4%              | 2.4%               | 1.1%                   | 1.2%               | 3.9% |
|                     | 7       | 10%                  | 94.5%            | 73.4%             | 19.7%             | 1.4%              | 1.9%               | 0.8%                   | 1.1%               | 3.6% |
|                     | 8       | 10%                  | 95.5%            | 77.1%             | 17.3%             | 1.1%              | 1.5%               | 0.7%                   | 0.8%               | 3.0% |
|                     | 9       | 10%                  | 96.0%            | 80.2%             | 14.9%             | 0.9%              | 1.3%               | 0.6%                   | 0.6%               | 2.7% |
|                     | 10      | 9%                   | 97.1%            | 83.9%             | 12.3%             | 0.8%              | 1.0%               | 0.4%                   | 0.5%               | 2.0% |

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

<sup>4</sup> Note: (TOPD). This is the status grouping Training and Other Personal Development  
2018 Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland



## 8. Analysis of those Not Participating

Those identified as not participating include those who are unemployed (both *unemployed seeking* and *unemployed not seeking*). The unemployed and seeking group are those who are known to SDS to be actively seeking employment, education or training. These may include individuals who are not accessing Department for Work and Pensions services or benefits.

Analysis of those unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking revealed the following characteristics:

- Those 16 to 19 year olds who were unemployed seeking or unemployed not seeking were concentrated in the most deprived areas - just under half of both unemployed seeking (46.1%) and unemployed not seeking (42.2%) lived in areas ranked within the 20% most deprived in Scotland. This was the same for both males and females.
- Irrespective of deprivation, those 16 to 19 year olds who were not participating were more likely to live in an urban area. The majority of both unemployed seeking (79.4%) and unemployed not seeking (74.3%) lived in urban areas<sup>5</sup>. This was broadly the same for both males and females.
- Glasgow City, Fife and North Lanarkshire accounted for a third (33.4%) of the national total of unemployed seeking and over a quarter (28.0%) of the national total of unemployed not seeking.
- The two participation groups did differ by gender composition. The majority, almost two thirds (63.1%) of those unemployed seeking were male, conversely the majority (56.9%) of those unemployed not seeking were female.
- All age groups have shown a decrease in the proportion of individuals that were unemployed and seeking employment. The 2018 figure has reduced by 0.4 pp since 2017, and 1 pp since 2016.
- The age group with the largest proportion of 'unemployed seeking' were 18 year olds. Combined with 17 year olds, these two age groups accounted for more than two thirds (70.2 %) of those reported as unemployed seeking.
- The highest proportion of those unemployed but not seeking employment, were 19 years old. Together with 18 year olds, these made up just under four fifths (78.0%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort.
- Between 2017 and 2018 the largest decrease in the unemployed seeking status was amongst the 17 and 19 age groups, both of which saw a 0.5 pp reduction in comparison with 2017. The largest reduction between the 2016 and 2018 figures was amongst 19 year olds, where there was a reduction of 2.1 pp – more than one full percentage point higher than the reduction for any other age group.

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<sup>5</sup> Large Urban Areas or Other Urban areas as per: <https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification>  
2018 Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland

**Table 10: Unemployed seeking employment or training by age, comparison between 2016 and 2017**

| Age          | 2018 Annual Participation Measure |                                    |                                    | % of age group pp Change 2018 on 2017 | % of age group pp Change 2018 on 2016 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|              | 16-19 Cohort                      | Count / % split within U/E seeking | % of age group who are U/E seeking |                                       |                                       |
| 16           | 50,644                            | 314 (8.5%)                         | 0.6%                               | -0.2                                  | -0.2                                  |
| 17           | 51,968                            | 1,191 (32.3%)                      | 2.3%                               | -0.5                                  | -0.4                                  |
| 18           | 53,375                            | 1,396 (37.9%)                      | 2.6%                               | -0.3                                  | -0.9                                  |
| 19           | 55,268                            | 785 (21.3%)                        | 1.4%                               | -0.5                                  | -2.1                                  |
| <b>16-19</b> | <b>211,255</b>                    | <b>3,686 (100%)</b>                | <b>1.7%</b>                        | <b>-0.4</b>                           | <b>-1.0</b>                           |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

The percentage of 16-19 year olds unemployed not seeking employment or training has remained relatively stable between 2017 and 2018, the largest increases were in the 19 year old age group.

**Table 11: Unemployed Not seeking employment or training by age, comparison between 2016 and 2017**

| Age          | 2018 Annual Participation Measure |  |  | % of age group pp Change 2018 on 2017 | % of age group pp Change 2018 on 2016 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|              | 16-19 Cohort                      | Count / % split within U/E Not seeking | % of age group who are U/E Not seeking |                                       |                                       |
| 16           | 50,644                            | 122 (3.4%)                             | 0.2%                                   | 0.0                                   | 0.1                                   |
| 17           | 51,968                            | 661 (18.6%)                            | 1.3%                                   | 0.1                                   | 0.3                                   |
| 18           | 53,375                            | 1,230 (34.6%)                          | 2.3%                                   | 0.1                                   | 0.3                                   |
| 19           | 55,268                            | 1,543 (43.4%)                          | 2.8%                                   | 0.2                                   | 0.6                                   |
| <b>16-19</b> | <b>211,255</b>                    | <b>3,556 (100%)</b>                    | <b>1.7%</b>                            | <b>0.1</b>                            | <b>0.3000</b>                         |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

## 9. Summary

This report has set out the key results of the fourth Annual Participation Measure. As the source of the National Performance Framework indicator “**increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work**”, the measure will be published on Scotland Performs in September 2018.

The statistics presented in this report show an increase in participation rates amongst 16-19 year olds in Scotland. This continues the positive trends in participation reported in previous APM reports. The 2018 figures are based on a cohort of 211,225 individuals. This is 6,235 less than the 2017 population, a reduction that is broadly in line with national population projections. The 2018 results show:

- The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment in 2018 was 91.8%. This is an increase of 0.7 pp on the 2017 figure, and 1.4 pp on the 2016 figure.
- In 2018 participation was highest amongst 16 year olds (98.9%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (84.5%).
- The participation rate in 2018 increased the most amongst 19 year olds (1.1 pp) and least amongst 16 year olds (0.1 pp).
- Substantial progress continued in reducing the proportion of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status. In 2018, 4.7% had an unconfirmed status, down from 5.3% in 2017. The majority (89.6%) of those with an unconfirmed status in 2018 were aged 18 (27.4%) or 19 (62.2%).
- The participation rate in 2018 was driven by an increase in employment (0.6 pp), education (0.2 pp), and training and other development (0.1 pp).
- Between 2017 and 2018 the participation rate rose in 27 of the 32 local authorities. Although substantial variation remains in the participation rate by local authority, the gap between the highest and lowest participation rates reduced from 9.3 pp in 2017 to 8.8 pp in 2018.
- Females (92.5%) were slightly more likely to participate than males (91.2%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation by females in education (76.0% versus 66.7%). This was offset, to a large extent, by greater participation in employment by males than females (22.3% versus 14.9%).
- The participation rate amongst non-white ethnic groups (95.2%) was higher than that for those from a white ethnic group (91.8%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation in education (87.1% versus 70.6%).
- The participation rate amongst those identified as disabled (86.3%) was lower than that for those not identified as disabled (92.1%). The main difference in participation was in employment (10.8% versus 19.0%).

- The participation gap between those who lived in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas continued to narrow with a gap of 10.8 pp in 2018 (compared to 12.9 pp in 2016 and 11.5 pp in 2017).
- Those with an unconfirmed status were more likely to be in areas of higher deprivation (over a third lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).
- Those who were unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking were more likely to live in areas of higher deprivation (46.1% and 42.2% respectively lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).
- Individuals who were unemployed seeking or unemployed not seeking were not distributed evenly amongst Scottish Local Authorities. Glasgow City, Fife and North Lanarkshire were over represented accounting for a third (33.4%) of the national total of unemployed seeking and over a quarter (28.0%) of the national total of unemployed not seeking (while accounting for 24.6% of Scotland population).
- Almost two thirds (63.1%) of those unemployed seeking were male, conversely the majority (56.9%) of those unemployed not seeking employment were female.
- Most of those unemployed seeking were 18 years old (37.9%), followed by 17 year olds (32.3%). 19 year olds were less likely (21.2%) to be classed as unemployed seeking.
- The majority of those unemployed and not seeking employment were 19 years old (43.4%). 18 and 19 years old comprised just under four fifths (78.0%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort

The next statistics for the APM will be published in August 2019.

**Appendix One** provides background notes to the publication which outlines the definitions and the methodology used. In addition, [Supplementary Statistics Tables](#) are available in excel format on the SDS website. Any comments or suggestions regarding the content of this report are welcome and can be emailed to [user\\_feedback@sds.co.uk](mailto:user_feedback@sds.co.uk).

# Appendix 1: Notes to Readers

A joint work stream between the Scottish Government and SDS oversaw the development work to define the annual participation measure and agree its content. As this is now being used within the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, these notes have been prepared to support users by outlining the reporting methodology used.

## a) Identification of the Annual Participation Measure cohort

The participation measure cohort is based entirely on records held on the SDS customer support system (CSS). This is a shared data set to which partners contribute through data sharing arrangements. The following rules apply:

- i. **Age:** To be included in the annual measure the age of the individual on the last day of the period of interest must be between 16 and 19. The age used within the measure is the age of the customer on the last day of the period of interest i.e. 31st March.
- ii. **Primary Status Coverage:** to be included in the annual participation measure an individual must have status data covering the whole period of interest 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2018. Therefore, records created mid-year without a full status history for the year have been excluded from the measure.
- iii. **Excluded Statuses:** individuals who meet the above criteria but have a moved out with Scotland or deceased status within the shared data set are excluded from the measure.

## b) Annual Participation Measure Calculation Methodology

- i. **Headline Classification:** The method used to calculate the annual participation measure is to assign each individual in the cohort with a headline classification of participating, not participating or unconfirmed. Each individual status available on the shared data set has been allocated to a headline classification, as outlined in (d) below. The annual headline classification for each person has been calculated by adding up all the days an individual spends in each status and the classification with the largest number of days has been assigned to the individual. Each individual's headline classification has then been used to calculate the proportion of individuals participating, not participating and unconfirmed.
- ii. **Status Grouping:** Once the annual headline classification has been calculated for each individual, the same methodology is used to calculate the status grouping. The status grouping for each person has been calculated by adding up all the days an individual spends in each status within the annual headline classification and the status grouping with the largest number of days has been assigned to the individual.
- iii. **Status:** The status for each person has been calculated by adding up all the days an individual spends in each status within the assigned status grouping and the status with the largest number of days has been assigned to the individual.

**c) Handling the scenario when no largest number of days exists**

There were a small number of instances where the highest sum of days could not be used as the sum of days was equal. The following rules used to identify the participation headline, group and status:

**i. Headline Classification:**

Where the highest sum of days between participating and unconfirmed was equal, the headline classification was recorded as unconfirmed.

Where the highest sum of days between not participating and unconfirmed was equal, the headline classification was recorded as not participating.

Where the highest sum of days was equal between participating and not participating, and the not participating sum was higher than unconfirmed then the headline classification was not participating else the headline classification was recorded as unconfirmed.

**ii. Status Grouping:**

Participating: where the highest sum of days was equal between two or more of the status groups, their final status grouping would be recorded using a hierarchy (1) Employment, (2) Education and (3) Training & Other Development.

Not participating: where the highest sum of days was equal between the status groups, their final status grouping would be recorded using the hierarchy (1) Unemployed Seeking then (2) Unemployed not Seeking.

**iii. Status:**

Where more than one status had the same number of days within the same status grouping the most recent status was identified from the status records and this status would be reported.

**d) Handling Summer Transitions for those leaving school**

The period between 1<sup>st</sup> May and the first Monday in October was identified as a period of transition from school. Where an individual left school within this period and they transitioned from a school status to a participating status, the period between the date left school to the start of the new status was filled with a transition status. When calculating participation classification and other subcategories these transition statuses are counted within the category being transitioned into.

**e) Handling individuals with gaps in their status history**

Where an individual had one or more statuses covering the whole year, then the sum of all the days should total 365 days. Where gaps existed in an individual's status history the deficit of days were counted as unconfirmed days until each individual had a total of 365 days.

**f) Allocation of a local authority within the annual measure**

Several options were considered to report participation at a local authority level and following consultation with the National Reference Group, whose members have responsibility to provide oversight for data governance of the shared data set, it was agreed to adopt the following reporting methodology.

For school pupils, we will report the local authority of the school for publicly funded secondary and special schools. For individuals attending residential schools the local authority of their home area is used.

For those who have left school we would continue to report the individual against the local authority of their school of leaving for a fixed period and thereafter the individual would be reported against the local authority linked to their postcode. If no postcode was available for mapping to a local authority, the SDS centre attached to the customer record would be used. All SDS centres are linked to local authority areas.

It was agreed that the link to the school of leaving would be retained for one year based on fixed points in the year. The change from reporting the local authority of the school to an individual's postcode would happen, as follows:

| <b>School Leaving Date between:</b>                              | <b>Fixed Cohort Leave Date</b>                                | <b>Date Local Authority link changes from School to Postcode</b> |
|--|---|--|
| School census day to the 28 <sup>th</sup> February (Spring Term) | <b>1st January</b><br>(Prior to the start of the Spring Term) | 1st January<br>(12 months after the fixed leave date)            |
| 1st March (Spring Term) to the day before the census day         | <b>1st June</b><br>(Within the Summer Term)                   | 1st June<br>(12 months after the fixed leave date)               |

## **g) Participation Measure Status Definitions**

### **Participating Classification**

#### **i. Education Group**

##### **School Pupil**

Relates to individuals reported on the roll of a local authority or grant-aided secondary or special school. It also includes young people who are receiving education through local authority purchased places at specialist provision, residential schools, those attending college or other providers but are on a school roll. In line with “Getting it Right for Every Child” (GIRFEC), the local authority should ensure each school maintains an accurate pupil roll. They should ensure their management information system is updated with information related to when a young person is planning to or has actually left school and this will be notified to SDS through regular data sharing.

##### **Higher Education**

Relates to individuals enrolled at a University, Higher Education Institution or College to follow a course of study at SCQF level 7 or above. This includes degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers, higher level courses for professional qualification and Higher National Certificate / Diploma or equivalent. The individual could be enrolled on a Full-Time, Part-Time or distance learning basis.

##### **Further Education**

Those enrolled at college or other provider and studying below SCQF level 7, e.g. National Qualifications, Access courses, portfolio courses, portfolio preparation, pre-vocational courses and special programmes. The individual could be enrolled on a Full-Time, Part-Time or distance learning basis. Where an individual is attending college but they remain on the roll of a school, they will be recorded within the school pupil status.

#### **ii. Employment Group**

##### **Employment (full-time & part-time) and Self-Employment**

Covers all individuals who consider themselves to be employed through undertaking paid work. This is based on self classification adopted by the Labour Force Survey. Individuals will be considered to be working full-time if they undertake paid work 16 hours or more per week and part-time for under 16 hours per week. Full-time employment also includes individuals undertaking a Graduate Apprenticeship.

Self Employed is defined as an individual who is earning a living by working independently of an employer, either freelance or by running their own business including anyone working as a professional athlete.



Included in the employment group are those who are undertaking an internship, where a young person has completed an agreed course and is working for a set period in an organisation to enhance their skills and knowledge through practical work experience and for which the young person should be paid.

### **Modern Apprenticeship**

Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) provide individuals with the opportunity to secure industry-recognised qualifications at a range of Vocational Qualification (VQ) levels while earning a wage. It relates to individuals undertaking a modern apprenticeship where there is a public funding contribution administered by SDS on behalf of the Scottish Government.

## **iii. Training and Other Development Group**

### **Employability Fund**

The Employability Fund aims to support activity that will help people to develop the skills needed to secure a job or progress to more advanced forms of training. The Employability Fund supports participants and activity that map to stages 2 to 4 of the Strategic Skills and employability pipeline (SSP).

### **Activity Agreements**

An Activity Agreement is an agreement between a young person and an advisor that the young person will take part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them to become ready for formal learning or employment. Activity Agreements provide individual learning provision in a community or third-sector setting for those young people who are not ready or able to access formal learning post-16.

An Activity Agreement status will only be recorded when a young person has agreed either verbally or in writing to the offer of an Activity Agreement. This is recorded by local authorities as “signed up”. Young people who are only at the referral stage should not be reported as participating in an Activity Agreement

### **Other Formal Training**

This includes those on a local authority or third sector funded training programme that have a formal attendance arrangement and trainees will be in receipt of a training allowance or grant. In addition, those receiving a scholarship or sponsorship to concentrate on vocational/sporting activity will be included here. This status would only include individuals who have a non-employed status but the individual is receiving external funding to participate in the activity. Community Jobs Scotland is also included within the category.

### **Personal/Skills Development**

This status is split into two different categories – PSD (Employability) and PSD (Social & Health):

### **PSD (Employability)**

Those who participate in activities with the aim of improving their employability. These formal programmes will often be delivered by community learning and development or third sector organisation. Also included is the Work Programme via DWP. The courses will have a structured attendance pattern.

### **PSD (Social & Health)**

Some young people may not be ready to enter the labour market and will require access to support from support services to make transitions into learning/ work or adulthood. This status relates to individuals who are undertaking structured opportunities appropriate to their long-term needs or to address their barriers to participation. It includes those whose entry to opportunities will have been planned through the transition planning process and take account of the strengths, abilities, wishes and needs of the young person as well as identification of relevant support strategies which may be required. In addition, it includes individuals who are facing barriers to participation and are participating in “structured” support for the removal of barriers prior to concentrating on employability.

**Note:** Within the context of Opportunities for All, all participation is positive; therefore, the Personal Skills Development (Social & Health) are regarded as participating whereas traditionally this participation is reported as unemployed not seeking category within school leaver destination statistics.

### **Voluntary Work**

Undertaking voluntary work/volunteering, this will involve a young person giving of his/her time and energy through a third party. It will benefit both the young person and others, including individuals, groups and organisations, communities, the environment and society at large. Some volunteering may include a financial allowance. Work experience that is not organised via a formal training programme and un-paid work would also be recorded here.

### **Not Participating Classification**

#### **iv. Unemployed and seeking employment or training:**

This refers to young people who SDS is aware of who are actively seeking employment/training. This includes those receiving support from SDS, DWP and other OfA partners. It is based on regular contact between the supporting organisation and the individual and will also include young people who are at the referral stage for an activity agreement and have not yet agreed either verbally or in writing to the offer of an activity agreement.

If there has been no contact between the individual and SDS within an 8 week period or if SDS has been unable to confirm with the OfA partner that the individual is still being supported, their status will be updated to “status unconfirmed”

However, through formal data sharing, SDS is notified by DWP of individuals aged 18/19 years old who are in receipt of benefits that require the individual to be

actively seeking employment or training. The unemployed seeking status will remain valid until SDS is notified by DWP that the individual is no longer in receipt of benefit. At this point the individual's status will be updated to "status unconfirmed."

**v. Unemployed and not seeking employment or training**

Includes individuals who are **not seeking employment or training** for a range of reasons. This is split into three main headings:

**Economically Inactive** – the primary reason for an individual not being in a position to participate includes young people with caring responsibilities, pregnancy, those with a short-term illness, those who are choosing not to participate, those who due to their complex needs or personal circumstances are not able to participate and those who are taking time out to travel.

**Unavailable - ill health** – those young people who are unavailable to participate due to a longer-term illness.

**Custody** - Young people on remand or in custodial care.

**Unconfirmed Classification**

Individuals with an unconfirmed status refers to those 16-19 year olds who have an individual record within the participation measure but despite multi partner data sharing and attempted tracking by SDS and their partners, it was not possible to identify an up to date status for reporting.

SDS has developed revised procedures for following up customers as part of their service delivery. These procedures will include attempted contact with those 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status.

SDS continues to work with partners to further enhance service delivery through multi-partner data sharing and it is anticipated this work will also help to decrease the number of customers with an unconfirmed status.

Furthermore, SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to make progress in obtaining employment related data made possible by provisions in the Digital Economy (Act) 2017. This key development in information sharing will help improve service delivery and further enhance the annual participation measure.

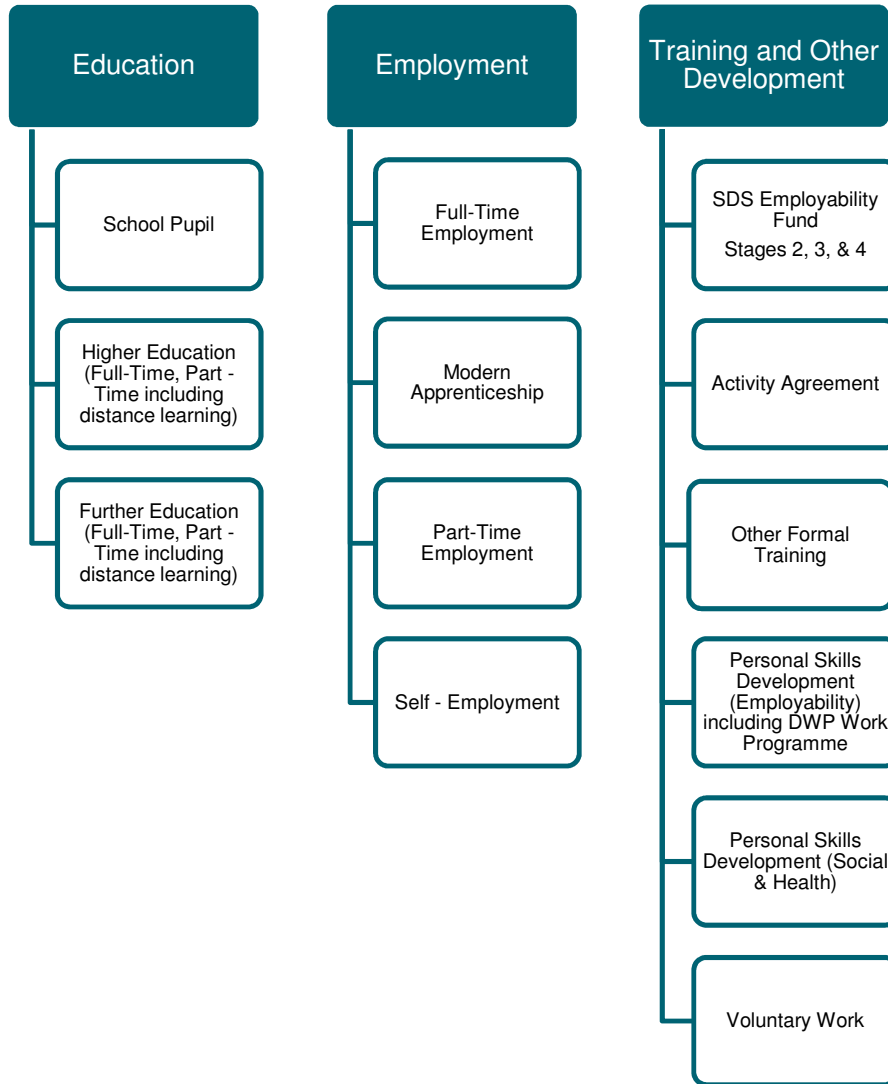
**CSS Statuses excluded from the measure**

**Moved out with Scotland**

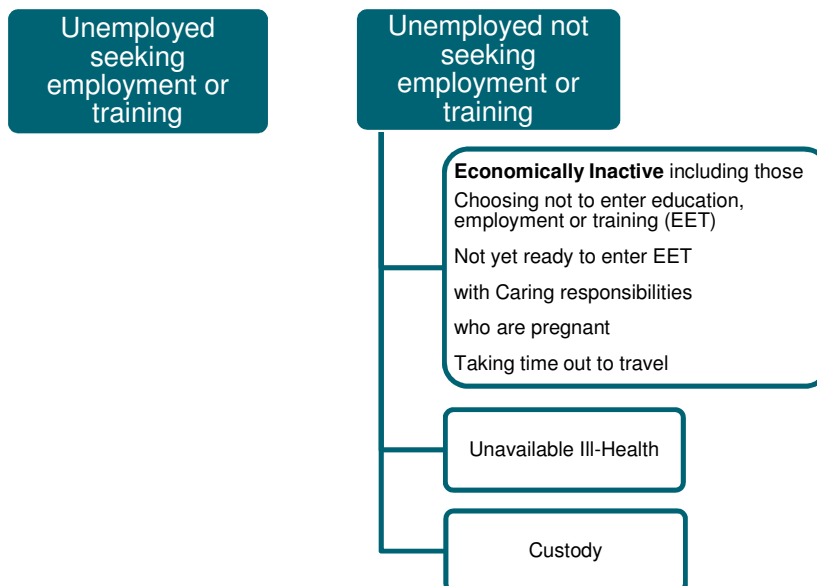
Where SDS has been notified the young person has left Scotland on a permanent basis. However, those who are ordinarily resident in Scotland and are supported by SAAS to study out with Scotland will be recorded within Higher Education.

**Deceased:** Where SDS has been notified the young person has passed away.

### Statutes allocated to the “Participating” Classification and Status Grouping



### Statutes allocated to the “Not Participating” Classification and Status Grouping



## **h) Coverage of the annual participation measure**

The [National Records of Scotland](#) estimate the population of 16-19 year olds in Scotland, at the 2017 mid-point, was 236,752. This population estimate, published on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018, is based on the 2011 Census being updated annually by 'ageing on' the population and applying information on births, deaths and migration.

There are 211,255 individuals reported within the participation measure. This represents approximately 90% of the 16-19 year old population having a record within the shared dataset. Hence the measure does not report on the entire population because the shared dataset does not hold records of those:

- Attending independent schools or being home schooled
- Self-funding at University
- Living in Scotland but with no record of publicly funded schooling or post school education in Scotland and not registered with SDS.

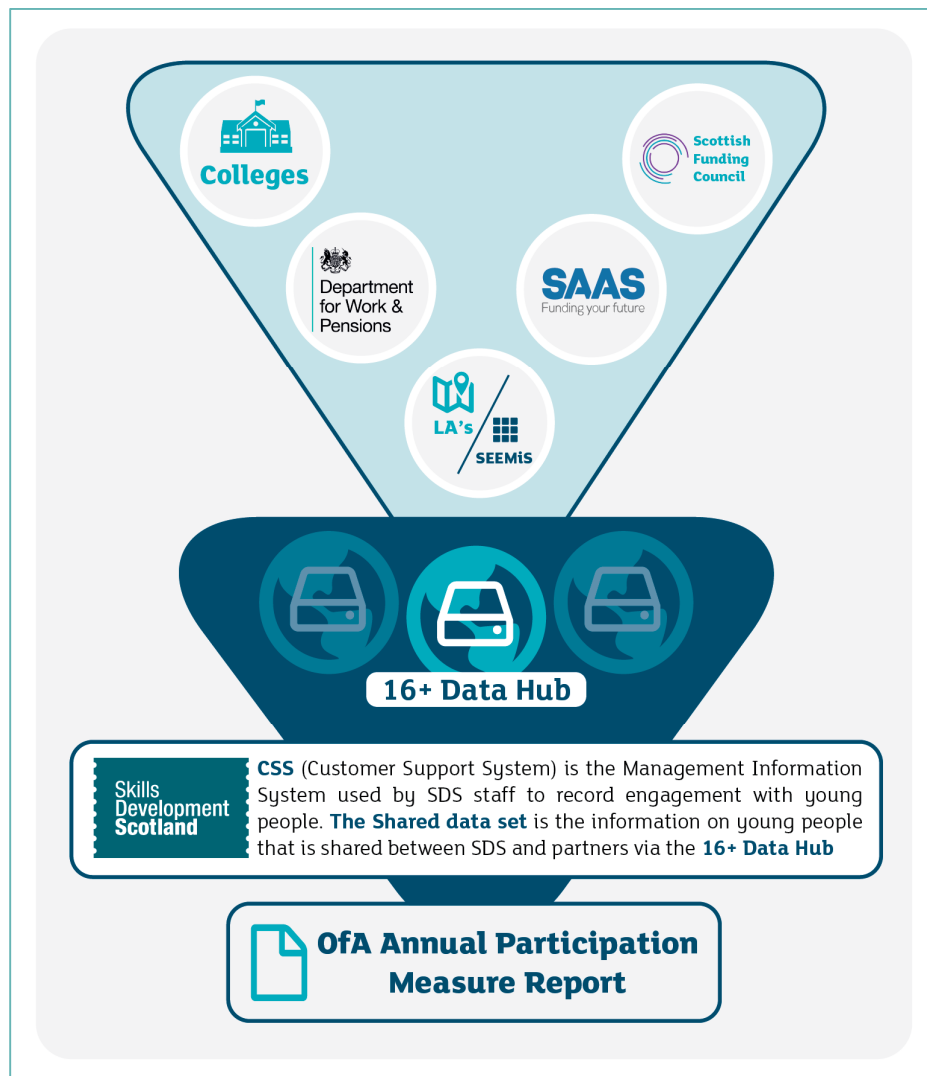
## **i) Record creation on CSS**

The primary source of information to create individual records on CSS is local authority education (schools) data. This is received as part of the annual school pupil census for publicly funded schools and through ongoing sharing of local authority data. In addition, new records will be created by SDS staff as a result of direct contact with individuals or their representatives. For example, an individual who moved to Scotland following compulsory schooling elsewhere and have received careers information, advice and guidance support from SDS.

## **j) Recording and updating statuses on CSS**

The participation measure is based on a shared data set which is updated through multi partner data sharing and direct data input by SDS staff, as a result of contact with individuals, their parents/representatives or organisations an individual is engaging with. Each organisation that shares data is responsible for the quality of the data held in their system. However, SDS also uses an additional set of validation and business rules to govern the creation of new statuses from partner data.

The table that follows outlines the current sources of data that contribute to the shared data source and what statuses are created:



| <b>Data Supplier</b>           | <b>Primary or secondary statuses which could be created on CSS</b>  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Local Authority                | <p><b>a)</b> Creation and update of school pupil statuses for those at publicly funded schools based on the annual school pupil census returns prepared by each local authority.</p> <p><b>b)</b> Ongoing update and creation of school pupil and post school statuses created by school staff.</p> |
| Scottish Colleges              | <p><b>a)</b> A student enrolment at Scotland's Colleges creates or updates Further Education (FE) or Higher Education (HE) statuses.</p> <p><b>b)</b> Withdrawals from FE and HE courses creates an unconfirmed status (unknown)</p>  |
| Student Awards Agency Scotland | <p><b>a)</b> A student enrolment via SAAS creates or updates Higher Education statuses.</p> <p><b>b)</b> Withdrawals from HE courses creates an unconfirmed status (unknown)</p>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Department for Work and Pensions   | Unemployed Seeking statuses created for those in the 18/19 year old age group   |
| SDS Corporate Training System (CTS) and Funding Information & Processing System (FIPS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants on Employability Fund Stage 2, 3 or 4</li> <li>• Participants on Modern Apprenticeships</li> <li>• Participants on other specific programmes</li> <li>• National Training Programme leaver information used to update post programme statuses.</li> </ul> |
| Scottish Funding Council (College Leaver Survey)                                       | Variety of statuses created for college leavers as a result of data gathered through the annual SFC college destination survey.   |

In addition to the electronic data sharing processes between partners, there is sharing of information at an operational level as part of working practice within local Opportunities for All partnerships. An example is that the local authority is responsible for sharing information locally about young people commencing and leaving Activity Agreements.

One of the key issues identified during the work of the joint work stream was CSS does not yet have a complete set of shared data from all desired partners and therefore the combined data set held on CSS is incomplete. The most important missing individual level data feed is on young people who are in employment. SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to make progress in obtaining employment related data.

**k) Comparability to other published statistics**

The detail outlined in note (e) provides the background to statuses recorded in the shared data set. Caution should be exercised when making comparison to published data on specific topics such as Higher Education participation, the Modern Apprenticeship programme or unemployment rates. Other published statistics may use differing methodologies and timings and are therefore not directly comparable. SDS statistics on the Modern Apprenticeship programme can be viewed at <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/statistics/modern-apprenticeships/> and SDS statistics on the Employability Fund can be viewed at <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/employability-fund/>