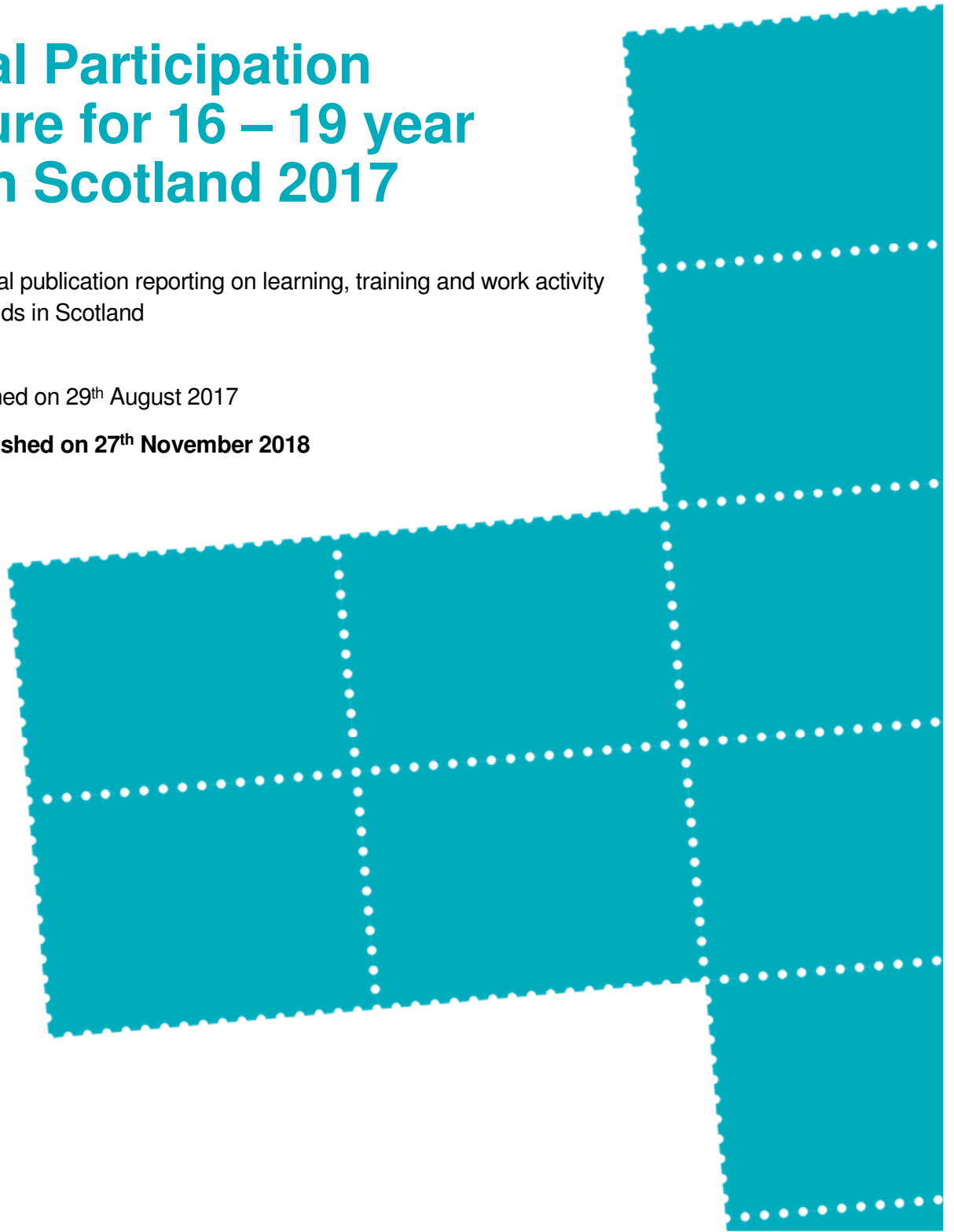


# Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2017

The 3<sup>rd</sup> statistical publication reporting on learning, training and work activity  
of 16-19 year olds in Scotland

Original Published on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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



# Contents

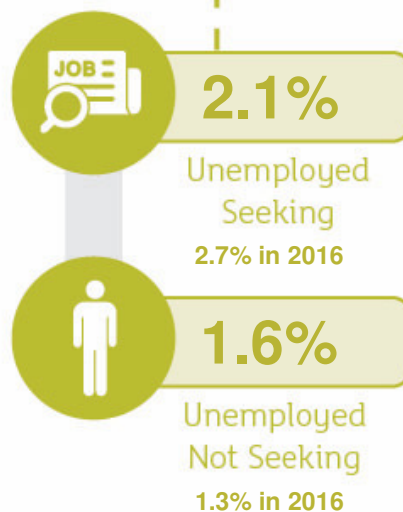
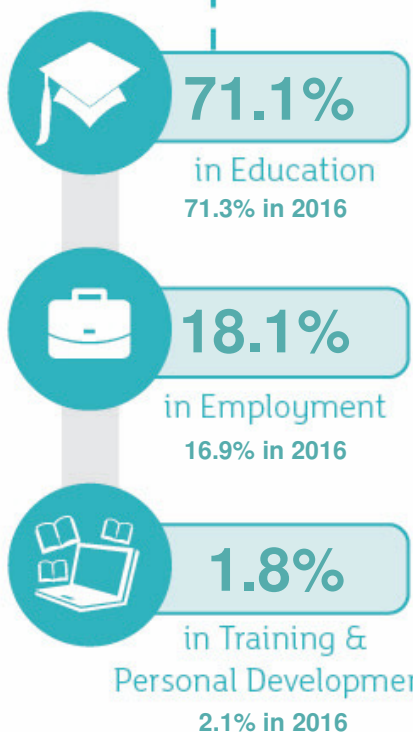
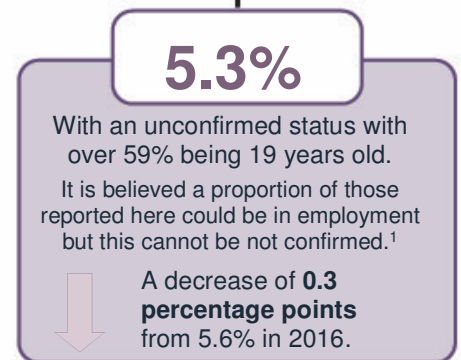
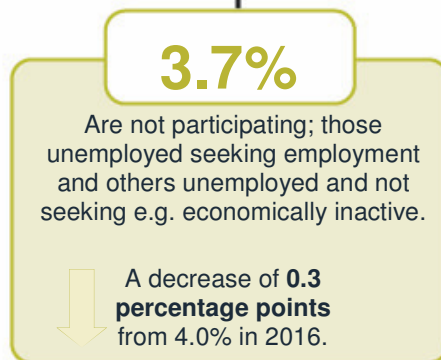
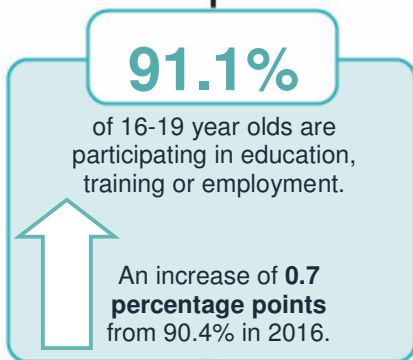
Executive Summary .....	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Annual participation measure headline statistics .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Analysis of those participating.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Analysis of those not participating .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Analysis of those with status unconfirmed.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Equalities .....</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1 Gender .....	11
6.2 Ethnicity.....	12
6.3 Disability .....	13
<b>7. Participation rates across Scotland .....</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1 Local Authority.....	14
7.2 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2016).....	18
<b>8. Conclusion .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Notes to Readers .....</b>	<b>20</b>
a) Identification of the Annual Participation Measure cohort.....	20
b) Annual Participation Measure Calculation Methodology.....	20
c) Handling the scenario when no largest number of days exists .....	21
d) Handling Summer Transitions for those leaving school.....	21
e) Handling individuals with gaps in their status history.....	21
f) Allocation of a local authority within the annual measure .....	22
g) Participation Measure Status Definitions.....	23

Participating Classification .....	<b>23</b>
i.    Education Group.....	<b>23</b>
ii.   Employment Group.....	<b>23</b>
iii.  Training and Other Development Group .....	<b>24</b>
Not Participating Classification.....	<b>25</b>
iv.   Unemployed and seeking employment or training:.....	<b>25</b>
v.   Unemployed and not seeking employment or training.....	<b>26</b>
Unconfirmed Classification.....	<b>26</b>
CSS Statuses excluded from the measure.....	<b>26</b>
h)    Coverage of the annual participation measure .....	<b>28</b>
i)    Record creation on CSS .....	<b>28</b>
j)    Recording and updating statuses on CSS.....	<b>28</b>
k)    Comparability to other published statistics .....	<b>30</b>

## 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> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Count of records revised</td> <td>5,500</td> <td>6,177</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% of full APM cohort revised</td> <td>2.5%</td> <td>2.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of records in APM cohort updated to identified as disabled</td> <td>3,726</td> <td>4,459</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> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Result of Changes</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Originally identified as disabled</td> <td>5,861</td> <td>5,598</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% identified as having a disability prior to audit</td> <td>2.6%</td> <td>2.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised identified as disabled</td> <td>7,813</td> <td>8,339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% identified as having a disability post audit</td> <td>3.5%</td> <td>3.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% of records where source was validated</td> <td>94.1%</td> <td>98.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Overview of Changes	2016	2017	Count of records revised	5,500	6,177	% of full APM cohort revised	2.5%	2.8%	Number of records in APM cohort updated to identified as disabled	3,726	4,459	Number of records in APM cohort updated to not identified as disabled	1,774	1,718	Result of Changes	2016	2017	Originally identified as disabled	5,861	5,598	% identified as having a disability prior to audit	2.6%	2.6%	Revised identified as disabled	7,813	8,339	% identified as having a disability post audit	3.5%	3.8%	% of records where source was validated	94.1%	98.7%
Overview of Changes	2016	2017																																
Count of records revised	5,500	6,177																																
% of full APM cohort revised	2.5%	2.8%																																
Number of records in APM cohort updated to identified as disabled	3,726	4,459																																
Number of records in APM cohort updated to not identified as disabled	1,774	1,718																																
Result of Changes	2016	2017																																
Originally identified as disabled	5,861	5,598																																
% identified as having a disability prior to audit	2.6%	2.6%																																
Revised identified as disabled	7,813	8,339																																
% identified as having a disability post audit	3.5%	3.8%																																
% of records where source was validated	94.1%	98.7%																																

# 2017 Annual Participation Measure Summary of Key Results



**i** The annual participation measure takes account of each status from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 for all 16-19 year olds. All statuses are combined to calculate the participation headline classification and the status grouping displayed.

<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.

# Executive Summary

This report marks the third release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level, and is the second year using the annual participation measure reporting methodology. The annual participation measure takes account of all statuses for individuals over the whole year (1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March) as opposed to focusing on an individual's status on a single day, as adopted by the 2015 snapshot methodology. For each of the 217,490 individuals included within the annual measure cohort, the headline participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the headline classification with the highest number of days.

As agreed by Scottish Ministers, from August 2017, the Annual Participation Measure will be adopted within the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework. It is replacing the school leaver destination follow up as the source of the indicator, “**increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work**”, published through Scotland Performs.

**The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment in the 2017 annual participation measure is 91.1% compared to 90.4% in 2016. This is an increase of 0.7 percentage points (pp).**

- Annual Participation rate for 16 year olds is 98.8%, an increase of 0.1 pp (98.7% in 2016).
- Annual Participation rate for 17 year olds is 94.0%, an increase of 0.1 pp (93.9% in 2016).
- Annual Participation rate for 18 year olds is 88.9%, an increase of 0.9 pp (88.0% in 2016).
- Annual Participation rate for 19 year olds is 83.4%, an increase of 1.7 pp (81.7% in 2016).

**The proportion of 16-19 year olds not participating in the 2017 annual participation measure is 3.7% compared to 4% in 2016. This is a decrease of 0.3 percentage points.**

- The non-participation rate for 16 year olds remains static at 1.0%.
- The non-participation rate for 17 year olds is 3.9%, an increase of 0.2 pp (3.7% in 2016).
- The non-participation rate for 18 year olds is 5.1%, a decrease of 0.4 pp (5.5% in 2016).
- The non-participation rate for 19 year olds is 4.5%, a decrease of 1.3 pp (5.8% in 2016).

**The proportion of 16-19 years reported as unconfirmed in the 2017 participation measure is 5.3% compared to 5.6% in 2016. A decrease of 0.3 percentage points.**

- The unconfirmed rate for 16 year olds is 0.2%, a decrease of 0.1 pp (0.3% in 2016).
- The unconfirmed rate for 17 year olds is 2.1%, a decrease of 0.3 pp (2.4% in 2016).
- The unconfirmed rate for 18 year olds is 6.1%, a decrease of 0.5 pp (6.6% in 2016).
- The unconfirmed rate for 19 year olds is 12.0%, a decrease of 0.6 pp (12.6% in 2016).

**Eighteen local authorities have an annual participation rate above the national rate, two are equal to and the remaining twelve are below this rate.**

The variation between the highest and the lowest annual participation rate within local authorities is 9.3 percentage points.

## 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 who is not currently in employment, education or training. This *Opportunities for All* (OfA) pledge 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 the information they hold on each individual's needs to create a shared data set, so that informed help could be provided by the appropriate agency as and when a young person needs it.

As agreed by Scottish Ministers, from August 2017, the Annual Participation Measure will be adopted within the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework. It is replacing the school leaver destination follow up as the source of the indicator, “**increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work**”, published through [Scotland Performs](#).

The annual participation measure (PM) reports on the activity of the wider 16-19 year old cohort, including those at school, and will help to inform policy, planning and service delivery and determine the impact of the OfA commitment. The measure uses the shared data set managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on our Customer Support System (CSS). Central to the maintenance of the shared dataset is the sharing of information to allow partners to identify what young people are doing in 'real time' throughout their 16-19 journeys. 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.

SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and 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.

To be included in the 2017 annual participation measure an individual must have a record on CSS and the individual's age must be between 16 and 19 on the 31st March 2017.

### Report background

This report marks the third release of data on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level. It is the second publication that uses the annual participation measure as opposed to the snapshot measure. The annual measure takes account of all statuses for individuals over the course of the year as rather than focusing on an individual's status on a single day, as adopted by the 2015 snapshot methodology. The participation classification of each customer is calculated by combining the number of days spent in each status between 1st April and 31st March. The overall participation

classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification which has the highest sum of days.

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

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

[Appendix One](#) outlines notes to readers. This includes the definitions and 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

Participation rates amongst 16-19 year olds are set out in Table 1 that follows. These are based on the status records for 217,490 individuals within the participation measure.

The number of individuals captured within the 2017 annual participation measure cohort is 5,090 less than the 2016 measure. This is in line with national population projections. The National Records of Scotland (NRS) 2015 based population estimates stated that the number of people aged 15-19 years old was expected to decline and in the most recent population estimates the population aged between 16 and 19 fell by 4,172. The coverage of the 2017 participation measure is approximately 90% of the most recent NRS population estimate for 16 to 19 years old which is the same level as in 2016.

### The key points nationally are:

- **The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment is 91.1%, an increase of 0.7 pp compared to 2016 (90.4%).**
- The highest participation rate is amongst 16 year olds at 98.8% with the vast majority of 16 year olds having a school status (91.5%). Participation is more varied across Education, Employment and Training/Other personal development for those between the ages of 17 and 19.
- 19 year olds continue to have the lowest participation rate at 83.4% but this is 1.7 pp higher than in 2016 (81.7%). Within this age group the status with the largest proportion of individuals is higher education at 39.5%.
- The non-participating group accounts for 3.7% of the overall 16-19 year old cohort and has decreased by 0.3 percentage points since 2016. This group includes those who are unemployed and seeking employment (2.1%), as well as those who are economically inactive and others not seeking employment (1.6%).
- The proportion of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status is 5.3% which has reduced by 0.3 percentage points since 2016. As witnessed in 2016, the majority of these (59.8%) are 19 year olds. It is anticipated that as the participation measure develops, the level of those aged 18-19 with an unconfirmed status will decrease especially as HMRC data sharing will provide more comprehensive data on those in employment.

**Table 1: 2017 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	91.5%	65.5%	10.7%	0.3%	40.8%
	Higher Education	0.1%	2.3%	32.9%	39.5%	19.3%
	Further Education	4.0%	11.8%	17.2%	10.9%	11.1%
	<b>Count of Education</b>	<b>49,770</b>	<b>42,536</b>	<b>33,626</b>	<b>28,776</b>	<b>154,708</b>
	<b>% Participating in Education</b>	<b>95.7%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>	<b>60.8%</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>71.1%</b>
<b>Employment</b>	Modern Apprenticeship	1.0%	5.2%	9.1%	9.8%	6.4%
	Full-Time Employment	0.8%	5.1%	12.5%	17.6%	9.2%
	Part-time Employment	0.2%	1.4%	3.9%	4.0%	2.4%
	Self-Employed	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
	<b>Count of Employment</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>14,167</b>	<b>17,912</b>	<b>39,360</b>
	<b>% Participating in Employment</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>31.5%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>
<b>Training and Other Personal Development</b>	Employability Fund Stages 2 – 4	0.5%	1.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.6%
	Activity Agreement	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%
	Other Formal Training	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
	Personal/ Skills Development	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
	Voluntary Work	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
	<b>Count of Training &amp; Other Personal Development</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>4,010</b>
	<b>% Training &amp; Other Personal Development</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Not Participating</b>						
<b>Unemployed Seeking</b>	<b>Count of Unemployed Seeking</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>4,572</b>
	<b>% Unemployed Seeking</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Unemployed not seeking</b>	Economically Inactive	0.1%	0.7%	1.4%	1.8%	1.0%
	Unavailable - Ill Health	0.1%	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%
	Custody	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
	<b>Count of unemployed not seeking</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>3,403</b>
	<b>% Unemployed Not Seeking</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Count of 16-19 Year old Participating</b>		<b>51,407</b>	<b>50,155</b>	<b>49,156</b>	<b>47,360</b>	<b>198,078</b>
<b>% 16-19 Participating</b>		<b>98.8%</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>83.4%</b>	<b>91.1%</b>
<b>Count of 16-19 Not Participating</b>		<b>499</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>2,582</b>	<b>7,975</b>
<b>% 16-19 Not Participating</b>		<b>1.0%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
<b>Count of 16-19 with Unconfirmed Status</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>3,357</b>	<b>6,841</b>	<b>11,437</b>
<b>% Status Unconfirmed</b>		<b>0.2%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Count of 16-19 Cohort</b>		<b>52,032</b>	<b>53,352</b>	<b>55,323</b>	<b>56,783</b>	<b>217,490</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

**Table 2: Annual Participation Measure comparison between 2016 and 2017**

Status Grouping	2016 Annual Participation Measure	2017 Annual Participation Measure	Percentage Point Change 2017 on 2016
<b>Total 16-19 Cohort</b>	<b>(222,580)</b>	<b>(217,490)</b>	<b>(-5,090)</b>
<b>Participating</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>0.7</b>
16 year olds	98.7%	98.8%	0.1
17 year olds	93.9%	94.0%	0.1
18 year olds	88.0%	88.9%	0.9
19 year olds	81.7%	83.4%	1.7
<b>% Participating in Education</b>	<b>71.3%</b>	<b>71.1%</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
16 year olds	95.3%	95.7%	0.4
17 year olds	79.6%	79.7%	0.1
18 year olds	60.7%	60.8%	0.1
19 year olds	51.7%	50.7%	-1.0
<b>% Participating in Employment</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>1.2</b>
16 year olds	2.0%	2.0%	0.0
17 year olds	11.0%	11.7%	0.7
18 year olds	24.6%	25.6%	1.0
19 year olds	28.9%	31.5%	2.6
<b>% Training &amp; Other Development</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
16 year olds	1.4%	1.2%	-0.2
17 year olds	3.3%	2.6%	-0.7
18 year olds	2.7%	2.5%	-0.2
19 year olds	1.1%	1.2%	0.1
<b>Not Participating</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
16 year olds	1.0%	1.0%	0.0
17 year olds	3.7%	3.9%	0.2
18 year olds	5.5%	5.1%	-0.4
19 year olds	5.8%	4.5%	-1.3
<b>% Unemployed Seeking</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
16 year olds	0.8%	0.8%	0.0
17 year olds	2.7%	2.8%	0.1
18 year olds	3.5%	2.9%	-0.6
19 year olds	3.5%	1.9%	-1.6
<b>% Unemployed Not seeking</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>0.3</b>
16 year olds	0.2%	0.2%	0.0
17 year olds	0.9%	1.1%	0.2
18 year olds	2.0%	2.2%	-0.4
19 year olds	2.2%	2.6%	0.4
<b>Status Unconfirmed</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
16 year olds	0.3%	0.2%	-0.1
17 year olds	2.4%	2.1%	-0.3
18 year olds	6.6%	6.1%	-0.5
19 year olds	12.6%	12.0%	-0.6

**Table 2** shows that for both the 2016 and 2017 annual measures the percentage participation decreases with age, and conversely, the percentage not participating and unconfirmed are higher in the older age groups

The increase in participation between 2016 and 2017 has been shared across all age groups. The largest increase in participation has been witnessed within the 18 and 19 year old age groups with 0.9 and 1.7 percentage point increases respectively.

It has already been noted that the highest participation rate is amongst 16 year olds at 98.8% with the vast majority of 16 year olds having a school status (91.5%). If only post school statuses are used then the participation rate for 16 year olds has risen by 0.5 percentage points between 2016 and 2017.

For the whole 16-19 year old cohort, using post school statuses only, there has been a 1.2 percentage point (pp) rise. This can be split as follows: 16 years old have witnessed a 0.5 pp between 2016 and 2017, 17 years olds a 0.1 pp rise, 18 year olds a 0.9 pp rise and 19 year olds a 1.8 pp rise. The participation status that has witnessed a rise across all age groups is employment.

The 19 year old group has witnessed the largest decrease in unconfirmed statuses, 0.6 percentage points lower than in 2016, followed by the 18 year old group with a 0.5 percentage point decrease.

### 3. Analysis of those participating

- 71.1% of 16-19 year olds are participating in secondary or tertiary education, a fall of 0.2 percentage points on last year. The highest proportion of whom across the 16-19 year old (40.8%) being school pupils.
- Across the whole 16-19 year cohort, 19.3% are reported as participating in higher education.
- Over 1 in 10 of the whole 16-19 year old cohort is reported as participating in further education.
- Of those 16-19 year olds within the participation measure cohort, 18.1% are reported in the employment status grouping. This includes those undertaking a modern apprenticeship and individuals employed on a full-time, part-time or self-employed basis. Of those in employment, 50.9% are reported in a full-time employment status and a further 35.3% as undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship.
- The greatest increase within the participating group has been from within the participating in employment category which has risen by 1.2 percentage points since 2016.
- Of the 1.8 % of 16-19 year olds reported in the training and other development status grouping, 35.0% are reported in an Employability Fund status. This provision is designed to support individuals to develop the skills needed to secure a job or progress to more advanced forms of training. The next largest proportion, (29.5%) are reported in an Activity Agreement status.

#### 4. Analysis of those not participating

The unemployed and seeking group are those who are known to SDS to be actively seeking participation. These may include individuals who are not accessing Department for Work and Pensions services or benefits.

**Table 3: Unemployed seeking employment or training by age, comparison between 2016 and 2017**

Age	2016 Annual Participation Measure			2017 Annual Participation Measure			PP Change 2017 on 2016
	16-19 Cohort	Count / % split within U/E seeking	% of age group who are U/E seeking	16-19 Cohort	Count / % split within U/E seeking	% of age group who are U/E seeking	
16	53,207	430 (7.2%)	0.8%	52,032	395(8.6%)	0.8%	0.0
17	55,230	1,516 (25.4%)	2.7%	53,352	1,477 (32.3%)	2.8%	0.1
18	56,668	1,999 (33.5%)	3.5%	55,323	1,607 (35.1%)	2.9%	-0.6
19	57,475	2,028 (34.0%)	3.5%	56,783	1,093 (23.9%)	1.9%	-1.6
<b>16-19</b>	<b>222,580</b>	<b>5,973</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>217,490</b>	<b>4,572</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

The largest proportion of unemployed seeking 16-19 year olds are 18 years old. Together with 17 year olds, these make up just over two thirds of those reported as unemployed seeking. Between 2016 and 2017 the percentage of unemployed seeking 16 and 17 year olds has remained relatively stable. Those aged 18 and 19 have seen the greatest percentage point decreases in unemployed seeking with reductions of 0.6 and 1.6 respectively. The reduction in the percentage of unemployed seeking 19 year olds can be attributed to a 2.6 percentage point rise in employment.

In comparison the highest proportion of those reported as **unemployed not seeking** are 19 years old. Together with 18 year olds, these make up just under four fifths (79.1%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort. Females account for 60% of the unemployed not seeking group.

#### 5. Analysis of those with status unconfirmed

An unconfirmed status within the annual measure applies to individuals within the shared data set with no available status information for the largest amount of time within the year. This means despite multi partner data sharing and tracking of individuals as part of service delivery it has not been possible to identify full status information.

The number of individuals who fall into this category is 11,437 (5.3%), the majority of whom are aged 19. 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. Therefore, this currently limits the employment data held on the shard dataset.

An unconfirmed status is slightly more likely amongst males than females; the gender split for those with an unconfirmed status is 49% female and 51% male. In general, those with an unconfirmed status are more likely to be living in more deprived areas (over a third live in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland). Table 5 below provides a breakdown by age of those whose status is reported as unconfirmed.

**Table 4: Status unconfirmed by Age**

Age	2016 Annual Participation Measure			2017 Annual Participation Measure			Percentage Point Change 2017 on 2016
	Cohort	Count & % split of Unconfirmed Status	% of Age Group	Cohort	Count & % split of Unconfirmed Status	% of Age Group	
16	53,207	169 (1.4%)	0.3%	52,032	126 (1.1%)	0.2%	-0.1
17	55,230	1,343 (10.8%)	2.4%	53,352	1,113 (9.7%)	2.1%	-0.3
18	56,668	3,712 (29.8%)	6.6%	55,323	3,357 (29.4%)	6.1%	-0.5
19	57,475	7,241 (58.1%)	12.6%	56,783	6,841 (59.8%)	12.0%	-0.6
<b>16-19</b>	<b>222,580</b>	<b>12,465</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>217,490</b>	<b>11,437</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Table 4 shows that all age groups have seen a decrease in unconfirmed statuses. The largest decrease has been in the 19 year old group with a 0.6 percentage point decrease between 2016 and 2017. In both 2016 and 2017, the 18 and 19 year old groups have a markedly higher percentage of unconfirmed statuses compared to the 16 and 17 year old groups.

SDS continues to work with partners to further enhance service delivery through multi-partner data sharing and it is anticipated this work, coupled with proposed data sharing with HMRC, will help to decrease the number of customers with an unconfirmed status. Integral to our commitment to Opportunities for All is the follow up 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status.

## 6. Equalities

SDS has a legal duty under the Equality Act to ensure our services are inclusive and are accessible to a diverse range of customers. One of the ways we do this is by collecting equality data to allow us to monitor and review uptake of our services and help us to identify and address any barriers faced by particular groups.

Our revised Equality Outcomes for 2017 – 2021 include the outcome, “Increased participation in education, training or employment amongst young people who are disabled, from an ethnic minority group, or are care experienced.” It was agreed the 2016 Annual Participation Measure would form the baseline for reporting against this outcome.

We recognise 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 with equal status to the protected characteristics. At this stage, we are unable to suitably quality assure our care experience data from the shared data set and have agreed with the Scottish Government’s Children and Young People Statistics Unit not to publish a breakdown of the measure by care experience. We are however working collaboratively to progress a data quality exercise as we seek to publish such a breakdown going forward.

The section of the report that follows provides analysis of participation by gender, ethnicity and disability and is based on data captured within the shared data set. This data is normally captured at the point a record is created within the shared data set but the information can be updated by SDS advisers when they receive information from the individual or their representative. The majority of the equalities data within the shared data set is sourced from school management information systems as this is where most of the information is recorded.

## 6.1 Gender

Table 5 shows that 91.6% of females are participating in comparison to 90.5% of males. Females are more likely to be participating in education compared to males (Females (75.6%); Males (66.9%)). In terms of reported participation within higher education there is a 6.5 percentage point difference between females and males, with females representing the highest proportion.

Conversely, there are more males than females in employment, with the figures showing a 7.0 percentage point difference, 60.8% of 16-19 year olds reported as unemployed seeking within the 2017 annual participation measure are male.

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

	Female		Male		All 16-19 year olds	
<b>2017: 16-19 Cohort (count)</b>	<b>105,990</b>		<b>111,479</b>		<b>217,490</b>	
<b>% of 2017 Cohort</b>	<b>48.7%</b>		<b>51.3%</b>			
<b>Status Grouping / Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Participating</b>	91.0%	<b>91.6%</b>	89.7%	<b>90.5%</b>	90.4%	<b>91.1%</b>
% Participating in Education	75.9%	75.6%	66.9%	66.9%	71.3%	71.1%
% Participating in Employment	13.4%	14.5%	20.3%	21.5%	16.9%	18.1%
% Training & Other Development	1.7%	1.5%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	1.8%
<b>Not Participating</b>	3.9%	<b>3.6%</b>	4.2%	<b>3.7%</b>	4.0%	<b>3.7%</b>
% Unemployed Seeking	2.1%	1.7%	3.2%	2.5%	2.7%	2.1%
% Unemployed Not seeking	1.8%	1.9%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%	1.6%
<b>Status Unconfirmed</b>	5.1%	<b>4.7%</b>	6.1%	<b>5.7%</b>	5.6%	<b>5.3%</b>

Note: There were 21 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

Table 5 shows that the percentage of both females and males participating has increased between 2016 and 2017 annual participation measures. The participation rate remains higher for females than males although the gap between the two has narrowed from 1.3 percentage points in 2016 to 1.1 in 2017.

Between 2016 and 2017 the percentage not participating has decreased for both females and males, with males retaining a higher percentage than females. The decrease in not participating is the result of a fall in percentage unemployed seeking which has outweighed the rise in the percentage unemployed not seeking. Between 2016 and 2017 the percentage of unconfirmed statuses has decreased for both females and males by 0.4 of a percentage point, with males retaining a 1 percentage point greater rate than females.

## 6.2 Ethnicity

Table 6 provides a summary of participation broken down by ethnicity.

Both the Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups and those identified as White have seen a percentage point increase in participation and a decrease in non participation.

At 94.3%, the participation rate of 16-19 year olds from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups is 3.2 percentage points higher than the national average. It is also 3.3 percentage points higher than those identified as White. The participation gap has widened by 0.7 percentage points (3.3 pp in 2017 compared to 2.6 pp in 2016).

The percentage of young people from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups participating in education is 85.8%, 14.7 percentage points higher than the national average. Over half (51.8%) are participating in school education compared to a national average of 40.8% and there is a similar picture for higher education where participation of 16-19 year olds from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups is 5.7 percentage points higher than the national average of 19.3%.

With the dominance of education as a post 16+ choice, those from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups have lower representation in the other statuses. For example, the percentage of 16-19 year olds from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups reported as unemployed seeking is 0.8 percentage points below the national average of 1.6%.



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

	<b>Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups</b>		<b>White<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>Not Known / Not Disclosed</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						
<b>2017: 16-19 Cohort (count)</b>	<b>10,367</b>		<b>202,526</b>		<b>4,597</b>	
<b>% of 2017 Cohort</b>	<b>4.8%</b>		<b>93.1%</b>		<b>2.1%</b>	
<b>Status Grouping / Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Participating</b>	92.9%	<b>94.3%</b>	90.3%	<b>91.0%</b>	89.2%	<b>85.4%</b>
% Participating in Education	84.6%	85.8%	70.5%	70.5%	76.3%	64.2%
% Participating in Employment	7.1%	7.2%	17.6%	18.6%	10.6%	18.4%
% Training & Other Development	1.3%	1.2%	2.2%	1.9%	2.4%	2.8%
<b>Not Participating</b>	2.2%	<b>2.0%</b>	4.1%	<b>3.7%</b>	3.8%	<b>5.7%</b>
% Unemployed Seeking	1.4%	1.3%	2.7%	2.1%	2.5%	3.1%
% Unemployed Not seeking	0.8%	0.8%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	2.7%
<b>Status Unconfirmed</b>	4.9%	<b>3.7%</b>	5.6%	<b>5.3%</b>	6.9%	<b>8.9%</b>

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 98.7% of the 2017 APM and 94.1% of records of the 2016 APM. Further details about the revised disability data can be found within the [table of revisions](#) at the front of this publication.

At 86.2%, the participation rate of 16-19 year olds identified as disabled is 4.9 percentage points lower than the national average and 5.1 percentage points lower than those identified as not disabled.

The majority of those identified as disabled are participating in education, with 63.9% of those in education being a school pupil. The next highest participation status of those identified as disabled is further education (FE) with just over a quarter (27.5%) of those participating in education. Since 2016, there has been a 1.8 percentage point drop for those identified as disabled participating in education.

Conversely, the participation rate within employment for those identified as disabled has increased by 1.8 percentage points to 10.1%. However, this is 8.3 percentage points lower than for those identified as not disabled but this gap has decreased from 8.9 percentage points.

The percentage of non participation is larger within those identified as disabled compared to those identified as not disabled for both the 2016 and 2017 measure with 8.7% of those 2017 Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland

identified as disabled, in 2017, not participating. This is 5.2 percentage points higher than for those not identified as disabled and the rate has increased by 0.9 percentage points since 2016.

Both those identified as disabled and not disabled have witnessed a decrease in the percentage of unconfirmed statuses over the last year.

**Table 7: Participation Statuses broken down by Disability**

	Identified as Disabled		NOT Identified as Disabled		16-19 year old Total	
<b>2017: 16-19 Cohort (count)</b>	8,339		209,151		217,490	
<b>% of 2017 Cohort</b>	(3.8%)		(96.2)			
<b>Status Grouping / Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Participating</b>	86.0%	<b>86.2%</b>	90.5%	<b>91.3%</b>	90.4%	<b>91.1%</b>
% Participating in Education	71.9%	70.1%	71.3%	71.2%	71.3%	71.1%
% Participating in Employment	8.3%	10.1%	17.2%	18.4%	16.9%	18.1%
% Training & Other Development	5.8%	6.0%	2.0%	1.7%	2.1%	1.8%
<b>Not Participating</b>	7.8%	<b>8.7%</b>	3.9%	<b>3.5%</b>	4.0%	<b>3.7%</b>
% Unemployed Seeking	3.7%	3.5%	2.6%	2.0%	2.7%	2.1%
% Unemployed Not seeking	4.2%	5.1%	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%	1.6%
<b>Status Unconfirmed</b>	6.1%	<b>5.2%</b>	5.6%	<b>5.3%</b>	5.6%	<b>5.3%</b>

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

## 7. Participation rates across Scotland

As part of the development work for the participation measure a number of 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 of time before adopting the local authority based on where an individual lives. Further detail on the methodology is provided in the background notes in Appendix 1.

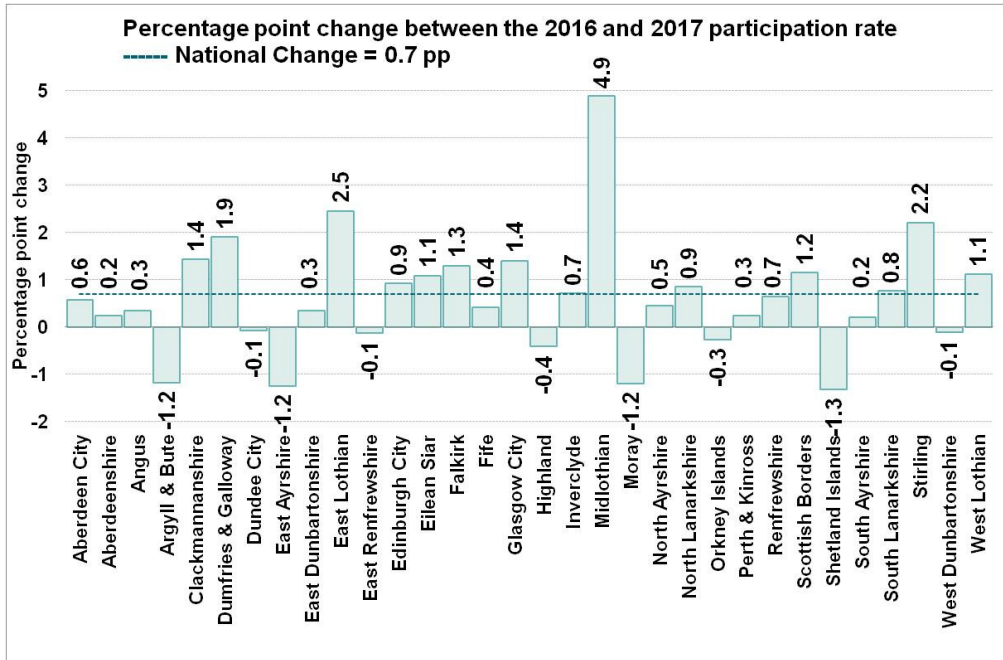
In addition to local authority reporting we also present analysis based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which uses the postcode of individuals within the participation measure cohort.

### 7.1 Local Authority

- Eighteen local authorities have a participation rate which is above the Scottish average, two are equal to the average and the remaining twelve fall below this rate.
- The variation between the highest and lowest participation rate within local authorities is 9.3 percentage points. The highest participation rate is in Eilean Siar at 96.9%, a rise of 1.1 percentage points on last year. The lowest participation rate is in Dundee City at 87.6% after a decrease of 0.1 percentage points on 2016.

- There were 23 out of the 32 Local Authorities showing a percentage point increase in participation between 2016 and 2017. Graph A provides an overview of the percentage point increase / decrease between 2016 and 2017.

**Graph A: Percentage point change at a Local Authority Level**



- There were decreases in the non participation rate for 25 Local Authorities and 18 local authorities witnessed a decrease in the rate of unconfirmed statuses.

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

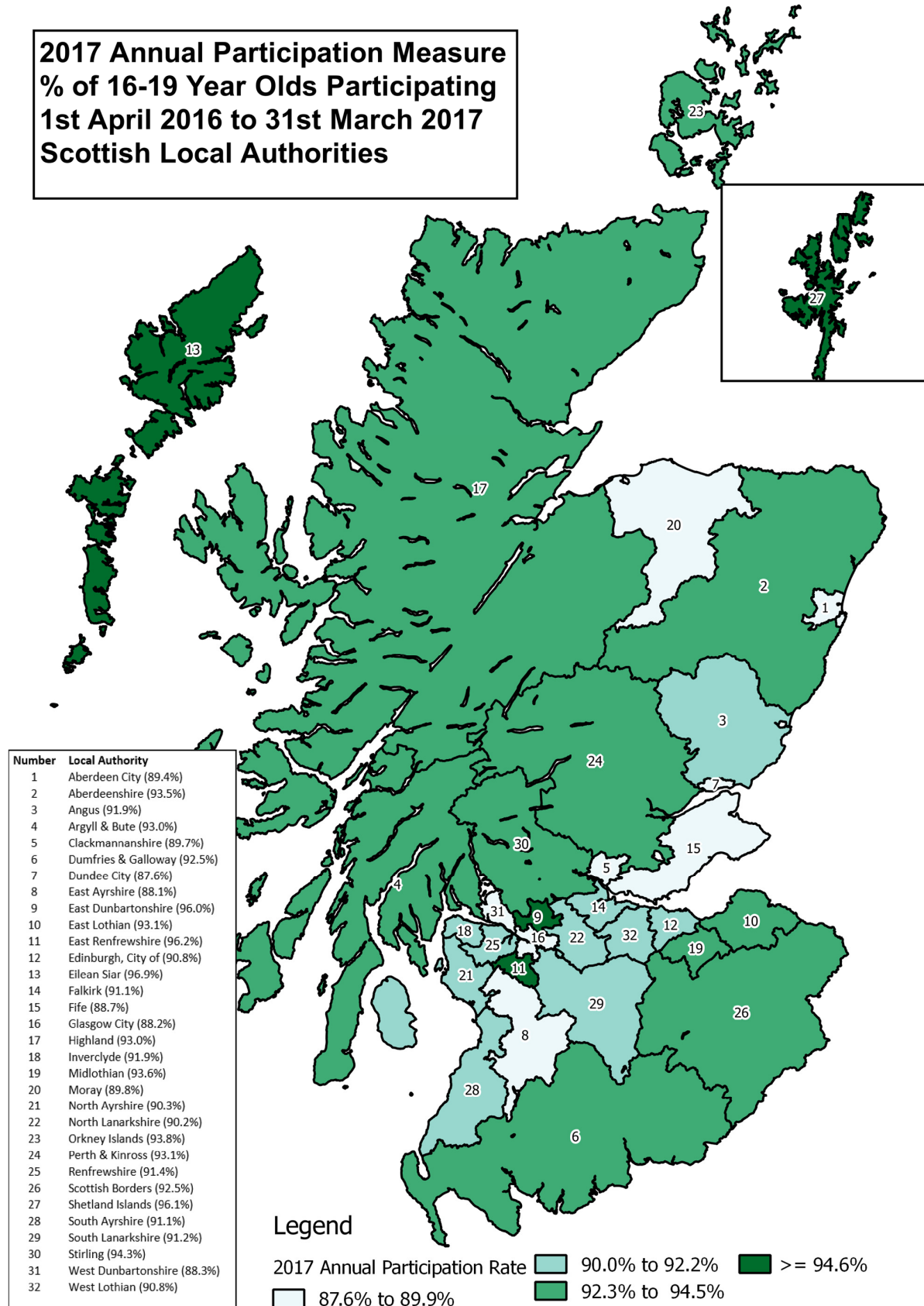


Table 8 provides an overview of the annual participation measure at a local authority level with a comparison between 2017 and 2016.

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

Local Authority	2016 Annual Participation Measure			2017 Annual Participation Measure			Percentage point change between 2017 and 2016		
	% Participation	% Non participation	% Unconfirmed status	% Participation	% Non participation	% Unconfirmed status	Participation	Non participation	Unconfirmed status
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Aberdeen City	88.9%	4.6%	6.6%	89.4%	3.9%	6.7%	0.6	-0.7	0.1
Aberdeenshire	93.2%	2.5%	4.3%	93.5%	2.5%	4.0%	0.2	0	-0.3
Angus	91.6%	3.2%	5.2%	91.9%	3.7%	4.3%	0.3	0.5	-0.9
Argyll & Bute	94.2%	3.1%	2.7%	93.0%	2.8%	4.2%	-1.2	-0.3	1.5
Clackmannanshire	88.2%	8.6%	3.1%	89.7%	7.5%	2.8%	1.4	-1.1	-0.3
Dumfries & Galloway	90.6%	3.7%	5.7%	92.5%	3.4%	4.1%	1.9	-0.3	-1.6
Dundee City	87.7%	8.3%	4.0%	87.6%	6.9%	5.5%	-0.1	-1.4	1.5
East Ayrshire	89.3%	4.0%	6.7%	88.1%	3.8%	8.2%	-1.2	-0.2	1.5
East Dunbartonshire	95.6%	1.7%	2.6%	96.0%	1.3%	2.8%	0.3	-0.4	0.2
East Lothian	90.6%	3.5%	5.9%	93.1%	3.2%	3.8%	2.5	-0.3	-2.1
East Renfrewshire	96.4%	1.4%	2.2%	96.2%	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	0.4	-0.3
Edinburgh City	89.9%	3.7%	6.4%	90.8%	3.9%	5.3%	0.9	0.2	-1.1
Eilean Siar	95.8%	1.7%	2.6%	96.9%	1.1%	2.0%	1.1	-0.6	-0.6
Falkirk	89.8%	5.8%	4.4%	91.1%	4.5%	4.3%	1.3	-1.3	-0.1
Fife	88.3%	5.0%	6.7%	88.7%	4.8%	6.5%	0.4	-0.2	-0.2
Glasgow City	86.8%	5.2%	8.0%	88.2%	4.9%	6.9%	1.4	-0.3	-1.1
Highland	93.4%	2.3%	4.3%	93.0%	2.2%	4.8%	-0.4	-0.1	0.5
Inverclyde	91.2%	4.7%	4.1%	91.9%	3.9%	4.1%	0.7	-0.8	0
Midlothian	88.7%	4.2%	7.1%	93.6%	2.9%	3.5%	4.9	-1.3	-3.6
Moray	91.0%	3.6%	5.4%	89.8%	3.5%	6.8%	-1.2	-0.1	1.4
North Ayrshire	89.9%	3.1%	7.1%	90.3%	3.0%	6.7%	0.5	-0.1	-0.4
North Lanarkshire	89.3%	4.5%	6.2%	90.2%	4.0%	5.9%	0.9	-0.5	-0.3
Orkney Islands	94.1%	2.4%	3.6%	93.8%	2.3%	3.9%	-0.3	-0.1	0.3
Perth & Kinross	92.8%	2.7%	4.4%	93.1%	2.5%	4.4%	0.3	-0.2	0
Renfrewshire	90.7%	3.1%	6.2%	91.4%	3.2%	5.4%	0.7	0.1	-0.8
Scottish Borders	91.4%	2.7%	5.9%	92.5%	3.0%	4.5%	1.2	0.3	-1.4
Shetland Islands	97.4%	1.6%	1.0%	96.1%	1.3%	2.6%	-1.3	-0.3	1.6
South Ayrshire	90.9%	3.5%	5.6%	91.1%	2.9%	5.9%	0.2	-0.6	0.3
South Lanarkshire	90.4%	4.4%	5.1%	91.2%	3.3%	5.6%	0.8	-1.1	0.5
Stirling	92.1%	4.3%	3.6%	94.3%	2.7%	3.0%	2.2	-1.6	-0.6
West Dunbartonshire	88.4%	5.5%	6.1%	88.3%	5.5%	6.2%	-0.1	0	0.1
West Lothian	89.7%	4.1%	6.2%	90.8%	3.9%	5.3%	1.1	-0.2	-0.9

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

## 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 deciles (2016). The annual participation rate has increased over ever deprivation decile compared to last year.

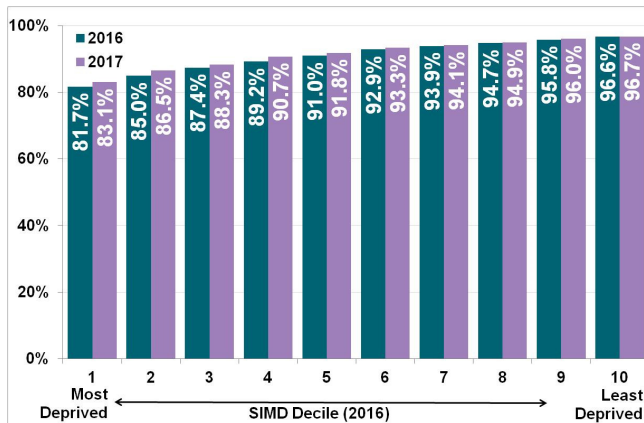
Overall, those who live in more deprived areas are less likely to be reported as participating within the annual measure than those from the less deprived areas: There is a 13.6 percentage point difference in the participation rate between those from SIMD 1 and SIMD 10.

Those from the less deprived areas are 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) is 83.6% compared to 61.4% for those from the most deprived areas (SIMD decile 1), a difference of 22.2 percentage points.

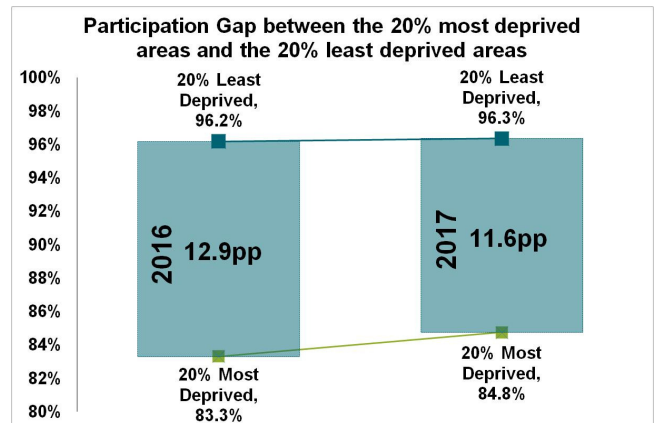
A higher proportion of 16-19 year olds from the more deprived areas are unemployed seeking compared to those from the less deprived areas. For example, 4.6% of those from SIMD 1 are unemployed seeking compared to 0.5% from SIMD 10.

Graph C shows that the participation gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas has narrowed. In 2016 the variance was 12.9 pp (83.3% compared to 96.2%) whereas in 2017 the variance reduced to 11.6 pp (84.8% compared to 96.3%).

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



**Graph C: Participation Gap**



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	Percentage of cohort								
	Participating	Within Education	Within Employment	Training & Other Personal Development	Not Participating	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not seeking	Status Unconfirmed	
1	11% <b>83.1%</b>	61.4%	17.9%	3.8%	8.0%	4.6%	3.5%	8.9%	
2	11% <b>86.5%</b>	64.5%	19.2%	2.8%	6.1%	3.8%	2.3%	7.4%	
3	10% <b>88.3%</b>	64.9%	21.0%	2.4%	5.2%	3.1%	2.1%	6.5%	
4	10% <b>90.7%</b>	68.0%	20.7%	2.1%	3.8%	2.1%	1.7%	5.5%	
5	10% <b>91.8%</b>	70.6%	19.6%	1.6%	3.2%	1.7%	1.5%	5.0%	
6	10% <b>93.3%</b>	72.3%	19.6%	1.4%	2.5%	1.3%	1.1%	4.2%	
7	10% <b>94.1%</b>	74.0%	18.9%	1.1%	2.1%	1.2%	0.9%	3.9%	
8	10% <b>94.9%</b>	76.8%	16.9%	1.2%	1.7%	1.0%	0.7%	3.5%	
9	10% <b>96.0%</b>	80.8%	14.5%	0.7%	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%	2.8%	
10	9% <b>96.7%</b>	83.6%	12.4%	0.8%	0.9%	0.5%	0.4%	2.3%	

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

## 8. Conclusion

This report has set out the key results from the second year of the annual participation measure. As agreed by Scottish Ministers, the Annual Participation Measure will now be adopted within the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework. It has replaced the school leaver destination follow up as the source of the indicator, “**increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work**”, published through [Scotland Performs](#).

This development supports the decision for SDS to focus on publishing the annual participation measure in support of the Scottish Government’s “Opportunities for All” commitment.

As highlighted - the Annual Participation Measure methodology moves away from the previously used snapshot methodology. The school leaver destination statistic will continue to use the snapshot methodology and the Scottish Government Education Analysis Unit has sole responsibility for publishing School Leaver Destination statistics.

**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 2017. 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. This action was required for only 0.8% of the cohort.

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

A number of 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 of time 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> (Prior to the start of the Spring Term)	1st January (12 months after the fixed leave date)
1st March (Spring Term) to the day before the census day	<b>1st June</b> (Within the Summer Term)	1st June (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.

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 in a position 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.

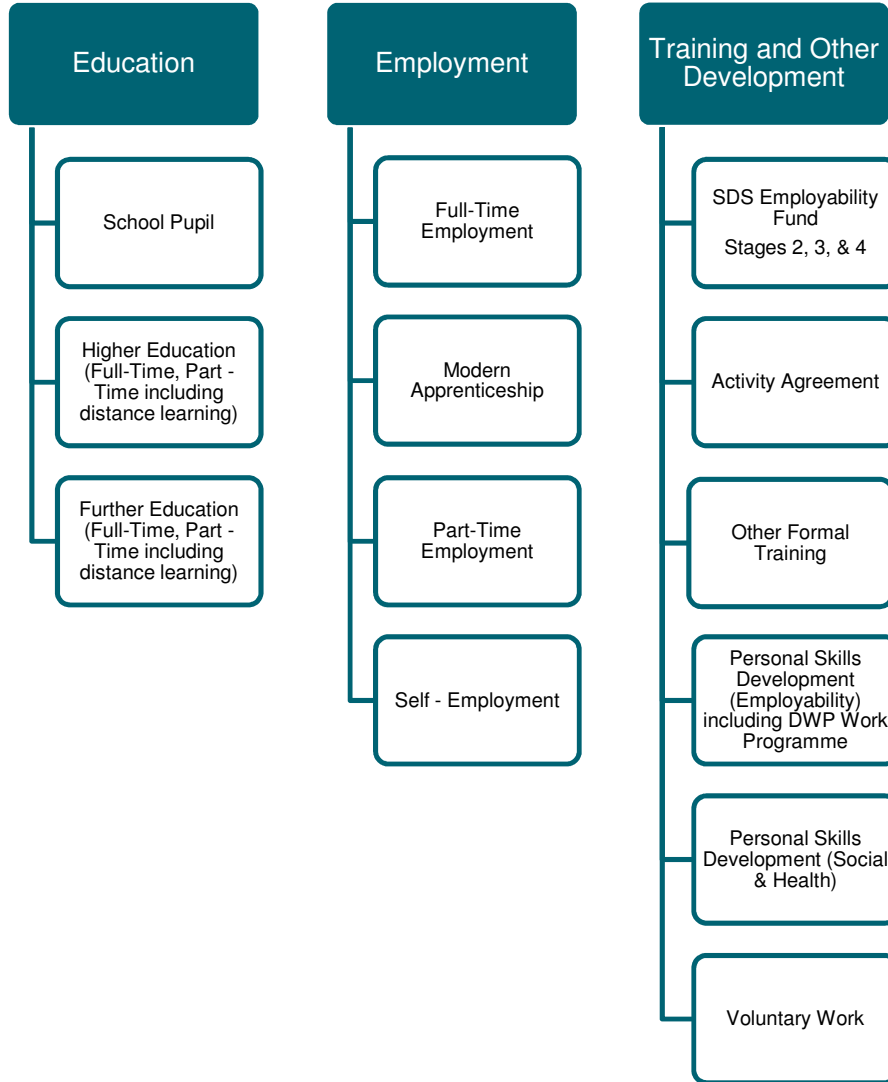
**CSS Statuses excluded from the measure**

**Moved out with Scotland**

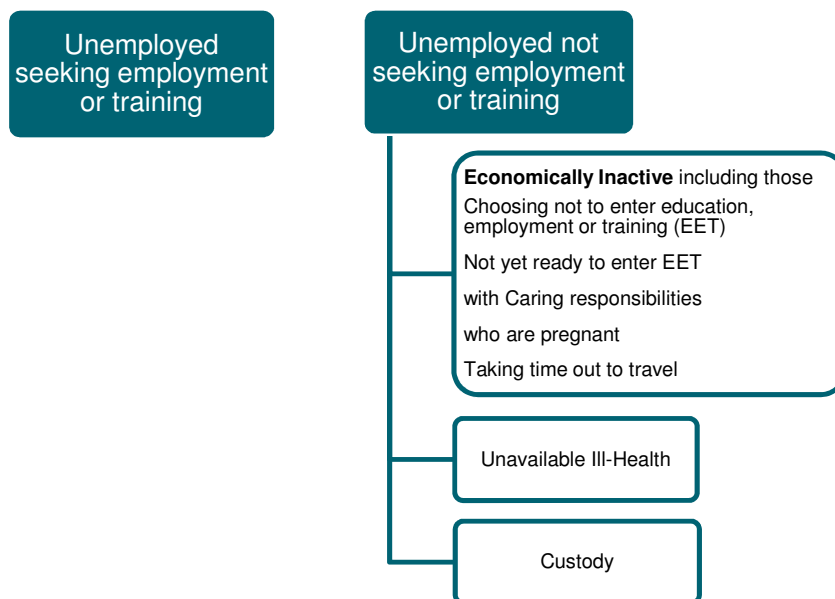
Where SDS has been notified the young person has left Scotland on a permanent basis. However, those who are ordinarily resident in Scotland and are supported by SAAS to study out with Scotland will be recorded within Higher Education.

**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 2016 mid-point, was 243,221. This population estimate, published on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017, is based on the 2011 Census being updated annually by 'ageing on' the population and applying information on births, deaths and migration.

There are 217,490 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.

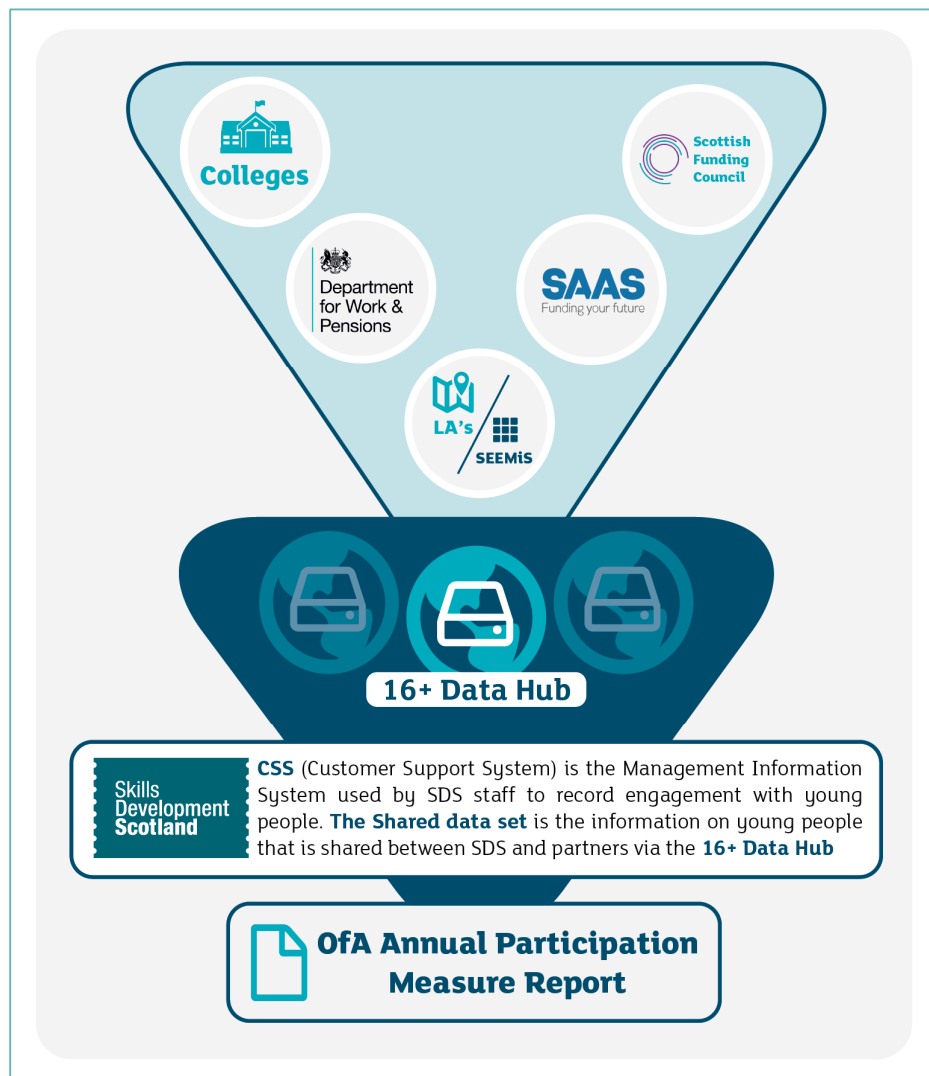
#### j) Recording and updating statuses on CSS

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:



Data Supplier	Primary or secondary statuses which could be created on CSS
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/>