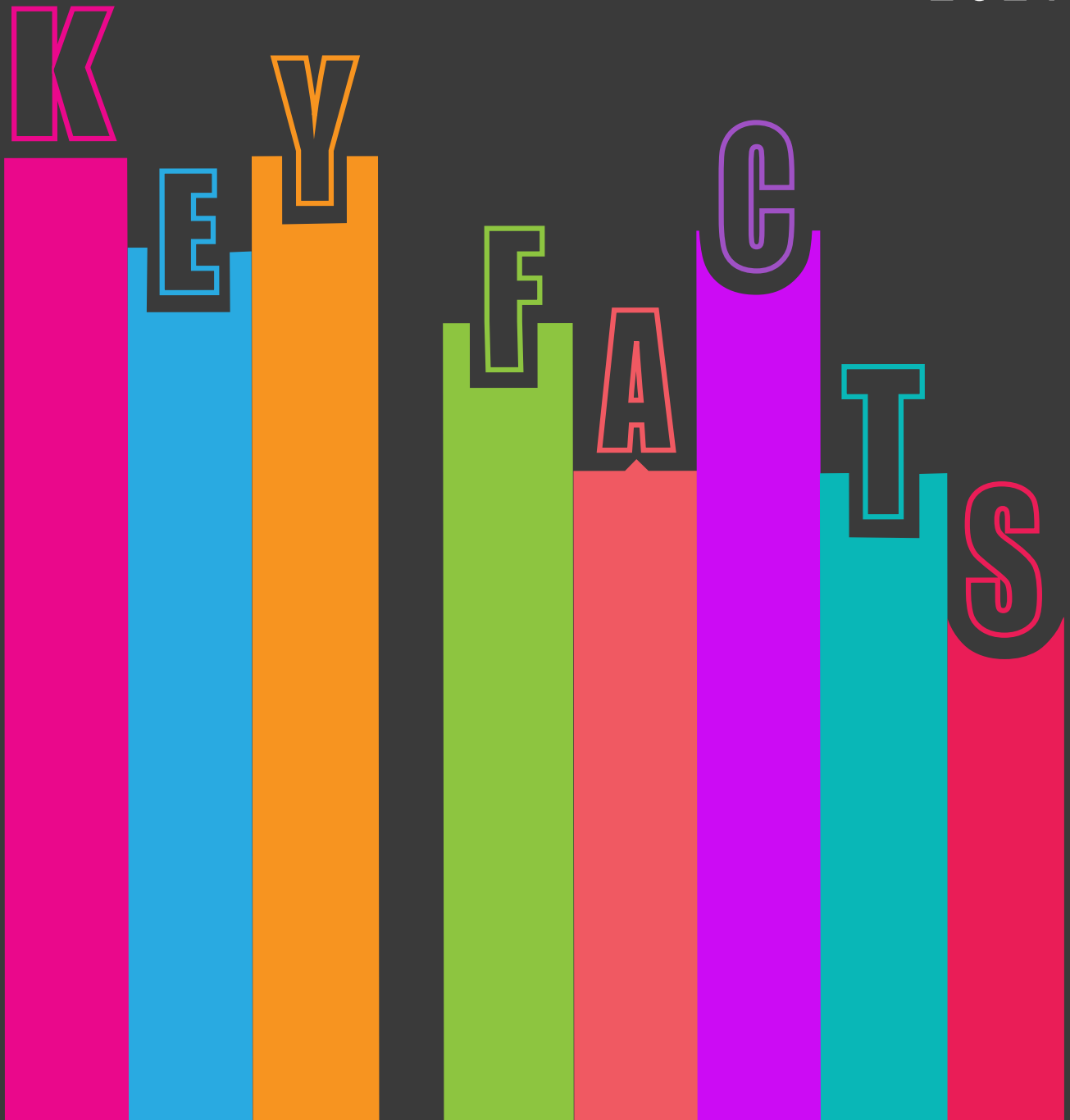




KEY FACTS

ABOUT INDEPENDENT TRAINING PROVIDERS

2021





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4	What are Independent Training Providers?
6	How Many ITPs are There?
8	Learners
10	Funding
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What are Independent Training Providers?

Independent Training Providers (ITPs) provide vocational education and training to young people and adults. They are also sometimes referred to as ‘independent learning providers’ or ‘private training providers’.

As this document shows, ITPs are an important part of the Further Education (FE) sector - training, teaching, and developing the skills of individuals in every corner of the UK to support social mobility and economic productivity.

ITPs are distinct from other types of FE provider such as Colleges in that they are not run or directly controlled by the state – they are ‘independent’. However, much of their work is funded and regulated by government agencies such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency and Ofsted in the same way as the rest of the FE sector. Most ITPs are companies (not for profit and for profit) and some are in the third sector.

ITP’s are diverse. You can find ITPs located behind or above high streets or in business parks in most towns and cities right across the country. Learning and training is done in classrooms on the ITP’s premises, in workplaces or usually a mix of both

What do ITPs do?



Apprenticeships

Employability Skills



Vocational Qualifications

Work and Health Programme



English and Maths

Support for NEETs



Study Programmes for 16–19-Year-Olds

Offender Learning



Traineeships

Prevent Agenda



Adult Education

European Social Funding (ESF)



Online Learning

Digital Bootcamps

How Many ITPs are There? ⁱ

ITPs are by far the most numerous types of organisation in the FE sector:

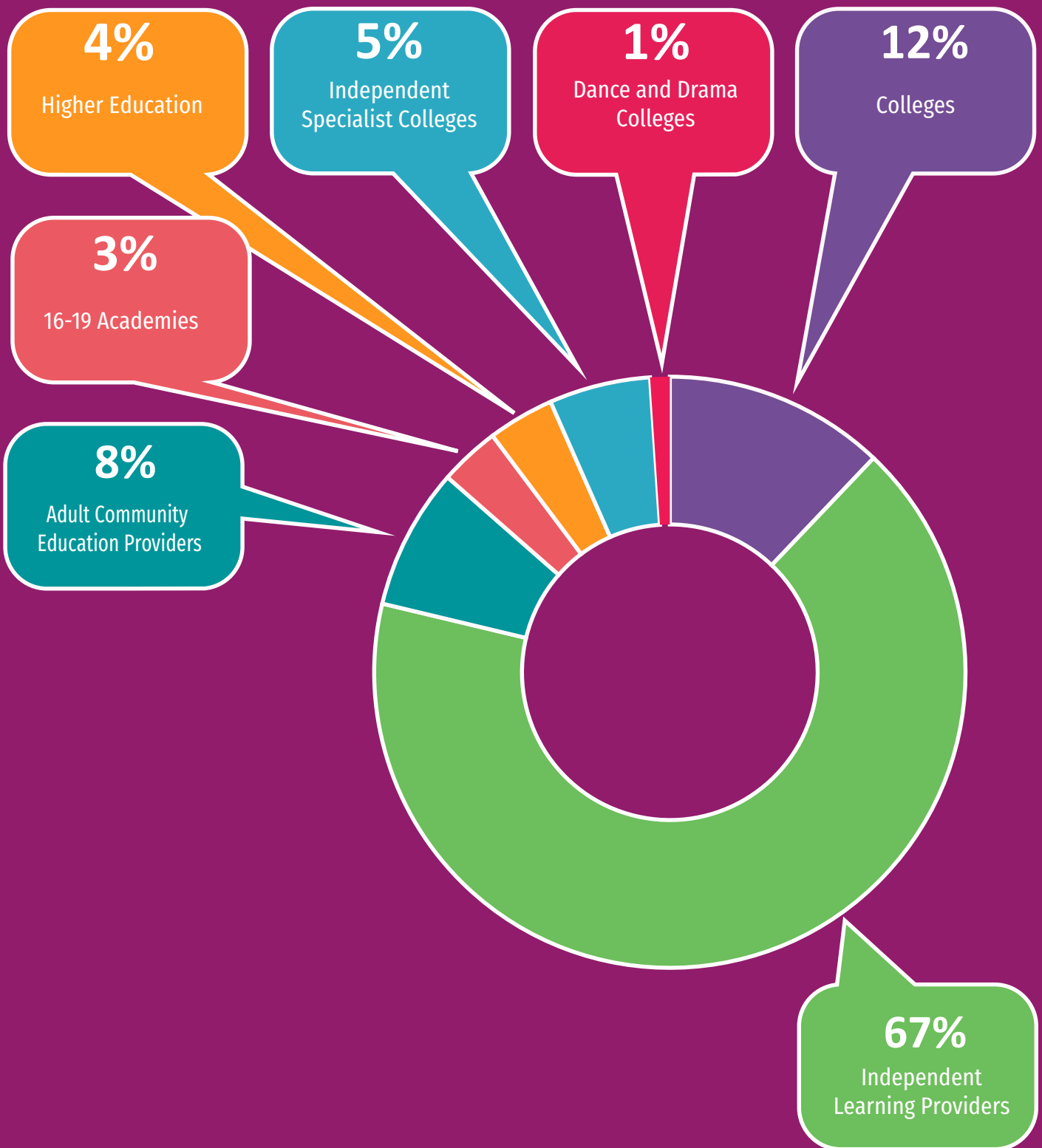
As of August 2018, there were almost 1700 providers publicly funded and delivering education, training and/or apprenticeships recorded on Ofsted's systems.

As of February 2021, there were 1250 active ITPs on the Government's register.



- ▶ Ofsted reports that independent learning providers (ITPs) are the most numerous further education and skills (FES) providers in England.
- ▶ Independent training providers account for 67% of providers in the further education sector as of February '21
- ▶ In 2020, Ofsted reported 80% of Independent Training Providers as good or outstanding

Types of Further Education Institutions



Learners

There are 1.75 million adults in the education and training in England, annually. Of these, around 540,000 (30%) go to an ITP. ⁱⁱ

In the 2019-20 academic year there were 1,270,000 16-19 learners in further education. Of these, over 100,000 students chose to attend an ITP. ⁱⁱⁱ

In 2019-20, 13% of participating learners within an ITP had a learning difficulty or disability. ⁱⁱ

1.75

million adults in education
and training in England

30%

go to an ITP

At May 2021, 115
ITPs were delivering
Study Programmes to
nearly 35,000 learners, of
which over 23,000 were
following learning at
Level 2 or below ^{xv}

Quality



80% of ITPs were judged good or outstanding at their latest inspection by Ofsted as of February '21 ⁱ compared to 74% in 2019-20 report ^{vi}



85% of employers are satisfied with the overall quality of training and assessment by ITPs. ^{vii}



86% of learners are satisfied with the teaching or training at ITPs ^{viii}

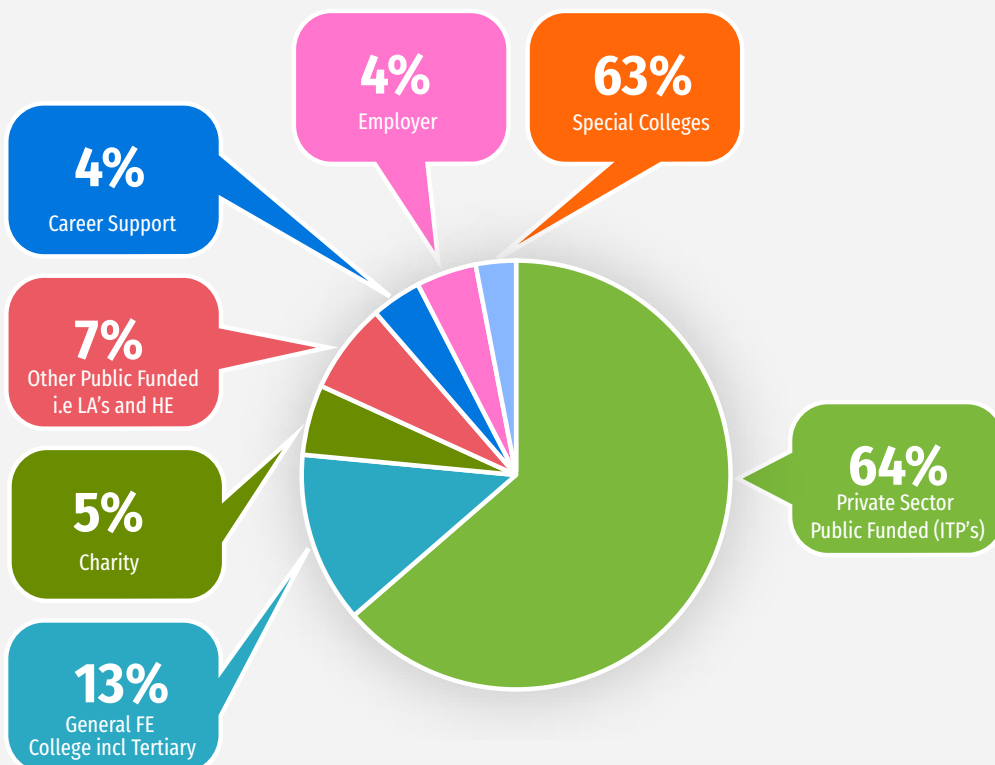


We will continue to recognise the unique knowledge and capacity that Independent Training Providers bring. They are the largest provider type delivering apprenticeships and they contribute substantially to adult education and training."

DfE 'Skills for Jobs' white paper, January 2021

Funding

84 ITPs delivered European Social Fund (ESF) contracts worth £232m in 2019 - £110 million of this funding went towards operations to provide skills support to the unemployed and to aid those that are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. ^{xii}



ITPs delivered apprenticeships and traineeships for 16–18-year-olds worth nearly £381m, and over £354m on adult apprenticeships alone.



ITPs delivered training to adults under the Adult Education Budget worth nearly £77m



ITPs delivered training funded by Advanced Learner Loans worth over £106m

Working with Employers

Over 8 in every 10 employers are satisfied with their Apprenticeships programme. ^{ix}

In total, ITPs work with more than 300,000 employers.

Workforce ^x

ITPs vary in size and are significantly different from other parts of the FE sector.

8/10

employers are satisfied with their Apprenticeship Programme



Overall, approximately 26,000 (2018-19) people work for ITPs in England which has increased from 23,500 (2017-18)



The proportion of staff at ITPs working full-time has increased from 65% to 80% compared to 46% in FE Colleges



Independent providers have over 95% permanent staff, compared to less than 50% at local authorities

“

The Skills Bill rightly focuses on supporting colleges and further education, but independent training providers at their best can be more fleet of foot and more responsive to employer and local skill needs.... During the passage of the Bill, we need to ensure that it is possible for independent training providers to continue to provide their best and to strengthen in the future.”

Lord Bichard, former Permanent Secretary, Department for Education and Employment, June 2021

ITPs and Apprenticeships in the Regions

Regional Data

In the academic years of 2018/19 and 2019/20 the top three regions nationally for Apprenticeship starts with ITPs nationally were: North West, South West and London. ^v

Apprenticeship Starts of ITPs by Region in England 2018/19-2019/20 Thousands

	2018/19	2019/20	Change Level	18/19-19-20 %
East Midlands	23.2	17.6	-5.6	-24%
East of England	25.5	20.6	-4.9	-19%
London	32.0	26.5	-5.5	-17%
North East	12.7	9.0	-3.6	-29%
North West	38.4	30.3	-8.2	-16%
South East	2.5	2.1	-0.4	-16%
South West	36.4	29.6	-6.8	-19%
West Midlands	22.3	17.4	-4.8	-21%
Yorkshire and The Humber	30.0	23.2	-6.9	-23%
Other	25.9	19.0	-6.8	-26%
Total	249.1	195.6	-53.5	-21%

Find more data on **Regional apprenticeships starts** by scanning the QR code or clicking [here](#)



REGIONAL STARTS

Apprenticeships ^v

ITPs are the most numerous providers of apprenticeships in England.....



As of August 2017 Ofsted reported almost 1,200 FES providers publicly funded and delivering education, training and/or apprenticeships recorded on Ofsted's systems which has increased to 1,876 as of February 2021. Most of the increase relates to new ITPs providing levy-funded apprenticeships for the first time.



There are 2130 organisations on the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers, of which 77% are ITPs

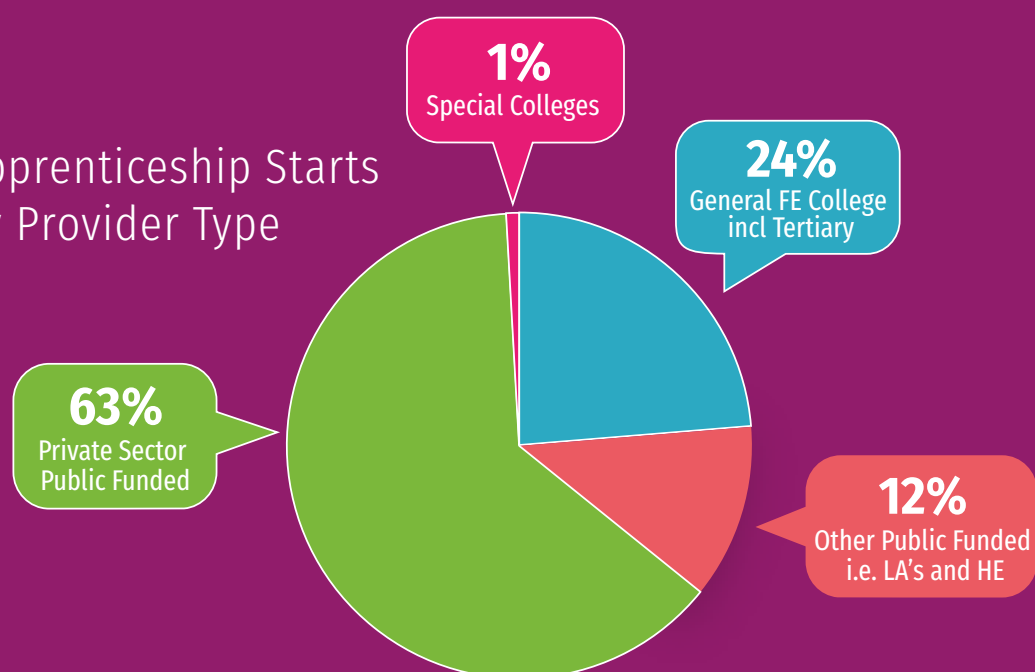


According to Ofsted, In the academic year of 2018/19 Apprentices made up 69% of the learners that attend ITPs (see table below)



Looking at this further, 69% of all apprenticeship starts in the same academic year attended an ITP. (See chart on next page)

Apprenticeship Starts
by Provider Type



Make-up of Provision by Provider Type ^{vi}

Make-up of Provision by Provider Type: 31 August 2020		Provision Type	
Provider Type	Education Programmes For Young People-Learners %	Adult Learning Programmes-of Learners %	Apprenticeships-of Apprenticeships %
General Further Education Colleges	33	53	15
Sixth-Form Colleges	89	9	2
Specialist Further Education Colleges	51	35	15
Independent Specialist Colleges	23	75	1
Independent Learning Providers	5	26	69
Community Learning and Skills Providers	3	89	7
16-19 Academies	91	9	0
Higher Education Institutes	15	8	77

ITPs are highly successful at raising the literacy and numeracy levels of learners everywhere.....



Over 50% of learners that achieved their functional skills level 2 qualification attended an ITP. This the highest percentage of any learning environment.



53% of learners studying Functional Skills Maths to Level 2 achieved their qualification at an ITP



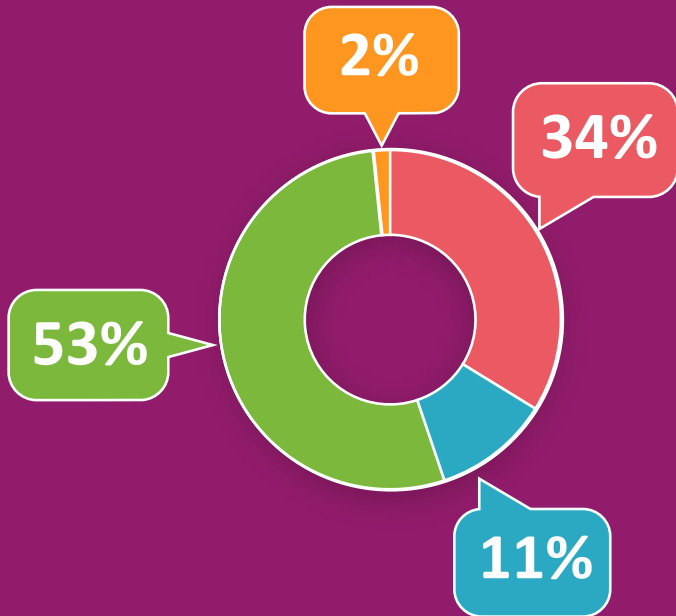
50% of learners studying Functional Skills English to Level 2 achieved their qualification at an ITP



Learners within ITPs successfully achieved an amazing 124, 543 Functional Skill qualifications across the range of levels and subjects (2019-20)

Functional Skills Achievements ⁱⁱ

Maths - Level 2 Achievements



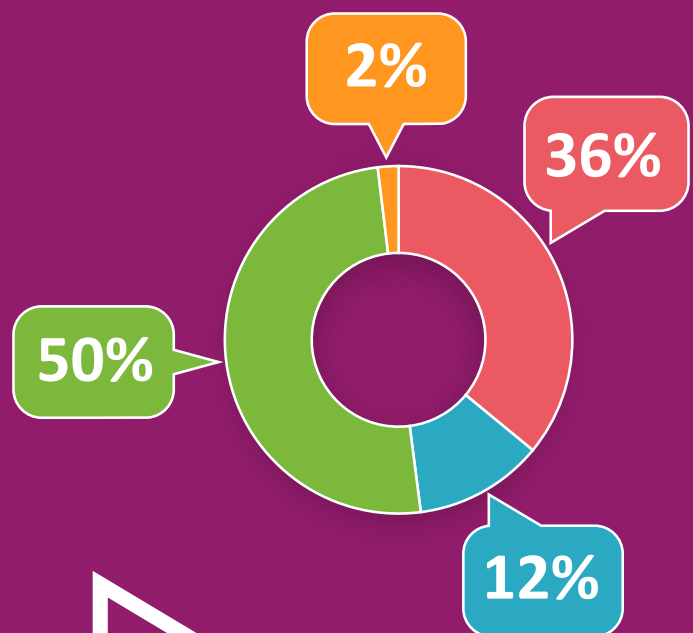
General FE College incl Tertiary

Other Public Funded i.e. LA's and HE

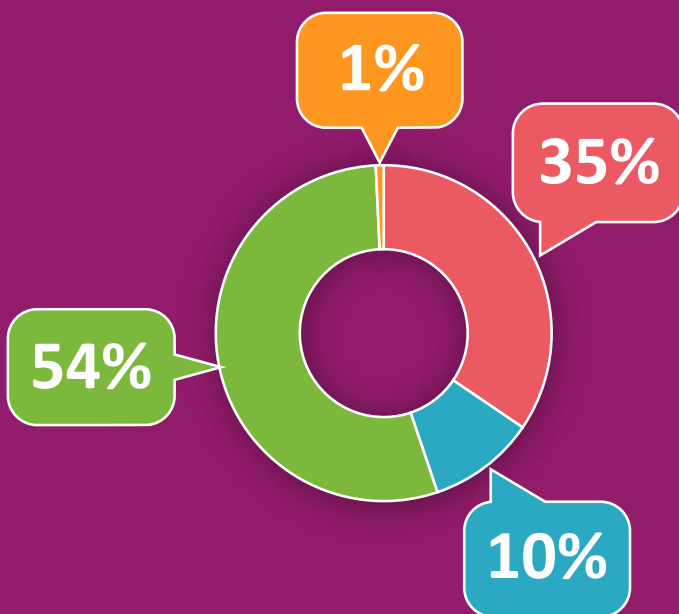
Private Sector Public Funded (ITP'S)

Other

English - Level 2 Achievements



ICT - Level 2 Achievements



“We will continue to recognise the unique knowledge and capacity that Independent Training Providers bring. They are the largest provider type delivering apprenticeships and they contribute substantially to adult education and training.”

DfE 'Skills for Jobs' white paper, January 2021

Employers ^{vii}

ITPs are noted for their close working with employers.....

Over 85% of employers would recommend using an ITP to another employer

85%

of employers would recommend using an ITP



Independent training providers are a vital part of the infrastructure.”

Gillian Keegan MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, September 2020

Traineeships



Since 2013 traineeships have had a positive impact. In 2017/18, 66% of trainees progressed into an apprenticeship, employment or further learning in the year following their study. ^{xiv}

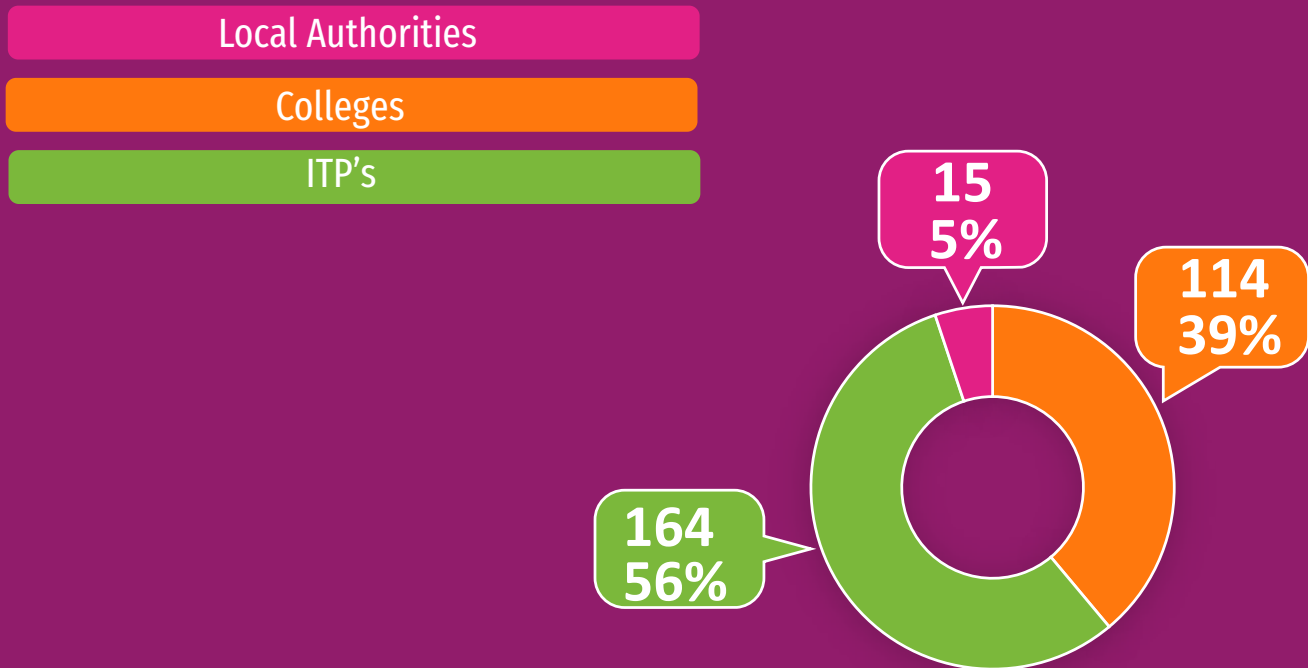


Most traineeships (56%) are delivered by around 150 private training providers

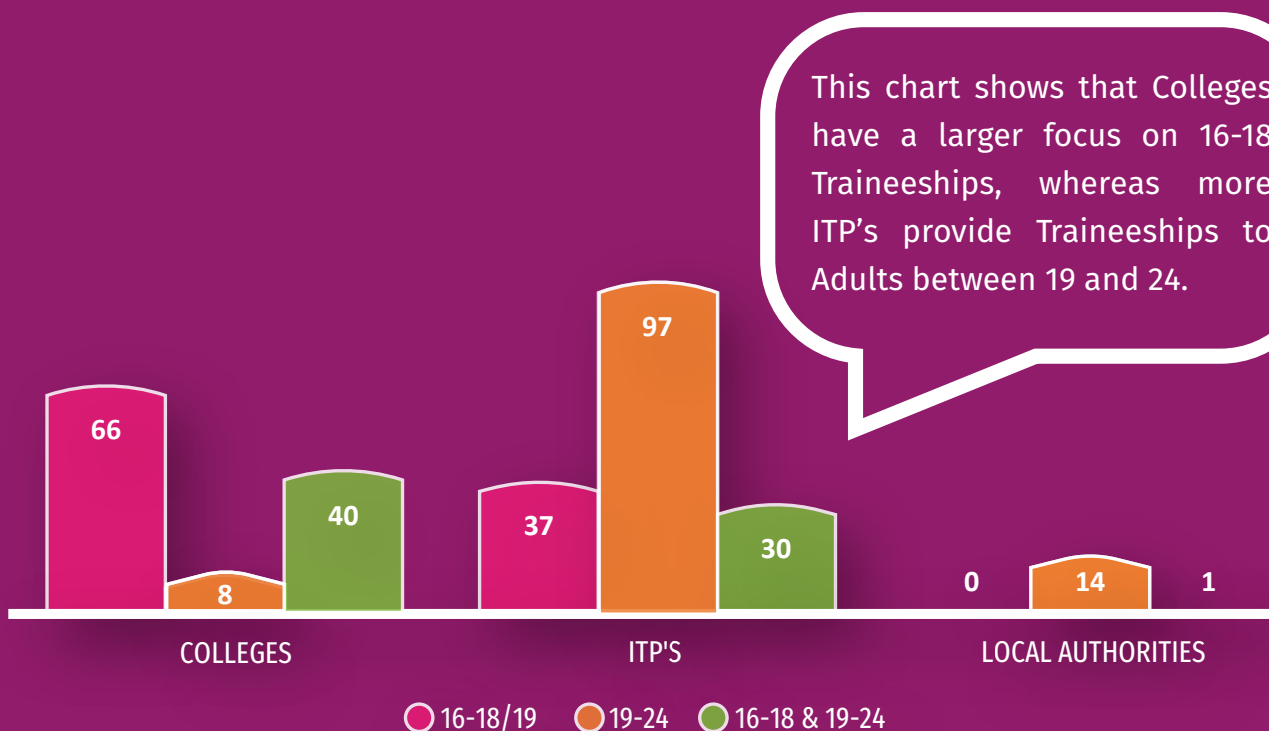


Most trainees at ITPs are between the ages of 19 and 24

Listed Traineeship Providers by Institution Type ^{xi}



Traineeship Providers by Age Range



Quote References

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DfE ‘Skills for Jobs’ white paper, January 2021

[Skills for jobs: lifelong learning for opportunity and growth - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/skills-for-jobs)

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[Keegan: quality of an FE course should be judged by job outcomes \(feweeek.co.uk\)](https://www.feweeek.co.uk/news/2020/09/24/keegan-quality-of-an-fe-course-should-be-judged-by-job-outcomes/)

“The Skills Bill rightly focuses on supporting colleges and further education, but independent training providers at their best can be more fleet of foot and more responsive to employer and local skill needs..... During the passage of the Bill, we need to ensure that it is possible for independent training providers to continue to provide their best and to strengthen in the future.”

Lord Bichard, former Permanent Secretary, Department for Education and Employment, June 2021

[Skills and Post-16 Education Bill \[HL\] - Tuesday 15 June 2021 - Hansard - UK Parliament](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021/06/15/210615hansardcolumnist0001)

“Some training providers offer very unique, niche training. You don’t want to take that away.”

Anne Milton, formerly Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, November 2018

[Anne Milton discusses College and Training Provider Collaboration, Subcontracting, and the A-Team \(fenews.co.uk\)](https://www.fenews.co.uk/news/2018/11/14/anne-milton-discusses-college-and-training-provider-collaboration-subcontracting-and-the-a-team/)

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- ii <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/further-education-and-skills/2019-20>
- iii <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-19-allocation-data-2019-to-2020-academic-year>
- iv [Further education and skills inspections and outcomes as at 28 February 2021: data, charts and tables](#)
- v <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships/2019-20>
- vi https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939834/Ofsted_Annual_Report_2019-2020.pdf
- vii https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840820/Employer_Satisfaction_national_report.pdf
- viii <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fe-choices-learner-satisfaction-survey-2018-to-2019>
- ix https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875561/Apprenticeships_Evaluation_-_Employer_Report.pdf
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- xi <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-training-providers>
- xii <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esf-2014-to-2020-programme-list-of-contracts>
- xiii <https://app.powerbi.com/>
- xiv <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-young-people-to-develop-the-skills-for-apprenticeships-and-sustainable-employment-framework-for-delivery/traineeships-framework-for-delivery-2020-to-2021-web-accessible-version>
- xv Correspondence between AELP and Education and Skills Funding Agency, Sept 2021

