

Get involved in...

Raising the participation age

Help to get more young people staying on in education and training by supporting Diplomas, Apprenticeships and other work-related learning.

Why get involved?

Britain needs more young people to stay in education and training for longer – not only to help them get jobs in an increasingly competitive market, but also to raise the level of qualifications and skills in the UK workforce.

Under the Education and Skills Act 2008, all young people will have a duty to stay in education or training until the age of 18. This can be in full-time education, work-based learning such as an Apprenticeship, or part-time education or training, if they are employed or volunteering more than 20 hours a week.

We need employers to help achieve this goal, for example, by setting up Apprenticeships, expanding work-experience programmes, supporting the new Diploma qualifications and enabling their young employees to participate in education and training.



Benefits for young people

Better qualifications and skills will improve young people's employment prospects as the jobs market becomes more competitive. Research shows that young people who gain five or more good GCSEs earn on average £100,000 more over their lifetime than those without Level 2 qualifications, and are less likely to have periods of unemployment.

Benefits for employers

Only 82.4% of 17-year-olds participate in education or training in England – this is too low and makes the economy less competitive. Raising the participation age means raising the level of skills and training in our young workforce, providing employers with candidates who are better equipped to do the job effectively – something employers have long been calling for.

Next steps

Employers can play a big part in raising the participation age. You can help by:

- providing work-related learning opportunities such as work experience placements
- offering Apprenticeships supporting the delivery of Diplomas, enabling young people you employ to continue in learning, for example by identifying appropriate learning opportunities, or developing your own accredited training.

If you would like to know more, then please email Emily Williams at Emily.Williams@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

