

SDR 157/2013

24 September 2013

## Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2011/12: Summary results

The latest edition of the annual publication 'Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2011/12' is published today, containing a range of statistical information about post-16 education in Wales.

The publication is intended as a reference source and contains substantial detail. Additional information on 2011/12 is available in the form of statistical releases, statistical bulletins and StatsWales cubes (see appendix of publication detailing information sources). These statistics are primarily intended for use by the Welsh Government, education and training providers, other organisations, academia and private individuals to carry out research, briefing and policy development relating to the post-16 education sector in Wales.

### Key points include:

#### Further Education

- 179,290 distinct learners were enrolled at Further Education (FE) institutions in 2011/12, 3.8 per cent fewer than in 2010/11.
- 118,215 learners were in-learning at an FE institution as at the week of 1 December 2011.
- 25 per cent of learners at FEIs were full-time, 66 per cent part-time (down from 71 per cent in 2008/09) and 9 per cent pursued work-based learning (WBL) provision.
- In line with SDR 48/2013 (March 2013), the volume and this summary include within WBL at FEI figures the contributions from FE institutions which are members of consortia led by (themselves or) other lead training providers. On this basis the WBL percentage of FEI learners is the same as in 2010/11.
- There was a 27 per cent decrease in total FE learner numbers at Further Education and Higher Education (HE) institutions between December 2005 and December 2011.
- Between December 2005 and December 2011, full-time FE learner numbers (at FEIs and HEIs combined) grew by 6 per cent but part-time numbers fell by 36 per cent; over the same period, the number of FE learners aged 18 and under fell slightly by 2 per cent but the number aged 19 and over fell by 35 per cent.
- Between 2007/08 and 2011/12, full-time equivalent (FTE) learners (excluding WBL) at FE institutions declined by 1.7 per cent.
- For leavers whose destination was known, 15.6 per cent of full-time learners (up from 14.5 per cent in 2010/11) went on to higher education and 42 per cent (around the same as in 2010/11) to other forms of further learning.

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- 55 per cent of learners at FE institutions were female, very close to the proportions in 2009/10 and 2010/11, though having previously remained at a slightly higher level of between 57 and 58 per cent from 2003/04 to 2008/09
- Excluding the contribution a University FEI subsidiary made to a WBL consortium, the changes in head count learner numbers from 2010/11 to 2011/12 ranged from a 26 per cent increase (at Coleg Harlech / WEA North) to a 13 per cent decrease (at Gower College Swansea).
- 2,200 learners at FE institutions were enrolled on a designated HE programme (only) in 2011/12; however in total 4,940 provider learners pursued one or more learning activities at HE level within overarching FE, HE and work-based learning (WBL) programmes.
- 17,370 learners (standard registration population) pursued Welsh for Adults learning activities in 2011/12. Of these, 14,880 were enrolled at HE institutions.
- In total, 18,415 learners at HE institutions were enrolled on FE level courses, including Welsh for Adults and 3,535 learners taking other FE courses.
- 45 per cent of learners at FE institutions were aged under 25 (the same as in the previous year and up from 41 per cent in 2008/09) and 28 per cent were under the age of 19.
- 5.5 per cent of learners at FE institutions were of a non-white ethnic origin, around the same proportion as in the previous two years (5 per cent).
- 3.4 per cent of learners at FE institutions had a (primary or secondary) disability affecting learning and 5.2 per cent had a learning difficulty (with some overlap with the previous figure). The full volume gives a more detailed categorisation of learners with disabilities and learning difficulties.
- 655,020 learning activities were undertaken by learners at FE institutions.
- The three most popular subject areas were Care/Personal Development (including Basic Skills) (31 per cent), Health Care / Health & Safety (8 per cent) and Information Technology (8 per cent).
- 5.2 per cent of learning activities were undertaken bilingually and a further 0.4 per cent through the medium of Welsh.
- The most popular type of learning activities recorded (excluding the 'other' category) were Open College Network (OCN) credits (21 per cent) and Key Skills / Essential Skills Wales (also 21 per cent).
- 90 per cent of learning activities at FEIs were completed.
- Of the completed learning activities with an assessable outcome, 91 per cent were attained.

### **Local Authority Community Learning**

- 35,560 learners undertook a Local Authority Community Learning activity in 2011/12, 7.5 per cent fewer than in 2010/11.
- Between the two years, there was a decline of 10.4 per cent in the number of learners pursuing maintained LA CL provision (enrolled and taught at local authorities) and contracted-in LA CL provision (taught by local authority staff but enrolled at FE institutions) fell by 3.6 per cent.
- 22,565 learners were in-learning during the week of 1 December 2011.
- 11.5 per cent of learners in 2011/12 were under the age of 25.
- 58 per cent of learners were aged between 25 and 59, as in the previous two years.
- 30 per cent of learners in the full year were aged 60 and over, as in 2010/11.
- 71 per cent of learners were female, as in the previous two years.
- 65,915 learning activities were undertaken in 2011/12, 3.5 per cent lower than in 2010/11.

- The most popular subject areas for learning activities were Care/Personal Development [including Basic Skills] (19 per cent), Cultural Studies/Languages/Literature (18 per cent), Information Technology (17 per cent, down from 20 per cent in 2010/11) and Arts and Crafts (16 per cent).

## Work-based learning

- 53,430 learners were engaged in work-based learning (WBL) provision in 2011/12, taken as a whole, 6.3 per cent fewer than in 2010/11. Of these, 1,445 learners pursued the Pathways to Apprenticeships (PtA) scheme, an FE programme supporting WBL provision.
- 30,535 WBL provision learners were in-learning at the end of March 2012, 6.5 per cent fewer than in March 2011, 8.6 per cent fewer than in March 2008 and 22 per cent lower than the peak of March 2006.
- 56 per cent of learners were under the age of 25 (compared with 54 per cent in 2010/11, 50 per cent in 2007/08 but 54 per cent in 2005/06); 29 per cent were under the age of 19.
- 49 per cent of learners in 2011/12 were male, the same as in the previous two years; this compared with 47 per cent in 2008/09 and 52 per cent in 2004/05.
- 3.1 per cent of learners were of a non-white ethnic origin, the same as in the previous two years (2.2 per cent in 2004/05).
- 2.6 per cent of learners had a disability affecting learning, slightly up from 2.2 per cent the previous year.
- 65 per cent of learners were on a Level 3 Apprenticeship or a Foundation Apprenticeship programme, up from 62 per cent the previous year (70 per cent in 2008/09 and 74 per cent in 2007/08).
- 69 per cent of the learning activities taken were at a notional level of NQF level 1 or 2; 15 per cent were at pre-entry level or entry level, 15 per cent were at level 3 and 1.4 per cent were at level 4 or above.
- Employment (current or new) was the destination of 66 per cent of learners leaving work-based learning in 2011/12 (up from 62 per cent the previous year).
- Around 185,000 learning activities were undertaken through work-based learning in 2011/12

## Key Quality Information

Quality information and more detail on the policy context can be found in the statistical release [SDR 48/2013](#) (issued on 26 March 2013) which was based on the same underlying LLWR data. Additional information is also included in Appendix A of the full publication to which the current release refers.

## Other UK nations

Examples of similar outputs from other UK nations include:

England - [www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current/](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/)

Northern Ireland - <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch/further-education-stats/further-education-enrolments-2/prof-and-tech-enrolments-in-ni-fe-sector-2011-12.htm>

Scotland - [www.sfc.ac.uk/statistics/further\\_education\\_statistics/infact\\_database/infact\\_database.aspx](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/statistics/further_education_statistics/infact_database/infact_database.aspx)

## Additional Information

The full publication can be accessed via the Statistical Directorate site

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/>. Scroll to 'Post-16 education and training'.