

## Storyboard for Further Education (FE) Activity 2013/14 to 2017/18

**FE colleges have fewer enrolments....**

Total enrolments at FE colleges increased by 1.6% (2,422) between 2016/17 (153,088) and 2017/18 (155,510); however, they have decreased by a net 14.0% (25,315) since 2013/14 (180,825).

**...but increasing proportions on regulated courses.**

Consistent with the increased focus on more economically relevant provision, the proportion of regulated enrolments has increased from 78.4% in 2013/14 to 83.0% in 2017/18.

**The student population is becoming younger....**

Since 2013/14, the 'aged 19 and under' share of regulated enrolments has increased from 58.0% to 62.6%.

**...the vast majority are on part-time courses....**

Around four-fifths of regulated enrolments are part-time, although this proportion has reduced from 81.8% in 2013/14 to 80.5% in 2017/18.

**....and more are studying at 'Level 2' or above.**

Of the 129,054 regulated enrolments in 2017/18, nearly four-fifths (79.7%) were at 'Level 2' or above, up from 77.1% in 2013/14. Those at 'Level 1 and below' accounted for 20.3% (26,178); 46.4% (59,930) were at 'Level 2', 24.1% (31,098) were at 'Level 3' and 9.2% (11,848) were at 'Level 4 and above'.

**More males than females are studying full-time....**

Males accounted for three-fifths (60.2%) of full-time regulated enrolments in 2017/18, whereas part-time regulated provision was fairly evenly split by gender.

**.....and there is variation in gender, in terms of the regulated course subject area.**

In 2017/18, females accounted for the vast majority of 'Health, Public Services and Care' (85.0%) and 'Education and Training' enrolments (80.1%). Male-dominated subject areas included 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment' (96.9%) and 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies' (92.7%).

**FE sector regulated enrolments are fairly evenly spread across relative deprivation quintiles.....**

In 2017/18, although regulated enrolments were fairly evenly spread across the five relative deprivation quintiles, considerable variation occurred at college level.

**.....but considerable variation occurs at college level.**

For instance, over 50% of regulated enrolments at NWRC and SRC came from the two most deprived areas (Quintiles 1 and 2), whereas SERC's largest share of enrolments (25.2%) came from the least deprived area (Quintile 5).

A third (33.5%) of NWRC's regulated enrolments were from Quintile 1, with 3.0% from Quintile 5. BMC enrolments were quite polarised, in that 52.1% were from either Quintile 1 or Quintile 5.

---

**Most enrolments are funded through the Funded Learning Unit (FLU).**

Of the 155,510 enrolments in 2017/18, almost two-thirds (63.6%) were funded through the Funded Learning Unit (FLU), 15.0% were funded through government training programmes, 9.8% were cost recovery and 5.0% were funded through the Entitlement Framework programme. For a further 6.5% of enrolments, the funding stream was classed as 'Other'.

---

**Higher Education enrolments have increased over the period 2013/14 to 2017/18....**

Higher Education enrolments at FE colleges have increased by a net 2.3% (272), from 11,576 in 2013/14 to 11,848 in 2017/18.

---

**....although fewer qualifications have been awarded.**

Fewer qualifications were awarded in FE colleges in 2017/18 (82,770) than in 2013/14 (90,851), a net fall of 8.9% (8,081). Net decreases occurred in five colleges [NWRC (22.0%), SWC (18.6%), BMC (9.3%), SERC (6.6%) and NRC (3.2%)].

---

**Proportionately more people are staying on and completing their course.....**

Over the period 2013/14 to 2017/18, the retention rate at FE colleges has increased by 1.2 percentage points, from 89.1% to 90.3%.

---

**....but fewer people who complete their course are achieving their qualification.**

The achievement rate at FE colleges has fallen by 1.8 percentage points, from 87.1% (2013/14) to 85.3% (2017/18).

The success rate (that is, the proportion of students staying on their course and achieving a qualification) fell by a net 0.6 percentage points, from 77.6% to 77.0%, over the period 2013/14 to 2017/18.

---

**FE College Abbreviations**

Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)

Northern Regional College (NRC)

North West Regional College (NWRC)

South Eastern Regional College (SERC)

Southern Regional College (SRC)

South West College (SWC)