

New teacher training inspections to focus on the ITE curriculum

Ofsted is publishing its new initial teacher education (ITE) framework so that future inspections will focus more on the substance of the ITE curriculum and how well trainees are prepared to teach, and less on outcomes data.

The new inspections will help to make sure that ITE partnerships are focusing on the things that have the most impact on a trainee's education and, ultimately, the children and young people they teach.

The changes bring ITE inspection in line with Ofsted's education inspection framework's (EIF) focus on the quality of the curriculum. The [new framework](#) is tailored to the different phases of trainee education, including early years, primary, secondary and further education.

The public consultation, Ofsted's research fieldwork and feedback from more than 30 pilot inspections undertaken this academic year have informed amendments to the final framework and handbook.

Ofsted received more than 300 responses to its [public consultation](#) from a wide range of respondents, including trainees and newly qualified teachers, ITE partnerships, headteachers and other employers. The vast majority supported the five key proposals, and many shared their thoughts on the proposed [new handbook](#).

Two new key judgements for 'quality of education and training' and 'leadership and management' will focus on the ITE curriculum and help inspectors get to the heart of the quality of trainee teachers' education. These replace the previous judgements of 'outcomes for trainees' and 'quality of training across the partnership'.

Other changes include:

- applying a new methodology for gathering inspection evidence
- a single visit, four-day inspection, announced three days in advance, rather than the previous two stage process
- an educationally focused telephone conversation with partnership leaders prior to the inspection
- spring and summer term inspections only

The new framework will take effect from September 2020, but the handbook document has been published early so that ITE partnerships have time to familiarise themselves with it. The intention is to begin the new cycle of inspections from January 2021 but given the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on the education sector, this will be kept under regular review.

Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's Chief Inspector said:

I'm pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response to our consultation. All trainee teachers should have access to high-quality education and training and our new inspections will help to do just that.

This new framework will make sure we're looking at the things that matter most to trainee teachers, so that they can start their career on solid foundations. Putting the curriculum front and centre of teacher training is the right thing for new teachers but above all, for children – so they get a broad, rich education that will set them up for life.

Circular 001/2020: Epidyolex scheduling, (SI) 2020 No. 559

The amendment places a cannabis-based medicine 'Epidyolex' under Schedule 5 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

Broad subject: drugs misuse

Sub category: The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001

Date for implementation: 24 June 2020

From: Home Office

Unit: Drugs Misuse and Firearms Unit

Apprenticeships and social mobility

Workers from disadvantaged backgrounds are being left behind by the apprenticeship system, with numbers slumping by more than a third since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy, says the Social Mobility Commission in its report 'Apprenticeships and social mobility: Fulfilling potential' published today (Wednesday 24 June).

The report also reveals that most of the benefits of apprenticeships are going to more privileged learners. It finds that apprenticeships are one of the most effective means of boosting social mobility for workers from poorer backgrounds – if they can get into and through the system.

Key findings

- a 36% decline in apprenticeship starts by people from disadvantaged backgrounds, compared with 23% for others
- just 13% of degree-level apprenticeships, the fastest growing and most expensive apprenticeship option, goes to apprentices from disadvantaged backgrounds
- most disadvantaged apprenticeship starters came from three regions: north-west England (25%); the west midlands (15%); and London (15%)
- more than 80% of apprenticeships undertaken by learners from disadvantaged backgrounds are in enterprises in the services, health, education or public administration sectors
- only 63% of apprenticeships are successfully completed by men from disadvantaged background, compared with 67% of men from more privileged backgrounds
- on average, apprentices from disadvantaged backgrounds earn less than apprentices from more privileged backgrounds
- there is a 16% boost to wages for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete their training, compared with 10% for others

Collapsing numbers

Analysis by the report authors, London Economics, shows that the 2017 Apprenticeship Levy reform was followed by a collapse in overall apprenticeship starts which hit disadvantaged learners hardest. In addition, the analysis shows that disadvantage gaps opened up at every stage, from employer candidate selection to training quality and pay rates after completion.

Consultant and lead author Alice Battiston said:

There is a severe disadvantage gap throughout the entire apprenticeship training journey, and this has worsened over time. Not only has the proportion of new starters from disadvantaged backgrounds declined over time, but they have also benefited less than their better-off peers from the shift towards higher-level programmes.

Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, there was a 36% decline in disadvantaged apprentice starts in England, compared with a 23% decline for more privileged apprentices. The impact was even greater for older (aged 25+) and female

apprentices.

Steven Cooper, interim co-chair of the Social Mobility Commission, commented:

The apprenticeship levy, introduced in 2017, has disproportionately funded higher-level apprenticeships for learners from more advantaged communities, rather than those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds who would benefit more.

Barriers to success

Disadvantaged apprentices are less likely than their more privileged peers to complete their course. The main reason for dropping out included low levels of pay with small and medium size employers (SMEs) more likely to pay apprentices the minimum wage.

Alice Battiston said:

The relatively low completion rate achieved by disadvantaged apprentices, particularly at intermediate level, is another alarming point emerging from our analysis. Specific interventions are needed to reduce drop-outs.

Apprenticeships boost social mobility

Despite the many barriers faced by disadvantaged learners, the report confirms how effective apprenticeships can be in promoting social mobility.

People from less privileged backgrounds who complete an apprenticeship get a bigger boost in their earnings than other learners. This is particularly true at intermediate level – the first step on the apprenticeship journey. Furthermore, apprentices from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to complete their course on time.

Following the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, however, there are concerns disadvantaged apprentices are at greater risk from an economic decline, with many employed in hard-hit sectors such as hospitality and retail.

Alice Battiston said:

The pandemic is likely to have made the disadvantaged gap worse. There needs to be urgent consideration of the impact of the apprenticeship levy on social mobility outcomes.

Steven Cooper said:

It is no longer credible for the government to assume that apprenticeships automatically improve social mobility and leave the system to its own devices.

Strategic action and direction are needed to target the system better on disadvantaged communities and improve the system's value for money.

This is an easy win for the government in its attempts at levelling up – if it can get this right. The government must look at the structural barriers in place and take action to channel resources where they will have the greatest effect.

Notes to editors

The Social Mobility Commission is an independent advisory non-departmental public body established under the Life Chances Act 2010 as modified by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. It has a duty to assess progress in improving social mobility in the UK and to promote social mobility in England.

On 20 May 2020, the Sutton Trust published 2 research studies on apprenticeships: 'COVID-19 impacts: apprenticeships' examines the pandemic's impact on the apprenticeship system, and in particular on learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. 'Degree apprenticeships: levelling up?' focuses on the highest level 6 and 7 apprenticeships – equivalent to a bachelors or postgraduate degree – and asks whether they are delivering social mobility for disadvantaged learners.

The commission board comprises:

- Sandra Wallace, Joint Managing Director UK & Europe at DLA Piper – joint deputy chair
 - Steven Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, C. Hoare & Co – joint deputy chair
 - Alastair da Costa, Chair of Capital City College Group
 - Farrah Storr, Editor-in-chief, Elle
 - Harvey Matthewson, Aviation Activity Officer at Aerobility
 - Jessica Oghenegweke, Presenter, BBC Earth Kids
 - Jody Walker, Senior Vice President at TJX Europe (TK Maxx and Home Sense in the UK)
 - Liz Williams, CEO @FutureDotNow.UK
 - Pippa Dunn, Founder of Broody, helping entrepreneurs and start ups
 - Saeed Atcha, Chief Executive Officer of Youth Leads UK
 - Sam Friedman, Associate Professor in Sociology at London School of Economics
 - Sammy Wright, Vice Principal of Southmoor Academy, Sunderland
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£105 million to keep rough sleepers safe and off the streets during coronavirus pandemic

- Government makes significant commitment in drive to end rough sleeping for good
- New funding from the Treasury to provide interim support for 15,000 vulnerable people accommodated during the pandemic
- Money to help rough sleepers secure their own tenancies as well as provide short-term housing while delivery of long-term homes continue at pace
- Additional investment takes total spent on rough sleeping and homelessness this year to over half a billion pounds

Interim housing for thousands of rough sleepers taken off the streets during the pandemic is to be provided, ministers have announced.

The additional £105 million will be used to support rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness into tenancies of their own, including through help with deposits for accommodation, and securing thousands of alternative rooms already available and ready for use, such as student accommodation.

The funding unveiled today takes the total amount provided this year by government to support rough sleepers and those on the brink of becoming homeless to over half a billion pounds.

The government-led drive has brought together councils, charities, the private hospitality sector and community groups with the joint aim of protecting some of the most vulnerable people in society from Covid-19, and helping them turn around their lives and get them off the streets for good. It has come during one of the most challenging periods we have ever faced as a nation.

The announcement comes as plans to provide 6,000 long-term, safe homes continue at pace, to ensure the work being done to take society's most vulnerable off the streets during the pandemic has a lasting impact.

Last month, the government unveiled transformative plans to support thousands of rough sleepers currently housed in emergency accommodation to move on to more sustainable, long-term housing, with 3,300 additional supported homes to be provided this year.

A further £16 million is also being provided so that vulnerable people currently in emergency accommodation can access the specialist help they need for substance misuse issues, in order to rebuild their lives and move towards work and education.

Housing Secretary, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

In recent months, I have seen a huge effort across the country to keep almost 15,000 vulnerable people off the streets. This has been vital to ensure their safety during the peak of the pandemic and has changed the lives of thousands for the better.

The additional funding announced today will allow us to continue to support these individuals – giving them access to the accommodation and support they need now while we continue with plans to deliver thousands of long-term homes in the coming months.

Together, this takes the funding provided by Government for vulnerable rough sleepers and those at risk of becoming homeless to over half a billion this year – an unprecedented commitment as we move towards ending rough sleeping for good.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Steve Barclay MP said:

It's vital we do everything we can to support the most vulnerable people in society – especially during challenging times like these.

This funding will not only mean that thousands of rough sleepers continue to have a roof over their head, but it also provides a platform to unlock new opportunities to improve their lives for the better.

Chair of the Covid19 Rough Sleeping Taskforce, Dame Louise Casey said:

'Everyone in' has been an extraordinary effort from councils, charities and many others to provide a safe haven for almost 15,000 homeless people who were either on the streets or at risk of rough sleeping during this Covid-19 pandemic. I want to thank again the hotels and other providers who have opened their doors to some of the most vulnerable people in society at this most difficult time

We now have an extraordinary opportunity to help keep them in and turn their lives around if we get the next steps right. I am clear that there can now be no going back to the streets as people begin to move on from the emergency accommodation that has been put in place.

The government is committed to ending rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament, and has taken unprecedented steps to protect thousands of vulnerable rough sleepers and those at risk of becoming homeless through the pandemic, including:

- Working collaboratively across government, and with councils, health

providers and charities, to offer emergency accommodation to almost 15,000 vulnerable people known to councils at the beginning of the pandemic;

- Accelerating plans to put in place over 6,000 new supported homes as a landmark commitment to end rough sleeping – backed by £433 million of government funding – with 3,300 of these becoming available in the next 12 months;
- An initial £3.2 million given to councils at the beginning of the pandemic so they could take immediate action to support rough sleepers off the streets, and a further £3.2 billion of additional funding to help with the immediate pressures councils are facing
- The creation of the new Rough Sleeping Taskforce – led by Dame Louise Casey – which will lead the next phase of the government’s support for rough sleepers during the pandemic.

These figures are for England only but would result in up to £19.8 million of Barnett consequential for the devolved administrations.

The £105 million is made up of £85 million of new funding from HMT and £20 million from refocusing existing homelessness and rough sleeping budgets.

The additional £16 million for substance misuse is money already announced but brought forward due to the challenges of the pandemic. This takes the total funding for substance misuse this year to £23 million.

In April the Communities Secretary appointed [Dame Louise Casey to spearhead a specialist taskforce](#) to lead the next phase of the government’s support for rough sleepers during the pandemic.

The taskforce is working hand-in-hand with councils, charities, faith groups and other partners across the country on plans to ensure rough sleepers can move into safe accommodation once the immediate crisis is over.

The taskforce is also ensuring that the thousands of rough sleepers now in accommodation continue to receive the physical and mental health support they need over the coming weeks and months.

[ZEA Servant report published](#)

News story

Injuries to two crewmen on a general cargo vessel while berthed in Campbeltown, Scotland.



Our investigation report on the fall of a suspended load which struck two crewmen on board the general cargo vessel ZEA Servant on 2 March 2019, is now published.

The report contains details of what happened and the subsequent actions taken: [read more](#).

Published 24 June 2020