

ANNUAL PARTICIPATION MEASURE 2020

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The main purpose of this report is to provide members with information on the most recent Annual Participation Measure published in August 2020.
- 1.2 The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports nationally on the economic and employment activity of the wider 16-19 year old cohort including those at school. The measure is used to inform policy, planning and service delivery and to determine the impact of the Opportunities for All commitment.
- 1.3 The APM was incorporated into the Scottish Government's National performance Framework from August 2017 as the source of the indicator, "increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work", replacing the School Leaver Destination Reports.
- 1.4 The previous measure, School Leaver Destination Reports collected data on young people in the senior phase of school (S4-S6) who left school during the school year and essentially offered a snapshot at the time of reporting (October/February). The APM takes account of all statuses for 16-19 year olds in Scotland over a full calendar year (1st April – 31st March).
- 1.5 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
 - a) Considers the publication of the 2020 Annual Participation Measure.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Annual Participation Measure (APM) is published in September each year and used to inform policy, planning and service delivery, and also to assess progress in the delivery of Opportunities for All, the Scottish Government's commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16 to 19-year-old in Scotland not already in employment, education or training.
- 2.2 The 2020 APM marks the sixth release of statistics detailing the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level. The report takes account of the status for 16-19 year olds from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.
- 2.3 The statistics are produced using data collected by SDS and a range of partners, which is shared through the 16+ Data Hub.
- 2.4 The report is based on a cohort of 205,981 young people aged between 16 and 19, of which 3,185 are from Argyll and Bute.
- 2.5 Covid19 happened too late in the cycle to impact on the 2020 data and it will be next year before the effects of lockdown and other measures register in the Annual Participation Measure.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- a) Considers the publication of the 2020 Annual Participation Measure.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The APM is compiled from data collected from the 16+ Data Hub, a multi-partner secure data sharing gateway managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Data input is provided from Local Authorities, Colleges,

Department of Work and Pensions, SAAS and the Scottish Funding Council. It is estimated that approximately 90% of young people in the 16 to 19 age group are recorded on the system

4.2 The participation status of each young person is identified by combining the number of days spent in each status between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020. Their overall headline classification (participating, not-participating or unknown) is then decided by the heading under which they have spent the most days over that year.

4.3 The classifications are defined as –

Participating – school pupil, higher education, further education, employment, modern apprenticeships, training and voluntary work.

Not Participating – unemployed and seeking employment or training, unemployed and not seeking employment or training.

Unconfirmed Status – information on individual not available for reporting. Some of these young people may be in employment but not in contact with partner agencies.

4.4 The 2020 APM headline figures confirm that 94.1% of 16-19 year olds in Argyll and Bute were participating in education, training or employment compared to 92.1% nationally. 2.4% were not participating compared to 2.8% nationally and 3.5% have an unconfirmed status compared to 5.1% nationally.

4.5 Despite a fall of 0.7% (= 22 young people) in the number of young people participating last year, Argyll and Bute remains above the Scottish average in all three classifications.

	2016 Argyll and Bute	2017 Argyll and Bute	2018 Argyll and Bute	2019 Argyll and Bute	2020 Argyll and Bute	2020 Scotlan d
Participating	94.2%	93%	94.2%	94.8%	94.1% (-0.7)	92.1% (+0.5)
Not Participating	3.1%	2.8%	2.7%	2.2%	2.4% (+0.2%)	2.8% (-0.3)
Unconfirmed	2.7%	4.2%	3.1%	3.0%	3.5% (+0.5%)	5.1% (-0.2)

4.6 In 2020 there was an increase in the number of young people in employment in Argyll and Bute from 21.9% in 2019 to 22.6%. The overall drop in participation is largely due to a fall in the numbers involved in Education from 71.6% in 2019 to 70.3% in 2020.

- 4.7 Participation by Age:
- In 2020, participation was highest amongst 16 year olds (99%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (89.3%).
 - The participation rate in 2020 decreased in all age categories with the largest decrease in the 17/18 age groups.
- 4.8 Equality Characteristics:
- Females (94.2%) were slightly more likely to participate than males (93.9%). This difference is possibly due to the higher rate of females in education.
 - The participation rate amongst Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups (94.1%) was very slightly higher than that for those from a white ethnic group (94.0%). National figures suggest this difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation in education (87.5% versus 71%).
 - The participation rate amongst those identified as disabled (92.6%) was lower than that for those not identified as disabled (94.2%). This difference was primarily driven by a lower rate in employment and a higher rate of unemployed not seeking.
- 4.9 Geography:
- Between 2019 and 2020 the participation rate rose in 20 of the 32 local authorities.
 - The reduction of 0.7% in those participating in Argyll and Bute has resulted in a drop from 5th in ranking of local authorities to 9th.
 - The percentage point difference between the most deprived and the least deprived increased by 1.2% to 6.3% in 2020.
 - The highest increase in participation by Intermediate Geography Area was 11.7% in Garelochhead.
 - The largest decrease in participation by Intermediate Geography Area was 8.4% on Bute.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Annual Participation Measure provides data on the economic and employment activity of 16 to 19 year olds and enables local authorities to measure progress against the National Improvement Framework indicator - "increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work."
- 5.2 There was a 0.7% (22 young people) drop in the percentage of young people from Argyll and Bute participating in education, training or employment last year. However, whilst there is no room for complacency, Argyll and Bute continues to perform above the national average in almost all categories.
- 5.3 Discussions have taken place with Skills Development Scotland to establish possible causes for the decrease in participation figures, however the relatively small numbers involved make it difficult to pinpoint a single cause or pattern.

- 5.4 Opportunities for All and Developing Young Workforce activities assist young people with the transition from school into employment, education or training. The robust, current information provided by the Data Hub and Annual Participation Measure will continue to be used to identify potential issues and inform partners. This will enable partners to be proactive in providing more targeted and tailored intervention to support young people.
- 5.5 Key partner agencies, including secondary schools, Community Learning and Development (CLD), local colleges, Skills Development Scotland and the third sector, will continue to work together with Developing Young Workforce and Opportunities for All groups to ensure that young people are supported to access and sustain positive destinations.
- 5.6 Youth employment remains a major concern as this report was compiled pre-Covid19 and many experts are predicting substantial increases in youth unemployment in the coming months.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy - This report links directly to Outcome 3 in the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement (Education Skills and Training Maximises Opportunities for All).
- 6.2 Financial – None.
- 6.3 Legal – None.
- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 6.5.1 Equalities - The Opportunities for All programme and Developing Scotland's Young Workforce recommendations actively seek to address inequalities in employment, training and education.
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None
 - 6.5.3 Islands – None
- 6.6 Risk – Failure to support young people into positive destinations will impact on the life chances of young people across the Local Authority area and may result in outward migration of young people.
- 6.7 Customer Service – This report provides elected members with an overview on Service performance.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Argyll and Bute APM Summary 2020

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