

2023



# KEY FACTS

ABOUT INDEPENDENT TRAINING PROVIDERS



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## WHAT ARE INDEPENDENT TRAINING PROVIDERS?

Independent Training Providers (ITPs) provide vocational education and training to young people and adults. They are also sometimes referred to as ‘independent learning providers’ or ‘private training providers’.

As this document shows, ITPs are a critical part of the Further Education (FE) sector – training, teaching, and developing the skills of individuals in every corner of the UK to support social mobility and economic productivity.

ITPs are distinct from other types of FE provider such as Colleges in that they are not run or directly controlled by the state – hence they are ‘independent’. However, much of their work is funded, regulated and monitored by government agencies such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Ofsted in the same way as the rest of the FE sector. Most ITPs are companies (not for profit, and for profit) and some are in the third sector.

ITPs are diverse. You can find them located behind or above high streets or in business parks in most towns and cities right across the country. Learning and training is done in classrooms, on the ITP’s premises, in workplaces, online, or sometimes a mixture of all of them.

## WHAT DO ITPS DO?

- ✓ APPRENTICESHIPS
- ✓ SKILLS BOOTCAMPS
- ✓ ADULT EDUCATION
- ✓ 16-19 STUDY PROGRAMMES
- ✓ ENGLISH AND MATHS
- ✓ SUPPORT FOR THOSE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING (NEET)
- ✓ VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
- ✓ PREVENT AGENDA
- ✓ UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND
- ✓ MULTIPLY
- ✓ EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS
- ✓ OFFENDER LEARNING
- ✓ WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME
- ✓ ONLINE LEARNING

## HOW MANY ITPS ARE THERE?

ITPs are by far the most numerous type of organisation in the FE sector:

As of August 2023, there were well over 1700 providers publicly funded and delivering education, training and/or apprenticeships recorded on Ofsted’s systems, this is a small increase since 2019 when there was 1694.

As of August 2023, there were 1305 active ITPs on the Government’s Apprenticeship Register, an increase of 55 since 2021.

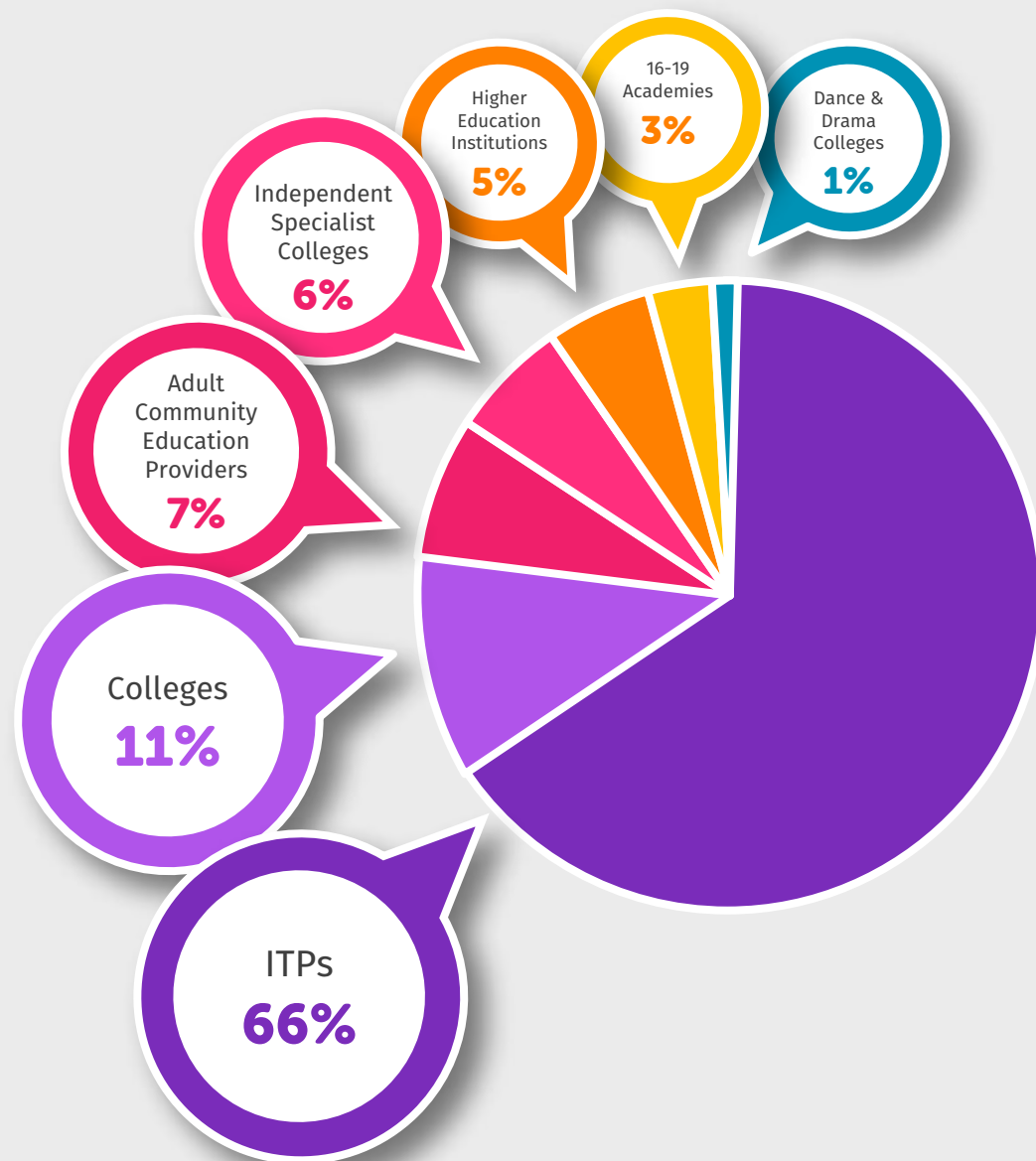
- ➔ Ofsted reports that independent training providers (ITPs) are the most numerous further education and skills (FES) providers in England
- ➔ Independent training providers accounted for 66% of providers in the further education sector as of August 2023
- ➔ In 2023, Ofsted reported 73% of independent training providers as good or outstanding





# TYPES OF FURTHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

- ✓ 5% HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION
- ✓ 6% INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST COLLEGES
- ✓ 1% DANCE AND DRAMA COLLEGES
- ✓ 11% COLLEGES
- ✓ 3% 16-19 ACADEMIES
- ✓ 7% ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROVIDERS
- ✓ 66% INDEPENDENT LEARNING PROVIDERS

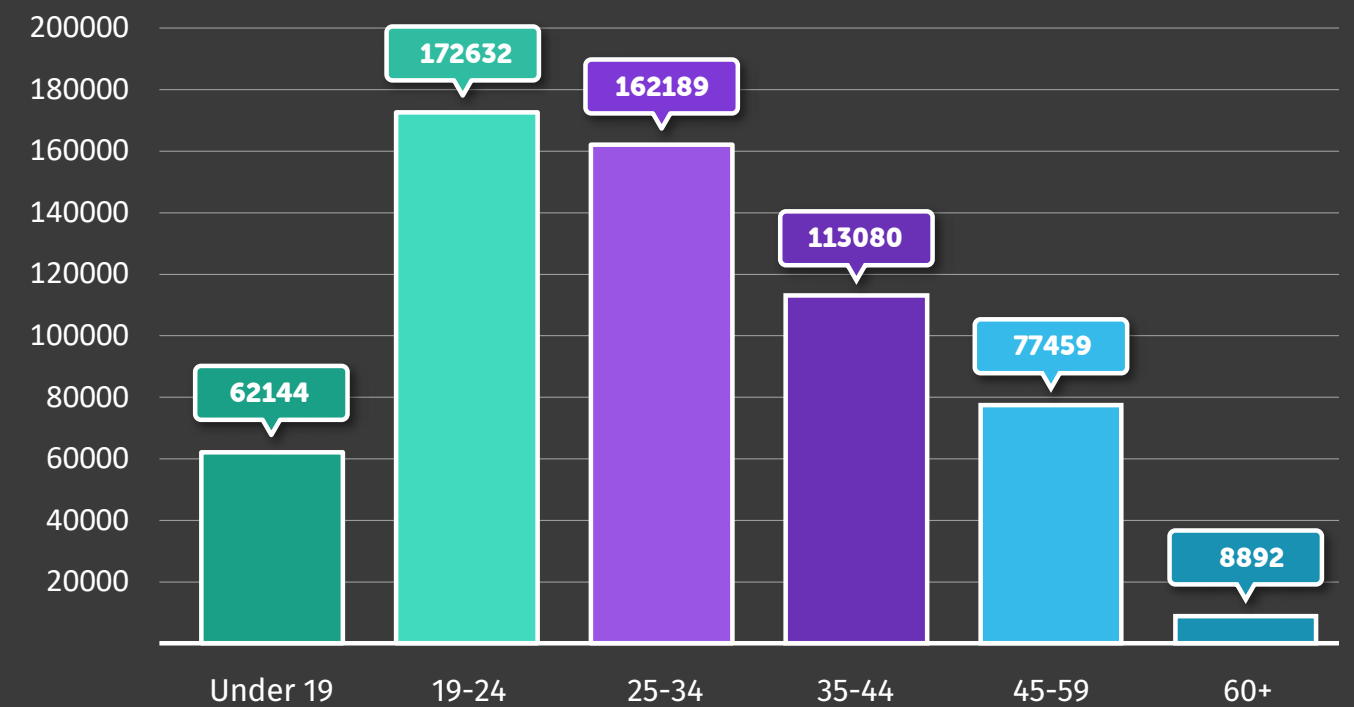


## LEARNERS

There are over 1.7 million adults in the education and training in England, annually. Of these, nearly 600,000 (35%) go to an ITP.

➔ In 2019-20, 13% of participating learners within an ITP had a learning difficulty or disability

Participating Learners at ITPs 2022/23 YTD

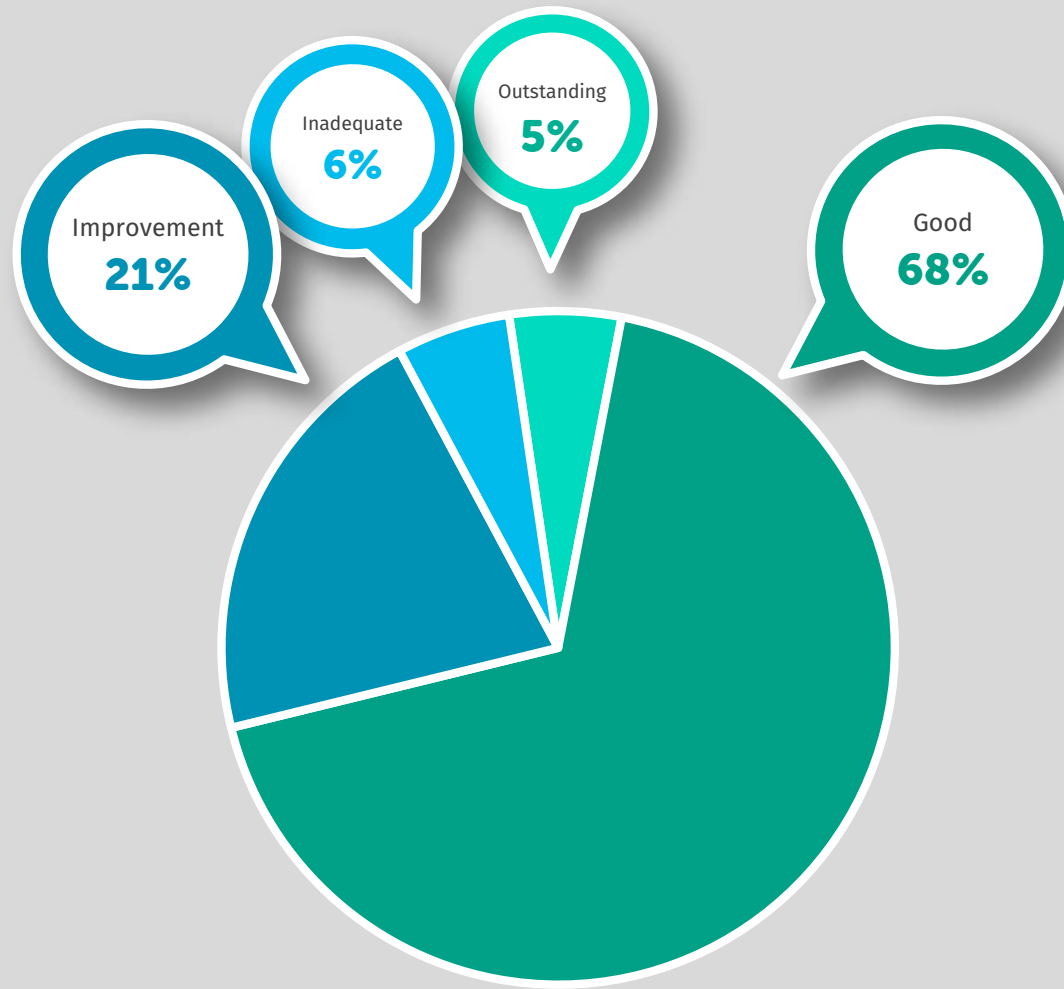


➔ In 2022/23, 104 ITPs were delivering Study Programmes to nearly 33,000 learners, of which around 23,000 were following learning at Level 2 or below



# QUALITY

Overall effectiveness of ITPs as measured by Ofsted



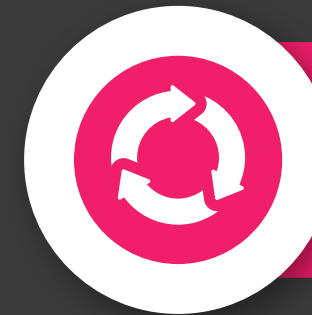
- ➔ 73% of ITPs were judged good or outstanding at their latest inspection by Ofsted as of August 2023
- ➔ 85% of employers are satisfied with the overall quality of training and assessment by ITPs <sup>1</sup>
- ➔ 86% of learners are satisfied with the teaching or training at ITPs <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/840820/Employer\\_Satisfaction\\_national\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840820/Employer_Satisfaction_national_report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fe-choices-learner-satisfaction-survey-2018-to-2019> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fe-choices-learner-satisfaction-survey-2018-to-2019>

“ We will continue to recognise the unique knowledge and capacity that Independent Training Providers bring. They are the largest provider type delivering apprenticeships and they contribute substantially to adult education and training.”

DfE ‘Skills for Jobs’ white paper, January 2021

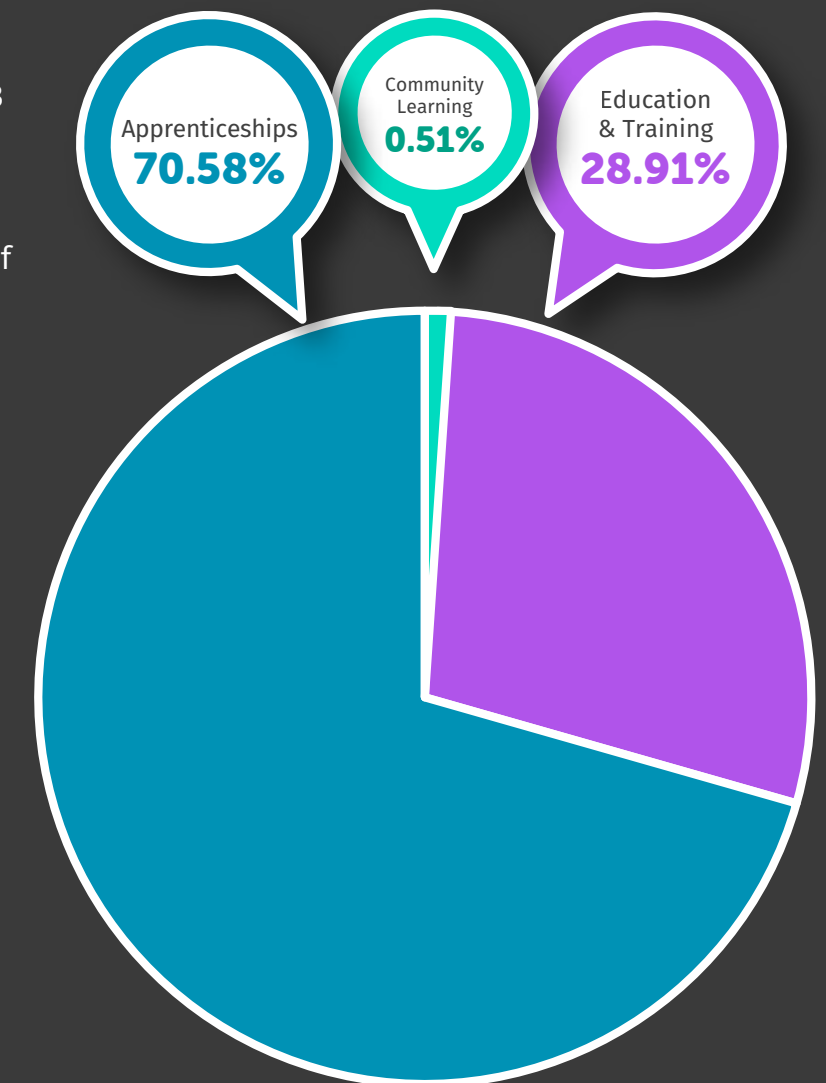


# FE PROVISION AND ENROLMENT

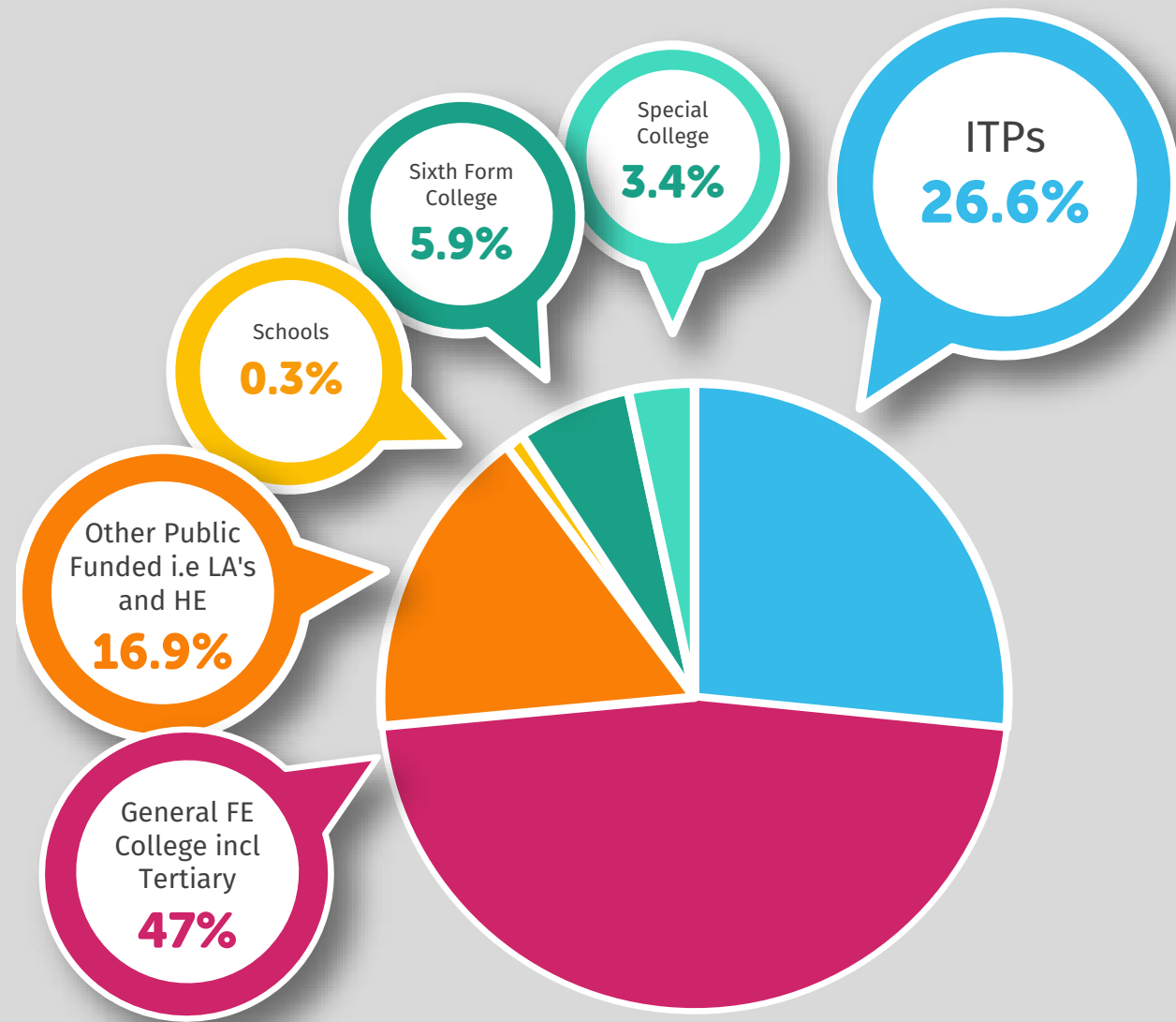
## LEARNING TYPES AMONGST PARTICIPANTS AT ITPS

For period August 22 to April 23

Although ITPs are traditionally associated with apprenticeship learning delivery, almost 30% of their participants are studying non-apprenticeship vocational education and training.



Between August and April of 2022/23, 27% of all FE and Skills (FES) enrolments were with an ITP

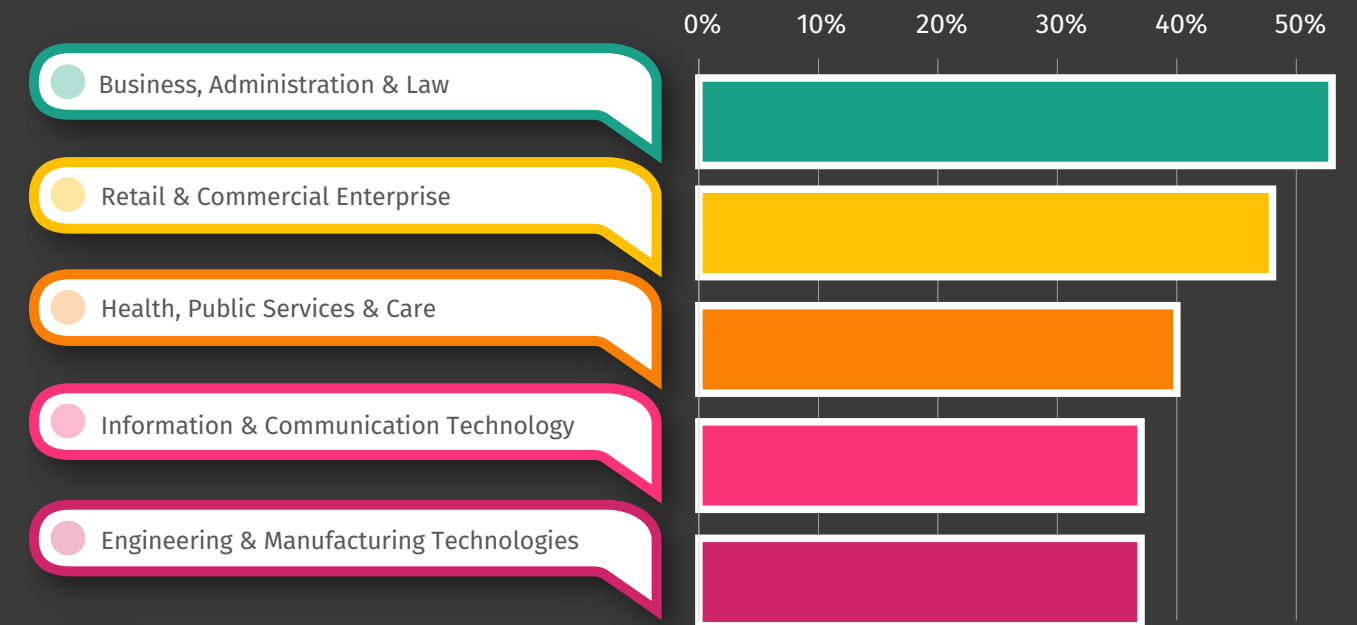


## SECTORAL INFORMATION

It is clear to see the value and central importance of ITPs in crucial parts of the economy. For example, during 2023 they have accounted for over 50% of learning starts in Business Administration and Law; almost half of Retail/Commercial learning enrolments: and over 40% of starts in Health, Public Services and Care.

### Top 5 Sector Enrolments at ITPs

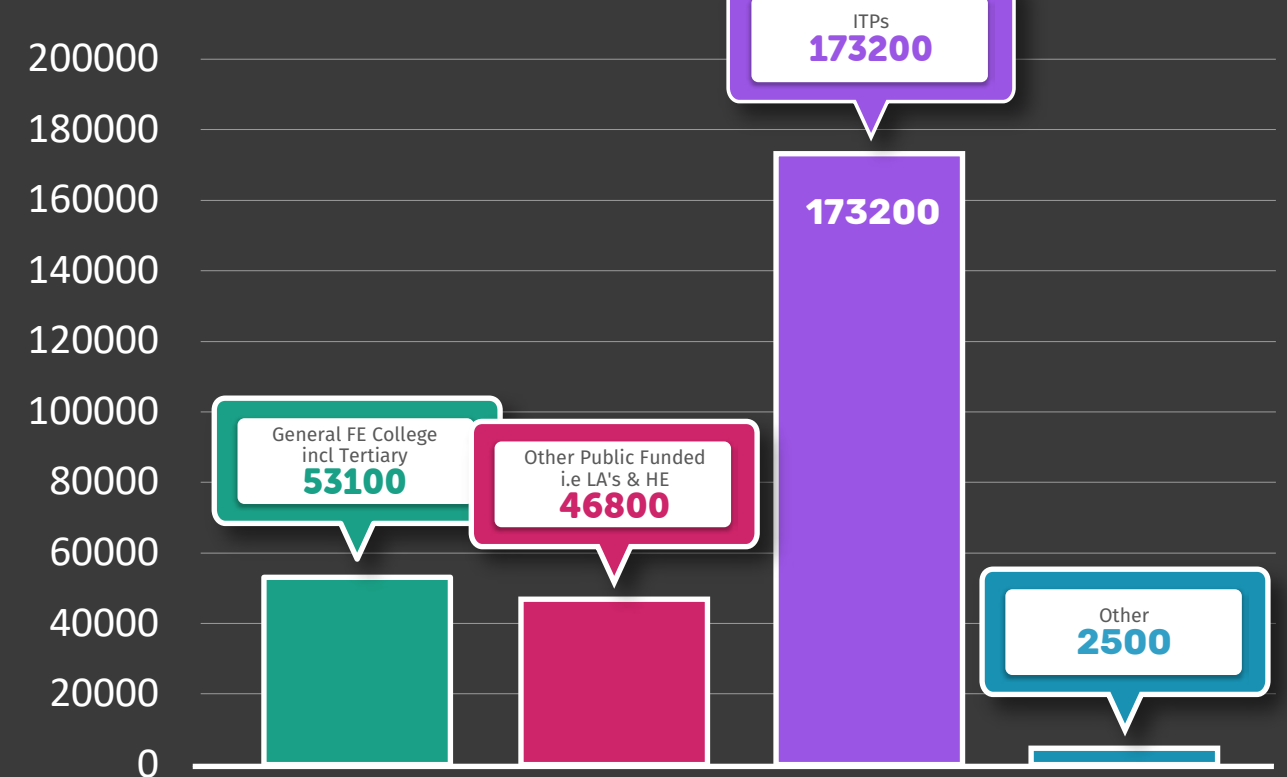
ITPs account for a significant proportion of all qualification enrolments in a range of occupational sectors



## APPRENTICESHIPS

During 2022 – 23 ITP apprenticeship starts were by a large margin the highest in the sector

### Apprenticeship starts by provider types

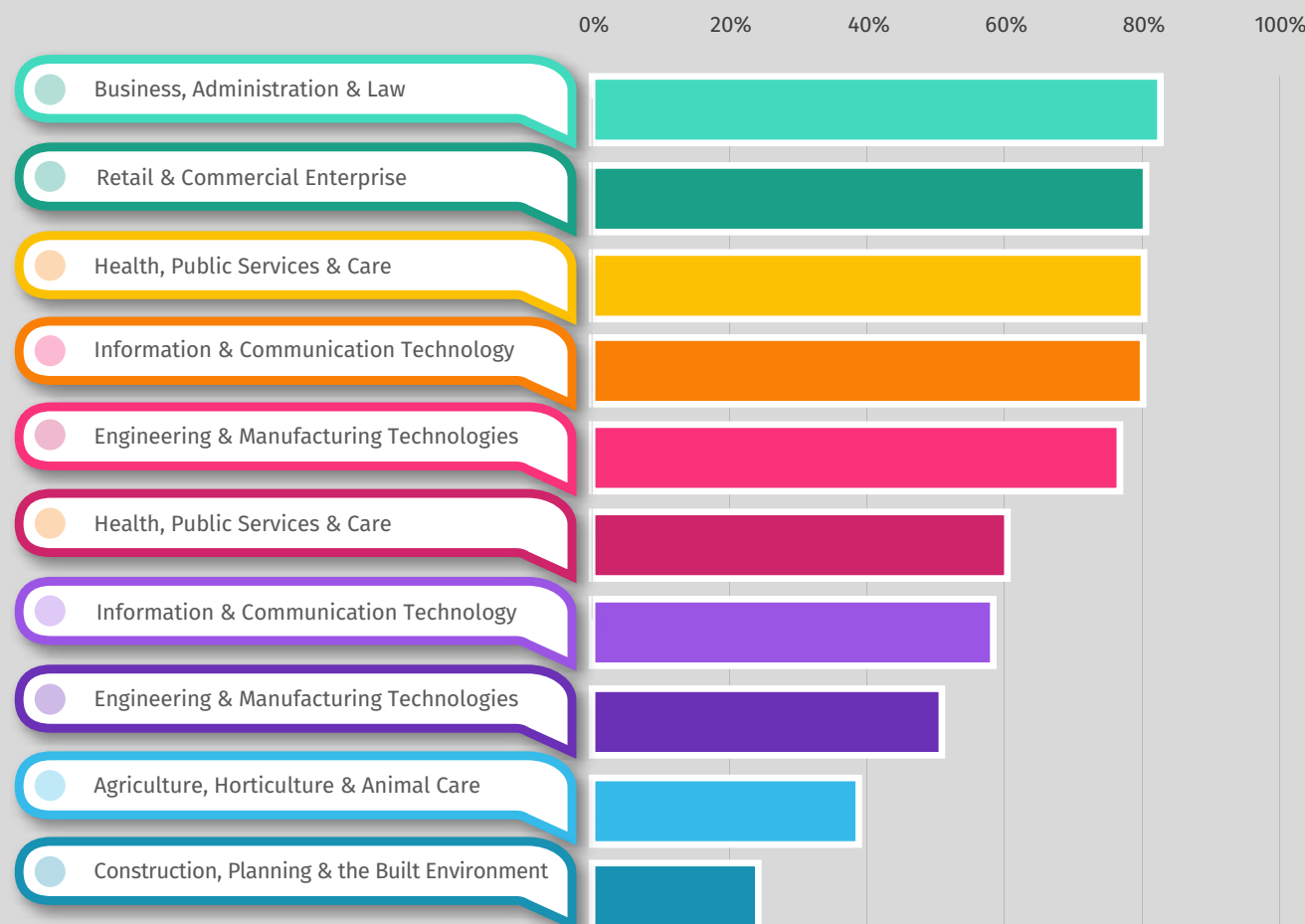


## 2022/23 APPRENTICESHIP PARTICIPATION BY REGION

| Region                 | All           | ITPs          | ITP%         |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| East Midlands          | 22724         | 14294         | 62.9%        |
| East of England        | 23867         | 15352         | 64.3%        |
| London                 | 35836         | 29408         | 82.1%        |
| North East             | 14392         | 7675          | 53.3%        |
| North West             | 39976         | 25872         | 64.7%        |
| South East             | 38593         | 25208         | 65.3%        |
| South West             | 30857         | 15804         | 51.2%        |
| West Midlands          | 34068         | 20779         | 61.0%        |
| Yorkshire & The Humber | 30783         | 16840         | 54.7%        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>275629</b> | <b>173206</b> | <b>62.8%</b> |

As with enrolments there are some sectors that rely very heavily on ITPs for their delivery such as arts, leisure and retail apprenticeships

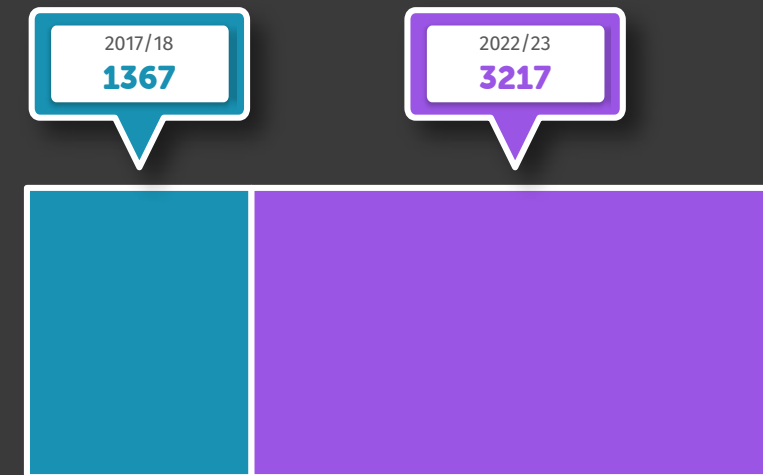
### Apprenticeship Delivery by Sector at ITPs



## L6 AND L7 APPRENTICESHIPS

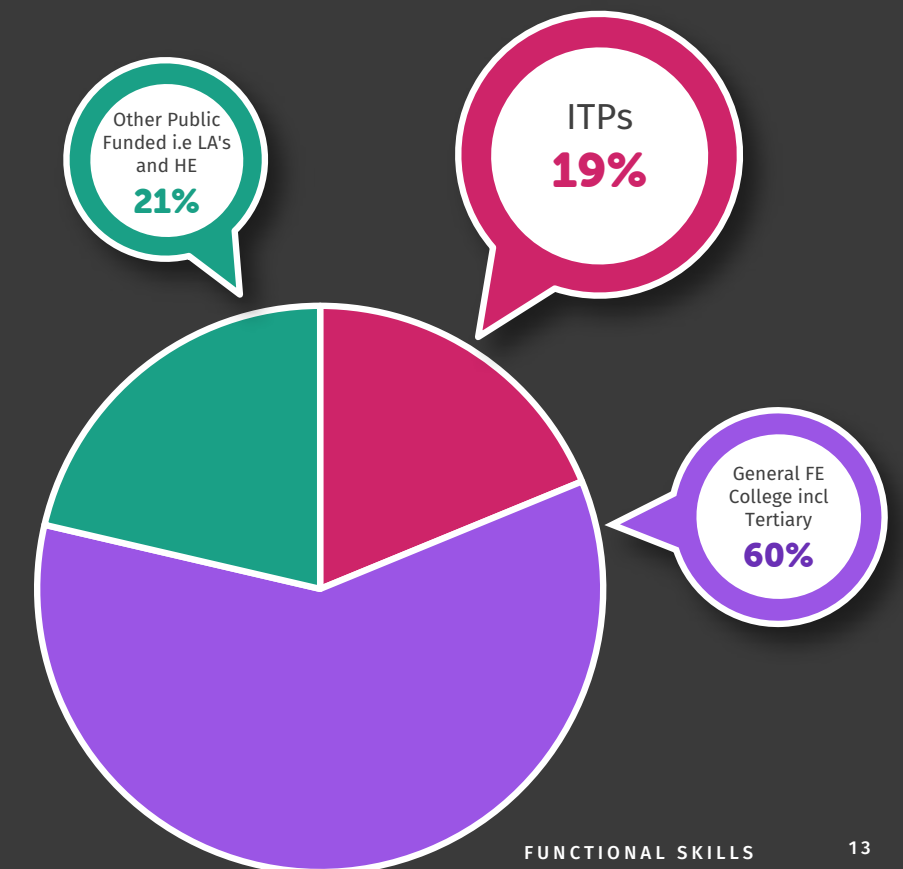
Higher level apprenticeships – including degree apprenticeships – have seen rapid growth. Whilst largely dominated by university providers, many ITPs also hold degree awarding status and their enrolments in this area have been steadily increasing over time, with an 135% increase from 2017/18 to 2022/23.

### Growth in Degree Apprenticeship starts at ITPs



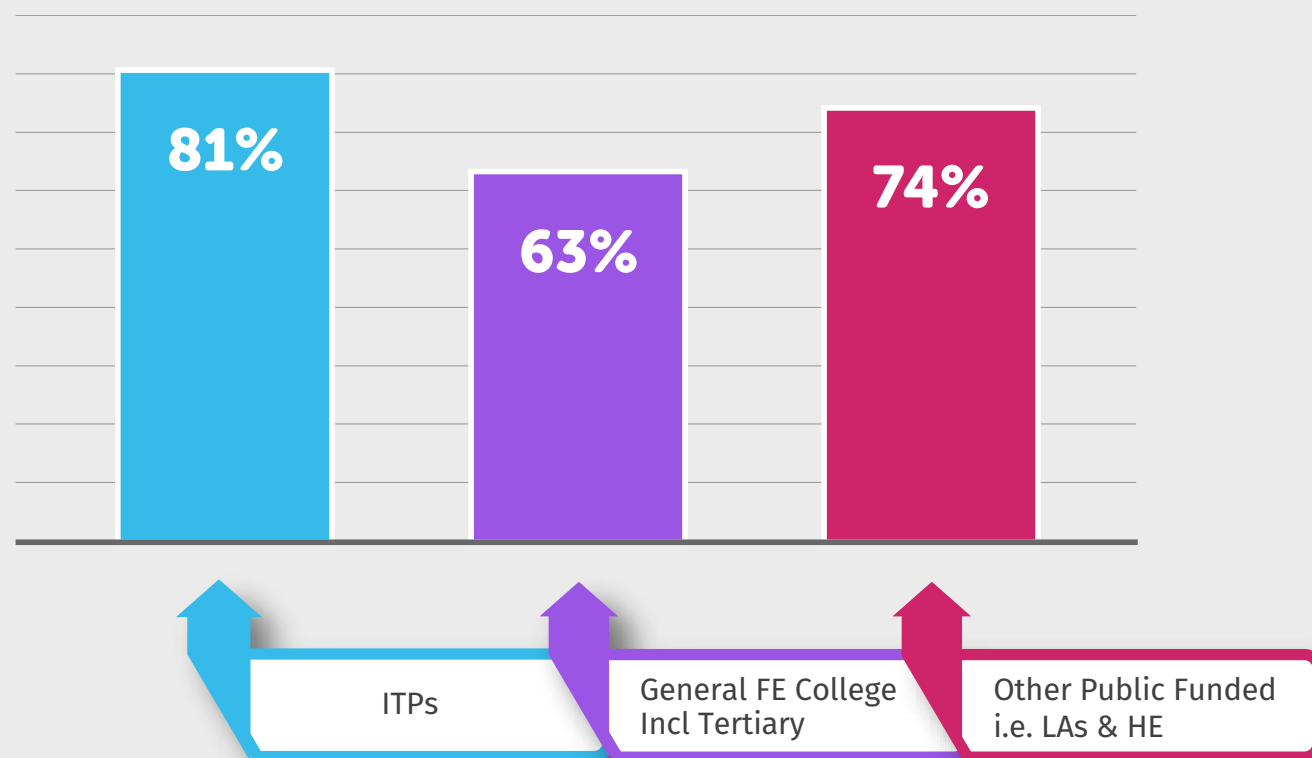
## FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

For those at the beginning of their learning journey, ITPs are a highly successful delivery vehicle for Functional Skills qualifications in literacy and numeracy, enrolling 19% of all starts and resulting in an 81% pass rate in the 21/22 academic year – the highest of any provider type in the FE sector.





## Functional Skills Pass Rate by Provider type



## FUNDING

ITPs have traditionally delivered a significant proportion of the national Adult Education Budget (AEB) towards skills training for adults in non-apprenticeship settings.

- ➔ In 2022/23, ITPs accounted for delivery of adult skills worth nearly £186m

Additionally ITPs have secured nearly £173m million a year towards funding learning and skills for 16-19 year olds in the vocational non-apprenticeship sector.

“Over the past 5 years the 16-19 Funding Allocations to ITPs has increased by 8%, from £160 million to £172 million.”

## WORKING WITH EMPLOYERS

The strength and success of ITPs lies in their flexibility, innovation and laser-like focus on delivering what employers want and need

- ➔ In total, ITPs work with more than 300,000 employers
- ➔ 83% of employers say they are satisfied with their apprenticeships programme

“The Skills Bill rightly focuses on supporting colleges and further education, but independent training providers at their best can be more fleet of foot and more responsive to employer and local skill needs..... We need to ensure that it is possible for independent training providers to continue to provide their best and to strengthen in the future.”

Lord Bichard, former Permanent Secretary, Department for Education and Employment, June 2021

## ITP WORKFORCE

- ➔ Overall, over 42,000 people work for ITPs in England – significantly up from 23,500 in 2017-18
- ➔ The proportion of staff at ITPs working full-time has increased from 65% to 80% compared to 46% in FE Colleges
- ➔ ITPs have over 95% permanent staff, compared to less than 50% at local authorities





## THE VALUE OF ITPS IS CLEAR

*“ We will continue to recognise the unique knowledge and capacity that Independent Training Providers bring. They are the largest provider type delivering apprenticeships and they contribute substantially to adult education and training.”*

**DfE ‘Skills for Jobs’ white paper**

Skills for jobs: lifelong learning for opportunity and growth - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

*“ Independent training providers are a vital part of the infrastructure.”*

**Gillian Keegan MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills**

Keegan: quality of an FE course should be judged by job outcomes ([feweek.co.uk](http://feweek.co.uk))

*“ The Skills Bill rightly focuses on supporting colleges and further education, but independent training providers at their best can be more fleet of foot and more responsive to employer and local skill needs.... During the passage of the Bill, we need to ensure that it is possible for independent training providers to continue to provide their best and to strengthen in the future.”*

**Lord Bichard, former Permanent Secretary, Department for Education and Employment**

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill [HL] - Tuesday 15 June 2021 - Hansard - UK Parliament

*“ Some training providers offer very unique, niche training. You don't want to take that away.”*

**Anne Milton, formerly Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills**

Anne Milton discusses College and Training Provider Collaboration, Subcontracting, and the A-Team ([fenews.co.uk](http://fenews.co.uk))

## REFERENCES

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[DFE – Apprenticeships and Traineeships Statistics](#)

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