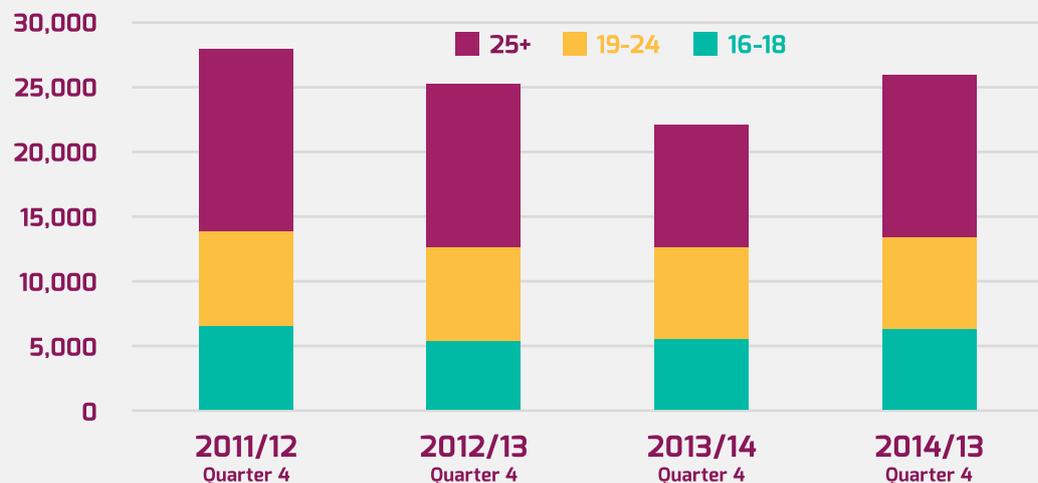


## Apprenticeship starts by North East LEP learners 2014/15

Analysis of figures released in December 2015 by the Skills Funding Agency

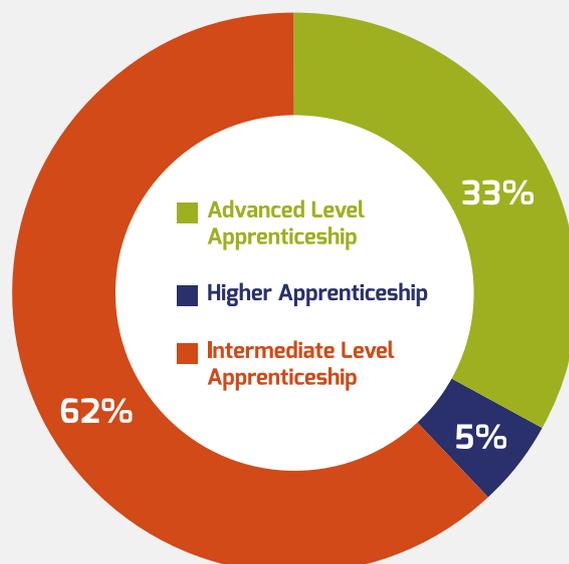
There has been an increase in the number of apprenticeship starts by learners from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP) area to 25,949 in 2014/15, representing a 17% increase from 13/14. This has largely been driven by an increase in starts by those aged 25 years and older (31% increase); whilst learners aged 16-18 also saw an increase in starts of 12% over the period. This is positive change for the future skill level of the North East LEP population following a decline in the number of starts over the previous two years.

### Number of apprenticeship starts by age - NE LEP learners



Source: SFA data cube

### Level of apprenticeship starts: 14/15



Nearly two thirds of apprenticeship starts in 14/15 were at intermediate level, and one third at advanced level.

The top three subjects for apprenticeship starts in the region continue to be: health and social care, administration, both with over 5,000 starts each (40% of all starts) and manufacturing technologies, representing 2,900 starts (11%).

The North East LEP has identified four 'smart specialisation' areas as priority growth sectors for the region. These are low carbon technology, health and life sciences, creative and digital, and subsea. Apprenticeships in subjects linked to smart specialisation industries show lower levels of starts: building and construction (5% of all starts); ICT (3%); engineering (2%) and science (0.1%).

Providers in the North East LEP area account for 91% of learners provision for apprentices who reside here, with the rest of the North East contributing to the majority of the other provision.

Please note these are quarter 4 figures and not official end of year figures - official end of year figures for 2014/15 are expected to be available February 2016. Figures for Q4 2014/15 have been compared with Q4 figures for 2013/14.