

Analysis of 18 Year Olds in FE Colleges

RCU ref. 13.086

Data Analysis Report December 2013

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1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by RCU to support the AoC's response to the recent proposal by EFA to cut funding rates for full time students aged 18 as defined by their age at the start of the academic year. The data source used is the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). AoC members share anonymised versions of their validated ILR through the MiDES data service and this report uses MiDES data returns for 2012/13 from 252 colleges, which represents 74% of all FE colleges in the sector. This includes data returns from General Further Education Colleges (180), Sixth Form Colleges (53) Land Based Colleges (14) and Other (6).

2. Key Findings

- Just under a fifth of full time 16-18 year olds (19.4%) were aged 18 at the beginning of the 2012/13 academic year.
- General Further Education Colleges had a higher proportion of 16-18 year olds who were 18 (22.0%) compared to Sixth Form Colleges (8.2%) and Land Based Colleges (19.4%).
- Greater London had the highest proportion of 16-18 year olds who were 18 (25.1%) whilst the lowest proportions were in the North East and North West.
- 18 year old learners were more likely to live in deprived areas than 16 or 17 year old learners. In 2012/13, 28.4% of 18 year olds lived in the most deprived areas of the country¹ compared to 25.3% of 17 year olds and 26.1% of 16 year olds.
- 18 year old learners were much more likely to come from ethnic groups other than White British compared to 16 and 17 year olds. For example, in 2012/13 10.7% of 18 year old learners were Asian/Asian British compared to only 7.3% of 16 year olds. Similarly 7.7% of 18 year olds were Black/African/Caribbean/Black British compared to 4.6% of 16 year olds.
- 71.2% of 18 year olds were studying at Level 3, 19.4% at Level 2 and 6.1% at Level 1. This compares to 56.6% of 16 year olds studying at Level 3, 26.3% at Level 2 and 14.5% at Level 1. This suggests that 18 year olds have taken lower level courses at 16 and/or 17 years of age before progressing through to Level 3 at aged 18.
- 18 year old learners studying at Level 3 are much more likely to be taking vocational qualifications compared to 16 year olds and 17 year olds. Only 16.2% of 18 year olds were on academic programmes compared to 50.0% of 16 year olds and 37.8% of 17 year olds.

¹ Defined as the 20% most deprived super output areas as measured by the rank of Indices of Deprivation 2010.



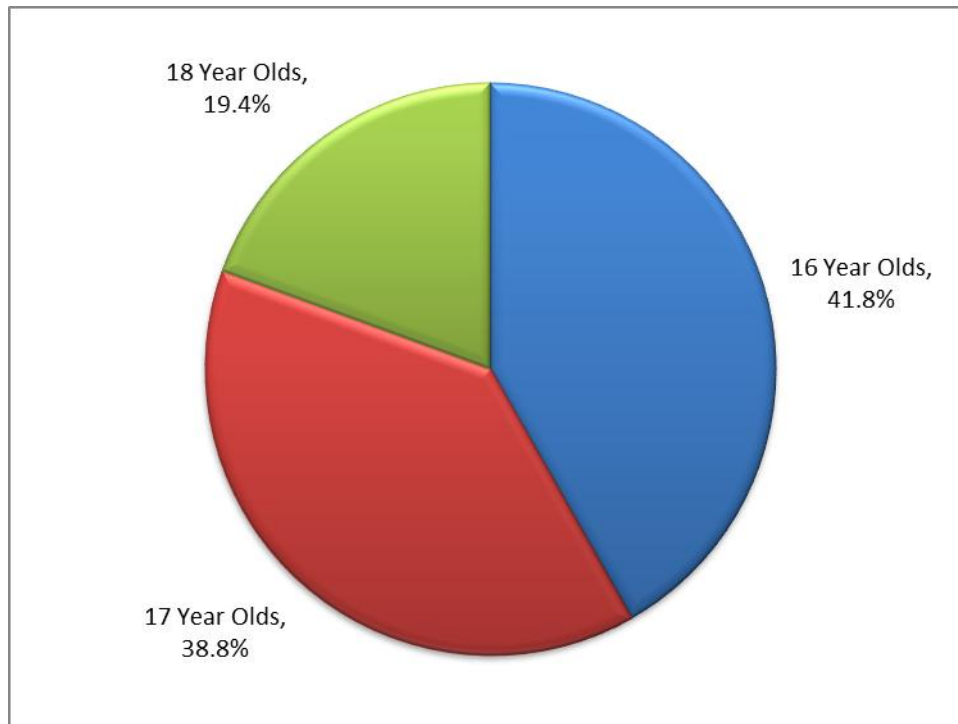
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3. Data Outputs

Figure 1: Age Profile of 16-18 Year Old Full Time Learners



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 2: Age Profile of 16-18 Year Old Full Time Learners

	Number	%
16 Year Olds	208,292	42%
17 Year Olds	193,517	39%
18 Year Olds	96,898	19%
16-18 Year Olds	498,707	100%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

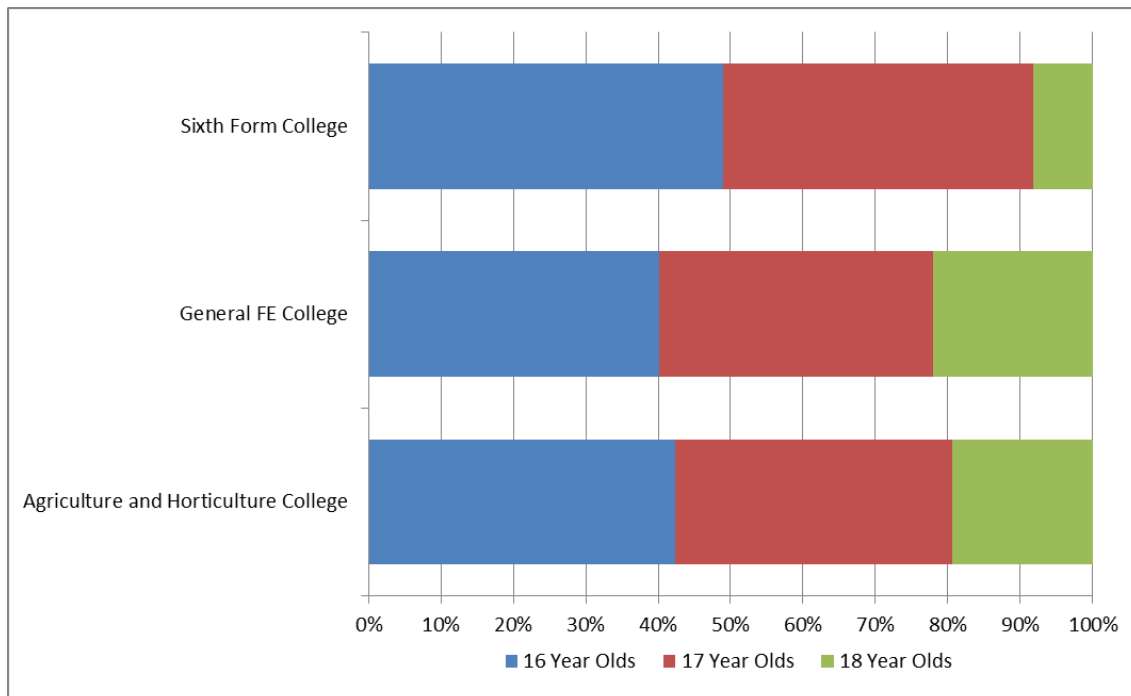


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Figure 3: Age Profile of 16-18 Year Old Full Time Learners by Provider Type



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 4: Age Profile of 16-18 Year Old Full Time Learners by Provider Type

Provider Type	% of Learners by Age			
	16 Year Olds	17 Year Olds	18 Year Olds	16-18 Year Olds
Agriculture and Horticulture College	42.4%	38.3%	19.4%	100.0%
General FE College	40.1%	37.9%	22.0%	100.0%
Sixth Form College	48.9%	42.9%	8.2%	100.0%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13



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Figure 5: 18 year olds as a proportion of all Full Time 16-18 Year Olds by Region

Provider Region	18 year olds as a % of 16-18 year olds
East of England	19.0%
East Midlands	21.2%
Greater London	25.1%
North East	17.9%
North West	17.6%
South East	18.2%
South West	19.7%
West Midlands	18.3%
Yorkshire and the Humber	18.6%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

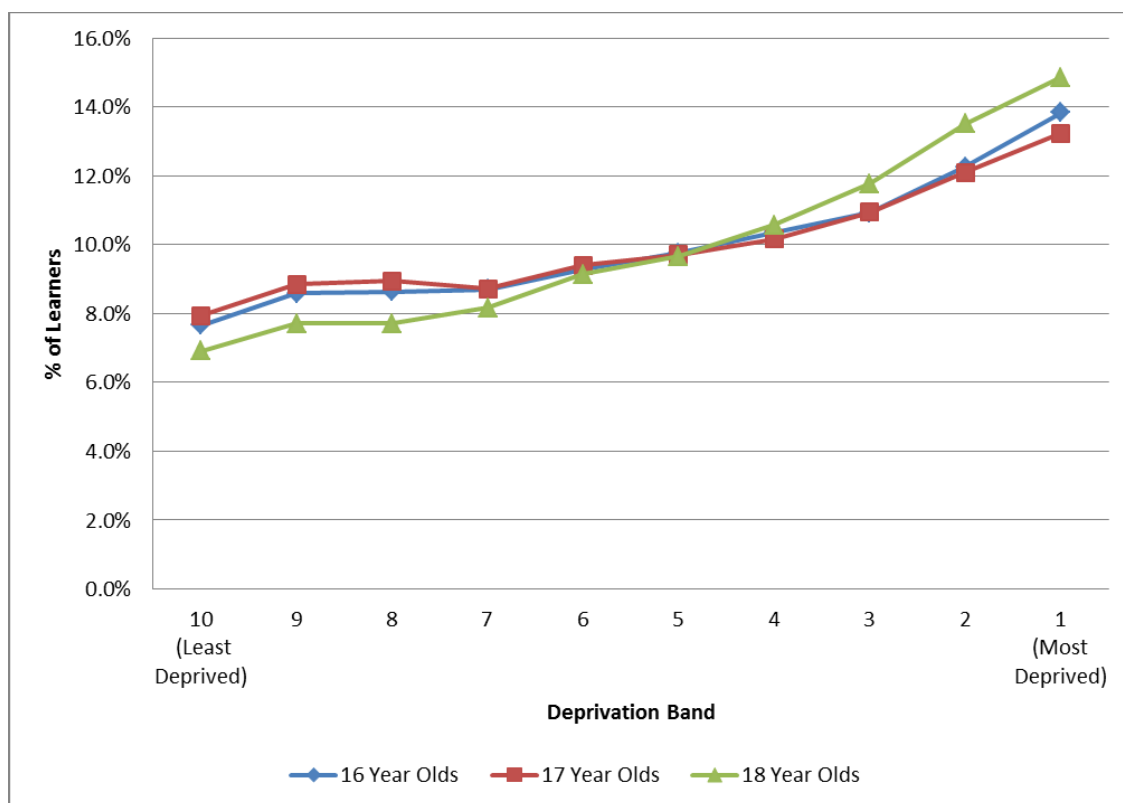


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Figure 6: Percentage of Learners in Deprivation Band² by Age



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 7: Profile of Deprivation by Age

Deprivation Profile	% of Learners in each Deprivation Band			
	16 Year Olds	17 Year Olds	18 Year Olds	16-18 Year Olds
1 (Most Deprived)	13.8%	13.2%	14.9%	13.8%
2	12.3%	12.1%	13.5%	12.4%
3	10.9%	11.0%	11.8%	11.1%
4	10.4%	10.2%	10.6%	10.3%
5	9.8%	9.7%	9.7%	9.7%
6	9.3%	9.4%	9.1%	9.3%
7	8.7%	8.7%	8.2%	8.6%
8	8.6%	8.9%	7.7%	8.6%
9	8.6%	8.8%	7.7%	8.5%
10 (Least Deprived)	7.7%	7.9%	6.9%	7.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

² Deprivation Bands measured by the Rank of Indices of Deprivation 2010.

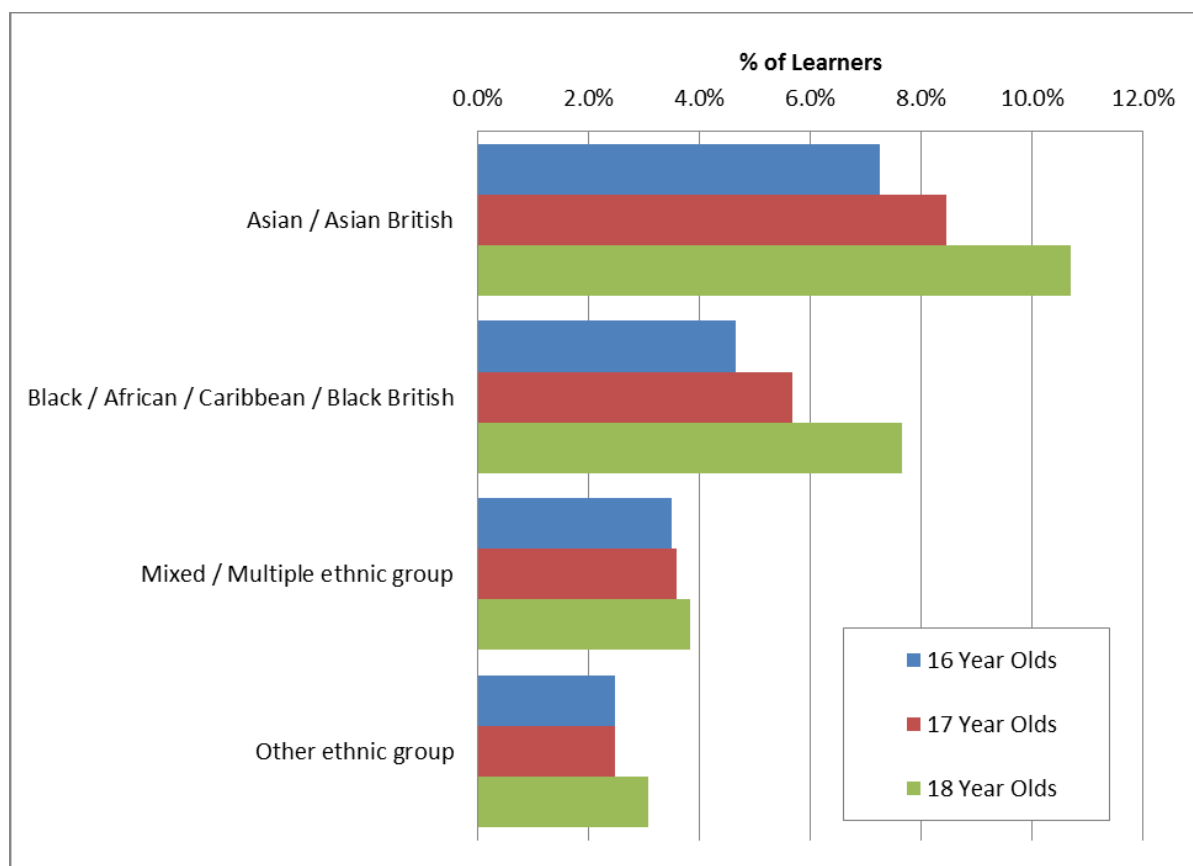


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Figure 8: Ethnicity (Broad Groups) by Age



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 9: Ethnicity (Broad Groups) by Age

Ethnicity Profile	% of Learners in each Ethnic Group			
	16 Year Olds	17 Year Olds	18 Year Olds	16-18 Year Olds
Asian / Asian British	7.3%	8.5%	10.7%	8.4%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	4.6%	5.7%	7.7%	5.6%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic group	3.5%	3.6%	3.8%	3.6%
Other ethnic group	2.5%	2.5%	3.1%	2.6%
White	82.1%	79.8%	74.7%	79.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13



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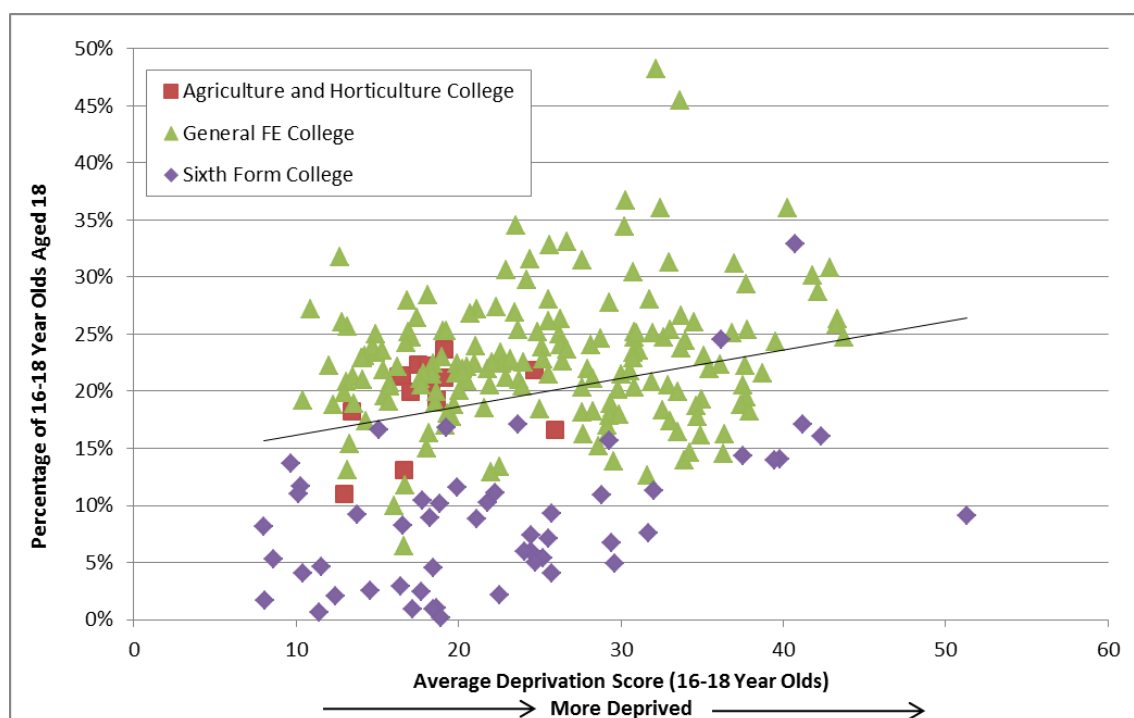
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Figure 10: Ethnicity (Detailed Groups) by Age

All Providers	16 Year Olds	17 Year Olds	18 Year Olds	16-18 Year Olds
English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	78.8%	76.3%	70.4%	76.2%
Irish	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Any Other White background	3.0%	3.2%	4.0%	3.3%
White and Black Caribbean	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
White and Black African	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
White and Asian	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Any Other Mixed / multiple ethnic background	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%
Indian	1.4%	1.7%	2.1%	1.7%
Pakistani	3.0%	3.3%	4.2%	3.4%
Bangladeshi	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.5%
Chinese	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Any other Asian Background	1.2%	1.6%	2.3%	1.5%
African	2.6%	3.2%	4.6%	3.2%
Caribbean	1.4%	1.8%	2.1%	1.7%
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	0.7%
Arab	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Any other ethnic group	1.0%	1.1%	1.5%	1.1%
Not provided	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 11: Percentage of 16-18 Year Olds Aged 18 by Provider Average Deprivation



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13



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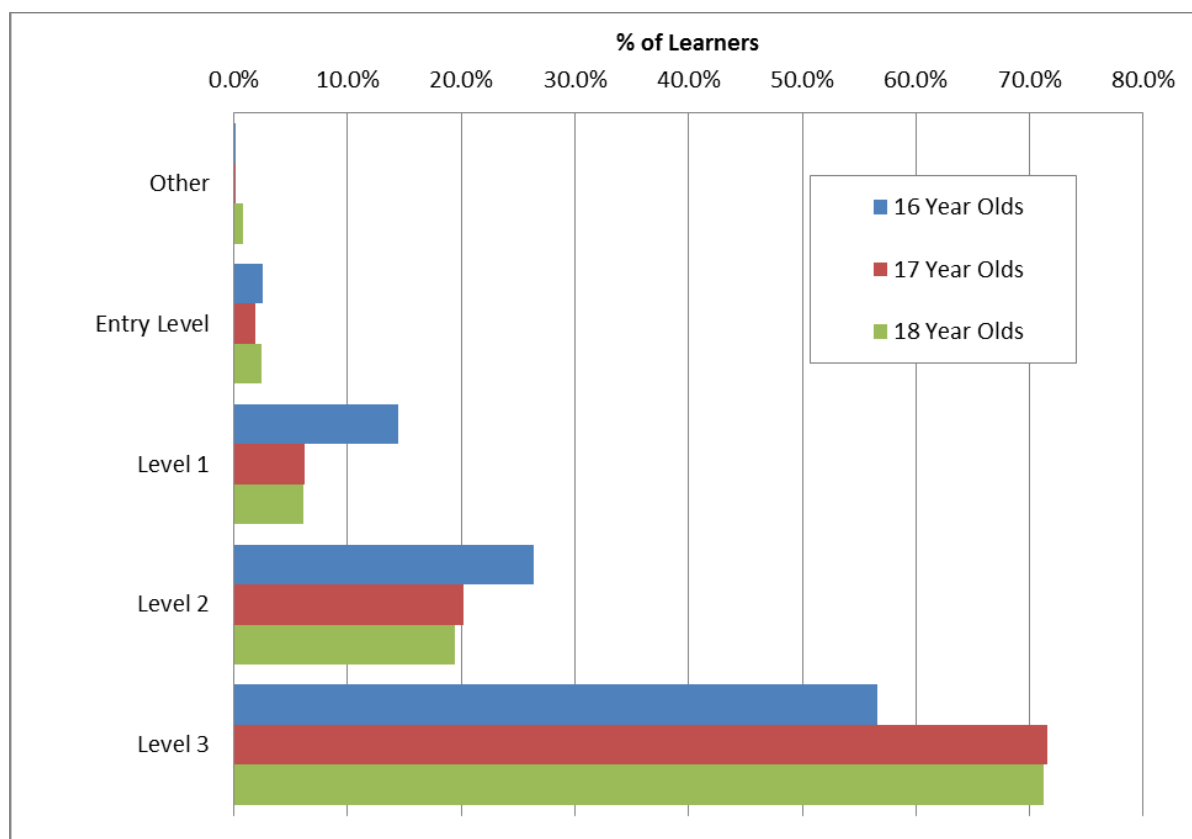
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Figure 12: Percentage of 16-18 Year Olds Aged 18 by Highest NVQ Level



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 13: Percentage of 16-18 Year Olds Aged 18 by Highest NVQ Level

Highest NVQ Level Profile	% of Learners at each NVQ Level			
	16 Year Olds	17 Year Olds	18 Year Olds	16-18 Year Olds
Other	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	0.2%
Entry Level	2.6%	1.9%	2.5%	2.3%
Level 1	14.5%	6.3%	6.1%	9.7%
Level 2	26.3%	20.2%	19.4%	22.6%
Level 3	56.6%	71.5%	71.2%	65.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13



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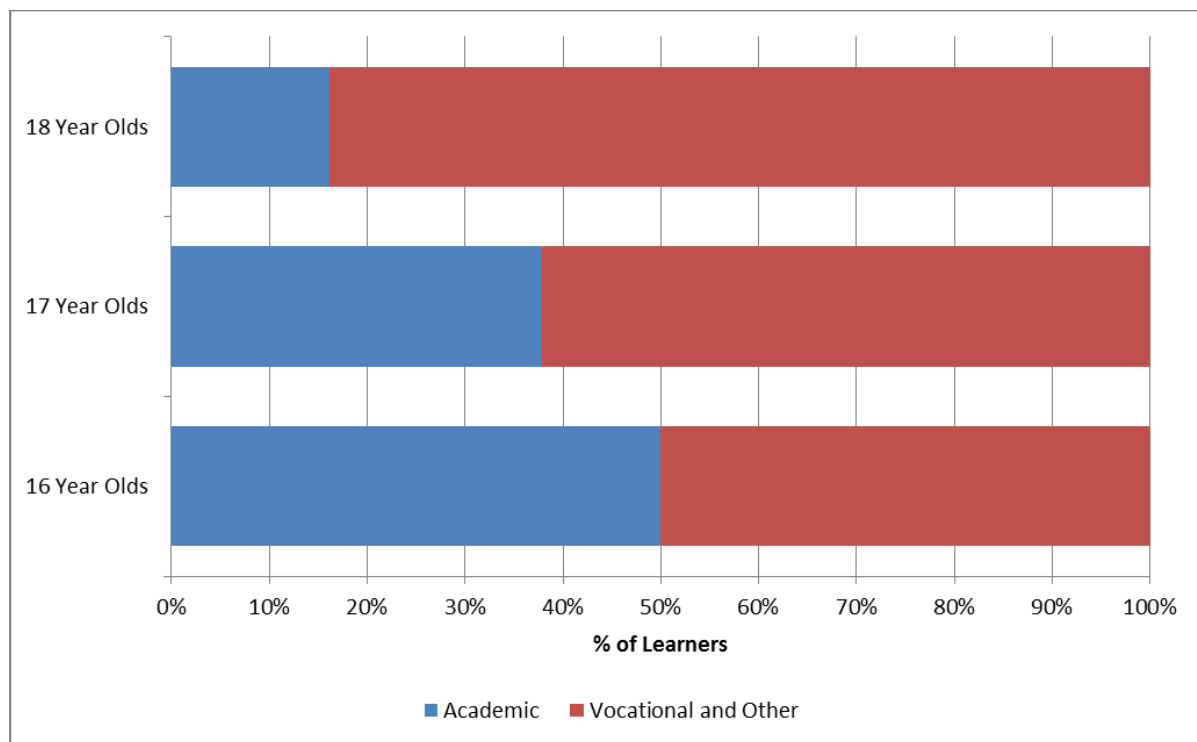
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Figure 14: Percentage of Learners on Academic and Vocational & Other Programmes by Age



Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

Figure 15: Percentage of Learners on Academic and Vocational & Other Programmes by Age

Learning Type	% of Learners			
	16 Year Olds	17 Year Olds	18 Year Olds	16-18 Year Olds
Academic	50.0%	37.8%	16.2%	37.6%
Vocational and Other	50.0%	62.2%	83.8%	62.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: MiDES Dataset 2012/13

