

## AoC/SFCA enrolment survey

Laura Janowski

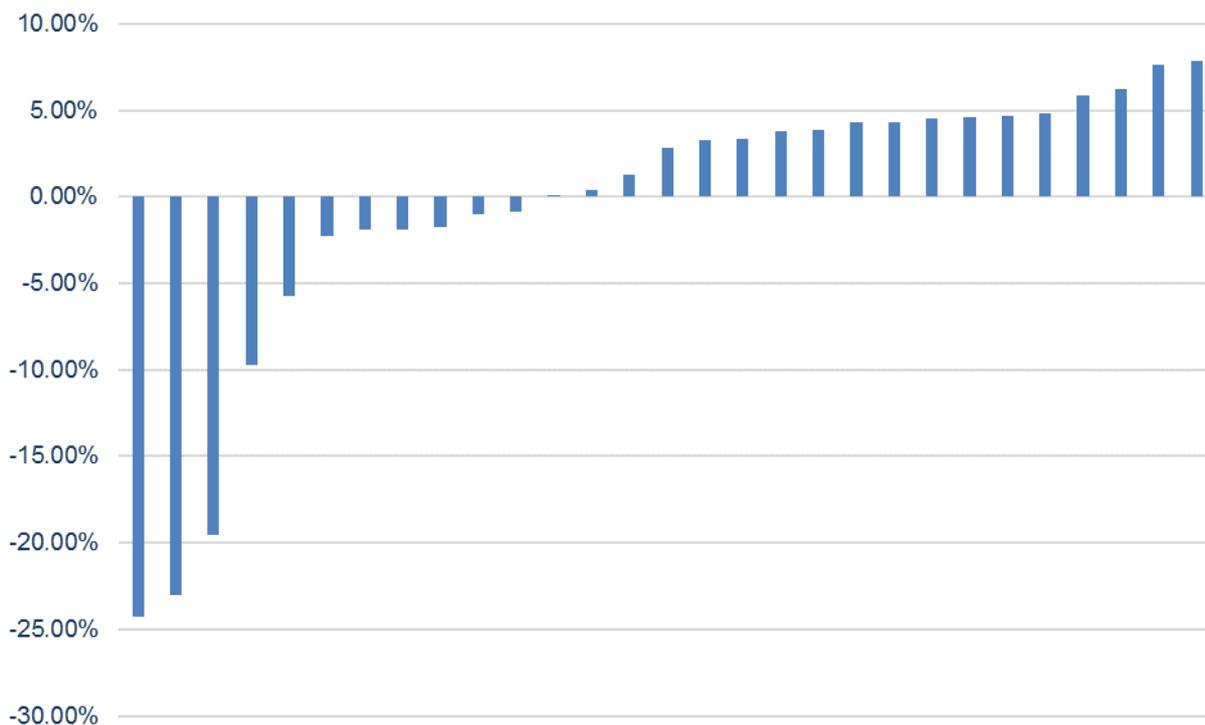
November 2016

### Introduction

- A total of 29 Sixth Form Colleges participated in the survey – a 32% response rate.
- This report provides an initial analysis of the survey. It is important to exercise a degree of caution when analysing the responses. Sixth Form Colleges were asked to give estimates of their R04 returns, combined with the low response rate the figures below should only be viewed as a snapshot of enrolment based on the responses of 29 colleges.

### Enrolments

- Respondents indicate an average 0.6% decline in 16-18 enrolments expected at 1 November 2016 compared to the number enrolled at 1 November 2015, with the average Sixth Form College student body standing at 1,878.
- The pattern of enrolments varies markedly across the country and within regions. Demographic decline and increased school sixth form competition were cited as the main reasons for a drop in enrolments. Growing reputation, planned growth and the closure of local provision were all attributed to an increase in enrolments.
- Based on the colleges which returned data, Figure 1 shows the range of changes to enrolments from minus 24% to plus 8%. It suggests that 62% of Sixth Form Colleges are managing to grow, with 38% experiencing a decrease in enrolments.



**Figure 1: % change in enrolments. Base: 29**

- Figure 2 shows the variation in enrolments relative to overall college size ranked from the smallest college (800 students) to the largest (3,401 students).
- There does seem to be a correlation between the size of the college and declining enrolment, with six out of the ten smallest Sixth Form Colleges (in terms of 16-18 student numbers), experiencing a decline in enrolments. Comparatively, only one out of the ten biggest colleges experienced a decline in enrolments.
- This reinforces the analysis from previous enrolment surveys which also found a correlation between college size and growth potential.

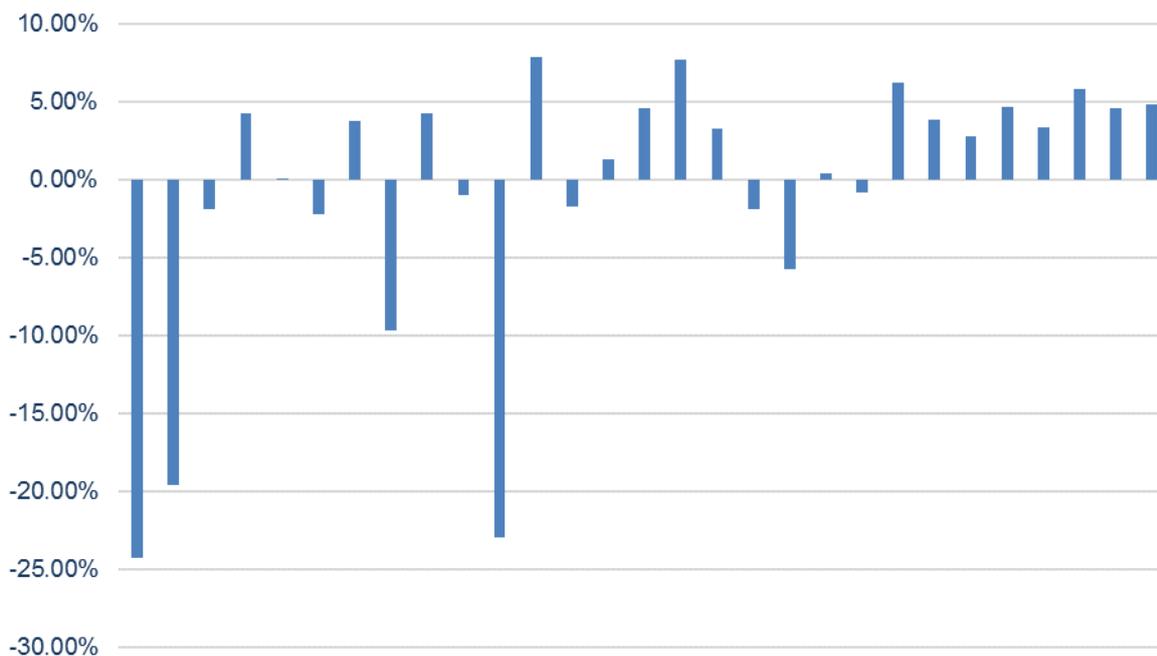


Figure 2: % change in enrolments ranked by overall college size (from smallest to largest). Base: 29

## Other enrolments

- Colleges were asked to report whether enrolments in six different areas have increased, decreased or remained the same. Responses are provided in the table below.

	Increase	About the same	Decrease	N/A
Adult education budget	1	11	2	15
16-18 apprenticeships	2	3	1	23
Adult apprenticeships	2	3	1	23
Higher education	3	2	1	23
People who are unemployed	0	4	1	24
FE loan supported courses	3	4	1	21