Widening access to apprenticeships

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Amazing Apprenticeships
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Amazing Apprenticeships

4,500+ Schools & Colleges

Employers

Policy Makers

Stakeholders

Apprentices

Training Providers

Parents & Carers

International

Equality Diversity & Inclusion
The impact

- Reduced levels of vacancies
- Record levels of interest
- High levels of youth unemployment
- Unequal access to opportunities
The current situation

• Not enough disabled young people are accessing apprenticeships
• Data released by DfE for 2019/20 showed that of the 322,500 apprenticeship starts reported in 2019/20, **12.5%** (39,300) apprentices declared a learning difficulty or disability.

• 2017/18 = 11.6%
  2018/19 = 12%
Understanding the issues for young people

19% Lack of information and awareness
Pre-pandemic, the 2020 Youth Voice Census found that 19% of those with additional needs had never had apprenticeships discussed with them, compared to 11% of those without additional needs.

50% Mental Health Challenges
The Princes Trust Youth Voice Index of 2021 found that one in four 16 to 25-year olds (26%) admit they feel “unable to cope with life”, and that 50% had said their mental health had worsened since the start of the pandemic.

13% Disabled young people hardest hit
Pre-pandemic we knew that 13% of 18-24 year olds were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and this is likely to rise. We also know that disabled young people make up a higher % of this group than non-disabled.
What’s stopping progress?

68% Lack of information and awareness
The Open University of 2019 found that 68% of businesses said recruiting more people with a declared disability was an important part of their hiring plans.

43% Unaware of support and how to access it
43% of these employers were unaware of the support available to them or were unclear how to access it (and it was more acute in SMEs compared to larger employers).

72% Employers want to create opportunities
The Feb 2021 research produced by the Open University showed that the number of organisations planning to increase their apprenticeship intake over the next twelve months has increased. Nearly three quarters (72%) now plan to hire more apprentices, up from under two thirds (61%) polled last summer. Encouragingly, this is true for both SMEs and large businesses.
Taking action

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