

More about Participation Measure

Summer 2015

Q. Why is the Participation Measure (PM) being developed?

A. Scottish Government made an explicit commitment within Opportunities for All to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old who needs one.

Currently the School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) is used as the measure in **Scotland Performs** for the indicator – *Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training and work*. However, because it focuses solely on school leavers, this approach limits our ability to fully assess the impact that the Opportunities for All policy and the support provided by partner agencies has on the entire 16-19 cohort.

The purpose of the OfA Participation Measure (PM) is to identify what young people 16-19 are doing, to inform policy, planning and service delivery and determine the impact of the OfA commitment. The policy decision to develop a more comprehensive PM presents us with the opportunity to understand what our young people are doing and the impacts of learning and training decisions on their journey.

Ministerial commitment was given in 2012 to begin developing the process that would enable us to share information on 16-19 year olds in Scotland to support service delivery and inform policy and planning. This included enacting the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013 and related statutory guidance to ensure the information was shared. This is done through the 16+ Data Hub.

Q. What are the key dates in the process?

A.

June 2015	Scottish Government publishes the national statistics publication for Scotland “Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living” (2015 Edition).
August 2015	SDS publishes the first Participation Measure as “ Experimental statistics data being developed ” using a snapshot methodology. This will provide an overview of the participation of 16-19 year olds and will contain breakdowns by local authority, participation status, age and gender.

November 2015	An extract focusing on initial school leaver destinations will be taken from the updated OfA data set held on our customer support system (CSS).
December 2015	In recognition of customer demand for specific information about school leavers, SDS will publish the initial school leaver destination information at a Scotland and Local Authority level, this year. Future publications by SDS will be subject to ongoing discussions about the future development of the participation measure.
February 2016	Insight, the online benchmarking tool, available to local authorities and schools will be updated with the initial school leaver data.
June 2016	Scottish Government publishes the national statistics publication for Scotland to include leaver destinations.

Q. What will be the same and what will be different for partners?

Same:

A

- Access to published school leaver destination will remain as SDS is still required to provide the Scottish Government with individual level data about school leavers.
 - a) For schools and local authority education departments this will be made available through Insight.
 - b) The Scottish Government will continue to publish their national statistics publication which contains school leaver data.

SDS has committed to publishing the initial school leaver destination in December 2015 but decisions about the future publication will be taken in due course.

- Access to individual level data about 16-19 year olds will still be available to a range of partners through the 16+ Data Hub. The core aim of the 16+ Data Hub information sharing is ultimately to ensure that data is shared effectively between key partners (SDS, Local Authorities, Colleges, SAAS, DWP and SFC) to allow for enhanced support for young people throughout their learning journey. Having a more complete set of data allows for all partners to quickly identify and engage with any young person who is at risk of disengagement or failing to complete their learning choice, with the intention of re-engaging them and supporting them into learning, training or work.

Different:

- Using the data available through the 16+ Data Hub to publish aggregated information about young people aged 16-19. This will initially build on the familiarity of the school leaver destination information by extending the information to the full 16-19 year old cohort with the aim of supporting policy, planning and service delivery.

- SDS will complete the realisation of the benefits provided by third party administrative data sharing that it has been progressing over the last two years. This will witness a move away from the historic 'SLDR' process of confirming school leaver destinations at two intensive points within a year to a more continuous process where the statuses of all young people 16-19 are determined on an ongoing basis, as part of normal service delivery and data sharing.

Q. What will be in the August PM publication?

A. The publication will show the participation statuses for all 16-19 year olds, split by LA, age, gender. It is worth noting that this will include 'school' as a participation status. This publication will be accompanied by technical notes explaining the reporting methodology and status definitions. The August Participation Measure will be published as "Experimental statistics: data being developed" so that feedback can be gathered from stakeholders. In turn this will inform the development of the measure over the next twelve months.

Q. Where does the PM data come from?

A. The PM data set is the status data for young people aged 16-19 held on SDS customer support system, (CSS). This data is updated by SDS Operations colleagues, by partners (local authorities/schools, colleges, SAAS, DWP etc) through the 16+ Data Hub and data obtained by the contact centre as part of a follow-up on young people.

Q. What is the position with the 'SLDR' as we know it?

A. We are moving away from the traditional SLDR process which focuses on school leavers' activities at two specific points in the year, to an approach where finding out what young people are doing is an ongoing part of service delivery and information is recorded when it is known.

We will continue to provide the Scottish Government with a cut of school leaver data, from the Participation Measure dataset. This will be used to update Insight, the online tool used by secondary schools and local authorities to benchmark and improve the performance of pupils in the senior phase. The school leaver data will continue to be used in Scotland Performs until the new Participation Measure is fully embedded.