
Adult learning in England

Stephen Evans

OVERVIEW

- Impact of adult learning in England
- System
- Challenges
- Future vision

IMPACT OF ADULT LEARNING

L&W LEARNING AND
WORK INSTITUTE

Healthy, Wealthy and Wise:

The impact of adult learning across the UK

2015-17



learningandwork.org.uk



- Aging population
- Long-term conditions

- Closer to labour market
- Finding work & career progression



- Integration
- Active citizens

SYSTEM

- **Complex & (always) changing**
- **Nationally driven:** £1.5bn Adult Education Budget; national funding rules & priorities; devo of some budgets to some parts of England; ESF through four co-financers
- **Delivery:** Adult & community learning through Local Authorities, colleges & third sector. Other learning through e.g. employment programmes

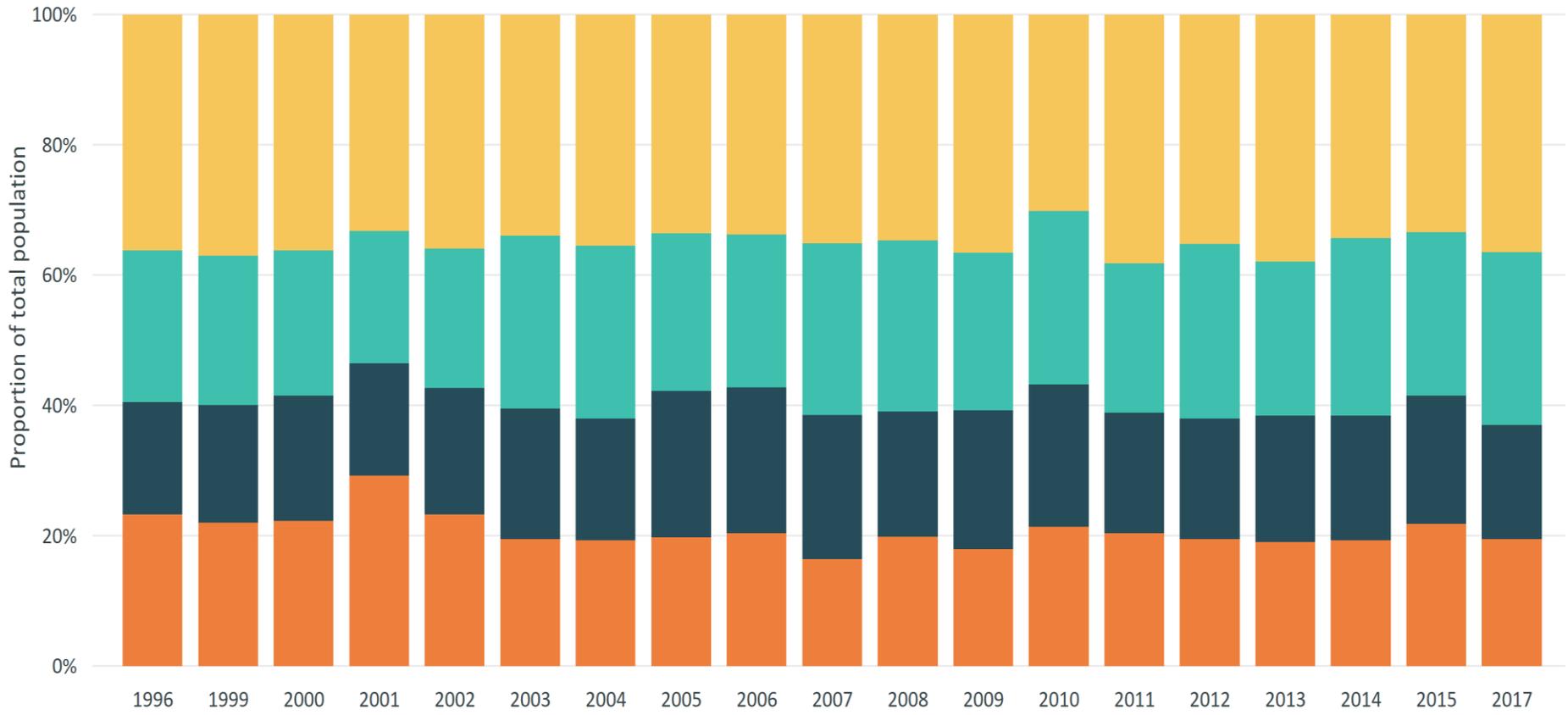
KEY CHALLENGES

- **Engagement**
- **Inequalities in engagement & access**
- **Funding**

KEY CHALLENGES

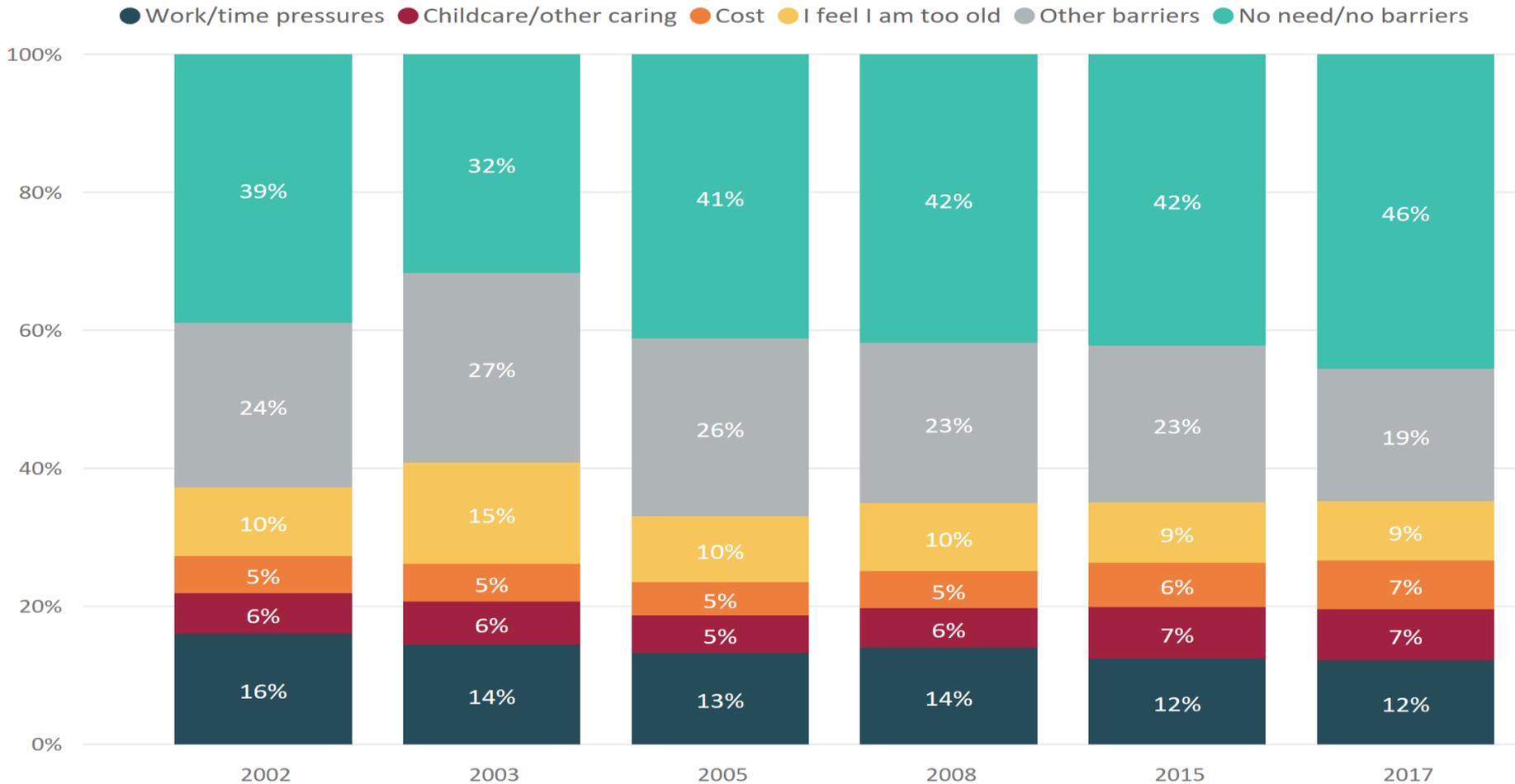
Participation trends

● Currently learning ● Learning last 3 year ● Learning over 3 year ago ● Not studied since full time education



KEY CHALLENGES

Barriers to learning overall trends



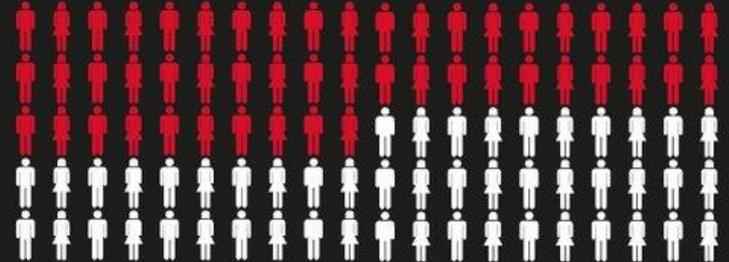
KEY CHALLENGES

OVER THE LAST DECADE

Spending on adult education has halved...



... and the number of adults in education have halved



CUTS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

collegesweek.co.uk  #LoveOurColleges

KEY CHALLENGES

- Engagement
- Inequalities in engagement & access
- Funding
- **Integration with other services**

All underpinned by wider political & societal understanding & buy-in to adult learning

FUTURE VISION: THE FOUR I'S

- **Individuals:** In charge, including through Personal Learning Accounts
- **Impact:** Focus on outcomes, social metrics as well as work
- **Integration:** Greater devolution, focus on alignment with other services
- **Investment:** Invest to increase participation in learning

Adult learning as a golden thread running through all government policy