

Comparison of Award Completions related to prior DofE experience under the Kent County Council DofE Licence.

Introduction

In recent years, in Kent, several DofE centres have dropped their Silver Award Programmes or are considering doing so. There are a number of reasons cited for doing this, but the main aim appears to be to get participants through their Gold before they leave school.

It soon became apparent that the completions rates were actually dropping. In order to understand the scale of this decrease, I undertook an analysis in early 2011. This involved looking at a 2 year enrolment period and focussed on the comparison of Direct Entry Golds completing to those who had previously completed Silver. At that time the figures were:

Direct Entry completion rate, 7.44%

Progressive completion rate, 46.73%

These figures were used to encourage progression through the levels, Bronze to Silver to Gold. However, some Centres still wanted to do Direct Gold so the figures were used to demand a greater level of leader support for Direct Entrants.

Following discussion with Alex Wilkes in 2013, I have revisited these statistics and undertaken a new analysis. The aims were:

Has there been an improvement to the completion rate of Direct Entrants?

Has there been a change to the completion rate for Progressive Entrants?

Following the production of initial results, Christian Scott, SE Regional Director, asked if there is a similar disparity between Progressive and Direct Entrants at Silver. This has now been analysed and added to the results below.

Analysis sample

All of the enrolments during the 3 year period of 1/4/08 to 31/3/11 have been analysed. This allowed a minimum of 2.5 years for a participant to complete their Award. The aim was to compare the completion rate of participants progressing through the Award levels to those missing the previous level.

For the purposes of this analysis, a Direct Entrant is defined as a participant who has not completed the previous level of the Award Programme.

Results:

Bronze

Enrolments	8761	Completions	4336	49.5%
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Silver (total)

Enrolments	2132	Completions	862	40.4%
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Progressive, Completed Bronze going on to Complete Silver

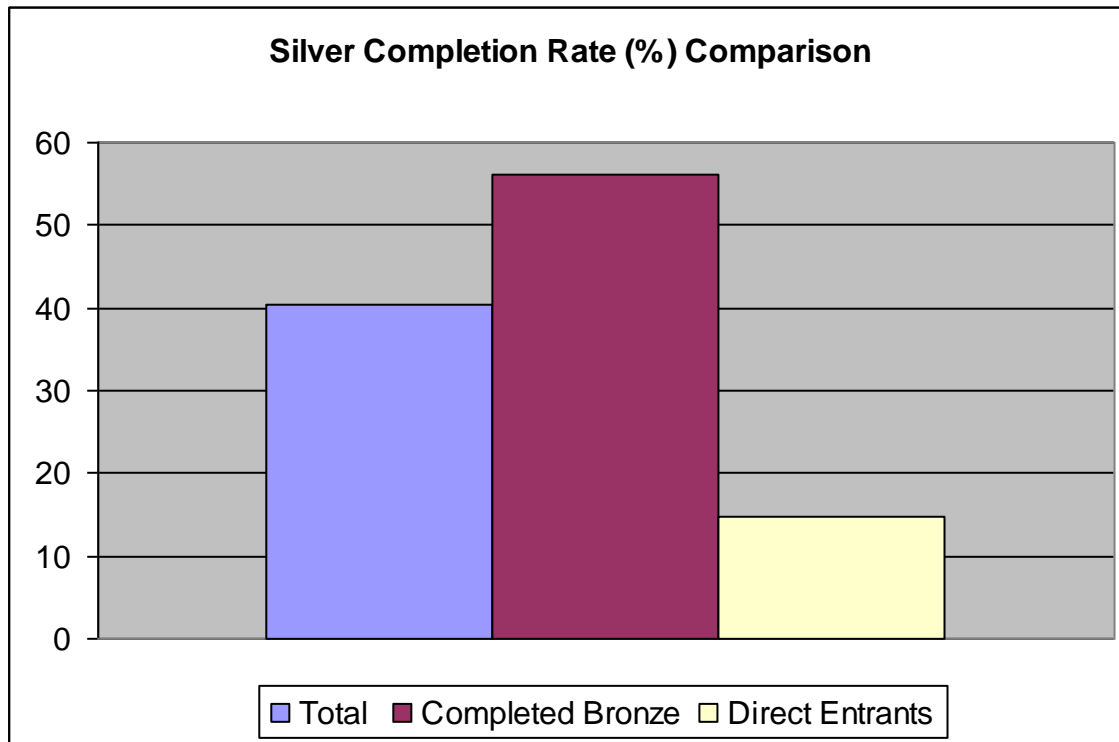
Enrolments	1320	Completions	740	56.1%
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Direct Entry Silver

Enrolments	818	Completions	121	14.8%
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Conclusion

These figures clearly show the benefit of progression from Bronze to Silver. More than 56% of Silver participants who had previously completed Bronze completed the next level. Direct Silver Entrants completing is less than 15%.



Gold (total)

Enrolments	1398	Completions	365	26.1%
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Completed Silver going on to Complete Gold

Enrolments	427	Completions	202	47.3%
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Direct Entry Gold (not having completed Silver)

Enrolments	971	Completions	170	17.5%
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Conclusions:

There is a high proportion of the total Gold participants who are Direct Entrants, 69.5% compared to Progressive Entrants, 30.5%

As with Silver, the Completions rates are significantly different. Progressive Entrants completing Gold is 47.3%, while Direct Entrants is at 17.5%

This shows a significant improvement compared to the previous analysis. Having the figures available and openly discussing the issues, has had an impact on the level of support to Direct Entrants.

Another significant factor is that some Centres are doing Bronze and then going straight to Gold. Therefore, I have further analysed the Direct Entry figures, completion rate of 17.5%, splitting those who have completed Bronze and then Gold to those who have had no previous DofE experience.

Completed Bronze going on to Complete Gold

Enrolments	368	Completions	97	26.4%
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Direct Entry Gold (no previous Award experience)

Enrolments	603	Completions	73	12.1%
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Conclusions:

These figures show that some previous experience, completing Bronze, has a beneficial effect on participants completing their Gold, with a completion rate of 26.4% This leaves the 'no previous Award experience' contingent with a poor completion rate of 12.1%

These figures clearly show that a progressive approach through the Award levels, Bronze to Silver, then Silver to Gold, results in a greater likelihood of completion at the higher levels.

