

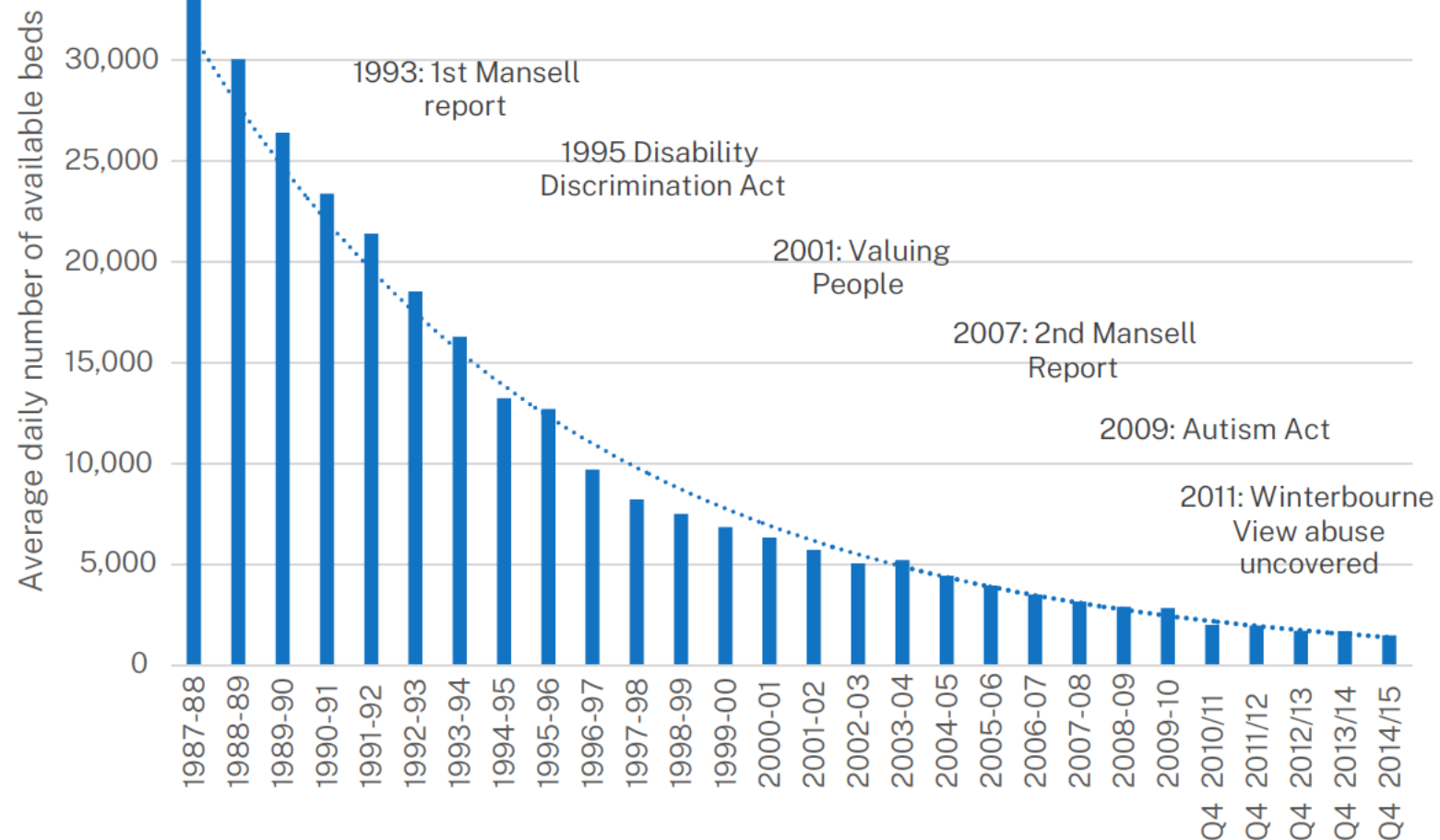


Royal College
of Nursing

**What's occurring
In Learning Disability
Nursing?
Jonathan Beebee**

Learning Disability Inpatient Services

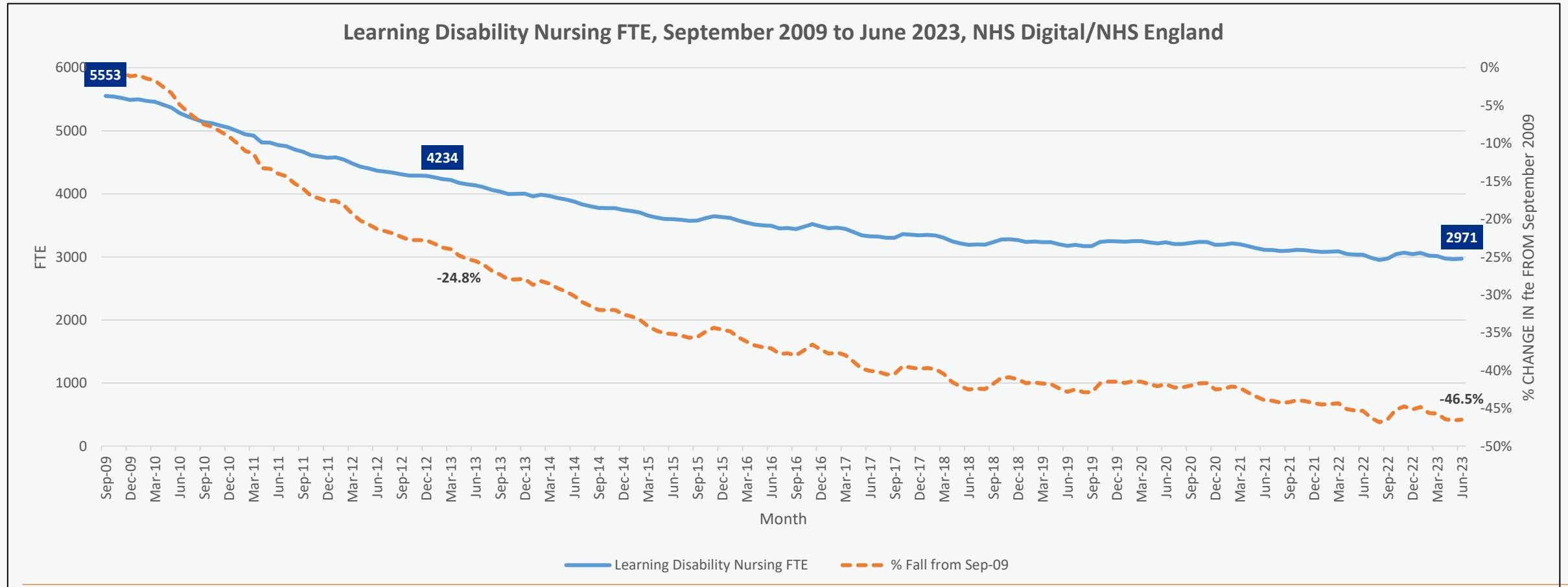
NHS learning disability beds since 1987



Source: NHS England: www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ld-nat-imp-plan-oct15.pdf

The numbers of learning disability nursing in secondary care have fallen sharply over the last fifteen years, with a lot of the fall between 2009 and 2013

Numbers have fallen by 47% from September 2009 from 5553 FTE to 2971 FTE. 25% of the drop took place between September 2009 and March 2013



We know since the start of the 50,000 More Nurses Programme growth has focused on adult nursing – to detriment of other branches

Adult nursing is the only branch which has grown beyond the average since September 2019; by contrast Learning Disability is the only branch where numbers have fallen

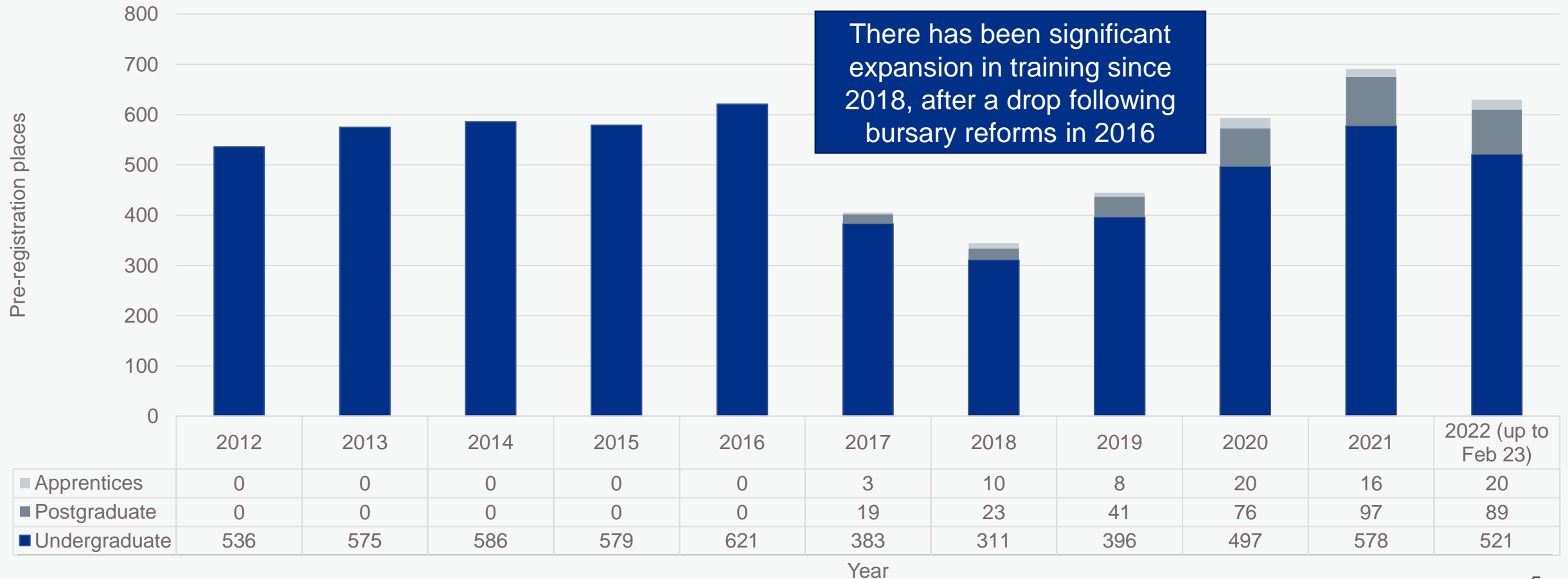
Branch	Sep-19	Jun-23	Growth, FTE	% Growth
Adult Nursing	185,557	222,107	36,550	19.7%
Children's Nursing	23,294	25,859	2,565	11.0%
Learning Disability Nursing	3,171	2,971	-200	-6.3%
Mental Health Nursing	36,572	39,891	3,319	9.1%
Community Nursing (including District and School Nursing)	35,583	38,742	3,159	8.9%
Post Registration Learners	375	389	14	3.7%
Primary Care	16,352	16,660	308	1.9%
TOTAL	300,904	346,619	45,715	15.2%

Branch	% Workforce, Sep-19	% Workforce, Jun-23	% of Growth, Sep 19 to Jun-23	% 'Over Contribution'
Adult Nursing	62%	64%	80%	18%
Children's Nursing	8%	7%	6%	-2%
Learning Disability Nursing	1%	1%	0%	-1%
Mental Health Nursing	12%	12%	7%	-5%
Community Nursing (including District and School Nursing)	12%	11%	7%	-5%
Post Registration Learners	0%	0%	0%	0%
Primary Care	5%	5%	1%	-5%

Our training numbers have increased sharply since 2018, after a drop following changes to bursaries

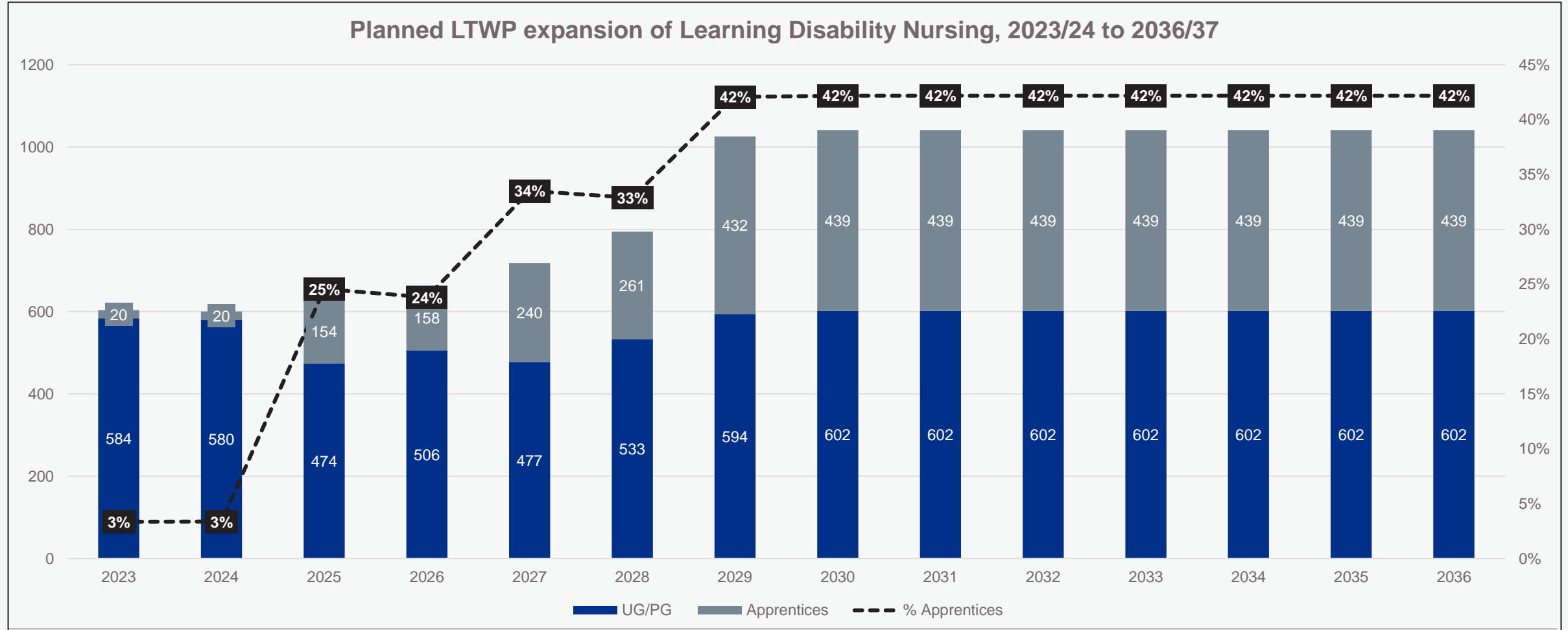
Pre-registration numbers have been at or over the 600 mark since 2020, after falling to under 350 in 2018

Number of pre-registration places in learning disability nursing, 2012 to 2022 education cycles



The LTWP confirmed an increase of potentially up to 72% in LD nursing training places to 2031, with increases in places up to 2028/29 confirmed

It is also expected that by 2029 42% of places will be apprenticeships... compared to less than 5% now



- The model for learning disability support has drastically changed
- The complexity of need is increasing due to changes in support, living longer, increase in some conditions, co-dependencies.
- Autism
- Substitution
- Primary and secondary care
- Number of Registered Nurses in Learning Disabilities continues to decline, number of student learning disabilities not recovering from 2016 numbers
- But – it only matters that the numbers are going down if there is clarity about how many RNLDs are needed, what they are needed for, and where they are needed is known.
- There are around 3,000 RNLDs in the NHS in England, there are around 17,000 RNLDs on the NMC register. Where are they?