

Level 2 and Level 3 at age 19 in 2006/07

Key findings from the Matched Administrative Dataset

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Background

- 1 The Matched Administrative Dataset was created as a result of a joint project between the DfES (now managed by the DCSF), the LSC and Fischer Family Trust. Its purpose is to provide a more robust way of measuring national progress towards Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets for attainment at Level 2 and Level 3 by age 19, which had previously been measured using the Labour Force Survey.
- 2 The matched dataset includes records for all young people who were aged 15 to 19 at the start of the academic year 2006/07. It shows the numbers of young people from each cohort who had reached the Level 2 and Level 3 thresholds by ages 16, 17, 18 and 19.
- 3 At national, regional and local LSC level, the learner is recorded in the year and at the location where they achieved their full Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.

At Local Authority Level the methodology is different. Learners are recorded at the location where they studied at 15 and not where they gained their qualification. It should also be noted that the 2006/07 matched dataset updates the 2005/06 dataset.
- 4 The dataset has been created by matching together administrative data from several sources: the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) collected by DCSF, Awarding Body data collected as part of the Achievement and Attainment Tables exercise, National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) collected by DCSF, and the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) collected by the LSC.

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Progress towards the national Level 2 target

- 5 The 2004 PSA target is to increase the proportion of 19 year olds who achieve at least Level 2 by 3 percentage points between 2004 and 2006, and a further 2 percentage points between 2006 and 2008.

In addition to this, the 2007 PSA target is to increase the proportion of young people achieving a full Level 2 qualification by age 19 to 82 per cent by 2011.
- 6 The national target for 2006 was 69.3 per cent, which was exceeded by 5.1 per cent, as shown last year. Based on this level of achievement, the 2008 target was revised upwards to 73.4 per cent.
- 7 The matched dataset for 2006/07 shows that nationally, 73.9 per cent of young people had achieved a Level 2 qualification by age 19, therefore already exceeding the target set for 2008 by 0.5 percentage points.
- 8 Of the cohort among whom attainment against the 2008 target will be measured, 73.2 per cent had already achieved a Level 2 qualification by age 18, so only an additional 0.2 per cent have to gain a Level 2 at 19 in order to meet the target.
- 9 Based on the 2006/07 cohort, if the 2007/08 achieve to a similar level, it is almost certain that they will meet and exceed the 2008 target.
- 10 It is important to note, however, that the continued improvements in Level 2 attainment means that the cohort without Level 2 at 19 becomes increasingly smaller, especially if the desired 82 per cent in 2011 is achieved. Significantly reducing the number of young people without Level 2 means that they are likely to become increasingly difficult to reach. As time moves forward, it will become increasingly more challenging to improve attainment and the costs of the necessary provision are likely to increase.

Progress towards the national Level 3 target

- 11 Historically there have been no formal targets specifically set for Level 3, though improvement at this level has been an aspect of previous PSA targets. However, a PSA target has now been set for Level 3 attainment by 2011. This target is to increase the proportion of young people who achieve Level 3 by age 19 to 54 per cent nationally.
- 12 The matched dataset for 2006/07 shows that 48 per cent of people aged 19 were qualified to Level 3, which is an increase of 1.4 percentage points from 2005/06.

As there is no data available yet for the 2011 cohort it is difficult to estimate how likely it is that the 2011 target of 54 per cent will be met. More information will be available next year.

Level 2 attainment by age

Regional analysis

Table 1: Level 2 attainment by age and cohort in the North East region¹

Learners in the cohort who had reached Level 2 by:	19 years old in:						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
age 16	14,609 43.1%	14,960 44.5%	16,000 47.2%	16,890 49.1%	17,601 53.4%	19,056 56.8%	20,081 58.3%
age 17	17,261 50.9%	17,863 53.1%	18,719 55.2%	19,963 58.0%	20,386 61.8%	21,857 65.1%	–
age 18	20,043 59.1%	20,858 62.0%	21,794 64.3%	23,478 68.2%	23,470 71.2%	–	–
age 19	21,864 64.4%	22,539 67.0%	23,457 69.2%	25,187 73.2%	–	–	–
Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19	7,255 21.3%	7,579 22.5%	7,457 22.0%	8,293 24.1%	–	–	–

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

- 13 Some 25,187 learners (73.2 per cent) in the 2007 cohort of 19 year olds had reached the Level 2 threshold, compared with 73.9 per cent nationally.
- 14 The 2006/07 dataset shows an increase of 4.1 percentage points in the region from the 2005/06 figure of 69.1 per cent.
- 15 The overall increase in 2007 from 2006 consists of a combination of increase pre-16 and post-16. Pre-16 attainment at Level 2 increased by 1.9 percentage points. The percentage of learners reaching Level 2 between the ages of 16 and 19 increased by 2.1 percentage points to 24.7 per cent in 2007. This remains higher than the national figure of 20.9 per cent, and is higher than all other regions (see Annex A for regional results).
- 16 Of the cohort who will be 19 in 2008 (the PSA target cohort), 71.2 per cent have achieved a Level 2 by the age of 18. We know from the 2006/07 dataset that 5.2 per cent of the 2007 cohort achieved a Level 2 between the ages of 18 and 19. Therefore, if the 2008 cohort were to achieve the same level of progress we could estimate that 76.4 per cent would reach Level 2 by age 19, which is a 7.3 percentage point increase since 2006 and exceeds the Level 2 PSA target for 2008 by 5.3 percentage points.

¹ A learner is allocated to a region based on the institution where the Level 2 threshold was reached. Percentages are based on the population of young people who were studying in the area at age 14 (based on PLASC data).

Partnership Area analysis

Table 2: Level 2 attainment by young people aged 19 in 2006/07 by Partnership Area²

Area North						
Learners in the cohort who had reached Level 2 by:	Northumberland	Gateshead	Newcastle upon Tyne	North Tyneside	South Tyneside	Sunderland
age 16	56.5%	60.4%	50.6%	52.1%	43.1%	44.1%
age 17	63.5%	65.8%	58.0%	60.2%	50.2%	51.8%
age 18	70.7%	71.0%	63.4%	66.6%	60.0%	62.5%
age 19	74.5%	73.6%	67.1%	69.9%	64.2%	66.5%
Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19	18.0%	13.2%	16.5%	17.8%	21.1%	22.4%

Area South						
Learners in the cohort who had reached Level 2 by:	Durham	Darlington	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Stockton-on-Tees
age 16	47.4%	49.8%	46.5%	39.7%	47.5%	48.2%
age 17	56.3%	57.3%	53.8%	47.8%	55.6%	57.9%
age 18	65.3%	63.7%	61.9%	58.1%	66.1%	66.7%
age 19	69.8%	68.9%	67.4%	61.8%	70.2%	71.0%
Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19	22.4%	16.8%	21.0%	22.3%	22.9%	22.9%

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

- 17 All partnership teams have seen an increase in Level 2 at age 19 in 2007 compared with 2006, except Darlington, which has dropped by 0.4 percentage points. The areas with the greatest increase in attainment, with a 4.2 percentage point increase between 2006 and 2007, were Newcastle and Hartlepool.

² Learners achieving Level 2 are allocated to the local authority where they studied at age 15. This is different from the regional data where the learner is allocated based on where they attained their Level 2.

Level 3 attainment by age

Regional analysis

Table 3: Level 3 attainment by age and cohort in the North East region³

Learners in the cohort who had reached Level 2 by:	19 years old in:						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
age 16	16 <0.1%	15 <0.1%	15 <0.1%	11 <0.1%	8 <0.1%	7 <0.1%	3 0.1%
age 17	3,565 10.5%	4,339 12.9%	4,151 12.3%	3,901 11.3%	4,227 12.8%	4,700 14.0%	–
age 18	10,359 30.5%	11,089 33.0%	11,487 33.9%	12,069 35.1%	11,768 35.7%	–	–
age 19	12137 35.8%	13,270 39.4%	13,559 40.0%	14,314 41.6%	–	–	–

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

- 18 Some 14,314 learners (41.6 per cent) in the 2007 cohort of 19 year olds had reached the Level 3 threshold. This is lower than the national figure of 48.0 per cent, and lower than all other regions. However, more positively, the 2007 figure is an increase of 1.8 percentage points in the region on the 2006 figure, and an increase of 2.5 percentage points from the 2005 figure of 39.1 per cent.
- 19 It is hoped that increases in attainment at Level 2 will drive up demand for Level 3 and require a shift in provision towards Level 3 but it will be important to ensure that increased attention on Level 3 does not have a negative impact on efforts to drive up Level 2 achievements. However, with the new Level 3 PSA target, it is imperative that as a region there is a concentrated effort to boost the numbers of young people achieving in order to meet this target. This will be a challenge for the region as nationally, the attainment rate at Level 3 has been consistently higher than in the North East. It is important that the region takes steps to address this as without action, over time this gap will slowly continue to widen.

³ A learner is allocated to a region based on the institution where the Level 2 threshold was reached. Percentages are based on the population of young people who were studying in the area at age 14 (based on PLASC data).

Partnership Area analysis

Table 4: Level 3 attainment by young people aged 19 in 2006/07 by Partnership Area⁴

Area North						
Learners in the cohort who had reached Level 2 by:	Northumberland	Gateshead	Newcastle upon Tyne	North Tyneside	South Tyneside	Sunderland
age 16	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
age 17	15.6%	5.5%	11.2%	9.0%	6.1%	8.7%
age 18	39.6%	37.7%	35.9%	34.6%	27.7%	30.2%
age 19	45.3%	42.9%	42.1%	40.4%	35.1%	37.1%

Area South						
Learners in the cohort who had reached Level 2 by:	Durham	Darlington	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Stockton-on-Tees
age 16	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
age 17	9.5%	18.3%	12.6%	9.6%	12.0%	16.4%
age 18	33.9%	35.6%	31.9%	28.2%	33.6%	37.7%
age 19	40.3%	41.5%	39.6%	33.6%	40.1%	43.5%

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

- 20 Of the 12 partnership areas, two (Darlington and Northumberland) experienced a decrease in attainment of Level 3 at 19 between 2006 and 2007. Nevertheless, this drop was minimal, at only 0.4 percentage points. The area with the greatest increase between 2006 and 2007 was Newcastle with a 3.2 percentage point increase.

⁴ Learners achieving Level 3 are allocated to the local authority where they studied at age 15. This is different from the regional data where the learner is allocated based on where they attained their Level 3.

Annex A: Level 2 and Level 3 attainment by region

Table A1: Level 2 by age 19 by region

	Level 2 by age 19 in 2005/06	Level 2 by age 19 in 2006/07	Change 2005/06 to 2006/07 (% points)	Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19 (2005/06)	Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19 (2006/07)	Change 2005/06 to 2006/07 (% points)
East of England	72.5%	74.7%	2.1%	17.1%	19.0%	1.9%
East Midlands	68.7%	71.2%	2.5%	17.1%	19.5%	2.4%
Greater London	71.1%	74.1%	2.9%	20.1%	21.3%	1.2%
North East	69.1%	73.2%	4.1%	21.9%	24.1%	2.2%
North West	70.1%	72.4%	2.3%	20.1%	21.2%	1.1%
South East	75.3%	77.6%	2.3%	18.0%	20.3%	2.3%
South West	74.5%	76.1%	1.7%	18.1%	19.8%	1.7%
West Midlands	69.5%	72.1%	2.6%	19.0%	21.1%	2.1%
Yorkshire and Humberside	67.7%	69.9%	2.2%	21.6%	22.2%	0.6%

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

Table A2: Level 3 by age 19 by region

	Level 3 by age 19 in 2005/06	Level 3 by age 19 in 2006/07	Change 2005/06 to 2006/07 (% points)
East of England	48.7%	49.6%	0.9%
East Midlands	44.2%	44.5%	0.3%
Greater London	48.5%	50.5%	1.9%
North East	39.8%	41.6%	1.8%
North West	42.9%	44.6%	1.7%
South East	53.9%	55.3%	1.4%
South West	49.4%	50.2%	0.8%
West Midlands	44.2%	45.8%	1.6%
Yorkshire and Humberside	41.7%	42.8%	1.1%

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

Annex B: Level 2 and Level 3 attainment by Local LSC

Table B1: Level 2 by age 19 by Local LSC in the North East⁵

	Level 2 by age 19 in 2005/06	Level 2 by age 19 in 2006/07	Change 2005/06 to 2006/07 (% points)	Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19 (2005/06)	Learners reaching Level 2 between 16 and 19 (2006/07)	Change 2005/06 to 2006/07 (% points)
Northumberland	68.4%	74.1%	5.8%	14.4%	17.6%	3.2%
Tyne and Wear	67.0%	70.9%	3.9%	19.9%	21.3%	1.4%
County Durham	64.8%	69.7%	4.9%	19.5%	22.2%	2.7%
Tees Valley	75.6%	78.7%	3.1%	29.8%	32.4%	2.6%

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

Table B2: Level 3 by age 19 by Local LSC in the North East

	Level 3 by age 19 in 2005/06	Level 3 by age 19 in 2006/07	Change 2005/06 to 2006/07 (% points)
Northumberland	42.5%	43.3%	0.9%
Tyne and Wear	39.0%	41.1%	2.2%
County Durham	35.7%	36.9%	1.2%
Tees Valley	42.8%	44.8%	2.1%

Source: Matched Administrative Dataset 2006/07

⁵ A learner is allocated to an LLSC based on the institution where the Level 2 or Level 3 threshold was reached. Percentages are based on the population of young people who were studying in the area aged 14 (based on PLASC data).

Annex C: Qualifications that count towards Level 2 and Level 3 thresholds

21 Achievements in the following qualifications are counted at Level 2:

- 1 Advanced Extension Award equals 5%
- 1 free standing maths qualification at Level 3 equals 10%
- 1 Key Skills pass at Level 3 equals 20%
- 1 short GCSE at grade A* to C equals 10%
- 1 full GCSE at grade A* to C equals 20%
- 1 Double Award GCSE (including VGCSEs) at grade A8 to C equals 40%
- 1 part time intermediate GNVQ equals 40%
- 1 full intermediate GNVQ equals 80%
- 1 AS Level (including VCE) at grade A to E equals 50%
- 1 A/A2 Level (including VCE) at grade A to E equals 100%
- 1 Advanced GNVQ pass equals 100%
- 1 Advanced Pilot 6 unit GNVQ equals 100%
- 1 NVQ pass at Level 2 or higher equals 100%
- 1 full VRQ pass at Level 2 or higher equals 100%
- 1 International Baccalaureate pass equals 100%
- 1 Apprenticeship pass equals 100%

22 Achievements in the following qualifications are counted at Level 3:

- 1 Advanced Extension Award equals 5%
- 1 free standing maths qualification at Level 3 equals 10%
- 1 Key Skills pass at Level 3 equals 15%
- 1 AS Level (including VCE) at grade A to E equals 25%
- 1 A/A2 Level (including VCE) at grade A to E equals 50%
- 1 Advanced Pilot 6 unit GNVQ equals 100%
- 1 NVQ pass at Level 3 or higher equals 100%
- 1 full VRQ pass at Level 3 or higher equals 100%
- 1 International Baccalaureate pass equals 100%
- 1 Advanced Apprenticeship pass equals 100%

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