

Slide 3

Policy Context

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Leading learning and skills

01

National Policy Environment



Includes:

- Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)
- National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
- Foundation Learning Tier (FLT)
- Diplomas
- 14-19 Qualifications Strategy
- 14-19 Expert group


A qualification will cease to be funded as a free-standing qualification if:

- a. there are qualifications within the national suites which can meet the needs of young people, employers, universities and wider society as well as this qualification;
- b. the effectiveness of the qualifications within the national suites in meeting these needs has been demonstrated in practice in a sufficiently wide range of circumstances; and
- c. the qualifications within the national suites are nationally available.

These familiar statistics present a planning opportunity to the LA. Existing partnership arrangements and existing school/LA-based pupil data should enable officers to ensure that a range of provision is available to meet the needs of all pupils, covering a range of academic and vocational approaches to education and training.

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In-school Cohort Sizes



Establishment Name	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Grand Total
Beardwood High School	207	193	217			617
Blakewater College	95	112	116			323
Crosshill Special School	15	20	23			58
Darwen Moorland High School	159	182	200			541
Darwen Vale High School	240	234	228			702
Fernhurst Secondary SEBD School	5	10	10			25
Newfield School	11	9	12	22		54
Our Lady and St John Catholic Arts College	179	179	172			530
Pieckgate High School Mathematics and Computing College	233	238	234			705
St Bede's Roman Catholic High School, Blackburn	202	215	199			616
St Wilfrid's CofE High School and Technology College	250	266	260	173	114	1063
Tauheedul Islam Girls High School	60	60	60			180
Wilton Park High School	212	212	208			632
Total Blackburn with Darwen	1868	1930	1939	195	114	6046

Source: PLASC 2006

These slides give a picture of school cohorts across Blackburn w. Darwen, including special schools.

As was indicated earlier, the forecasted decline in the 16-18 cohort in Blackburn w. Darwen is 5% between 2007 and 2015.

The data contained in this table illustrates how this decline is already manifesting itself in the year group sizes in local schools.

There are 71 fewer children in Year 9 compared to Year 11 as at 2006.

This reduction in year group sizes is not universal to all schools in the Borough.

There is a decline in 7 schools, 2 are static and 5 are increasing year groups.

In-school Cohort Sizes by Year & SEN Status

Blackburn with Darwen Special Educational Needs status	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Grand Total
No Special Provision	1436	1463	1524	171	112	4706
School Action	257	300	225		2	784
School Action Plus	109	97	109	2		317
Statement of SEN	66	70	81	22		239
Blackburn with Darwen Total	1868	1930	1939	195	114	6046

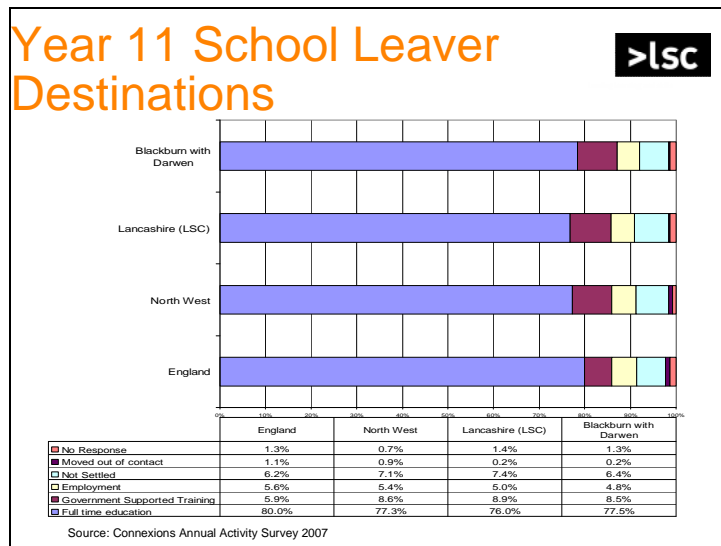
Source: PLASC 2006

National and regional research has identified that the proportion of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is increasing year on year.

Government policy is for more of those young learners to participate in mainstream provision, rather than to enter specialist and/or residential provision.

Early identification of LLDD and sharing good classroom practice within partnerships continues to be important.

Given that we know young people with LDD are more likely to become NEET, Local Authorities and 14-19 partners will need to ensure that they focus on encouraging and enabling participation among this group of learners.

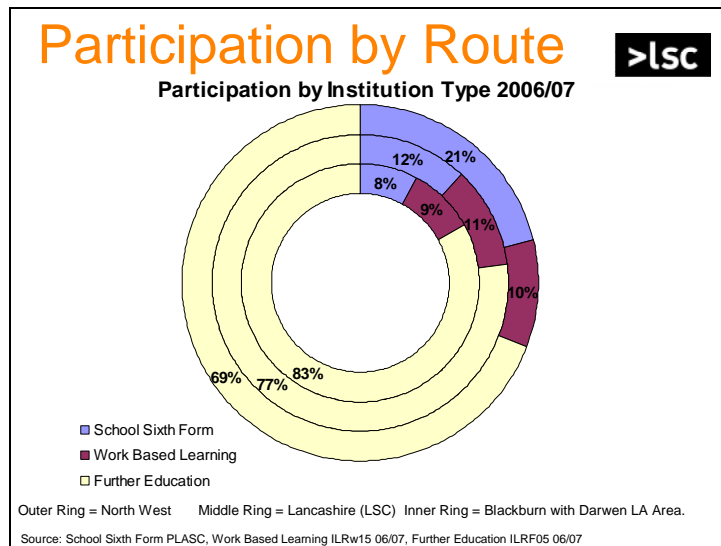


Fewer than 78% of Blackburn w. Darwen students remain in full time education beyond Year 11. This is lower than the England average, but marginally better than the Lancashire area generally or the North West as a whole.

Around 8.5% of students move into Government Supported Training, similar to that across Lancashire, and the North West as a whole.

Fewer students move into employment than in the comparator areas, which may be a contributory factor for the higher than average rate of school leavers continuing in full time education.

This picture is a cause for concern, suggesting as it does that around 12% of Blackburn w. Darwen's Year 11 leavers are outside education and training. Whilst this may be a short-term experience for some, the risk is that many of these young people will never fulfil their potential. As Government takes steps to increase Apprenticeship numbers, it would be expected that information about work-based learning opportunities would be made available to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils and their parents.



Please note: The information shown in the chart is institution-based. It does not represent Blackburn w. Darwen residents in learning.

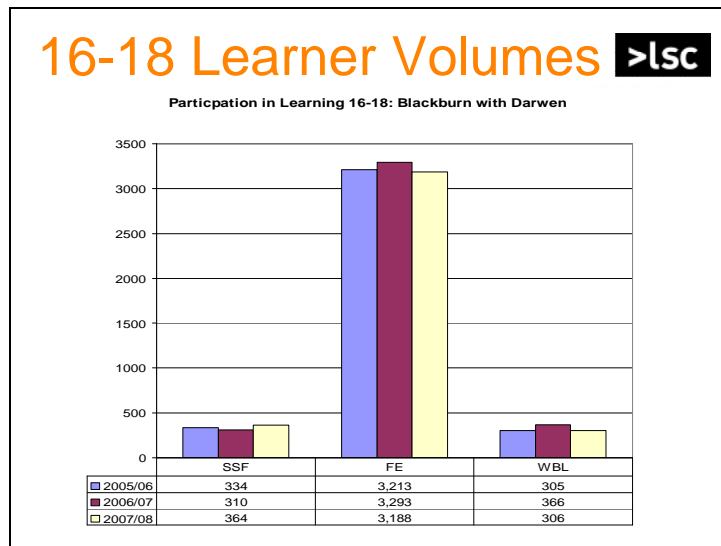
Local authorities will have responsibility for learners participating in provision delivered by providers located in their local authority district, not simply for learners resident within their area.

This slide shows the pattern of learning by 16-18 year olds in Blackburn w. Darwen based on participation by Institution type.

The most immediate difference between Blackburn w. Darwen compared to Lancashire and the North West is the significantly smaller proportion of learners in school sixth form education – there is only one (faith-based) 11-18 school in the borough.

Despite the borough having one of largest Work-based Learning providers in England the proportion of young people engaged in WBL is lower than in the wider LSC Lancashire area and North West region.

Proportionally more are consequently attending the two FE institutions – a sixth-form college and a general FE college.

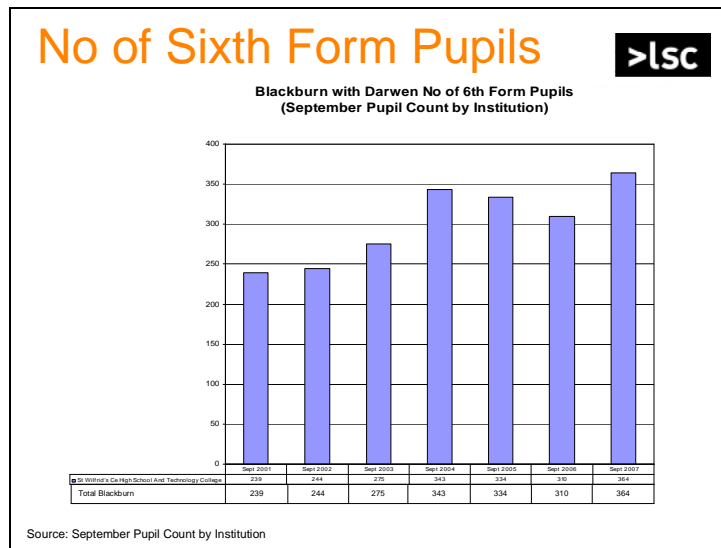


Please note: this slide displays residents of Blackburn w. Darwen in learning rather than volumes of learners in Blackburn w. Darwen institutions.

These slides show little change in the numbers of Blackburn w. Darwen residents enrolling in FE colleges or on WBL provision, over the last three years.

There has been a small rise in the numbers progressing into sixth-form provision over the last three years and this could be due in part to the rebuilding of St Wilfrid's 11-18 School in Blackburn which could have increased the capacity of the sixth form.

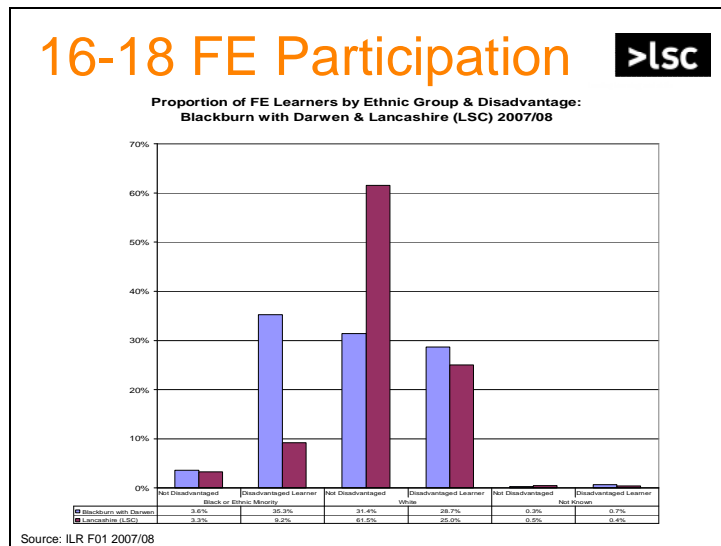
Please note that the 2007/08 figures for FE and WBL are not full year end figures. FE is F01 and WBL is Period 7.



Institution based data

Although there has been little change in the sixth-form population over the last three years, the above data shows a discernable trend since 2001, with an overall increase of 125 young people, or over 50%, in that time.

This supports the comments in the previous slide regarding the impact of rebuilding St Wilfrid's 11-18 school in Blackburn.



Resident based data

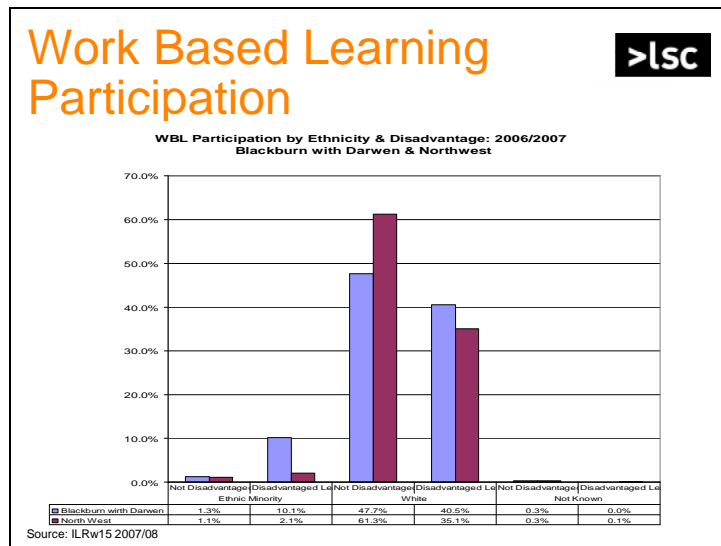
Of the total number of learners aged 16-18 in FE, the proportion who are from a Black or Minority Ethnic group AND from a disadvantaged background in Blackburn w. Darwen is 35.3%, almost four times the rate for Lancashire at 9.2%.

The proportion of FE learners from a white ethnic group with a disadvantage is 28.7%, similar to the rate for Lancashire at 25%.

The figures do suggest that the FE sector is making a significant contribution to widening participation in education within the area.

It has been established by research that some BME groups have a cultural preference for academic, as opposed to vocational learning.

Further analysis is needed to compare these figures to the total population data at 16-18 to assess how far any differences are determined by the ethnic profile of the area.



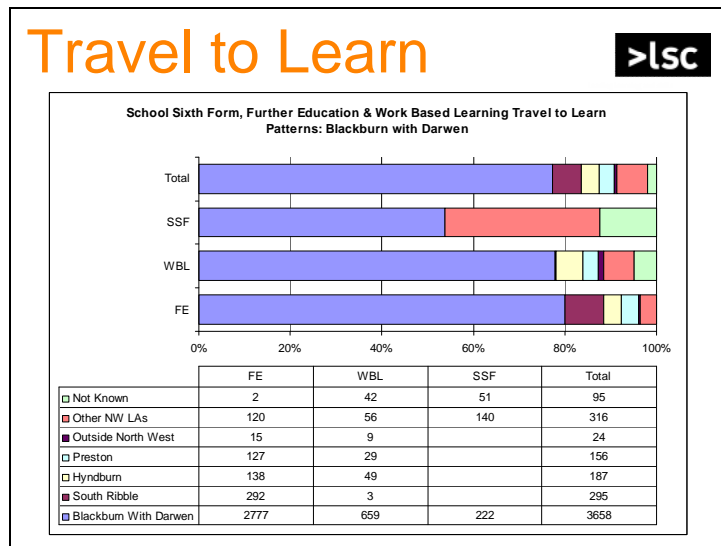
Residency based data

The chart illustrates the differences in WBL participation by BME and white groups, both in Blackburn w. Darwen and in Lancashire.

A significantly larger proportion of disadvantaged learners from BME (10%) compared to the North West are engaged in some form of WBL, albeit the actual numbers may be small.

This trend is also repeated for white learners with disadvantage, where over 40% are engaged, compared to the regional average.

Whilst the figures warrant further analysis, particularly on a sectoral basis, this suggests that on-going learning is valued by all communities.

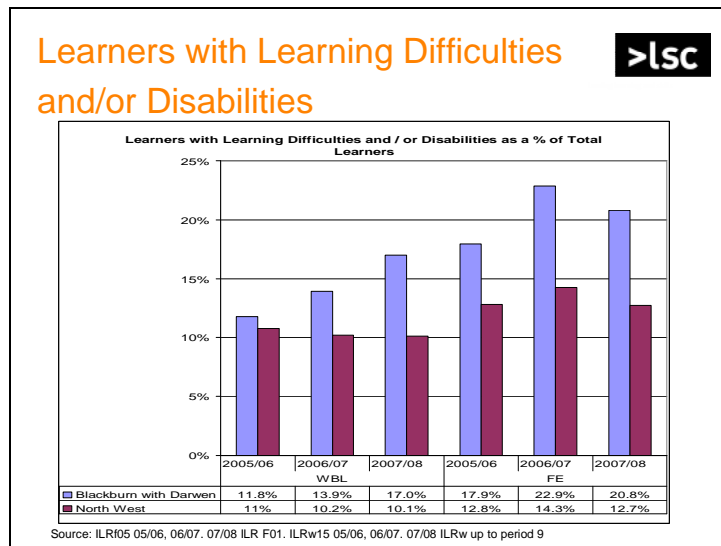


This slide shows that the majority (77%) of resident learners aged 16-18 attend provision in the Blackburn w. Darwen local authority district.

However, over half of those whose sixth-form destinations are known (140 out of 362) learn outside the borough which may indicate individual preference for post-16 learning routes is not being met from within the Borough.

For both college students and work-based learners the most popular place of learning is Blackburn w. Darwen, with around 20% of learners crossing borders to attend learning provision.

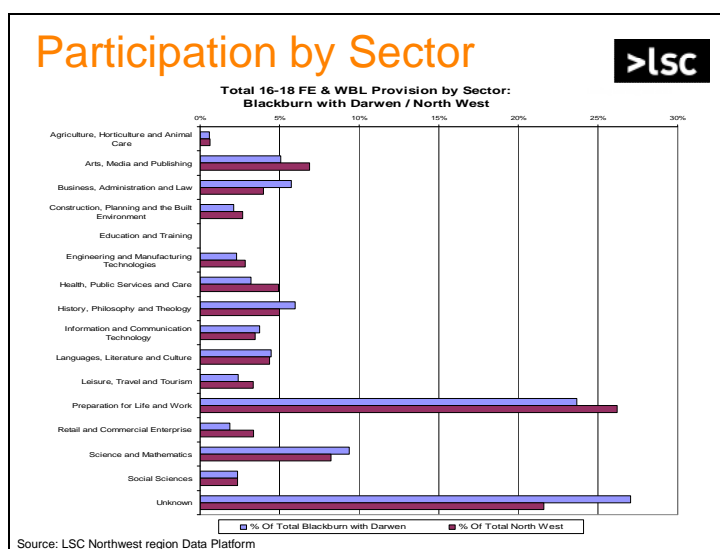
95 young people have the location of their learning recorded as unknown, of which nearly half are in WBL provision. This may indicate data recording issues.



This slide suggests that the proportion of Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities in Blackburn w. Darwen is above that found in the North West area.

Figures for those in both WBL and FE are higher than the regional comparator and this warrants further investigation of the providers including any specialist services they may be able to provide, and may shed some light on good practice which can be shared elsewhere in the region.

As previously indicated, young people with LDD are much more likely to become NEET. (The review of LLDD carried out by the LSC in the North West indicated that “NEET rates are higher for young people with LDD at 20% for young people with LDD compared to a general NEET rate of 7.4% in Blackburn w. Darwen).



Note: data shown is for Blackburn w. Darwen Resident Learners (not Blackburn w. Darwen institutions), therefore a direct comparison to the economic structure of the borough may not be appropriate – a comparison to Lancashire could prove more useful.

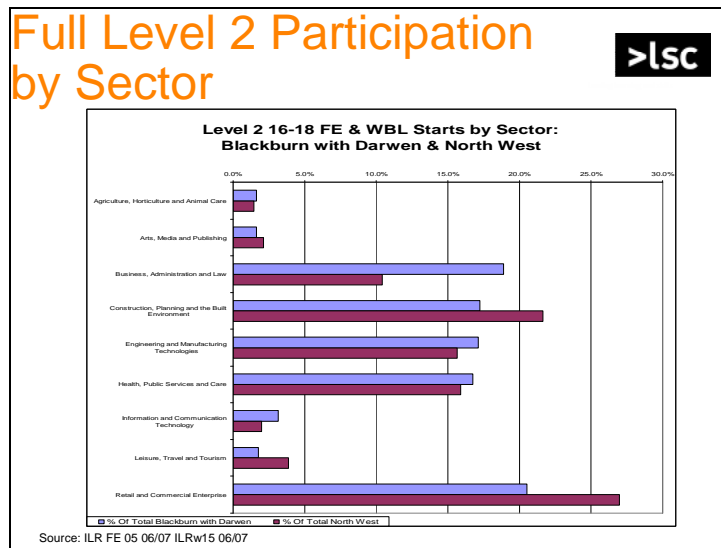
It is important to note that as well as having a clearly defined economy itself, Blackburn w. Darwen is also a part of the wider Lancashire and indeed North West economy, as well as the wider travel to learn patterns identified in provision.

This data relates to previous slides which indicate the relatively large numbers of students who are disadvantaged and may be pursuing Level 1 or Level 2 courses, predominantly in Preparation for Life and Work, by far the largest area of provision.

Of greater concern is the large volume of students whose learning is unknown.

Whilst this may be due to data collection difficulties, a gap in the data of more than 25% requires attention.

In sectoral terms learners from Blackburn w. Darwen are involved in learning in comparable proportions to learners from the rest of the North West.



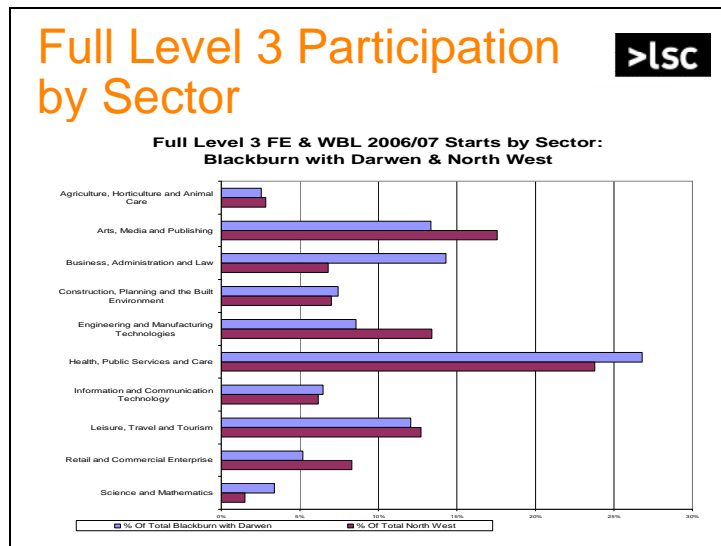
Residency based data

This slide supports previous information concerning the economic structure of Blackburn w. Darwen, showing as it does strong retail and commercial provision - at Level 2, the highest proportion of FE / WBL learners aged 16-18 (and who are Blackburn w. Darwen residents) are studying in this sector/subject area.

There is a significant proportion involved with construction and allied trades – a matter of concern in the current economic climate, especially considering the future pattern of employment in the borough (see slide 10).

Other sectors which are drawing in learners in significant numbers include Health, Public Services, Business and Engineering.

These figures may change in future years as the new Diplomas begin to have an impact, together with greater numbers of Apprenticeships becoming available.



Residency Based Data


At Level 3 (broadly equivalent to A level) the majority of residents who are pursuing a course of learning do so in Health/Public services/Care.

Over 25% of FE and WBL students choose this sector and increasingly entry to most careers in the sector is at Level 4.

Arts, Media and Publishing, Leisure, Travel and Tourism, and Business Admin, also prove popular at Level 3, which (except for the latter) are broadly in line with North West trends.

At Level 3 the proportion of learners is spread across a broader range of sector subject areas compared to Level 2. This would suggest that at Level 2 learners are studying for employment in or gaining new skills in a sector that has a strong local employment base whereas at Level 3 learners are studying for a career in an industry that need not be locally focused.

NEET Volumes



Geography	December 2007			
	Adjusted EET	Adjusted NEET	% NEET	16-18 not known
England	1,496,796	105,870	6.6%	73,700
North West	223,326	18,754	7.7%	9,121
Blackburn with Darwen	6,422	516	7.4%	202

Source: Connexions December 2007

The volumes here provide perspective to the next table.

The key points to notice at this stage are the 7.4% of young people recorded as NEET, similar to the North West average of 7.7% and the England average of 6.6%.

In addition there are a further 202 young people for whom their current activity is unknown.

NEET Percentages

	% 16-18s Not Known	% 16-18s in learning	% change over last 12 months	% 16-18s NEET	% change over last 12 months	% joining NEET from EET	% leaving from NEET for EET	% leaving NEET - currency exp.
England	4.5%	77.3%	2%	6.6%	-13%	27%	51%	10%
North West	3.7%	77.1%	2%	7.7%	-11%	31%	53%	7%
Blackburn with Darwen	2.9%	80.2%	-3%	7.4%	7%	37%	68%	6%

Source: Government Office North West December 2007

Key Points from this slide:

7.4% of Blackburn w. Darwen’s 16-18 year olds are in the NEET category, compared to 6.6% in England.

There is a lower percentage of young people not known to Connexions compared to the North West and England average. (Each young person for whom there is no recently recorded destination becomes classified as ‘Not Known’. All young people who become Not Known have lapsed from a previously known destination e.g. education, NEET).

There has been an increase in NEET over the previous twelve months compared with the North West and England which showed significant reductions.

The proportion of young people leaving NEET to EET is also high compared to the rest of the North West and England. This may indicate that there are fewer attractive jobs available, more information, advice and guidance is required and / or there is a lack of attractive and / or appropriate learning provision available. The low level of work-based learning in the area indicates there is a significant challenge in convincing local employers to engage in the Apprenticeship programme.

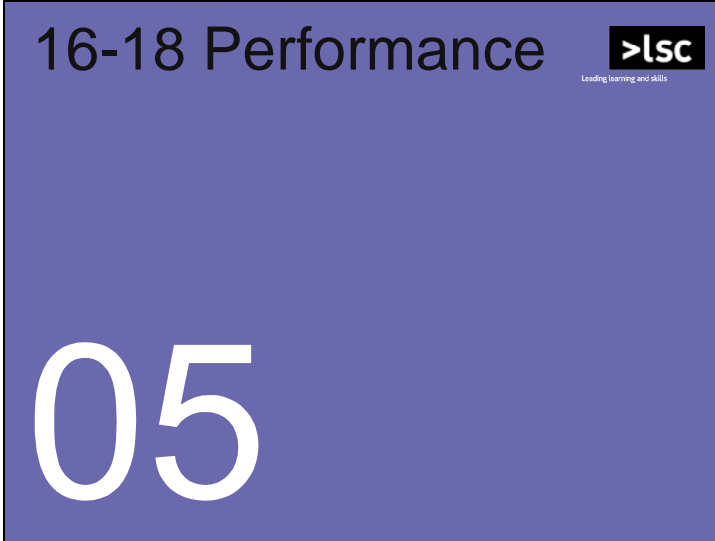
Some of the main contributors to NEET in the region:

Too many young people not retained in learning at 17, either because they took a one year course, or because the provision is unsuitable.

Regional research has identified that young people with LDD are much more likely to become NEET (NEET rate of 20% regionally, compared with a rate of 7.4% at the time of the research)

Nationally, it has been identified that the groups most vulnerable to becoming NEET are looked after children, young parents, those with LDD, young offenders, those who fail to achieve Level 2 @ 16.

Slide 41



16-18 Performance

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05

The slide features a solid purple background. At the top left, the text "16-18 Performance" is written in a white, sans-serif font. To the right of this text is the logo for ">lsc", which consists of a white right-pointing chevron followed by the lowercase letters "lsc" in white. Below the logo, the tagline "Leading learning and skills" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the lower-left quadrant of the slide, the number "05" is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font.

GCSE Results 2004-2007

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	% of 15 year old students achieving 5+A*-C (and equivalent) including English and Maths GCSEs			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Al-Islah Schools	29%	36%	48%	37%
Beardwood High School	37%	25%	33%	44%
Blakewater College	N/A	N/A	21%	22%
Darwen Moorland High School	18%	26%	24%	30%
Darwen Vale High School	30%	29%	34%	38%
Islamiyah School	0%	72%	72%	57%
Jamiatul-Ilm Wal-Huda UK School	25%	29%	48%	52%
Markazul Uloom	38%	43%	6%	22%
Our Lady and St John Catholic Arts College	35%	35%	37%	37%
Pleckgate High School Mathematics and Computing College	35%	30%	39%	47%
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	89%	100%	91%	87%
Rockwood House School	0%	0%	0%	0%
St Bede's Roman Catholic High School, Blackburn	42%	55%	50%	56%
St Wilfrid's CofE High School and Technology College	56%	61%	70%	71%
Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School	N/A	N/A	N/A	83%
Westholme School	99%	95%	97%	97%
Witton Park High School	33%	38%	32%	28%
Blackburn with Darwen Average	33.10%	35.20%	38.40%	43.40%
England Average	42.60%	44.30%	45.30%	46.00%

Source: DCSF

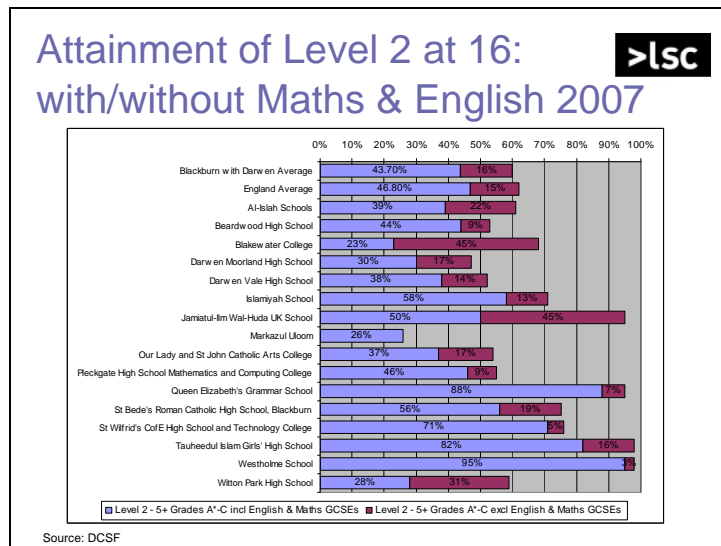
This slide indicates a mixed picture within the Blackburn w. Darwen school system.

High and stable – Queen Elizabeth (independent), St. Bede's, St. Wilfred's, Westholme (independent).

Improving – Beardwood, Darwen, Darwen Vale, Jamiatul, Pleckgate

Overall, schools in Blackburn w. Darwen show achievement below the national average. With 43% of school leavers achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE, including English and Maths. The gap continues to narrow between Blackburn w. Darwen and the England average (46%) with significant progress of late.


Across England, the challenge is to ensure that all young people reach the benchmark of 5+ A*-C GCSEs, if not at 16 then as soon as possible thereafter. Until they reach this standard of education, their chances of achieving their potential are severely limited.



Level 2 including English and Maths is extremely important in terms of progression to Level 3. The continuing gap between the Blackburn w. Darwen and England averages places young people in the borough at a disadvantage in relation to their peers.

There are significant differences in performance between the schools listed here.

There is a degree of urgency attached to this issue because of the requirement in 2008 to extend the September Guarantee to those aged 17. It is therefore important to identify appropriate provision routes to retain these young people.

Post-16 General & Applied A/AS or Equiv. Achievement 2007 

	Number of students aged 16-18	General and Applied A/AS or Equivalent Achievement		
		Number at end of A/AS or equivalent study	Average point score per student	Average point score per examination entry
Blackburn with Darwen Average			644.7	202.5
LSC Average			761.3	209.3
England Average			731.2	207.5
Blackburn College	3168	502	586.9	204.7
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	126	47	880.9	209.1
St Mary's College	1336	556	681.2	202.2
St Willfrid's CofE High School & Tech College	307	125	714.7	197
Westholme School	152	76	873.2	237.4

Source: DCSF

This slide gives quantitative data concerning A/AS achievement across post-16 providers in Blackburn w. Darwen. These include the sixth form and FE college, as well as schools with sixth forms.

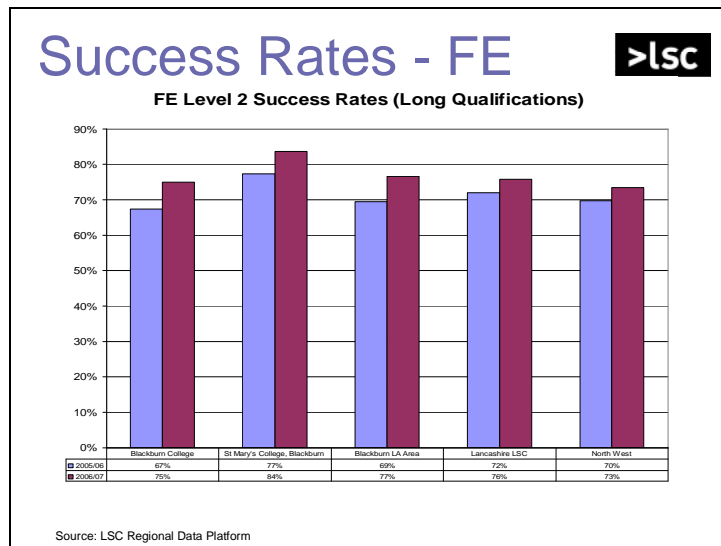
Note: the **average point score per student** is a reflection of the combination of the **number** of examinations taken, as well as the grades achieved (a Grade A at A-level or equivalent gains 270 points, a Grade E or equivalent gains 150 points).

A lower point average point score per student (column 4) is generally a reflection of the smaller range of examinations taken (eg one vocational qualification vs several A-levels) – note the score for students attending Blackburn College.

On average, students should gain an **average point score per examination entry** of around 210 (this equates to a grade C at A-level).

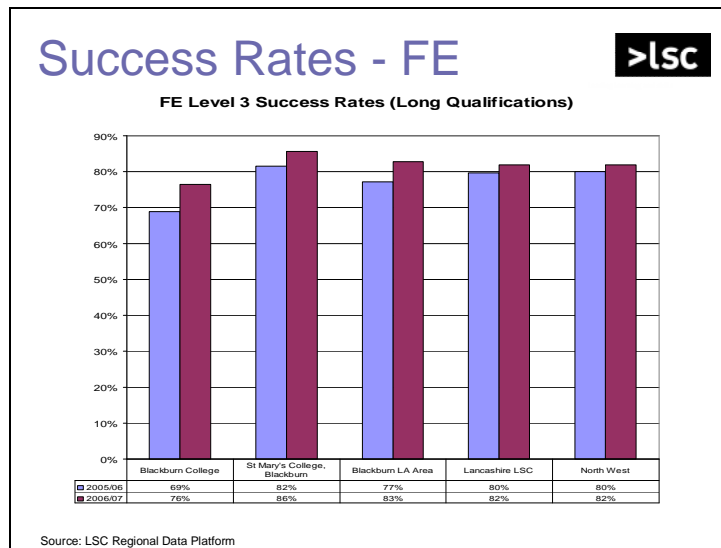
Overall, at A/AS level, Blackburn w. Darwen students achieve near to the England average in terms of point score per entry.

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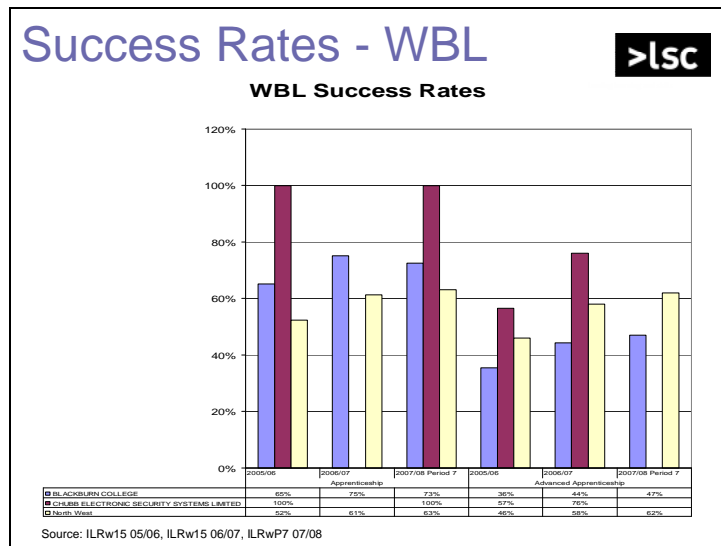


This slide gives success rates in Level 2 courses (broadly equivalent to 5xGCSEs.)

Success rates at the sixth form college are consistently higher than in other providers, with students at the FE college performing broadly in line with the overall Blackburn w. Darwen and North West achievement levels.




At Level 3 (broadly A level) in Blackburn w. Darwen the sixth form college achieves the highest success rates, above the local and regional levels of achievement. Overall, the FE college is raising success rates each year but are still below the average levels for the borough and the North West.



Please note: the 2007/08 data is taken from period 7

Blackburn College's WBL success rates have been favourable compared to the North West over the last few years.

The expansion in the numbers of apprenticeships announced earlier this year will focus attention on success rates and this area of post-16 provision warrants more detailed analysis.

Proportion Reaching Level 2 Threshold by Age 19 by Area 

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004-2007
England	66.4%	69.3%	71.4%	73.9%	7.5%
North West	64%	67%	70%	72%	8.6%
Lancashire (LSC)	64%	67%	69%	71%	7.4%
Lancashire (LA)	64%	67%	70%	71%	7.4%
Blackburn with Darwen	59%	64%	63%	67%	8.1%
Blackpool	55%	59%	61%	60%	5.5%

Source: Fisher Family Trust


Provider Based Data

This slide shows that in 2007, 67% of young people in Blackburn w. had attained a Level 2 qualification by age 19. The national figure is nearly 74%, suggesting that there is still progress to be made if young people from Blackburn w. Darwen are not to be disadvantaged in comparison to their peers elsewhere.

However, this figure has to be seen in context. The Blackburn w. Darwen area has shown significant progress in raising Level 2 achievement amongst this age group, and is improving faster than the national rate.

Statistics for this group must also be seen in terms of their starting point at age 16. Analysis of the Level 2 achievement rate amongst this same group at 16 would also show the added value given by their school or college in the intervening period.

Proportion Reaching the Level 3 Threshold by Age 19 by Area



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004-2007
England	42.0%	45.4%	46.6%	48.0%	6.0%
North West	38.5%	42.0%	42.9%	44.6%	6.1%
Lancashire (LSC)	37.8%	41.7%	42.7%	45.9%	8.1%
Lancashire (LA)	38.6%	42.6%	43.9%	45.7%	7.1%
Blackburn with Darwen	35.1%	40.7%	38.9%	42.4%	7.2%
Blackpool	31.0%	34.7%	33.1%	34.9%	4.0%

Source: Fisher Family Trust

Provider Based Data

This slide shows Level 3 attainment by age 19, set in comparison with the England average and more local comparators.

From this we can see that the gap between the Blackburn w. Darwen achievement rate and the England and North West figures continues to exist, despite a steady rate of improvement year-on-year locally (notwithstanding a slight reduction in 2006).

A Level 3 qualification is the entry point to higher level study. An increasing amount of jobs are likely to require a degree or equivalent as international competition and technological change impact on the economy, so these figures must be kept under review.

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Summary

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Key Findings

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Issues & Actions **>lsc**

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