

Slide 3

Policy Context

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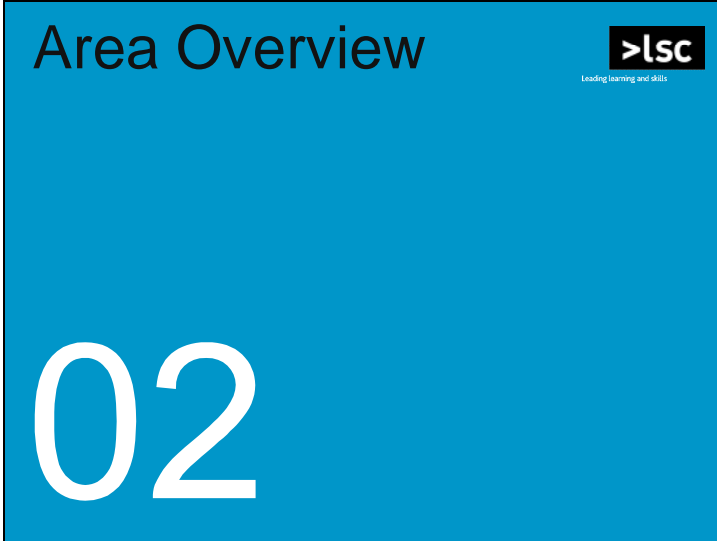
01

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



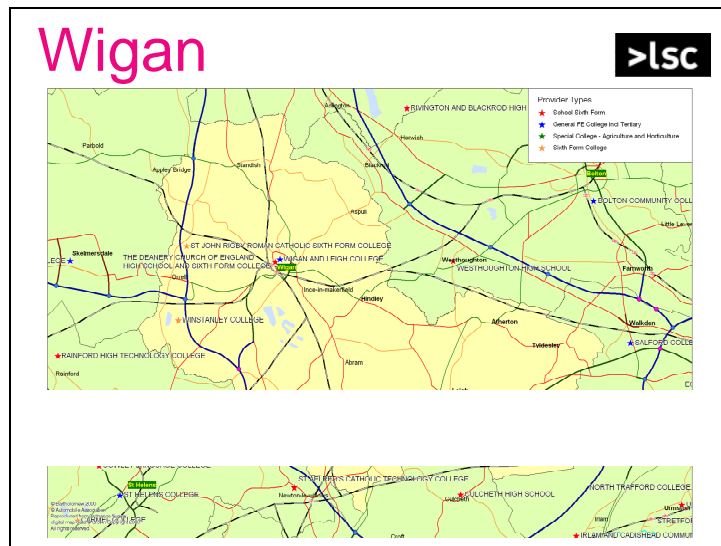
Area Overview

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02

This slide features a solid blue background. The text 'Area Overview' is positioned in the top left corner in a white, sans-serif font. In the top right corner, there is a logo consisting of a white right-pointing chevron followed by the lowercase letters 'lsc' in white, all contained within a black rectangular box. 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 '02' is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font.

areas is given in the slide concerning Employment Projections, but Sector Skills Councils and the RDA will have more data which can be shared with students (and their parents?) through careers education activities.



The Wigan area is shaded the lighter colour.

The map includes all schools with sixth forms, sixth form colleges and FE colleges both within the Borough and in the surrounding area.

WBL providers have not been included because the actual location of the provider is less important as the majority of learning takes place at the employer site. The WBL provider may be located in the Borough but the employer site could be outside of the Borough boundaries.

16-18 Participation

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04

In-school cohort sizes

Establishment Name	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Grand Total
Abraham Guest High School	194	192	194			580
Bedford High School	203	263	250			716
Carsfield High Specialist Language College	190	196	179			565
Fred Longworth High School	251	270	273			794
Golborne High School	150	168	170			488
Hawkey Hall High School	181	180	175			536
Hesketh Fletcher CofE High School, Atherton	174	199	214			587
Highlea Secondary School	9	9	15			33
Hindley Community High School - Arts College	202	201	178			581
Hope School	11	15	12	16	8	62
Kingshill School	15	15	7			37
Landgate School, Bryn	2	1	1			4
Lowton Community Sports College	229	231	228			688
Montrose	12					12
Oakfield High	22	52	44	21	8	147

Source: PLASC 2006

This data shows young people in Wigan schools in 2006.

The table demonstrates that overall numbers are declining – with 4,235 in Year 11 and just over 4000 in Year 9 (data from 2006).

The decline further illustrates the impact of a 16-18 cohort forecast to decline by 10.6% between 2007/15.

However, the decline is not evident in every school. Whilst 14 show smaller year group sizes, 7 are remaining static and 5 are increasing.


In-school cohort sizes



Establishment Name	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Grand Total
Kingsdown High School	126	139	112			377
Rose Bridge High School	143	139	115			397
Saint Thomas More Catholic High School	36		93			129
Shevington High School	132	180	152			464
St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, Ashton-in-Makerfield	221	258	245			724
St John Fisher Catholic High School	177	211	185			573
St Mary's Catholic High School	260	283	273	138	104	1,058
St Peter's Catholic High School	172	189	170			531
Standish Community High School	241	251	263			755
The Byrchall High School	230	254	239			723
The Deanery CofE High School	282	288	284	134	97	1,085
Westleigh High School - A College of Technology	148	167	164			479
Total Cohort Wigan	4,013	4,351	4,235	309	217	13,125

Source: PLASC 2006

In-school cohort sizes by year & SEN status



Wigan Special Educational Needs status	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Grand Total
No Special Provision	3117	3450	3484	258	193	10502
School Action	405	365	316	12	4	1102
School Action Plus	297	318	261		2	878
Statement of SEN	194	218	174	39	18	643
Wigan Total	4013	4351	4235	309	217	13125

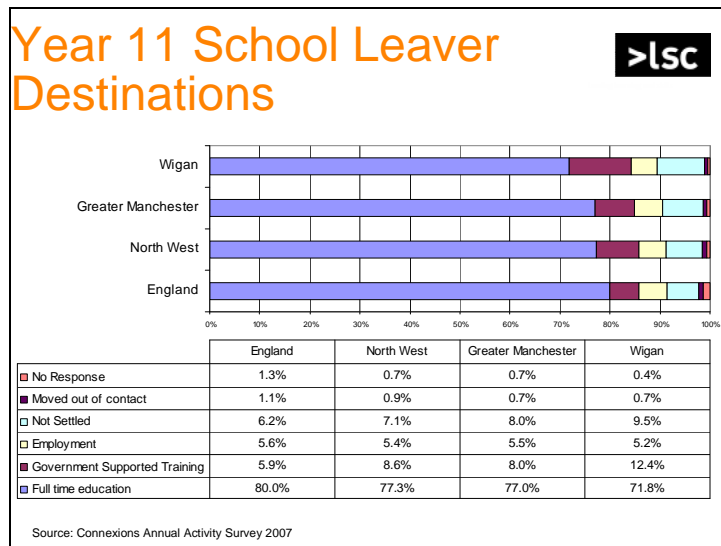
Source: PLASC 2006

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.

Given that we know young people with LLDD are more likely to become NEET, the increasing cohort of young people with special educational needs will pose an increasing challenge for 14-19 partners, especially local authorities, in future years.

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



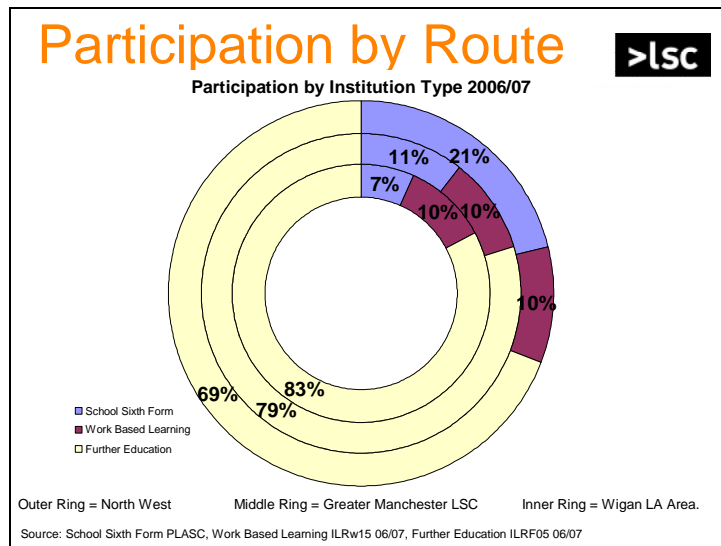
71.8% of young people in Wigan were in full time education in 2007. This is more than five percentage points below than the GM average (77%), lower than the regional average (77.3%) and also significantly below the England average (80.0%).

There are also proportionally more young people classed as unsettled at 9.5% well above the GM area overall at 8%. Whilst this may be a short-term experience for some, the risk is that many of these young people will never fulfil their potential.

There are also proportionally more young people involved in Government Supported Training, at 12.4% compared to 8% in the GM area.

This could have implications on how the Apprenticeship programme is promoted to young people and employers in the area, given the high proportion of young people entering apprenticeships compared to other areas, it may be more difficult for Wigan to achieve the same levels of growth as other parts of the region.

This table should be compared to the “doughnut chart” on the following page which indicates that participation in work-based learning is similar to the GM and NW percentages.

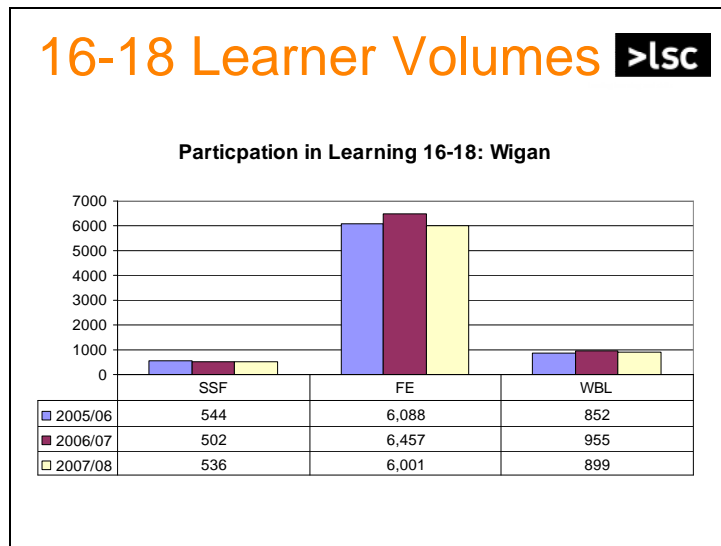


Please note: The information shown in the chart is institution-based. It does not represent Wigan residents in learning. Local authorities will have responsibility for learners participating in provision delivered by providers located in their local authority district, not simply for learners resident within their area.

The pattern of learning in Wigan is significantly different from that of Greater Manchester or the North West.

83% of young people are engaged with some form of further education, higher than both for the GM and regional areas.

The relative small number in School Sixth Forms is not unexpected given that there are two Sixth-Form Colleges in the borough that are classified as FE.

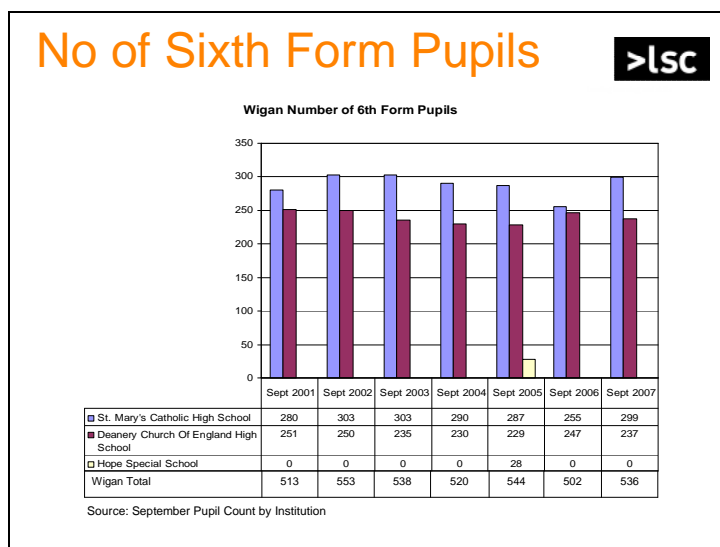


Please note: this slide displays residents of Wigan in learning rather than volumes of learners in Wigan institutions.

Volumes of Wigan resident learners aged 16-18 split by funding stream are shown in the chart. Key points to note are:

The consistently higher volumes of those in further education compared to other learning routes. However, the pattern over the three year period is not constant and volumes have both increased and decreased (although full year data for 2007/08 is not yet available).

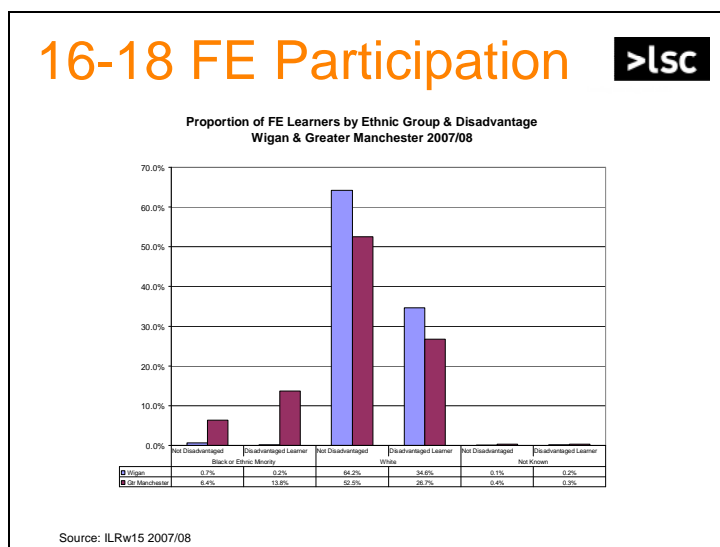
The numbers of young people participating in WBL is similar at 10% to the rest of the region.



Institution based data

The Wigan total school sixth form cohort increased by 34 learners between Sept 2006 and Sept 2007, slightly up on the previous year, reflecting a variable pattern of recruitment at each of the schools from 2001, with overall numbers up by 23 over that period.

The previous slide (based on residents) identified a small reduction in the volume of Wigan residents attending school sixth forms in the Borough. Therefore, this increase in volume is likely to be young people who reside outside of the Borough accessing school sixth forms located within the Wigan boundaries.



The total volume of Wigan residents aged 16-18 studying in Further Education, as at F01 data return 2007/08, is 6001. That equates to 6.8% of the Greater Manchester total of 49,257.

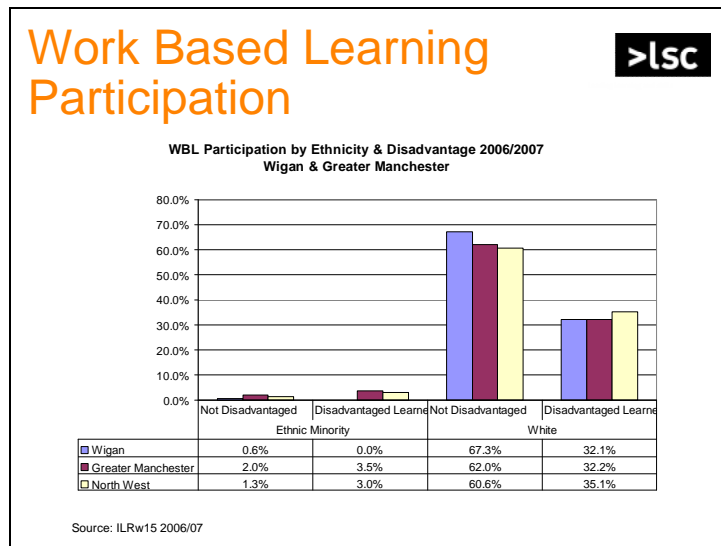
Of the total number of learners aged 16-18 in FE, the proportion who are from a **Black or Minority Ethnic group AND from a disadvantaged background** in Wigan is just 0.2%, significantly lower than the Greater Manchester Average (13.8%).

Conversely, the proportion of FE learners from a **white ethnic group without a disadvantage** is close to 64%, much higher than the Greater Manchester rate of 52.5% .

Further analysis is needed to compare these figures to the total population data at 16-18 and to a similar breakdown for WBL to assess how far these differences are determined by the ethnic profile.

It has been established by research that some BME groups have a cultural preference for academic, as opposed to vocational, learning, but in Wigan participation is still below the average for Greater Manchester.

In both Wigan and Greater Manchester as a whole, **white learners without a disadvantage** account for the highest proportion of total learners.



Residency based data

The chart illustrates the differences in WBL participation by BME and white groups, both in Wigan and in Greater Manchester. The significant variation to the figures on the previous slide (FE participation) clearly demonstrates this is not simply a reflection of the ethnic profile of the area.

Ethnic minority learners in Wigan make up 0.6% of total WBL participation compared to 0.9% of FE participation, below the proportion of BME learners in WBL provision in Greater Manchester at 5.5 per cent and for FE, 20.2 per cent.

White learners without a disadvantage make up 67.3 per cent of total 16-18 apprenticeship learners, compared to 62 per cent in Greater Manchester.

Further Education & Work Based Learning

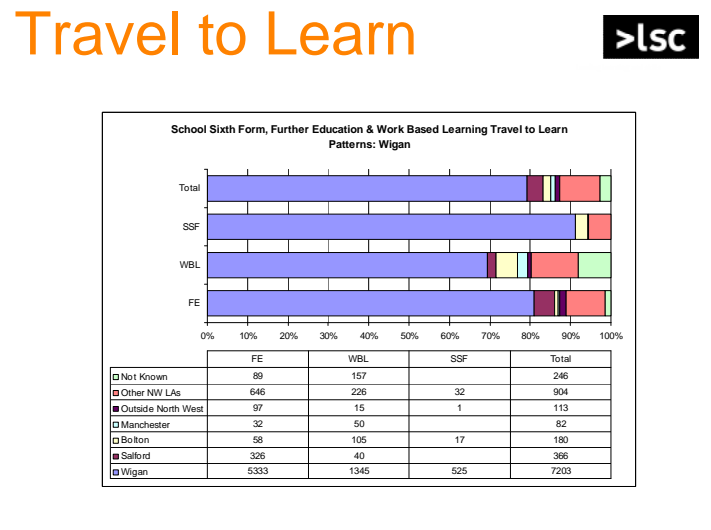


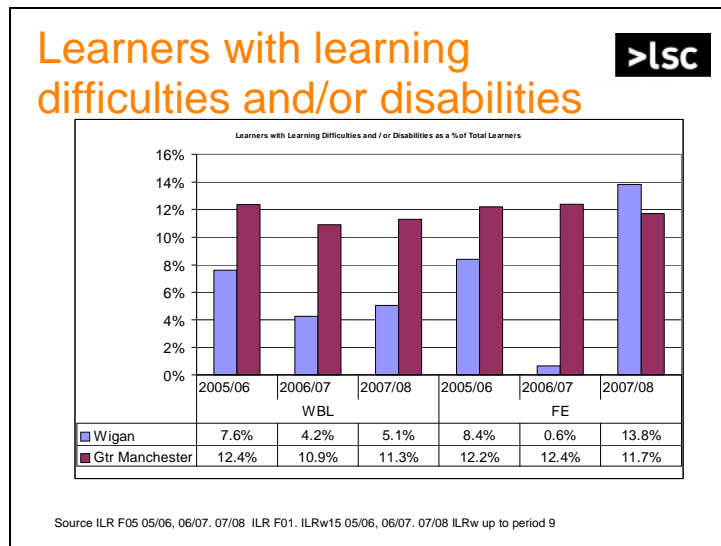
WBL participation:

Disadvantaged learners from an ethnic minority make up 0.2% of the total number of starts compared to 3.5% for GM and 3% for NW

FE participation:

Disadvantaged learners from an ethnic minority make up 1.3% of all Wigan learners compared to 13.8% for GM

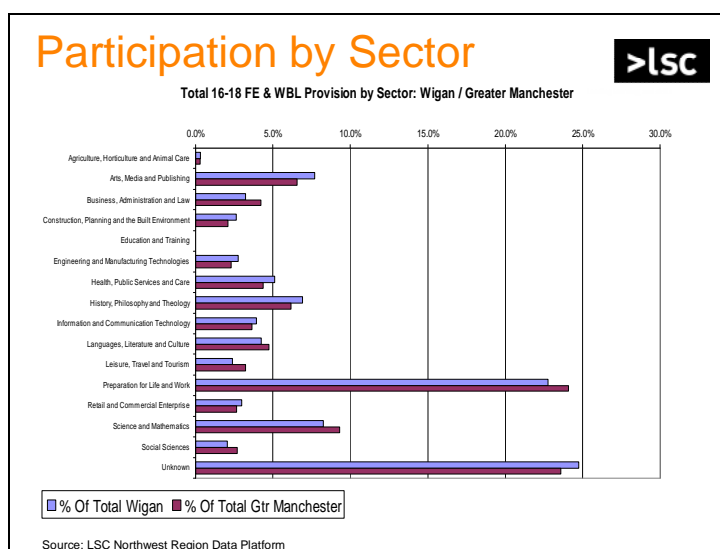




As previously indicated, young people with LDD are much more likely to become NEET. (The review of LLDD carried out by the LSC in the NW indicated that NEET rates are higher for young people with LDD at 20% for young people with LDD compared to a general NEET rate of 9.7%).

Wigan residents with a learning difficulty and/or disability were less likely to participate in work-based learning than learners with LDD in Greater Manchester as a whole.

The participation rates for FE are erratic but show a significantly higher proportion of participants with LDD than for work-based learning.



Note: data shown is for Wigan Resident Learners (not Wigan institutions), therefore a direct comparison to the economic structure of Wigan may not be appropriate – A comparison to the Greater Manchester economy could prove more useful.

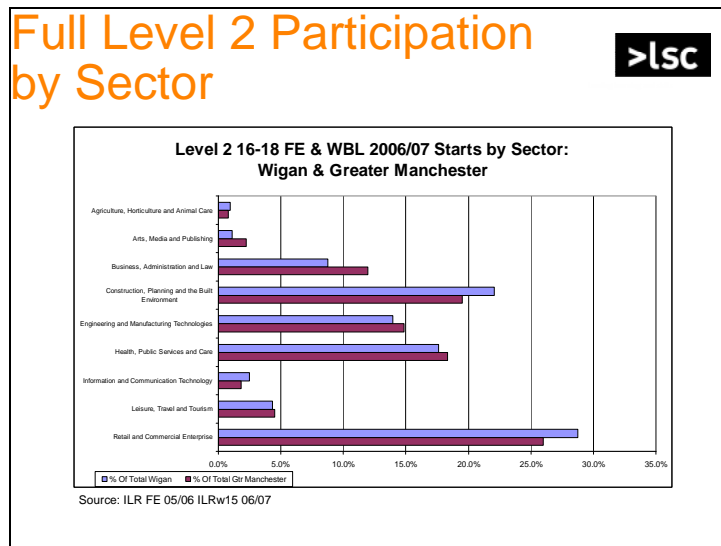
It is important to note that as well as having a clearly defined economy itself, Wigan is also a part of the wider Greater Manchester economy, as well as the wider travel to learn patterns identified in provision.

For example: taking the Wigan economic structure, and comparing it to the information in this slide would suggest that there is a significant gap in Engineering and Manufacturing provision to service the large manufacturing sector in the Wigan. This is not necessarily the case as Wigan residents could be catered for in this sector subject in a different local area.

This slide confirms previous slides which indicate the relatively large numbers of students who are disadvantaged and may be pursuing L1 or L2 courses, predominantly in Preparation for Life and Work, by far the largest area of provision.

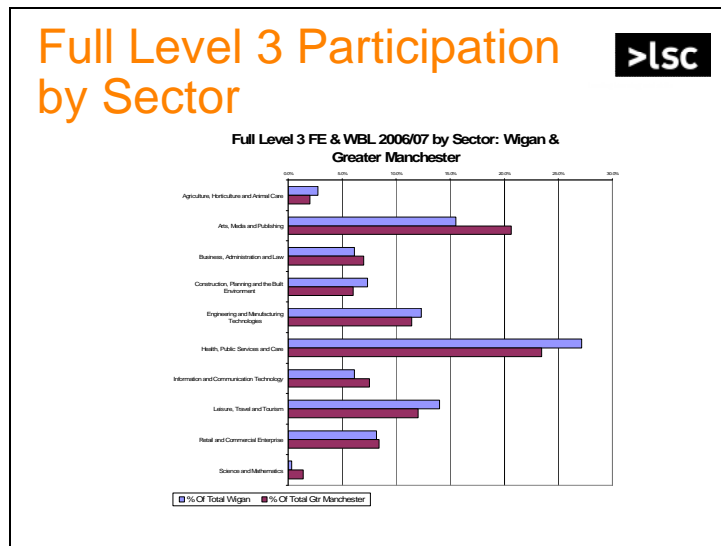
It also reflects low levels of 5+ A*-C achievement, as shown in later slides.

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



Residency based data

At Level 2, the highest proportion of FE / WBL learners aged 16-18 (Wigan residents) are studying in the retail, health, and construction sectors – this is broadly similar to the overall structure of the job market in Wigan, and with the Greater Manchester area where the top 3 sector subject areas being Retail and Commercial Enterprise; Construction, Planning and the Built Environment and Health, Public Services & Care.




Residency Based Data

In Greater Manchester, the highest proportion of overall full Level 3 learners are in the Arts Media & Publishing and Health, Public Services and Care Sector subject areas. In Wigan, the latter has more than a quarter of the overall total full Level 3 volume.

At Level 3 the proportion of learners is spread in roughly similar proportions to a broader range of sector subject areas. 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.

This may be as a result of perceived changes in the job market (eg with the BBC moving into Greater Manchester), as well as a result of more young people choosing to progress into HE, and so therefore choosing Level 3 provision that matches HE opportunities locally, regionally, and nationally.

NEET Volumes



Geography	December 2008			
	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
Greater Manchester	84,372	7,469	8.1%	3,702
Wigan	10,684	946	8.1%	396

Source: Connexions December 2007

The proportion of the 16-18 cohort classed as NEET is similar or above at 8.1% than the Greater Manchester, North West and England averages.

That said, there are 946 young people in the NEET group. In addition there are a further 396 young people for whom their current activity is unknown.

Further NEET analysis is provided on the following slide.

NEET Percentages **>lsc**

	% 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%
Greater Manchester	3.9%	76.4%	4%	8.1%	-17%	31%	48%	5%
Wigan	3.3%	73.9%	3%	8.1%	-17%	28%	67%	3%

Source: Government Office North West December 2007

Wigan has a lower participation rate to Greater Manchester and a smaller percentage of young people not known to Connexions compared to the North West and GM 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.) This has probably boosted the NEET rate, as those young people who were previously out of contact tend to be identified as NEET once contact is re-established.

There has been a similar reduction in NEET over the previous twelve months compared with GM and England.


The proportion of young people leaving NEET to EET is significantly higher, at 67% in Wigan than for the rest of Greater Manchester, the North West and England. This may indicate that there is better information, advice and guidance and/or appropriate learning provision available.

Some of the main contributors to NEET in the region:

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 9.7% 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.

Note: Data is from Government Office and may not reflect local Connexions data.

16-18 Performance  Leading learning and skills

05

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
Abraham Guest High School	28%	33%	35%	34%
Bedford High School	29%	29%	31%	29%
The Byrchall High School	52%	38%	52%	47%
Cansfield High Specialist Language College	31%	40%	43%	47%
The Deanery Church of England High School and Sixth Form College	49%	53%	37%	54%
Fred Longworth High School	47%	48%	49%	53%
Golborne High School	30%	24%	34%	26%
Hawkey Hall High School	39%	28%	40%	38%
Heskeith Fletcher CofE High School, Atherton	24%	22%	32%	30%
Hindley Community High School - Arts College	30%	25%	34%	42%
Wigan Average	39.10%	38.30%	41.60%	44.60%
England Average	42.60%	44.30%	45.30%	46.00%

Compared to Wigan average:

High and Improving – Deanery, Shevington, St. Edmund, St. John’s, St.Mary’s, Standish

High and Stable - St Peter’s,

Low and Improving – Cansfield, Hindley

Low and declining – Golborne, Westleigh

Many schools in Wigan have erratic patterns of year on year achievement but the overall level is generally positive with attainment levels increasing between 2004 and 2007.

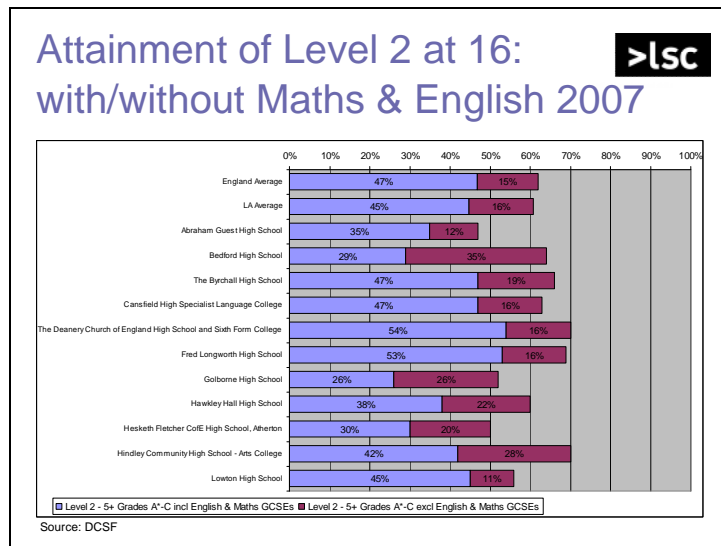
In 2004 the gap in achievement in Wigan compared to England was 3.5 percentage points and by 2007 that had reduced to 1.4 percentage points.

The challenge is to ensure that every child gets the support they need to achieve this crucial benchmark, if not before 16, then after it. Without this foundation, young people will face major hurdles when they attempt to progress to Level 3 and beyond into HE.

GCSE results 2004-2007



	% of 15 year old students achieving 5-A*-C (and equivalent) including English and Maths GCSEs			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Lowton High School	41%	37%	47%	45%
Kingsdown High School	21%	23%	19%	22%
Rose Bridge High School	18%	15%	17%	30%
Shevington High School	50%	39%	43%	55%
St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, Ashton-in-Makerfield	57%	60%	53%	64%
St John Fisher Catholic High School	42%	42%	45%	49%
St Mary's Catholic High School	45%	51%	50%	56%
St Peter's Catholic High School Visual Arts College	61%	62%	70%	72%
Standish Community High School	51%	51%	58%	59%
Westleigh High School - A College of Technology	24%	33%	39%	30%
Wigan Average	39.10%	38.30%	41.60%	44.60%
England Average	42.60%	44.30%	45.30%	46.00%

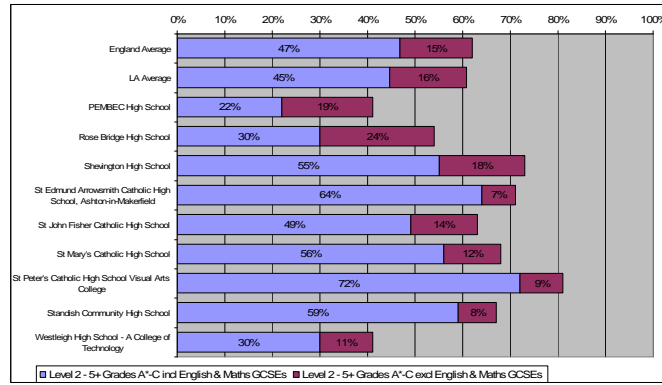


The pattern of attainment of Level 2 at 16 with English and Maths across the borough appears somewhat variable – however, interpreting the data is problematic, as without actual numerical information, it is difficult to be prescriptive - as with the earlier slides showing whole school GCSE results, changes in small numbers can produce correspondingly large changes in percentages.


Notwithstanding, this data appears to demonstrate that in some schools (eg Golborne, Hawkley Hall, and others) significant numbers of young people are failing to achieve the full Level 2 including English and Maths, which is extremely important in terms of progression to Level 3. The overall gap between the Wigan and England averages places young people in Wigan at a considerable disadvantage in relation to their peers.

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.

Attainment of Level 2 at 16: with/without Maths & English 2007



Source: DCSF

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
Wigan Average			783.3	205.9
LSC Average			717	204
England Average			731.2	207.5
The Deanery Church of England High School and Sixth Form College	245	97	650.3	177.7
St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College	1003	389	611.5	194.1
St Mary's Catholic High School	249	107	794.7	187.5
Wigan and Leigh College	3546	488	540.6	199.5
Winstanley College	1738	813	1025.7	216.7

Source: DCSF

The points scores refer to the QCA methodology for scoring achievement at Level 3.

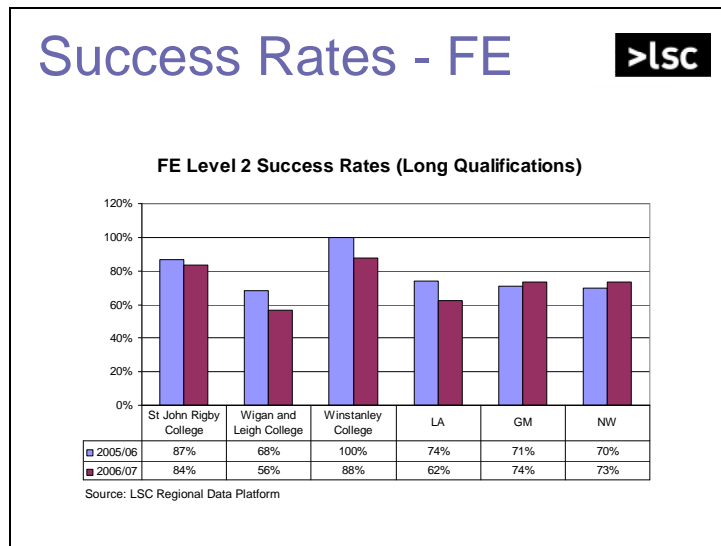
In respect of A-levels, learners achieve 270 points for a grade A, and the scale goes down in steps of 30 to 150 points for a grade E.

On average, young people from sixth-forms and the sixth-form colleges in Wigan score 206 points per exam entry, which is slightly less than grade C per entry.

The Wigan figure for average points scored, at 783, is well above the national average of 717 – this effect is largely a consequence of the results from Winstanley College, which is a highly-selective sixth-form college with a national reputation for high success levels.

Equivalent provision, especially at Wigan and Leigh College, is mostly therefore well below the average.

It would again be helpful to know the numbers of young people at each institution following this type of provision, which will help provide a clearer picture of success.

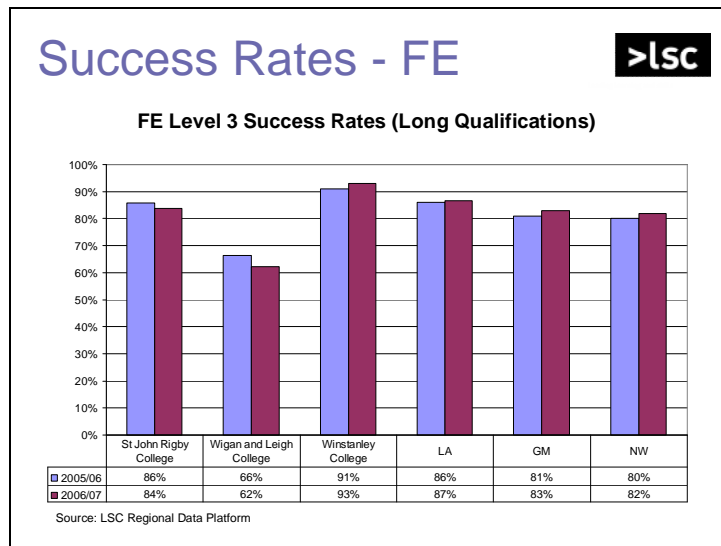


Caution is required when comparing just two years of data. However, the following observations can be made.

FE Full Level 2 Success Rates in Wigan were below the Greater Manchester and North West rates in 2006/07 and show significant decline from the previous year, in particular at Wigan and Leigh and Winstanley Colleges, where the rates were down by 12 percentage points in each case (however the success rate for Winstanley College is still high above GM and NW averages).

In 2006/07 FE Level 2 success rates were approximately equal for both males (67%) and females (68%), and are similar for learners from a Black or Minority Ethnic group (71%) and White learners (70%).

FE Level 2 success rates in 2006/07 were lower for those learners with a learning difficulty and / or disability (LDD: 55%, Non-LDD 69%).



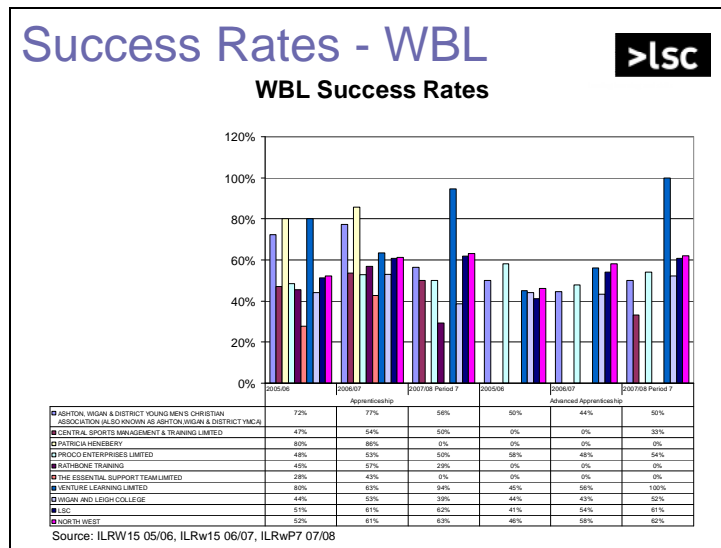
In 2006/07, FE Full Level 3 success rates in Wigan remained largely stable, with only Wigan and Leigh College showing any significant decline (4 percentage points) compared with 2005/06.

This does however leave the results overall substantially lower than the Greater Manchester and North West rates.

As with Level 2, male and female FE Full Level 3 success rates in 2006/07 were similar at 72% and 73% respectively.

Success rates in 2006/07 for those from BME groups are slightly lower than those from white backgrounds (71% to 73%).


Success rates in 2006/07 for those with a learning difficulty and / or disability are lower at 70% compared to 73% for those without.



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

Apprenticeship success rates in Wigan are erratic compared to the steady improvements for the North West.

In part this is due to the generally low overall volumes of learners and therefore only a small change in outcomes year on year can have a significant impact in overall success rates.

Proportion reaching Level 2 threshold by age 19 by area 


Greater Manchester	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004-2007
England	66.4%	69.3%	71.4%	73.9%	7.5%
North West	63.8%	67.3%	70.1%	72.4%	8.6%
Greater Manchester	62.7%	66.1%	69.1%	71.4%	8.7%
Bolton	63.7%	65.1%	66.6%	68%	4.5%
Bury	67.9%	70.1%	72.2%	72%	4.5%
Manchester	51.6%	55.5%	59.0%	63%	11.1%
Oldham	58.6%	61.3%	64.1%	67%	8.4%
Rochdale	54.5%	58.4%	60.4%	64%	9.9%
Salford	50.5%	55.5%	58.1%	59%	8.9%
Stockport	71.2%	72.0%	73.2%	73%	2.0%
Tameside	57.9%	61.9%	64.5%	66%	8.5%
Trafford	67.7%	71.6%	74.6%	78%	10.4%
Wigan	61.6%	65.8%	67.5%	69%	7.5%

Source: Fisher Family Trust

Provider Based Data

At 69%, the data for Wigan shows a steady improvement in achievement at Level 2 of 7.5 percentage points since 2004, although the proportion remains below the area and regional averages of 71.4% suggesting that there is still progress to be made if Wigan's young people are not to be disadvantaged in comparison to their peers elsewhere.

Statistics for this group must also be seen in terms of their starting point at age 16. Analysis of the L2 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 

Greater Manchester	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 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%
Greater Manchester	38.0%	41.4%	42.3%	43.5%	5.5%
Bolton	38.9%	41.9%	43.4%	43%	4.6%
Bury	41.1%	44.1%	44.6%	46%	4.9%
Manchester	33.7%	35.7%	37.9%	39%	4.9%
Oldham	36.5%	39.6%	38.4%	39%	2.8%
Rochdale	27.9%	32.7%	32.1%	34%	6.0%
Salford	26.0%	29.8%	31.6%	31%	5.3%
Stockport	46.6%	48.4%	50.8%	50%	3.3%
Tameside	31.1%	34.4%	35.2%	35%	4.1%
Trafford	44.0%	49.0%	51.7%	55%	10.9%
Wigan	33.5%	37.9%	38.4%	40%	6.3%

Source: Fisher Family Trust

Provider Based Data

Again, there has been an improvement on success of 6.3 percentage points since 2004 in the borough, which is one of the highest rates of improvement in the GM area, albeit the overall figure of 40% achievement is around 4 percentage points below the area and regional averages

A Level 3 qualification is the entry point to higher level study. More and more 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.

Summary

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Key Findings

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Issues & Actions **>lsc**