



Leading learning and skills

LSC South East

South East Strategic
Analysis Report

September 2008

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Foreword

I am delighted to introduce the South East LSC Strategic Analysis 2008. This is a high level report used to support the production of the Regional Commissioning Statement. It is an evidence based document and draws information from a range of sources and provides a strategic assessment of the LSC's impact in the region. It summarises the significant investment the LSC has made in learning and skills and outlines the local and regional issues that need to be addressed.

The data and information included in this report represents the most recent validated data available, but does not reflect the effects of the recent change in economic circumstances. However, we know that businesses in the South East are in the midst of challenging times. One of the biggest factors in their ability to remain competitive and productive is the skills of their workforce – yet, inevitably, in times of economic downturn staff training budgets come under greater scrutiny.

The significant contribution the LSC and its' partners have made to improving skills in the region in all age groups provides a sound basis for supporting businesses to respond to the challenge and continue to increase skills levels in the South East.

As unemployment levels increase the Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) strategy, in partnership with other agencies, in particular Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), are promoting the role of advice and guidance for adults; and ensuring that there is a strong linkage and convergence between programmes which engage employers and support individuals.

The Train to Gain programme with its recently announced flexibilities is effectively engaging employers and employees in training, and here in the South East employers' satisfaction with the brokerage service is the highest of all regions.

Apprenticeships are a key part of the Governments' strategy to deliver the entitlement for young people, provide adults with valuable and transferable skills and are a part of the skills brokerage offer to employers. Despite significant growth in participation and improvements in completion rates for both young people and adults up to 2006/07 a slowdown in participation for young people is expected in 2007/08 and improvements in completions rates are beginning to plateau. The South East is already playing a key role in the development of the new National Apprenticeship Service. This new service will be critical in meeting the needs of employers and young people at such a difficult time.

Whilst substantial challenges face the delivery of skills in the region, we must also ensure that we keep our focus on ensuring that all young people have an appropriate place in education and training. Working with Local Authorities, to which responsibility for 16-18 planning and funding will pass in September 2010, we will increase the range and quality of courses especially those with a practical and vocational content, and which in turn will improve work-readiness.

It is in this context that the regional Strategic Analysis provides a statement of our current position. We will update this analysis to take account of more current data to inform our commissioning process and so ensure that we continue to make the best possible investment, in partnership with other agencies, in learning and skills for the people, communities and productivity of the South East.

Marinos Paphitis
Regional Director
Learning and Skills Council South East

1 Introduction

1.1 This report draws information from a range of sources and provides a strategic assessment of the labour market and learning and skills position in the region.

1.2 The South East has the highest economic activity and employment rates of all English regions. However, the current economic uncertainties present the South East, as well as the rest of the country, with potential challenges.

1.3 The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), in collaboration with the Treasury and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has published a response to the changing economic circumstances. The following paragraph has been extracted from that report¹:

1.4 *“The global economy is facing unprecedented challenges. The twin impacts of tighter credit conditions and increases in global commodity prices, in particular oil, mean we can expect difficult times for the UK economy in the coming months. This will affect each region in different ways in line with their different economies. After the unprecedented growth of recent years, the South East and other regional economies will need to prepare themselves for a more challenging economic climate.”*

1.5 The LSC is currently responsible for planning and funding all education and training for people over 16 in England, other than those in universities. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to ensure the UK has a workforce of world-class standard.²

1.6 The LSC’s vision is that by 2010, young people and adults will have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce.

ENABLING THE SYSTEM TO DELIVER

1.7 The Secretaries of State of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), announced the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes in their publication *Enabling the System to Deliver* in March 2007. The starting point for these reforms is the ambition to raise the education participation age and deliver better outcomes for all young people, an ambition which has been at the heart of the Every Child Matters agenda and which was emphasised again in the recent Children’s Plan.

¹ [South East England Economy: A joint response to changing economic circumstances](#)

² *The recent Central Government restructure will have an impact on the role of the LSC, with responsibility for funding 14-19 provision moving to Local Authorities by 2010/11. It is not yet clear what the extent of the impact will be on adult funding.*

1.8 The reforms provide an opportunity to bring together in one place responsibility for the outcomes and achievement of all young people aged 0-19. The reforms build on the existing role and expertise of Local Authorities as commissioners of a wide range of services which will help support pre-19 education and training.

1.9 From 2010, subject to legislation, Local Authorities will have a statutory duty to provide learning places for pre-19 year olds. Local Authorities will be supported in this by a new Non Departmental Public Body, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).

1.10 The future commissioning process requires Local Authorities to work together to develop and agree plans in sub regional groupings. Commissioning decisions need to be made collectively to ensure that the decisions of one Local Authority do not adversely impact on another and ensure purchasing decisions provide the best value for money, promote provider stability and provide the highest quality and choice of provision for the learner. Regional Planning Groups of Local Authorities and key partners will agree the plans of the sub-regional groupings; ensuring coherence regionally.

1.11 A two-stage, Government Office led, process has seen initial sub regional groupings outlined, with DCSF feedback due to be given by November 2008. Comprehensive proposals are to be submitted as 'ready' between November 2008 and February 2009, with feedback given by March 2009.

1.12 For adults and employers there will be a new Skills Funding Agency (SFA), which will oversee the distribution of funds to the sector and manage the performance of FE colleges. The Agency will also house the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), the National Employer Service and the Adult Careers and Advancement Agency. As has already been announced, the Train to Gain brokerage service will transfer to Regional Development Agencies in April 2009.

1.13 Meanwhile, the LSC continues to have a statutory role in post-19 education, ensuring that a wide range of engagement/progression routes are available to support economic and social inclusion. The focus on expanding the Train to Gain programme must continue as well as tackling adult basic skills, including securing closer integration between skills and employment. A blueprint of the future post 19 delivery will be made available in the Autumn 2008.

THE PRIORITY OF RAISING PERFORMANCE

1.14 The LSC's priority is not only to achieve the Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets set by Government, but also to drive up performance in the sector to world-class standards. The LSC aims to raise the performance of the entire FE sector to be responsive, to provide choice and to be valued and recognised for excellence.

THE SOUTH EAST CONTRIBUTION TO LSC PROGRESS AGAINST PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT TARGETS

1.15 The following outlines the South East LSC regional contribution to progress against national PSA targets.

Level 2 qualifications for 19 year olds

1.16 One of the LSC's key targets has been to increase the number of 19 year olds who achieve at least a Level 2 qualification by 3 points between 2004 and 2006, to 69.8 per cent; with a further 2-point rise between 2006 and 2008.

1.17 By 2005/06 the LSC had surpassed the 2006 target and is on schedule to achieve the 2008 target.

1.18 Attainment rates in the South East are higher than the national rate (as illustrated below), 77.6 per cent in 2006/07, an increase of 2.3 percentage points on the previous year and the highest rate among the regions.

Table 1.1 19 year olds achieving Level 2 for the South East and England 05/06 & 06/07

Year	South East			England		
	Cohort	19 year olds achieving Level 2 by end 2005/06		Cohort	19 year olds achieving Level 2 by end 2005/06	
		Numbers	Percentage		Numbers	Percentage
2005/06	100,900	76,100	75.3%	631,900	451,200	71.4%
2006/07	104,400	81,000	77.6%	652,184	481,963	73.9%

Source: LSC Matched Administrative Dataset ³

1.19 The South East contributed the largest share of 19 year olds achieving Level 2 to the national target (almost 17 per cent in 2006/07).

Level 3 qualifications for 19 year olds

1.20 The PSA target commits the LSC to increasing the number of young people who gain qualifications at Level 3 or above by the age of 19.

Table 1.2 19 year olds achieving Level 3, South East and England (05/06 & 06/07)

Year	South East			England		
	Cohort	19 year olds ach. Level 3 end 2005/06	19 year olds ach. Level 3 end 2005/06 per cent	Cohort	19 year olds ach. Level 3 end 2005/06	19 year olds ach. Level 3 end 2005/06 per cent
2005/06	100,900	54,600	54.1%	631,900	295,700	46.8%
2006/07	104,400	57,800	55.3%	652,200	312,900	48.0%

Source: Matched dataset Level 2 and 3

³ Learners counted as 'achieving' for 2005/06 and 2006/07 are those aged 19 in 2006 and 19 in 2007 respectively who achieved a Level 2 and 3 qualification by age 19.

1.21 The South East made the greatest contribution to the national target for 19 year olds achieving Level 3. In 2006/07, the region had the highest percentage of 19 year olds in the country achieving Level 3 (55.3 per cent). This proportion was 7 percentage points higher than national rate, and represented an increase on the figure for 2005/06.

Improving the skills of adults in the workforce

1.22 By 2011, 79 per cent of working-age adults should be qualified to Level 2 and 56 per cent to Level 3. These targets will ensure that the LSC will remain on track to reduce the number of adults in the workforce without at least a Level 2 qualification by 40 per cent.

1.23 In the South East in 2007, 73.9 per cent of the population aged 19-59/64 were qualified to at least Level 2, the highest rate after the South West (74.4 per cent) and 3.3 percentage points higher than the rate for England⁴.

1.24 A third (33 per cent) of the adult population (aged 19-59/64) in the South East were qualified to Level 4 and above, the highest proportion outside London (39 per cent) and 2 percentage points higher than the national rate (31 per cent).

1.25 Across all providers in the region, overall adult learner success rates in FE have decreased from an average of 76 per cent in 2005/06 to 75 per cent in 2006/07. Full Level 2 success rates remained about the same (around 64 per cent).

1.26 However, there were improvements in Full Level 3 success rates (63 per cent to 67 per cent) between 2005/06 and 2006/07.

1.27 In the South East the number of adult learners contributing to Skills for Life targets (improving the language and numeracy skills of 2.25 million adults by 2010) increased by 15.7 per cent between 2005/06 and 2006/07.

1.28 Apprenticeship numbers increased at all levels, with the largest relative increase in those undertaking Advanced Apprenticeships. These are larger increases than the national trend.

Young people not in education training or employment (NEET)

1.29 At November 2007- January 2008, 12,852 people between the ages of 16 and 18 in the South East were classified as NEET. This equates to a regional figure of 5.3 per cent, which is the lowest in England and compares well with the national figure (6.7 per cent).

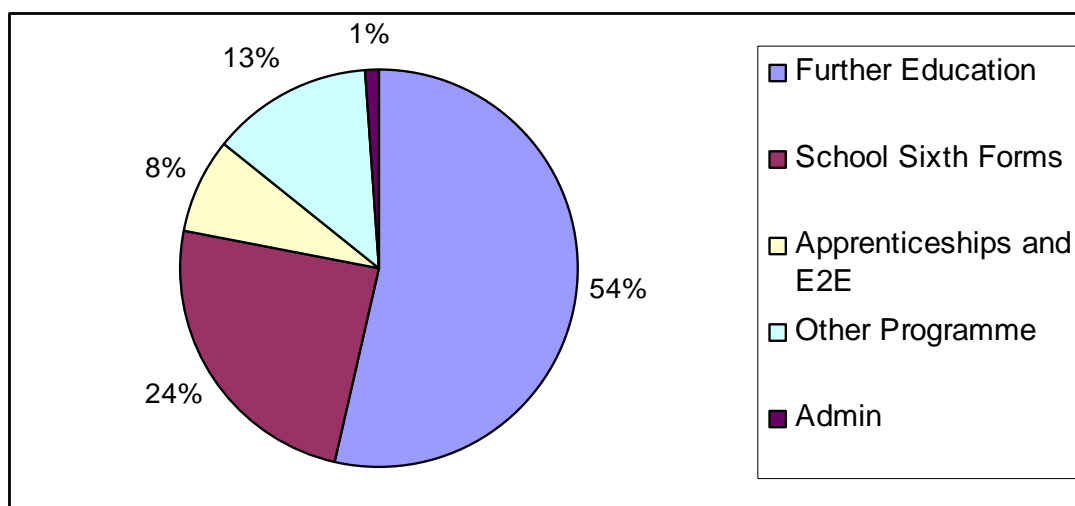
⁴ Source: Office for National Statistics, Q4 Labour Force Survey, 2007

LSC FUNDING STREAMS

1.30 Total LSC spending in the region in 2007/08 was £1.37bn, a 7 per cent increase on the previous year. This was significantly higher than the national increase in spending (4.3 percentage points). Spending on school sixth forms and other programmes, including Train to Gain, increased between 2006/07 and 2007/08, reflecting the increases in participation in the South East.

1.31 Just over half of spending in 2007/08 was allocated to FE (53.5 per cent), followed in value by school sixth forms, Apprenticeships and Entry to Employment (E2E), and other programmes, such as Train to Gain, Care to Learn and Offender Learning (see Figure 1.1). This spending pattern reflects the numbers of learners in the categories concerned.

Figure 1.1 Profile of LSC spend, by type of provision, 2007/08



Note: Other programmes include PCDL, Adult Skills Reform, Train to Gain, ESF, Care to Learn, Offender Learning and LLDD.

Source: LSC funding allocation records

1.32 During 2008/09 the South East LSC is planning on spending over £400 million on capital projects providing world-class buildings for South East learners.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

1.33 The LSC is committed to continue to work with and support the sector to improve performance and achieve its ambition of eliminating inadequate and unsatisfactory provision. The LSC will work with the sector to prepare providers to meet the challenges of the Self Regulation agenda.

1.34 The LSC will support the regional implementation of the Framework for Excellence and published Minimum Levels of Performance to provide reliable performance measures that allow providers to plan quality improvement and

self assessment. An active network of Peer Review and Development groups in the South East are very effective, sharing best practice within the sector.

Minimum Levels of Performance (MLP)

1.35 The proportion of guided learning hours that fall below minimum levels of performance in the South East is less than the national figure for both long and short courses combined (14 per cent regionally compared to 15 per cent nationally).

1.36 If examined in isolation, short courses in the South East have 3 per cent more guided learning hours below MLP than nationally aggregated results for short courses (11 per cent compared to 8 per cent nationally).

1.37 For short courses, 10 of the 15 Sector Subject Areas (SSAs) for short courses in the South East have a higher percentage of underperformance than national figures. Of these, the highest volume of underperformance can be found in Preparation for Life and Work, ICT, Health Public Services and Care and Business Administration.

1.38 For long courses (all provider types combined) areas of South East underperformance when compared with national figures are Engineering, Construction, ICT, Retail and Business Administration.

1.39 External Institutions (EIs) are the poorest performing type of provider in the South East with the Sector Subject Area of Preparation for Life and Work accounting for the largest proportion of EI underperformance (26 per cent of 828,304 Guided Learning Hours below MLP). However, EIs account for only 2 per cent of the total of Guided Learning Hours offered in the South East.

Notices to Improve

1.40 There are 16 providers in the South East region with a Notice to Improve. Applications for Improvement Adviser Service support from the Quality Improvement Agency are being processed for those providers under a Notice to Improve.

Inspection Grades

1.41 Analysis of Ofsted cycle 2 inspection grades (2005/06 onwards) for General FE Providers showed that 97 per cent of the 31 providers inspected were graded as at least Satisfactory in Overall Effectiveness.

1.42 All of the Sixth Form Colleges (17 providers) in the South East were graded as at least Satisfactory in both Overall Effectiveness and Leadership and Management. More than 80 per cent of providers were judged to be Outstanding or Good in Overall Effectiveness.

1.43 Cycle 2 Inspections were carried out on 45 Other providers (non college) in the South East. The analysis showed that 90 per cent of these

providers were graded as at least Satisfactory in Overall Effectiveness. One third of providers were graded as Good and just 1 per cent of providers were graded as Outstanding. Nationally, a higher proportion of providers were graded as Outstanding (5 per cent) or Good (42 per cent).

2 The Economic Context

REGIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 In its Regional Economic Strategy the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) identifies the region as 'a region of contrasts'.

2.2 The **Inner South East** forms a generally wealthy core around London that delivers much of the South East's world class performance. The challenge here is to make the most of these strengths while addressing the significant pockets of deprivation that exist alongside the general prosperity.

2.3 The **Rural South East** accounts for 80 per cent of the region's land mass, a third of its business base and a quarter of its population. Attention is needed to maintain the quality of life and ensure that our rural communities continue to be places where people want to live and work. It is important to ensure that there is appropriate access to services and opportunities, while preserving the region's natural beauty.

2.4 The **Coastal South East** is characterised by a unique environment of cities and towns. It is also characterised by underperformance and continued economic and social decline. Attention is needed to harness the opportunities and secure a new confidence and vitality.

CURRENT ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES

2.5 SEEDA, in collaboration with the Treasury and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has published a response to the changing economic circumstances. The following paragraphs have been extracted from that report⁵:

2.6 *"The global economy is facing unprecedented challenges. The twin impacts of tighter credit conditions and increases in global commodity prices, in particular oil, mean we can expect difficult times for the UK economy in the coming months. This will affect each region in different ways in line with their different economies. After the unprecedented growth of recent years, the South East and other regional economies will need to prepare themselves for a more challenging economic climate.*

2.7 *So far the South East economy has held up well to the new challenges, although overall growth has been slowing since the second half of last year. There are now signs of a more significant impact, with growing evidence of slowing order books especially among businesses that are more dependent on UK markets.*

2.8 *Smaller businesses in particular are tending to become less confident about economic prospects, although this has not yet translated into a decline*

⁵ [South East England Economy: A joint response to changing economic circumstances](#) (August 2008)

in business activity or performance. Looking ahead, it will be vital to help businesses resist the effects of the slowdown over the rest of this year and into next year.”

2.9 The regional response by SEEDA and regional and local partners are the following interventions:

- Helping businesses to access finance
- Providing assistance to firms which are struggling with debt
- Helping businesses to cut energy costs
- Helping new businesses
- Helping businesses to innovate
- Simplifying support for small businesses
- Maximising the opportunity of the 2012 games
- Helping companies to access new overseas markets
- Bringing overseas investment to the South East
- Working with leading corporations
- Providing additional support for specific sectors
- Meeting skills needs
- Matching people to job vacancies and getting people back to work

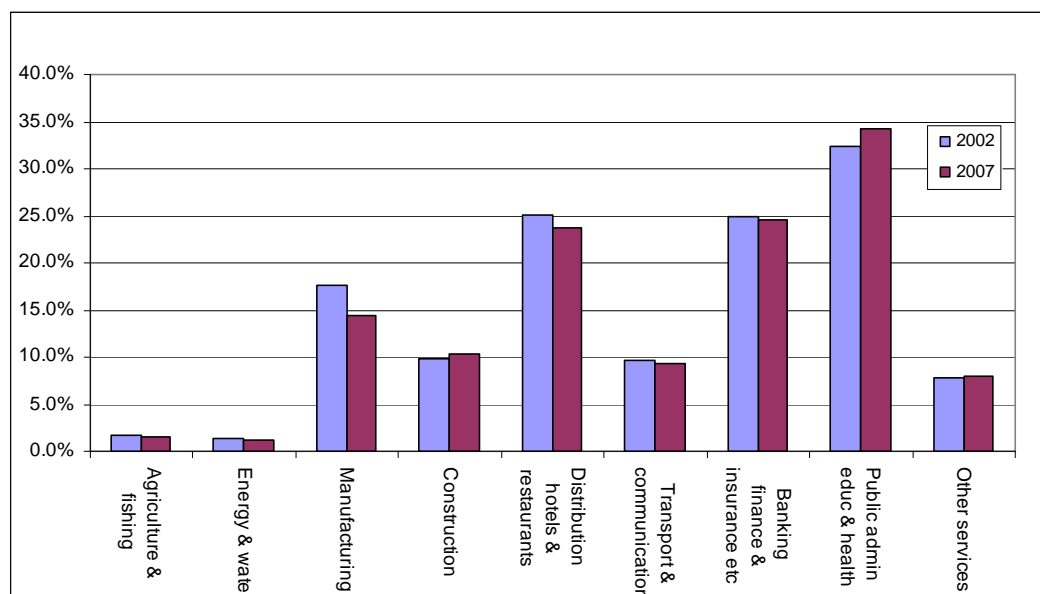
2.10 Interventions have also been proposed to support housing and development and to help consumers directly. All of the data presented in this report are the most recent data available but are unlikely to show the effects of the recent change in economic circumstances.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGE⁶

2.11 Over the past 5 years the number of people in employment in the South East has increased by 77,800, from 3.87 million in 2002 to 3.94 million in 2007. The regional employment rate in 2007 was 78.4 per cent, 4 per cent higher than the national average. Amongst the County and Unitary Authorities in the South East, West Berkshire has the highest employment rate, at 84.2 per cent while Slough has the lowest at 72.2 per cent.

⁶ Source: ONS Local Area Labour Force Survey (2002), Annual Population Survey (2007)

Figure 2.1 Profile of employment by industry, South East 2007



Source: ONS Local Area Labour Force Survey (2002), Annual Population Survey (2007)

2.12 Figure 2.1 shows the difference in the proportion of those employed in each sector resident in the South East between 2002 and 2007. The largest increase has been in the public administration and health sector: in 2002, 32 per cent of the workforce was employed in this sector; by 2007 this had increased to 34 per cent, an increase of just over 100,000 people. In contrast, Manufacturing saw the largest decrease, from 17.7 per cent in 2002 to 14.4 per cent in 2007, a decrease of 78,500 people. Please see Local Authority breakdown in Annex B.

Sectoral trends⁷

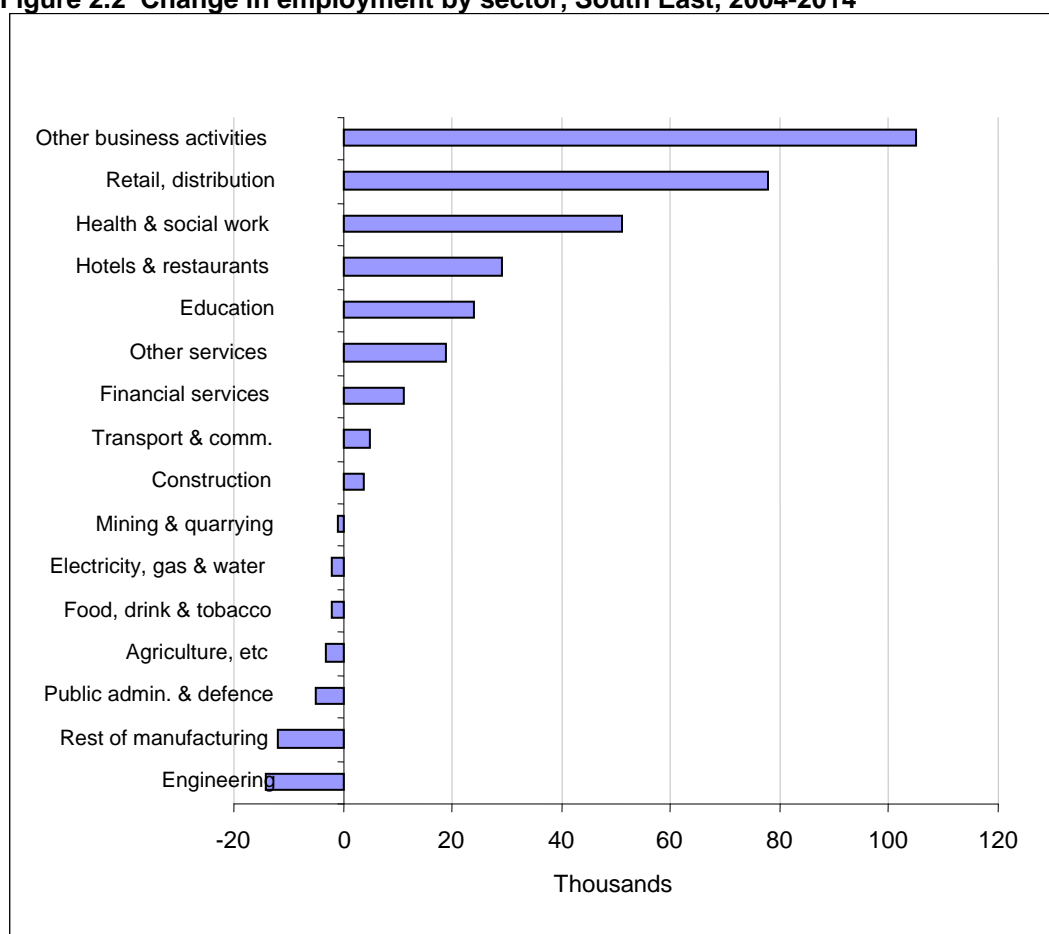
2.13 The following information from Working Futures 2 forecasts employment trends by sector from 2004 to 2014. The data should be interpreted as showing general long term trends. The data was published before the current economic downturn but remains the most robust forecast currently available.

2.14 Employment in the primary and manufacturing sectors in the South East is predicted to continue to contract over the next decade, although the pace of that contraction is not expected to be as fast as it was over the ten years between 1994 and 2004. By 2014 the manufacturing sector is likely to account for little more than 8 per cent of total regional employment, down from 18 per cent in 1984.

2.15 The Construction sector's share of the total South East regional workforce is predicted to fall slightly in percentage terms, but increase in absolute numbers by 4,000 to 313,000 in 2014.

⁷ 'Working futures 2', Institute of Employment Research, University of Warwick, 2004

Figure 2.2 Change in employment by sector, South East, 2004-2014



Source: 'Working Futures 2', Institute of Employment Research, University of Warwick, 2004.

2.16 Figure 2.2 shows the projected change in the numbers of people employed in 16 employment sectors in the South East. Aside from the large predicted growth in the generic 'other business activities' category (105,000), it shows the largest predicted growth in terms of numbers is in the retail and distribution sector (78,000) and the health and social work sector (51,000). It also shows a fall in the expected numbers required in engineering (14,000) and parts of the manufacturing sector (12,000).

South East's Priority Sectors

2.17 In 2008 the Learning and Skills Council in the South East reviewed which sectors should be the priority sectors in the South East. These are priority sectors in terms of their importance to the regional economy and where skills needs are significant at Level 2 and Level 3:

- Built environment
- Children's services and childcare
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Health and social care
- Hospitality and tourism
- Retail

- Transport and logistics
- There will also be a focus on IT User skills

2.18 A recent review⁸ has shown that the following Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) lie within the priority sectors:

- Built environment – Asset Skills, ConstructionSkills, SummitSkills
- Children’s services and childcare – Children's workforce development council (CWDC)
- Engineering and Manufacturing – SEMTA, Proskills, Improve, Skillfast
- Health and Social Care – Skills for Care, Skills for Health
- Hospitality and Tourism – People 1st
- Retail – Skillsmart Retail
- Transport and Logistics –Skills for Logistics, Go Skills
- IT – e-skills UK

2.19 The research showed the skills needs by these SSCs at Level 2 and Level 3 in the stated sectors (please see table 2.1 below).

Table 2.1 Qualification Levels by Sector Skills Council

	Proportion with below L2 qualifications	Proportion with L2 qualifications	Proportion with L3 qualifications
Asset Skills	9.9	20.9	20.2
ConstructionSkills	16.2	17.2	26.6
SummitSkills	16.3	16.4	28.1
SEMTA	12.1	12.8	22.4
Proskills	17.7	18.2	13.9
Improve	16.5	13.4	17.6
Skillfast-UK	23.6	13.7	15
Skills for Care	11.4	16.5	13.4
Skills for Health	11.4	16.5	13.4
People 1 st	14.7	26.4	23
Skillsmart Retail	20.2	26.8	20
Skills for Logistics	22.1	19.2	17.6
GoSkills	19.3	18.9	19.3
e-skills UK	7.6	8.9	13.7

Source: Labour Force Survey, Spring 2006

2.20 E-Skills UK had the lowest proportion of their workforce with below Level 2 qualifications (7.6 per cent). Nearly a quarter (23.6 per cent) of the workforce covered by Skillfast-UK sector had sub Level 2 qualifications.

2.21 The proportion of the workforce with Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications was higher in those occupations covered by People 1st (49.4 per cent). The lowest proportion of those with Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications was for e-skills UK. However, as e-skills UK also has a very low proportion of the workforce with below Level 2 qualifications the majority of the workforce must be qualified at Level 4 and above.

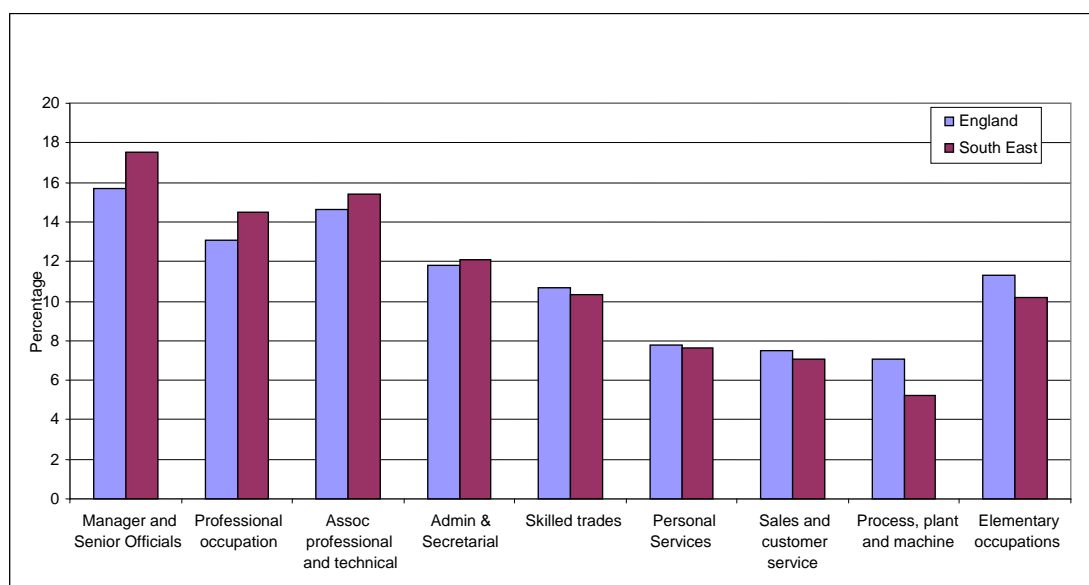
⁸ Reviewing the South East's Priority Sectors, Feb 2008

Occupations

2.22 The South East has a higher proportion of white-collar workers (managers and senior officials, professionals, associate professionals and administrative and secretarial occupations) than England as a whole.

2.23 Figure 2.3 shows that just under half of all employed people living in the South East worked in managerial and professional occupations (47 per cent), 4 per cent higher than in England as a whole. There were relatively large differences in the proportion of people employed in these occupations in different Local Authority areas within the South East. This ranged from 60 per cent of those living in Windsor and Maidenhead to just 35 per cent of those living in Slough. Please see the full Local Authority breakdown in Annex B.

Figure 2.3 Proportion of people employed by occupation, South East and England, 2007

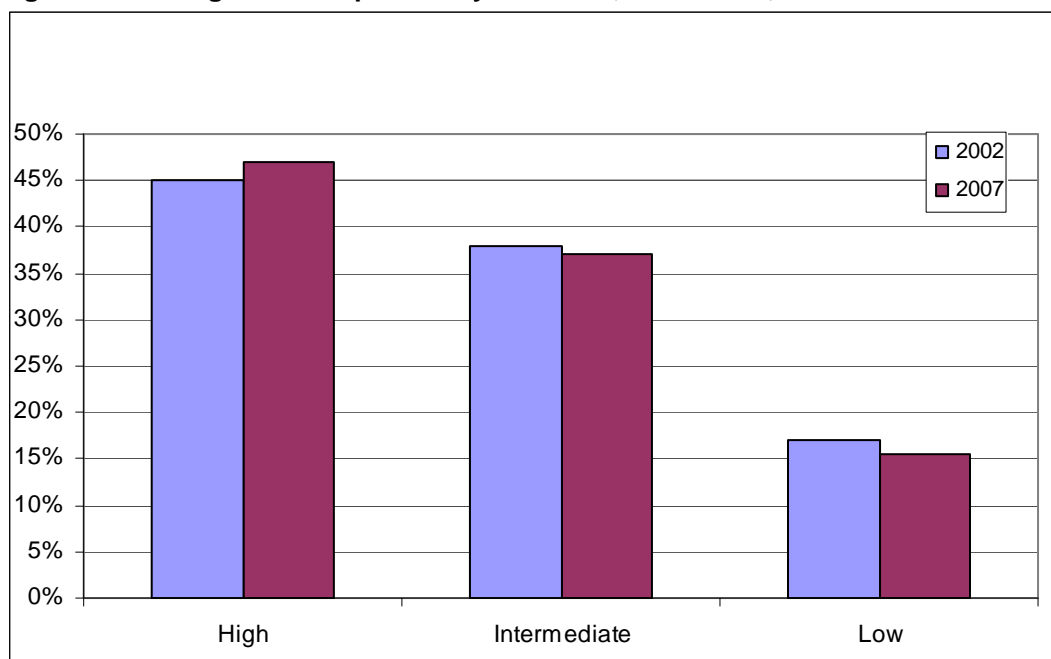


Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2007

2.24 Between 2002 and 2007, the South East, like the rest of the UK, has seen a growth in often low-paid service orientated occupations (for example, hairdressing and security services and some occupations in the hotel and catering sector), together with a much larger growth in higher-paid, higher-skilled jobs, mainly in professional and managerial occupations in finance and business services. This trend has been accompanied by a decline in the number of intermediate level jobs such as skilled trades and process, plant and machine operatives.

Occupational and replacement demand

Figure 2.4 Changes in occupations by skill level, South East, 2002 and 2007



Notes:

High-skilled occupations comprise managers & senior officials, professional & associate professional and technical occupations

Intermediate-skilled occupations comprise administrative & secretarial, skilled trades, personal services and sales & customer service

Low-skilled occupations comprise plant, process & machine operatives and elementary occupations

Source: ONS Local Area Labour Force Survey 2002 and Annual Population Survey 2007

2.25 Grouping occupations into three skills levels (Figure 2.4) shows that in 2007, 47 per cent of people in employment were working in high skill level jobs, an increase of 2 percentage points since 2002. There has also been a small decrease in the proportion working in Intermediate skilled jobs (from 38 per cent to 37 per cent) and low skilled jobs (from 17 per cent in 2002 to 15 per cent in 2007).

2.26 Within the South East, Windsor and Maidenhead Local Authority had the highest proportion of people in employment in high skilled jobs at 62 per cent. The Isle of Wight had the highest proportion of the workforce employed in Intermediate skilled jobs (46 per cent) and Slough had the highest proportion in low skilled jobs (26 per cent). Please see full LA breakdown in Annex B.

2.27 This pattern is broadly reflected nationally, however the proportion of people in the South East in high skill level jobs was higher than the national figure (47 per cent compared with 43 per cent), and the proportion in low skill level jobs lower 15 per cent compared with 18 per cent).

2.28 Also like the rest of the UK, the occupational mix of the South East's workforce is predicted to shift over the next decade towards higher-skilled

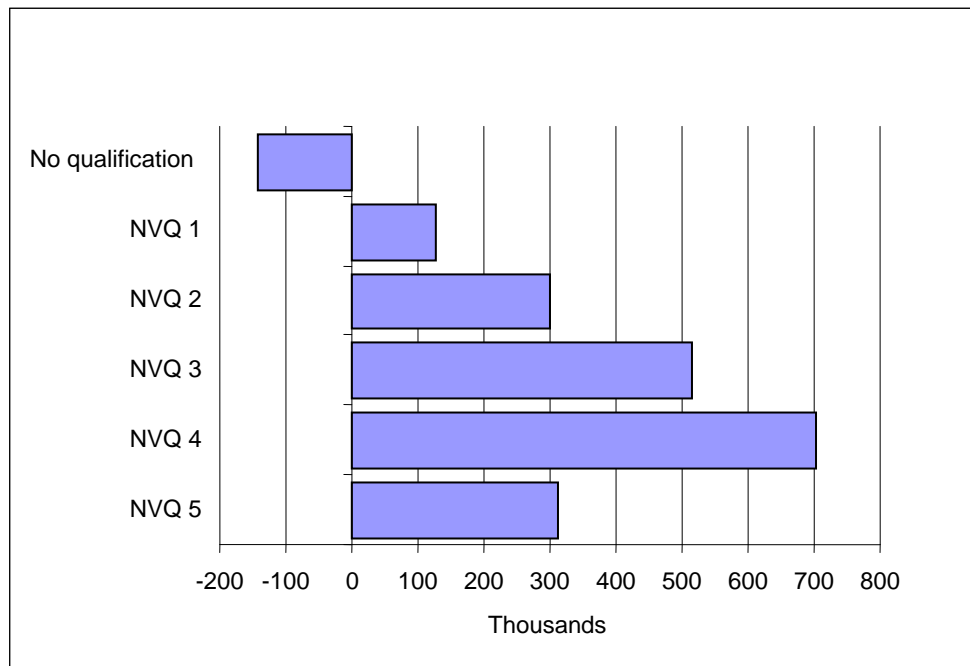
occupations.⁹ The occupational areas with the greatest need for new workers over the next decade will be managers (393,000), associate professionals (274,000) and professionals (268,000).

Qualifications demand

2.29 The following information is from Working Futures 2 forecasting qualifications demand from 2004 to 2014. This should be interpreted as predicting general long term trends over this time period. The impact of the current economic downturn and possible resulting growth in unemployment is not included in this model.

2.30 The predicted shift in the makeup of the regional workforce towards the higher-skilled occupations is likely to have a significant impact on the overall demand for higher-level qualifications.

Figure 2.5 Change in net demand for employees by level of qualification, South East, 2004-2014



Source: 'Working Futures 2', Institute of Employment Research, University of Warwick. 2004.

2.31 Between 2004 and 2014 the South East will require an additional 1.8 million workers. This will be made up of new job opportunities and by replacing existing workers (for example those that retire). The breakdown of the qualification requirements of the 1.8 million (Figure 2.5) shows that the largest growth in qualification level is at NVQ Level 4.

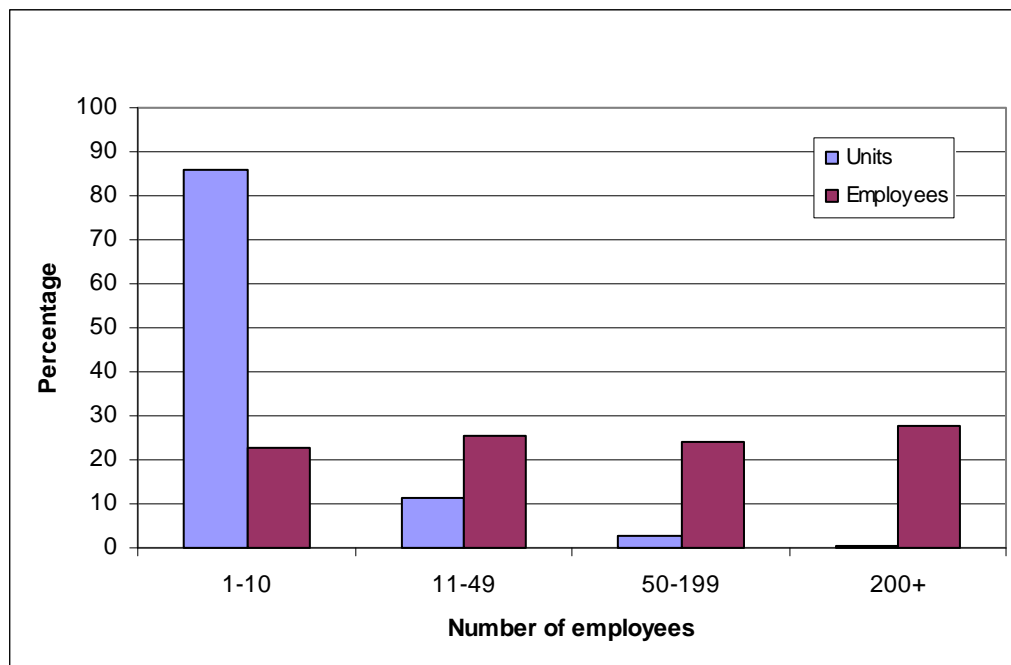
2.32 Between 2004 and 2014, the South East will require an additional 704,000 workers qualified to NVQ Level 4. The region will also require an additional 515,000 qualified to NVQ Level 3.

⁹ Please note that this data was published before the current economic downturn.

2.33 There will also be an overall reduction of 143,000 jobs that do not require staff to have any accredited qualifications.

Self-employment and entrepreneurial activity

Figure 2.6 Profile of businesses, South East, 2006



Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2006.

2.34 More than eight out of 10 business units in the South East (86 per cent) had 10 or fewer employees in 2006 (Figure 2.6). This is slightly more than the England average of 85 per cent. Within the South East, Buckinghamshire Local Authority had the highest proportion of business units with 10 employees or less at 89 per cent while Slough had the lowest proportion (79 per cent).

2.35 Across all business sizes, the South East had a much higher volume of business units than any other region, apart from London. There were 379,675 business units in the South East in 2006, accounting for almost 1 in 5 units in England.

2.36 According to the 2007 Annual Population Survey (APS) almost 550,000 people in the South East were self-employed, representing 14 per cent of the self employed nationally. The proportion of employment, which is slightly higher than the proportion of people in different LA areas who were self-employed varied, ranging from 19 per cent in East Sussex to 8 per cent in Milton Keynes. Across all parts of the region the proportion of self-employed women was around half that of self-employed men.

Business start-ups

2.37 The South East region is second only to Greater London in having the highest business start-up rate per 1,000 inhabitants in the country (3.5).

Within the South East region, Windsor and Maidenhead has the highest business start-up rate per 1,000 inhabitants (5.1) while Portsmouth has the lowest (2.1). As well as generating new businesses, it is also important to ensure the survival of new enterprises. Comparing VAT registrations against de-registrations can be taken as a proxy for business success.

2.38 There were 306,920 businesses registered for VAT in the South East at the end of 2006. There were more registrations, 9.3 per cent of business stock at the end of the year, than de-registrations (7.4 per cent). All Local Authorities in the South East saw more registrations than de-registrations with Slough seeing the highest percentage of registrations (12 per cent).

2.39 Overall, in 2006, the South East region saw a net growth in business ventures with an additional 6,015 businesses registering for VAT than de-registered.

Full-time and part-time working

2.40 According to the 2007 APS around a quarter of the 3.9 million people in employment in the South East were working part-time. This proportion has remained stable over time, decreasing by only 1 percentage point since 2002. In 2007, East Sussex had the highest proportion of part-time workers in the South East at 30 per cent. The lowest proportion of part-time workers was in Milton Keynes where just one in five of those employed were in part-time work.

2.41 Women are more likely to be working part-time than men. In 2007 more than three-quarters of part time workers were women.

Earnings

2.42 According to the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), full-time earnings for those working in the South East were above the national average in 2007, with a regional average gross weekly pay of £500 compared to a national average of £481. Outside of London, this is the highest average rate of pay for any region.

2.43 Men working full time in the South East earned on average £127 a week more than their female counterparts: £535 a week for males, compared with £408 for females.

2.44 Workplace earnings were highest in Bracknell Forest, where the average full-time wage was £638 a week. The Isle of Wight had the lowest weekly wage at £408 a week, followed by East Sussex at £419 a week.

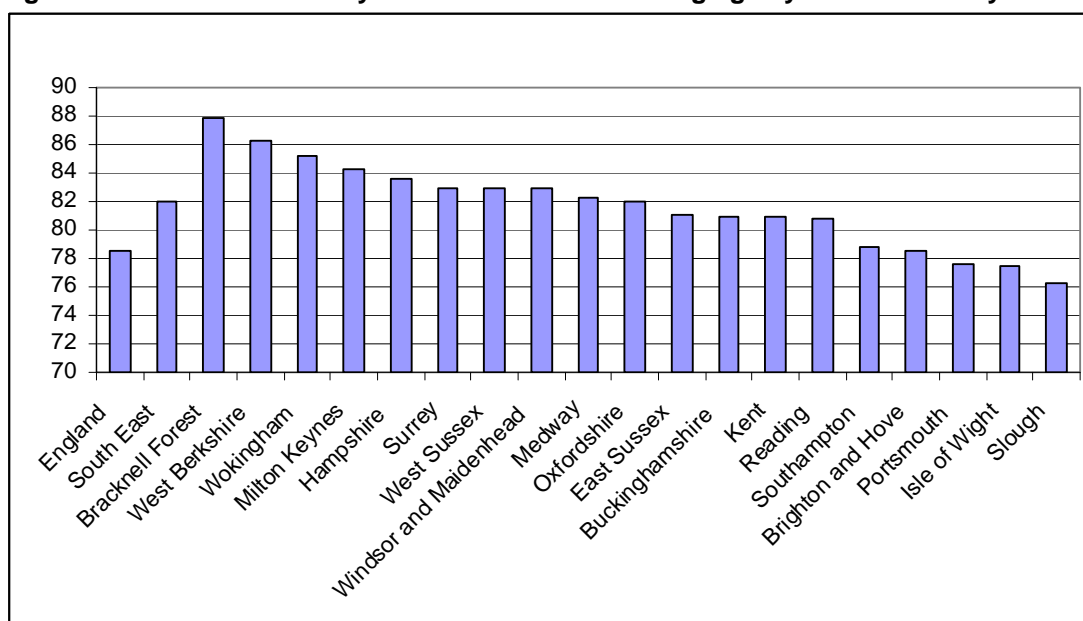
TRENDS IN LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION AND RISING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

2.45 The following labour market information is the most recent data available from the 2007 Annual Population Survey. This data will therefore not show the effects of the current economic downturn.

2.46 Economically active people are those who are either in employment or registered as unemployed but available for and seeking employment. In 2007 the economic activity rate for the working age population in the South East was 82 per cent, which was higher than the rate for England (79 per cent) and the highest of all the English regions. The rate in the South East has remained stable over the past 10 years.

2.47 Economic activity rates differ slightly across the South East. Bracknell Forest has the highest rate in the region (88 per cent) while Slough has the lowest at 76 per cent.

Figure 2.7 Economic Activity rates for those of working age by Local Authority



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2007

Employment rates

2.48 According to the 2007 APS, the South East had the highest employment rate among the English regions (78 per cent compared with 74 per cent for the country as a whole). There were differences in employment rates at LA level, with West Berkshire having the highest rate and Slough the lowest (84 per cent and 72 per cent respectively).

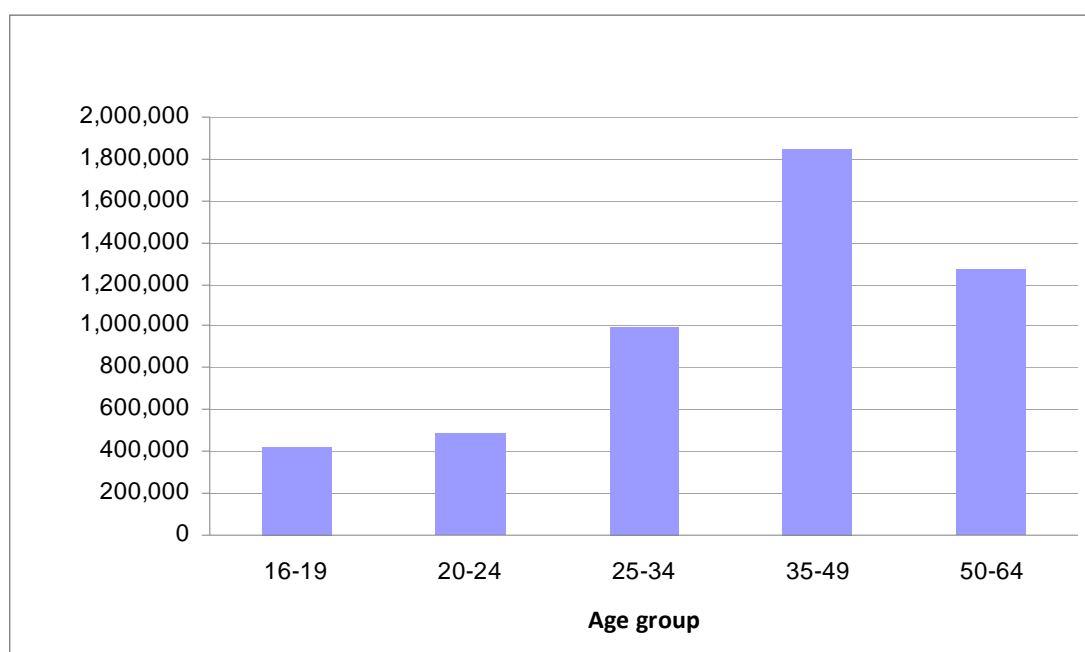
2.49 Employment rates also differed between men and women (83 per cent and 74 per cent respectively). The rates for both sexes were higher in the South East than they were nationally.

Profile of the labour market

2.50 According to the APS, 45 per cent of the workforce in the South East was female in 2007, reflecting the national rate, and that figure has remained stable since 2000. Female employment is predicted to rise between 2004 and 2014 by 8 per cent, with an extra 250,000 joining the workforce in the South East, while male employment is predicted to remain constant.

2.51 Figure 2.7 below shows the age distribution of the South East workforce. It shows that those aged between 35 and 49 made up the largest group.

Figure 2.8 South East workforce by age, 2007



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, 2007

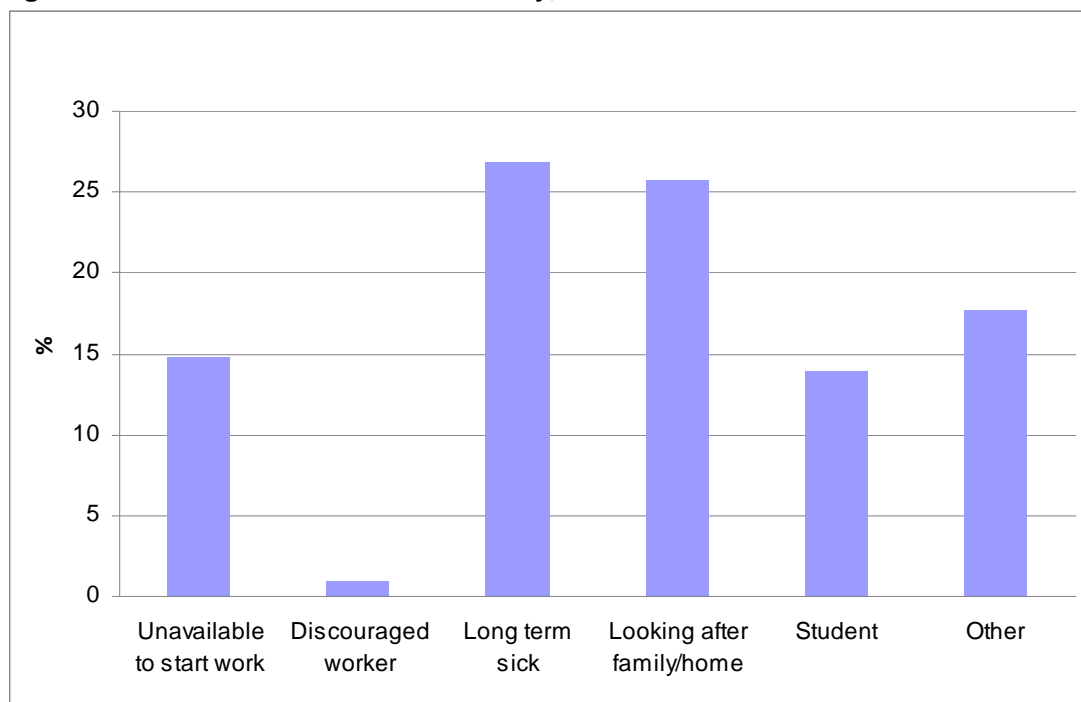
2.52 The ONS 2005 experimental ethnicity statistics show that nearly nine out of 10 people in the South East are white British. The largest minority ethnic group are from the Other White group, which makes up a further 3.5 per cent of the population. Parts of the South East have higher concentrations of people from ethnic minority groups than others, for example Slough is one of the most ethnically diverse areas outside of London (57 per cent are white British, 15 per cent belong to the Indian group, and 12 per cent are Pakistani).

WORKLESSNESS AND ECONOMIC INACTIVITY

2.53 Mirroring the picture set out in section 2.4, economic inactivity rates have remained fairly constant in the South East over the past decade. In 2007, almost one in five of the working age population were economically inactive (18 per cent).

2.54 Economic inactivity rates for 16-24 year olds have increased in the region over the past five years, but this reflects the welcome increase in participation in learning. Other age groups have been broadly stable, the exception being the 50+ age group.

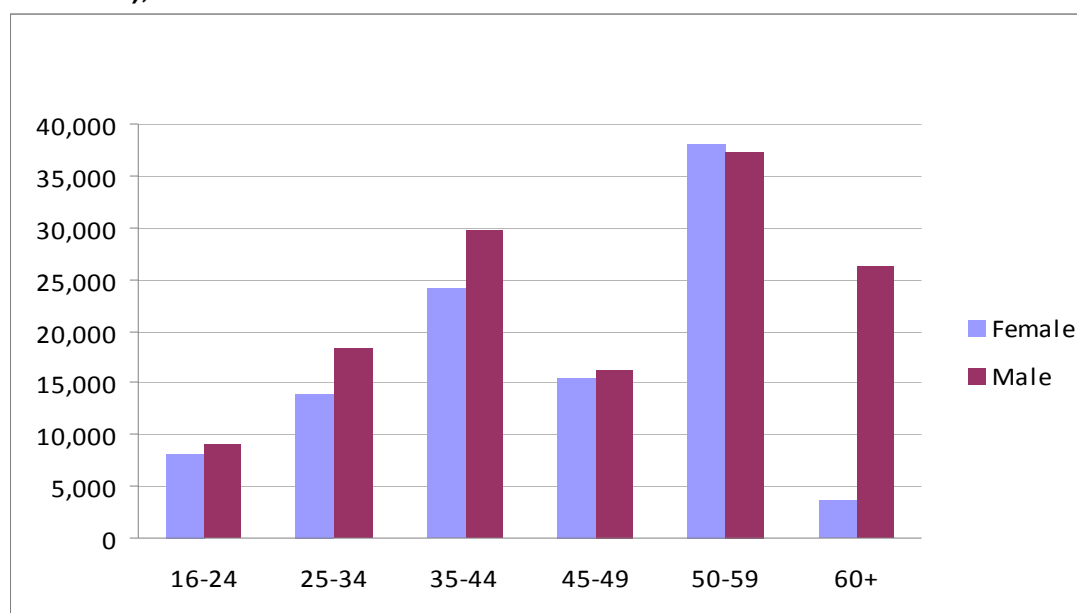
Figure 2.9 Reasons for economic inactivity, South East 2007



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, 2007

2.55 Figure 2.9 shows that the majority of the 907,000 economically inactive people in the South East are either Long Term Sick (27 per cent) or looking after family/home (26 per cent) in 2007.

Figure 2.10 Benefit claimants by age (Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disability Allowance), 2008



Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Feb 2008

2.56 Eleven per cent of people resident in the South East were claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) in February 2008. Men are more likely than women to be claimants (57 per cent), but within the male workforce it is older, manual workers with few formal qualifications who are the most likely to claim (as shown in Figure 2.10).

2.57 Kent County accounts for one in five claimants in the South East (21 per cent). Brighton and Hove and the Isle of Wight Local Authorities have the highest proportion of male claimants (60 per cent). Please see Annex for full Local Authority breakdown.

Unemployment

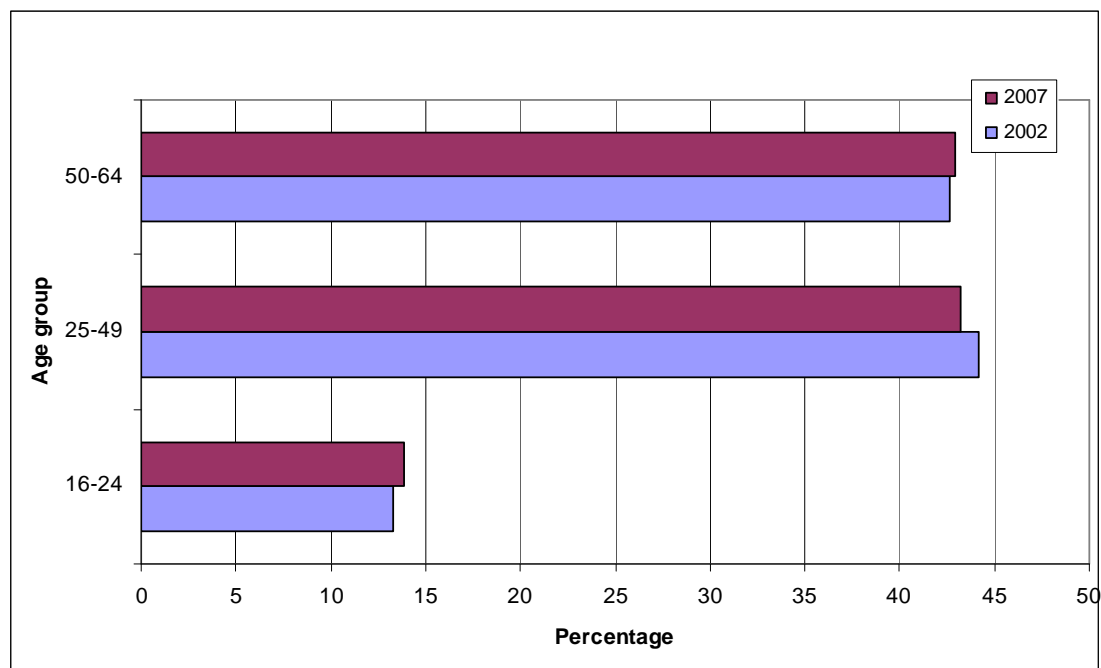
2.58 Unemployment rates in the South East were lower than the national rate in 2007 (4.3 per cent compared with 5.4 per cent). This rate is the second lowest among the English regions. Southampton Local Authority has the highest unemployment rate in the South East at 7.1 per cent while Wokingham has the lowest (2.3 per cent).

2.59 Unemployment rates were higher among young people (16-24), with youth unemployment in the South East more than twice the rate for the region's workforce as a whole.

2.60 In September 2008, 80,630 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance in the South East, an increase of 13,136 on September 2007.

WORKFORCE CHANGE

Figure 2.11 Change in age distribution of working age population South East, 2002 and 2007



Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey 2002, Annual Population Survey 2007

2.61 In absolute terms, the working age population in the South East has increased by 164,000 since 2002 (a 3 per cent increase). Within the South East, Portsmouth Local Authority saw the largest increase in the working age population of 10 per cent from 117,000 to 129,000 between 2002 and 2007. There were five Local Authorities in the South East that saw just a 1 per cent increase including Medway and Wokingham. Please see full Local Authority breakdown in Annex B.

2.62 The proportion of both young and older workers increased between 2002 and 2007 by 0.7 and 0.3 per cent respectively, while the proportion of 25-49 year olds decreased by nearly 1 percentage point (Figure 2.11).

2.63 In 2007 the age distribution of the workforce varied considerably across the region. Portsmouth had the highest proportion of young workers in the region, one in five workers were aged 16-24, while Windsor and Maidenhead had the smallest proportion (11 per cent). Over half of the workers in Slough were aged 25-49 while in the Isle of Wight only a third of workers were aged 25-49. The Isle of Wight had the highest proportion of older workers (53 per cent) and Reading Local Authority had the lowest proportion (31 per cent).

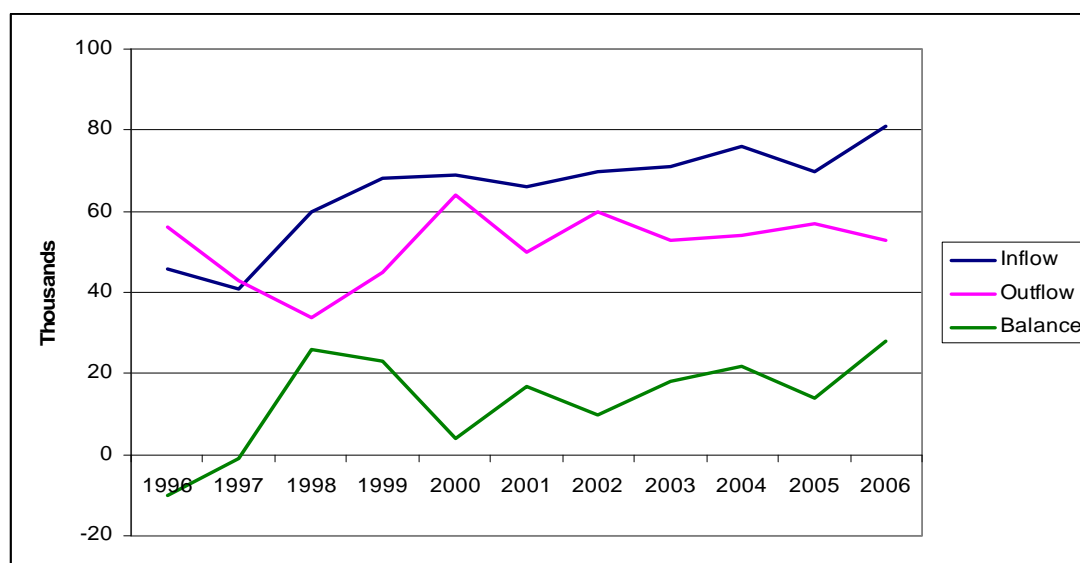
2.64 Medway saw the largest increase in the proportion of young workers between 2002 and 2007 (3.3 percentage points), while Southampton saw a 3.7 point decline. Conversely Southampton saw the largest increase (3.7 percentage points) in the proportion of workers aged 25-49 and Medway saw the largest decrease (by nearly 5 points).

2.65 West Berkshire Local Authority saw the largest increase in numbers of older workers (3.7 percentage points) while Portsmouth saw the largest decline (4.5 points).

Immigration

2.66 The International Passenger Survey (IPS) showed that in 2006, 81,000 people migrated to the South East from overseas (Figure 2.12), the highest number of people since 2000 and the highest number outside of London.

Figure 2.12 International migration flows, 1996 - 2006



Source: Total International Migration, Office of National Statistics (ONS) 1996-2006

2.67 Over the past 10 years international immigration to the South East has increased steadily from around 46,000 in 1996 to around 80,000 in 2007 with a fall between 1996 and 1997.

2.68 The South East is one of only three regions in England, along with East and South West regions, to show an increase in the number of people migrating from other parts of England and Wales between mid-2006 and mid-2007.

2.69 Summaries of overall migration show that Kent County experienced the largest increase in population between 2006 and 2007 as a result of internal migration to the area. Conversely Reading and Slough Local Authorities saw the largest decreases (by 1,900 and 1,800 people respectively).

2.70 In the South East, the proportion of the working age population born outside the UK was 9 per cent in 2008¹⁰. This is lower than the national proportion of 14 per cent.

¹⁰ ONS, Annual Population Survey, 2007.

National Insurance registration for foreign nationals

2.71 In 2007/08 just over 733,000 foreign nationals registered for a national insurance number (NINo) in the UK. Over a third of those were living in London, with a further 11 per cent (83,000) living in the South East, the highest proportion outside of London.

2.72 Within the South East, the Inner areas account for the largest concentrations of NINo allocations to overseas nationals¹¹. Migrants are more concentrated in the inner areas than is the working age population as a whole. NINo allocations to overseas nationals as a whole have tended to be relatively concentrated in larger Local Authority districts.

Migrant Workers Research¹²

2.73 The South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA) commissioned a piece of research, with input from the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA), the Government Office for the South East (GOSE), the LSC and other partners, on the economic impact of migrant workers from the central and eastern European Member States of the European Union (EU).

2.74 The objectives of the research included providing a detailed profile of migrant workers and to assess their impact on the labour market, the general regional economy and local services.

2.75 Analysis was carried out on relevant administrative data sources including National Insurance Registrations to provide the basis for the research fieldwork. Researchers interviewed 100 migrant workers in seven case study areas in the South East. Employers were interviewed as were representatives from stakeholder organisations, such as, colleges, schools, police and primary care trusts. Several focus groups with migrant workers were also held.

2.76 The findings showed that all parts of the region have seen an increase in migrant workers over recent years. Poles are by far the largest group of migrant workers from Central and Eastern Europe. However, the representation of different national groups varies between local areas. Migrant workers are drawn overwhelmingly from the younger working age groups.

2.77 Migrant workers were not evenly distributed across sectors and occupations. Sectors with a relatively high concentration of migrant workers

¹¹ *Migrant Workers in the South East Regional Economy 2008*
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/20080722_Migrant_Workers_in_the_South_East_Regional_Economy_Final_Report.pdf

¹² *Migrant Workers in the South East Regional Economy 2008*.

relative to UK-born workers include manufacturing, hotels & restaurants and health & social work. Occupationally, migrant workers are concentrated in lower skilled occupations – notably in elementary occupations.

2.78 The study found that migrant workers have a positive impact on economic outputs.

- Generally, migrant workers are addressing labour and skill shortages, and so have a positive economic impact.
- Migrant workers have made an important and growing contribution to regional economic output over the period covered in analyses from 2002 to 2007.
- A possible downturn in flows of migrant workers could lead to labour and skill shortages in some sectors and occupations.

Impacts on UK-born workers

2.79 There is no statistically significant evidence of an ‘unemployment penalty’ for UK-born workers associated with increased employment amongst migrant workers. Nor is there any statistically significant evidence for unemployment rates to have increased at local level due to an increase in migrant workers.

2.80 There is no clear statistical evidence that growth in migrant employment has been associated with a suppression of earnings. However, some stakeholders felt that migrant workers were contributing to maintenance of low wage levels in some sectors and occupations.

2.81 Concerns remain amongst some third party interviewees about actual or potential negative impacts amongst those elements of the UK-born population (and the migrant worker population) who are in the most vulnerable positions within, or at the margins of, the labour market.

2.82 An implication on the impact to the regional economy is that some employers might be tempted to rely on migrant workers to address labour and skill shortages. They may achieve individual business gains from such a strategy in the short term. But such a strategy may not be in the interests of the regional economy in the longer term. It may be more advantageous to ensure ongoing investment in alternative strategic options – such as investing in development of the existing workforce, reforming labour processes or substituting capital for labour.

EMPLOYER SKILLS ISSUES – KEY FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL EMPLOYERS SKILLS SURVEY 2007

2.83 The following information presents key headline findings from the LSC’s National Employer Skills Survey 2007 (NESS07). Key headline findings from NESS07 for the South East are listed in table 2.2 below, with comparisons shown from NESS05, NESS04, and NESS03 for the South East,

and in the last column, NESS07 England data. This research was completed before the start of the current economic downturn.

Table 2.2 Headline findings 2003 - 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2007	2007
Recruitment problems	SOUTH EAST				ENGLAND
% of establishments with any vacancies	18%	19%	18%	18%	18%
% of establishments with any hard-to-fill vacancies	8%	9%	8%	7%	7%
% of establishments with skill-shortage vacancies (SSVs)	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%
% of all vacancies which are SSVs	19%	24%	26%	22%	21%
Number of SSVs	24k	29k	26k	26k	130k
Number of SSVs per 1,000 employees	6	8	7	7	6
Skills gaps					
% of establishments with any staff not fully proficient	22%	23%	18%	15%	15%
% of staff not fully proficient	10%	8%	7%	6%	6%
Training					
% of establishments training staff over the last 12 months	61%	68%	70%	69%	67%
% of establishments providing off-the-job training in the last 12 months	n/a	50%	52%	45%	46%
% of employees trained over the last 12 months	53%	62%	66%	61%	63%
Training expenditure in last 12 months	n/a	n/a	£6.0bn	£6.1bn	£38.6bn

2.84 A minority of employers in the South East reported recruitment difficulties at the time of interview (7 per cent), slightly fewer than reported difficulties in 2005 (8 per cent) or 2004 (9 per cent), indicating slight easing of pressures in the labour market.

2.85 Skills shortages occur when there is an insufficient supply of skills across the labour market to meet the required demand. A hard-to-fill vacancy that is due to applicants lacking the required skills, qualifications or experience is called a skills-shortage vacancy (SSV). The proportion of employers encountering recruitment difficulties specifically because of skills shortages among applicants has remained at 5 per cent, and the number of reported SSVs in the South East has also not changed compared with 2005, at around 26,000. This suggests a very stable skills situation in the labour market over the last 2 to 3 years in the South East.

2.86 In comparison across England as a whole the number of SSVs fell from 2005 to 2007. As a result the proportion of SSVs across England occurring in the South East (20 per cent) is higher than in 2005 (18 per cent).

2.87 The proportion of SSVs across England occurring in the South East is higher than the region's share of total employment (16 per cent). This essentially reflects a buoyant labour market rather than a skills problem per se, in that the region's share of SSVs is similar to the proportion of all vacancies which occur in the South East (19 per cent).

2.88 A relatively small proportion of the workforce in the South East (6 per cent) are considered to lack proficiency, the same proportion as found across England as a whole. Matching the national trend, the proportion of staff not proficient in the South East has been falling since 2003.

2.89 Skills gaps are more common in 'lower level' occupations both in absolute terms and as a proportion of the total workforce in those occupations. Overall 8 per cent of elementary staff and sales and customer service staff lack full proficiency, and almost two in five of all those lacking proficiency in the South East (37 per cent) work in these two occupational groups. By contrast, just 4 per cent of managers have skills gaps.

2.90 Over two thirds of employers in the South East provide training for their staff (69 per cent), slightly higher than the proportion nationally (67 per cent), and very similar to the levels reported in 2004 and 2005.

2.91 However, there has been a large fall in the proportion of employers in the South East providing off-the-job training in the last 12 months, from around half in 2004 and 2005 to 45 per cent in 2007. The proportion of training expenditure spent on off-the-job training in the South East (41 per cent) is lower than any other region.

2.92 Results suggest that three-fifths (61 per cent) of the South East's workforce received training in the previous 12 months, lower than found nationally (63 per cent) and a big fall from the 2005 South East figure (66 per cent). This is despite the proportion of staff being trained increasing at a national level from 2005 to 2007.

2.93 Training volumes in the South East in terms of days training per annum per person trained and per employee are a little below the national average. The total number of days training provided is equivalent to 9 days per annum for every worker in the region (compared with 10 days per employee across England) and 15 days per annum per person trained (16 nationally).

2.94 Including labour costs, employers in the South East spent £6.1bn providing training in the 12 months prior to the survey. This is a very slight increase (1 per cent) on expenditure in 2005 and a fall in real terms. This compares with an increase of 16 per cent in training expenditure from 2005 to 2007 across England as a whole. Employer expenditure on training in the South East is equivalent to £1,700 per person trained per annum.

2.95 Awareness and involvement with Train to Gain in the South East (29 per cent and 4 per cent respectively) were very close to the England-wide results (28 per cent awareness and 4 per cent of employers actively involved).

3 The priority for young people

3.1 The LSC is continuing to work to ensure that there is an appropriate place in education and training for all young people in the South East. Learning plays a crucial role in providing young people with the necessary skills for a successful and rewarding life.

3.2 The LSC wants all young people to be inspired to learn and to get the learning that meets their needs and aspirations. The LSC is continuing to increase the range of high quality courses and have focused on increasing the range of practical and vocational options between 14 and 19 for young people who have not achieved Level 2 and are supporting the roll out of the Diploma entitlement across the region.

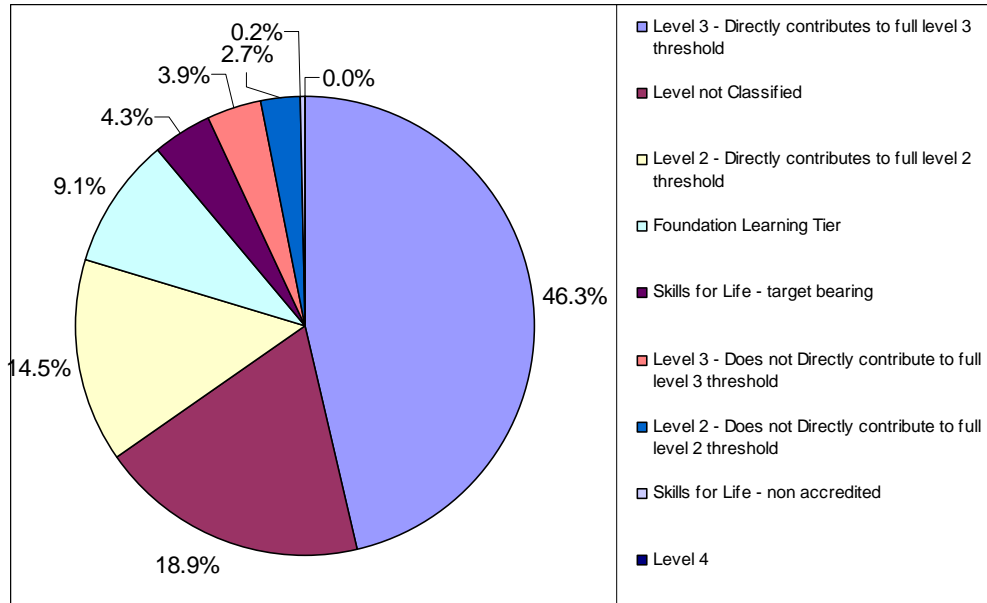
3.3 The LSC is also focusing on increasing the range of flexible local opportunities for the NEET group and encouraging new provision in NEET hotspot areas in the South East. Across the region providers have made significant progress in raising participation and improving success and have the largest percentage of young people achieving Level 2 and Level 3 by 19 of all the regions. The LSC wishes to continue on this positive trajectory to ensure that young people are prepared for productive adult and working lives.

3.4 In July 2007 the Government announced that it will transfer the responsibility for funding 16-19 education and training from the Learning and Skills Council to Local Authorities. In the South East there are 19 Upper Tier Local Authorities and the LSC has been working with them to prepare for the future. In anticipation of this change the strategic analysis in the South East will focus wherever possible on providing the data on young people by Local Authority area.

INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

3.5 In 2008/09 the South East will invest more than ever before in learning and skills in the South East region. The LSC seeks to buy the best quality provision to meet the needs of individuals, employers and communities across the region, and will employ robust measures to eliminate poor-quality provision and to invest in providers that can deliver effectively.

Figure 3.1 Young people: Mix of provision funding, 2006/07

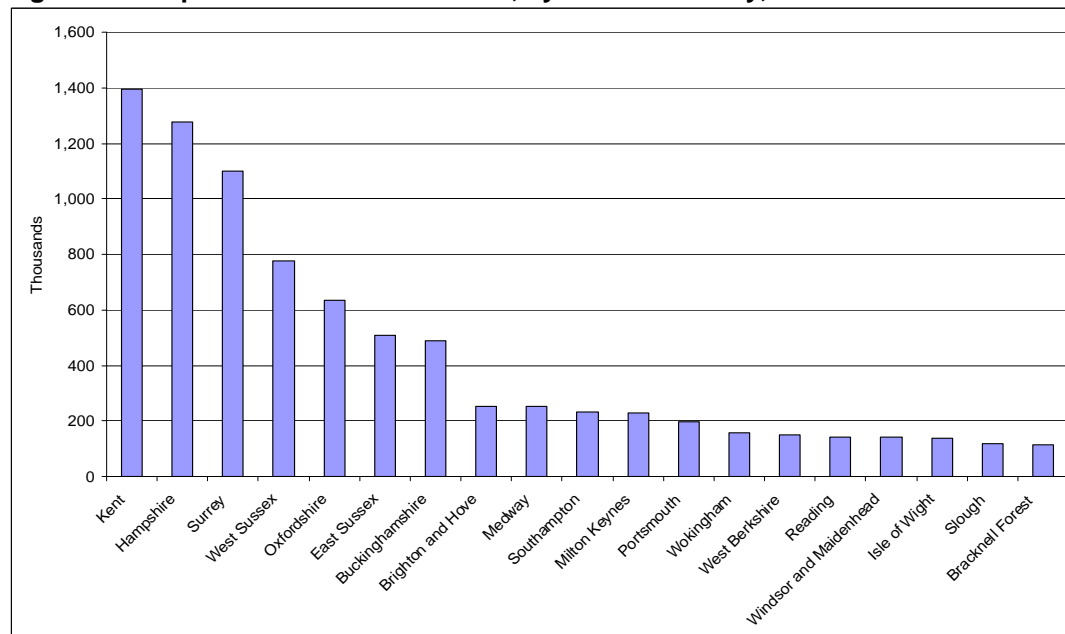


Source: 2008-09 Regional Commissioning Plan, LSC South East

3.6 In 2006/07, £551.8m was spent on Young People's provision by the South East LSC. The largest share of this (46.3 per cent) was spent on Level 3 provision that directly contributed to the Full Level 3 threshold. A further 18.9 per cent was spent on provision where the level was not classified (most notably Level 2 Key Skills in ICT, followed by Key Skills in Improving Own Learning and Performance), and 14.5 per cent on Level 2 provision that directly contributed to the full Level 2 threshold.

POPULATION

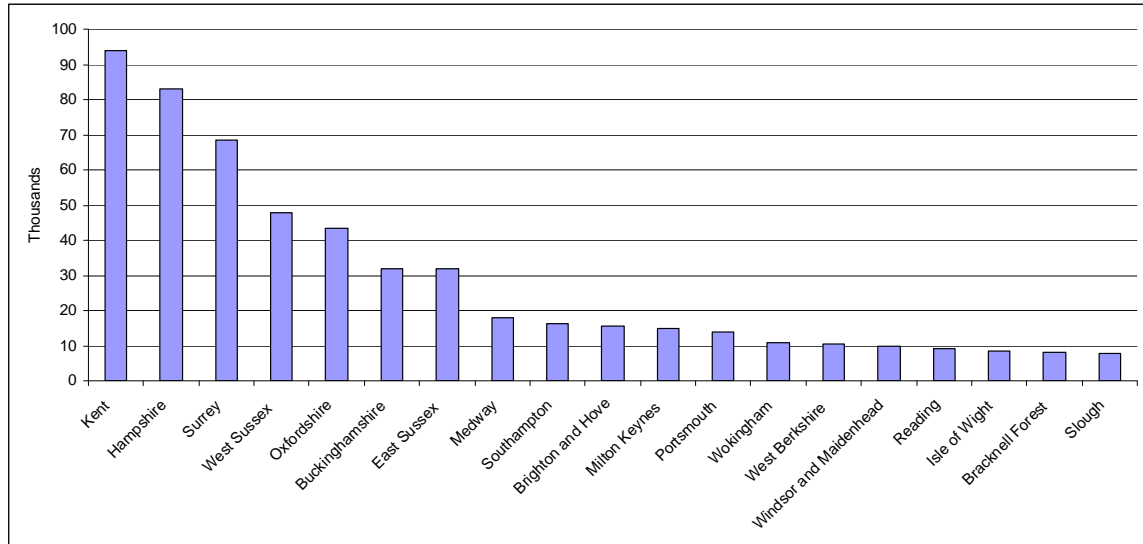
Figure 3.2 Population of the South East, by Local Authority, 2007



Source: Office for National Statistics, Mid-year population estimates, 2007

3.7 According to ONS 2007 mid year population estimates, there were 8.3 million people living in the South East, making up 16.3 per cent of the population of England. Figure 3.2 shows their distribution across the region. Kent is the most populated LA, with 1,395,000 residents, followed by Hampshire (1,277,000) and Surrey (1,098,000). In contrast, 5 Local Authorities had populations of less than 150,000.

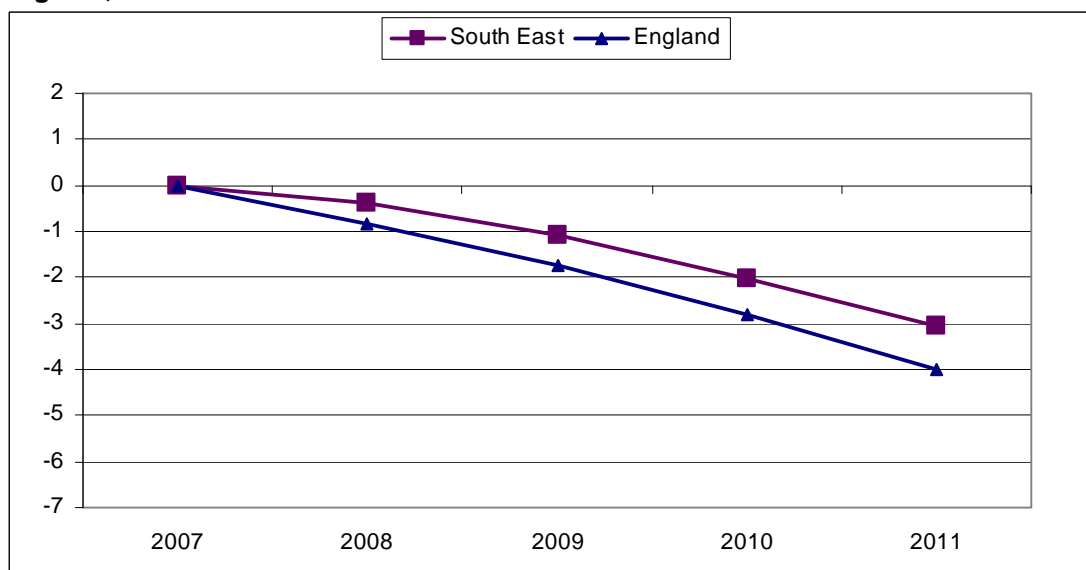
Figure 3.3 15-19 year old population of the South East, by Local Authority, 2007



Source: Office for National Statistics, Mid-year population estimates, 2007

3.8 There were 545,000 young people (aged 15-19) living in the South East in 2007. In line with the distribution of the general population, the number of 15-19 year olds differed across the South East. Kent had the largest number (94,000) compared with Bracknell Forest and Slough, who had 8,100 15-19 year olds or less (See Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.4 population projection percentage change 14-19 year olds, South East and England, 2007-2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2004-based sub-national population projections

3.9 Between 2007 and 2011 the population of 14-19 year olds in the South East is predicted to decline by 3 per cent, lower than the decline for England (4 per cent). In the South East, this represents a reduction of 19,700 14-19 year olds over this time frame. The rate of decline differs across the across the South East, from no change in the 14-19 population on the Isle of Wight, to a decline of around 8.5 per cent in Reading and 8.4 per cent in Portsmouth. Measures to increase the number of young people participating in learning (such as raising of the compulsory participation age) are expected to result in an increase in the number in education, despite the overall fall in the population.

3.10 For more information, see section 'Impact of the raising of the compulsory participation age (ROCPA) in the South East among 16 to 18 year olds' on page 44.

PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

3.11 Rates of participation in education and training among 16 and 17 year olds in the South East are high, (83 per cent), 1 percentage point higher than the national rate. Information on young people in the NEET group shows that, for November 2007 - January 2008, 5.3 per cent of the region's young people are not participating in any form of formal learning. This is below the national average (6.7 per cent) and the lowest among the English regions. For more information on NEETs please see page 50.

Table 3.1 Percentage of 16 and 17 year olds in education and training, 2006

Activity	England	South East
Full-time education	72%	75%
Total education and training	82%	83%
Population (Thousands)	1,326	217

Source; Department for Children, Schools and Families, SFR 13/2008

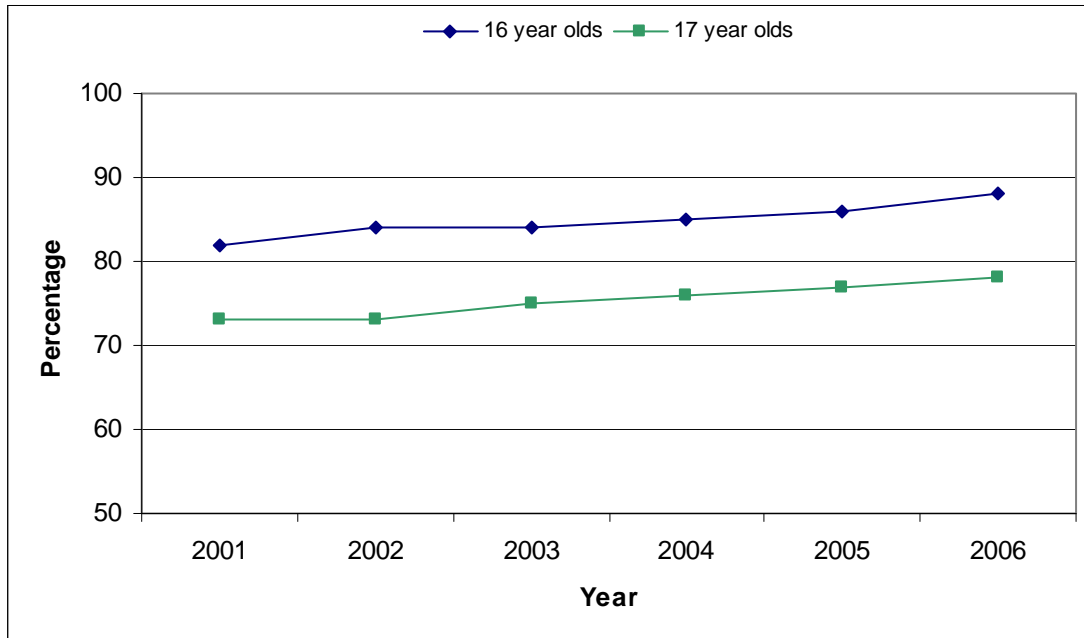
3.12 Participation in education and training among young people differs markedly between 16 and 17 year olds in the South East, which reflects the national trend. In 2006, 88 per cent of 16 year olds were still in education or training, compared with 78 per cent of 17 year olds. For both groups, participation rates in the South East were 1 percentage point higher than the national rate.

3.13 From 2001 to 2006, the majority of Local Authorities in the South East experienced increases in participation, and for some areas these increases were very significant.

3.14 The most significant was for Milton Keynes, where participation for 16 and 17 year olds increased by 17 percentage points and 16 percentage points between 2001 and 2005.

3.15 Among 16 year olds there were also large increases in participation in Slough (16 percentage points) and Portsmouth (15 percentage points). Among 17 year olds, there were also large increases in Southampton (13 percentage points).

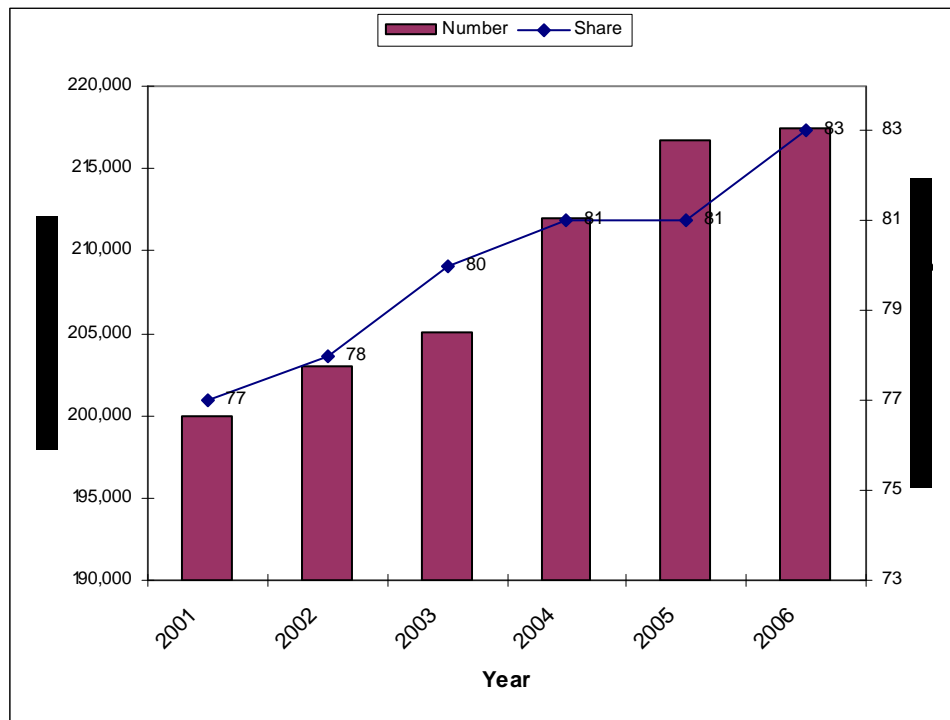
Figure 3.5 Participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds, South East, 2001 onward



Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families, Statistical First Release 13/2008

3.16 In the South East, 83 per cent of 16 and 17 year olds were in some form of education or training in 2006. Although this was not a dramatic increase, the number of young people in education or training is at the highest level ever recorded.

Figure 3.6 Participation of 16 and 17 year olds in education and training, South East, 2001 and 2006



Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families, Statistical First Release 13/2008

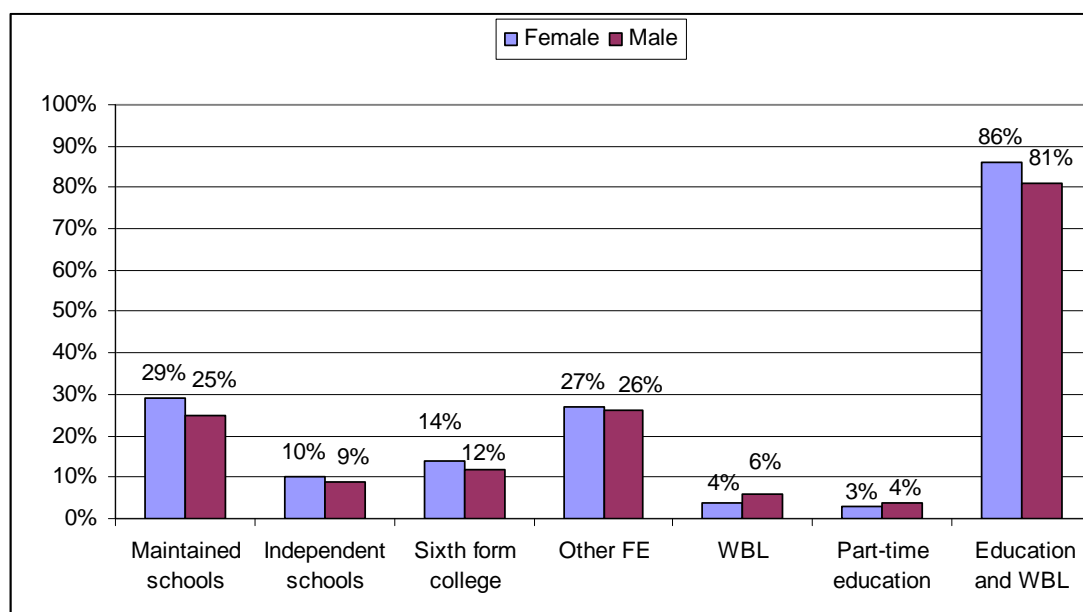
Gender

3.17 A higher proportion of young females participated in some form of education or training than males (86 per cent compared to 81 per cent). This balance between females and males reflects the national trend, but the levels of participation in both cases are higher in the South East than they are nationally.

3.18 Nationally and regionally there has been an increase in participation for both genders in the period 1995 to 2006.

3.19 In the South East 79 per cent of females and 71 per cent of males were in full time education at the end of 2006, a similar balance to the national figures. Males are more likely to take part in WBL programmes than females. In the South East 6 per cent of all 16 or 17 year old males learn through WBL programmes compared with 4 per cent of females, again a similar balance to the national figures (8 per cent compared to 5 per cent).

Figure 3.7 Proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in education and training, by gender and institution type, 2006



Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families, Statistical First Release 13/2008

LSC FUNDED PROVISION

3.20 Nationally, 1.6 million young learners were involved in LSC-funded programmes in 2006/07. Of these, 1.26 million learners were in FE and school sixth form provision, and 234,000 learners in Work Based Learning (WBL) and Entry to Employment (E2E).

In the South East

3.21 The number of young people in FE rose from 116,300 to 122,000 between 2005/06 and 2006/07, an increase of 4.9 per cent, higher than the national increase (2.8 per cent).¹³

3.22 In the same period, the number of young people in School Sixth Forms rose from 59,900 to 61,300, a 2.3 per cent increase, compared with a national increase of 1.1 per cent.¹⁴

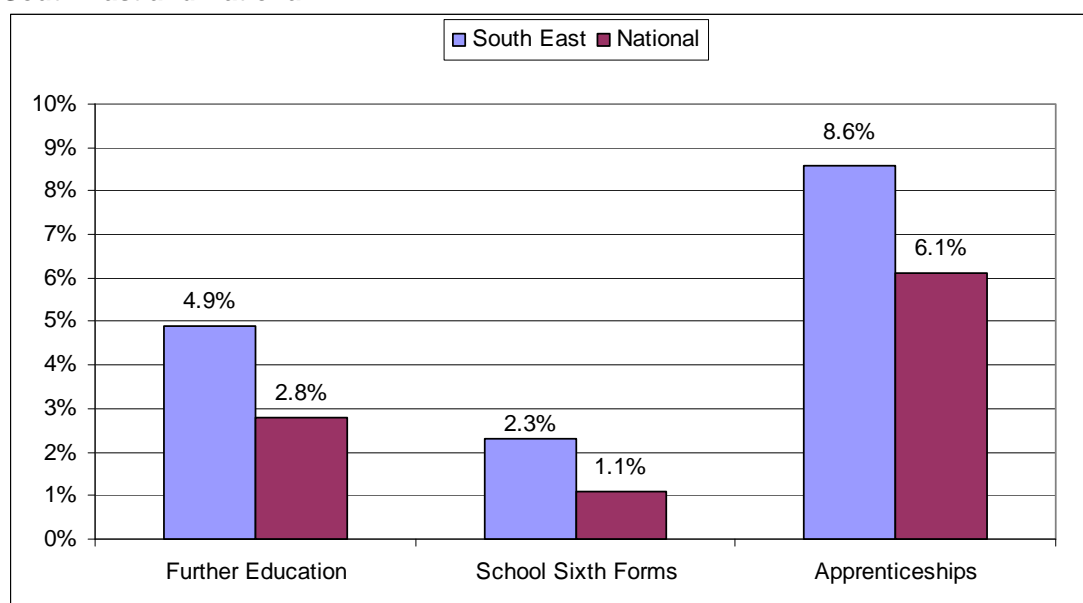
3.23 During this period, the number of young people participating in Apprenticeships (Level 2) and Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) increased from 10,200 to 11,000, the largest percentage increase of all the regions (8.6 per cent) and 2.5 percentage points higher than rate nationally (6.1 per cent).¹⁵

¹³ Source: Table 2.1.1, Performance Review Information, June 2008

¹⁴ Source: Table 2.1.2, Performance Review Information, June 2008

¹⁵ Source: Table 2.1.4, Performance Review Information, June 2008

Figure 3.8 Percentage change in participation by type of provision, 2005/06 to 2006/07, South East and National

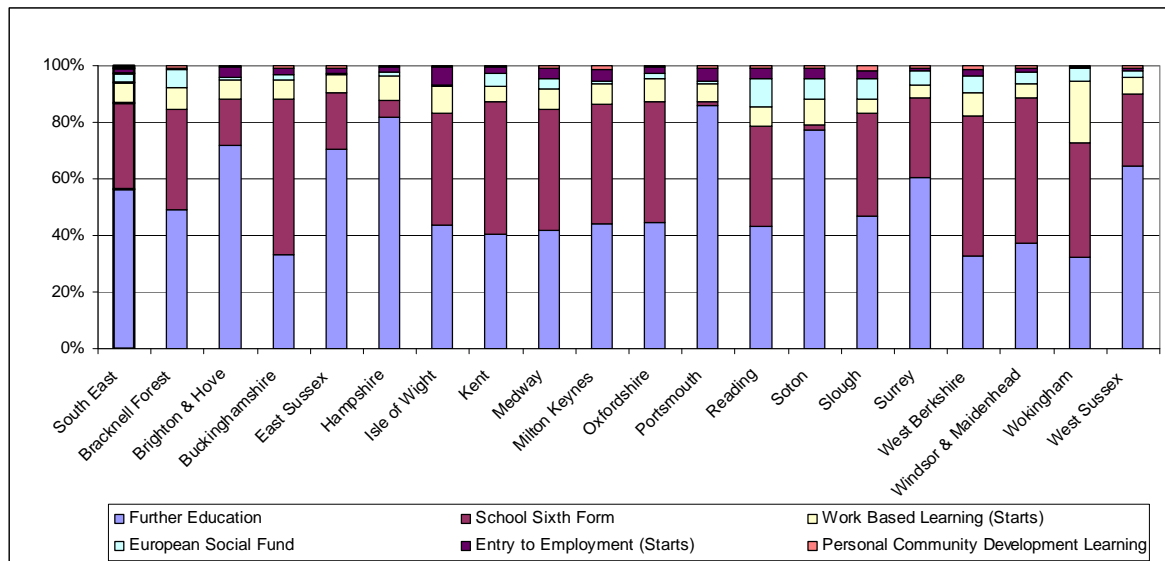


Source: LSC Performance Review Information, June 2008, Table 2.1.1, 2.1.2 & 2.1.4

3.24 In 2006/07, more than half (56 per cent) of young learners living in the South East were studying in FE, with around a third (31 per cent) in School Sixth Form and a further 7 per cent in Work Based Learning. The remainder were either in ESF funded provision, Entry to Employment or Personal Community Development Learning.

3.25 This mix of provision differed across the region, for instance, 86 per cent of young learners living in Portsmouth, were in FE, as were 82 per cent in Hampshire and 77 per cent in Southampton. This is because these areas have no School Sixth Form provision. In contrast, around a half of young learners living in Buckinghamshire and Windsor & Maidenhead were learning in School Sixth Forms.

Figure 3.9 Participation of young people by funding streams by home Local Authority, 2006/07



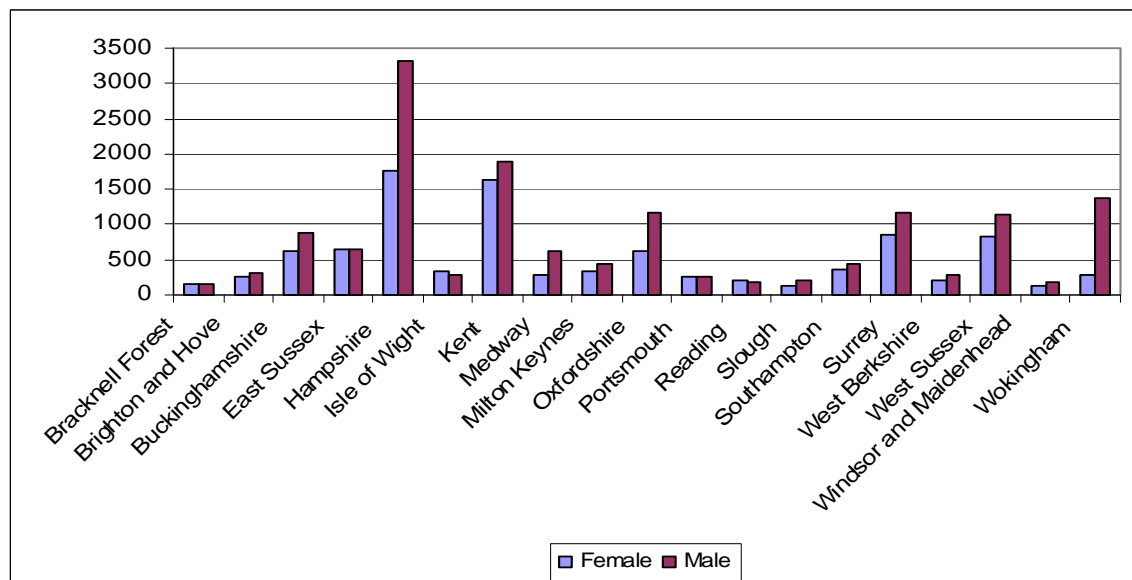
Note: Based on the residency of the learner.

Source: ILR 2006/07, (WBL/FE/PCDL/ESF Short Record); PLASC for School Sixth forms.

Apprenticeships

3.26 In 2006/07, nearly 25,000 Apprenticeships were being undertaken by 16 to 18 year olds living in the South East, 78 per cent were undertaking Apprenticeships (Level 2), with the remaining 22 per cent in Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3).

Figure 3.10 Apprentices in the South East, by gender and home Local Authority, 2006/07



Note: Based on the residency of the learner.

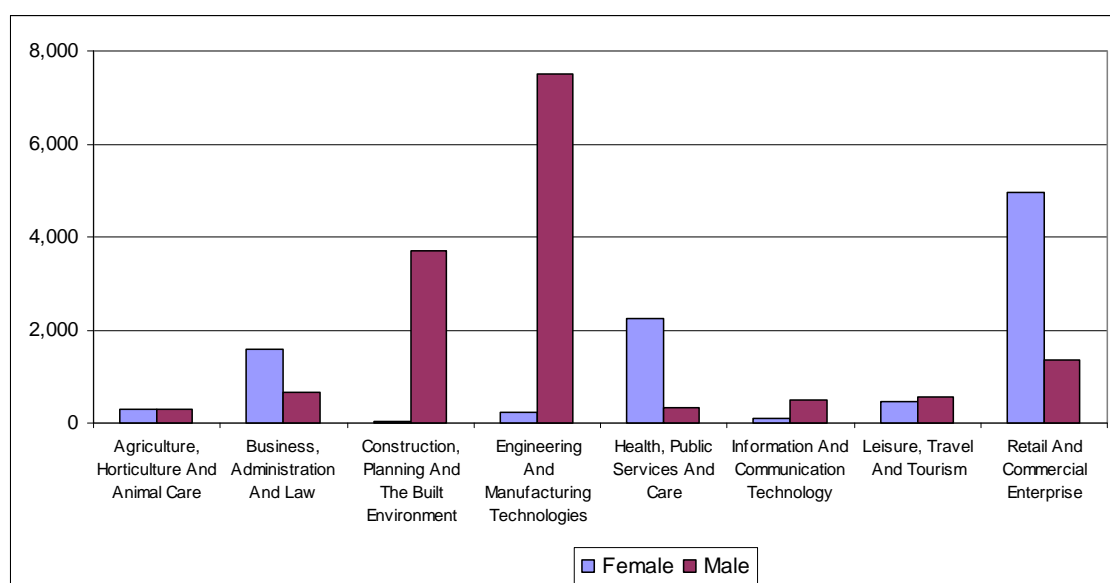
Source: ILR WBL, 2006/07 reference date 11 February 2008

Apprenticeships by gender

3.27 Hampshire had the largest number of both male and female resident apprentices (5,069 apprentices) followed by 3,540 in Kent and 2,028 in Surrey.

3.28 Most apprentices living in the South East were male (60 per cent), although the proportion differed across the region. More than 8 out of 10 apprentices living in Wokingham were male, as were just under 7 out of 10 apprentices living in Medway. The volume of male apprentices in Wokingham in particular, is partly affected by the amount of engineering apprentices living on army bases in the area. In contrast, more than half living Reading (55 per cent) and the Isle of Wight (53 per cent) were female.

Figure 3.11 Number of 16-18 year olds in Apprenticeships resident in the South East by sector and gender, 2006/07¹⁶

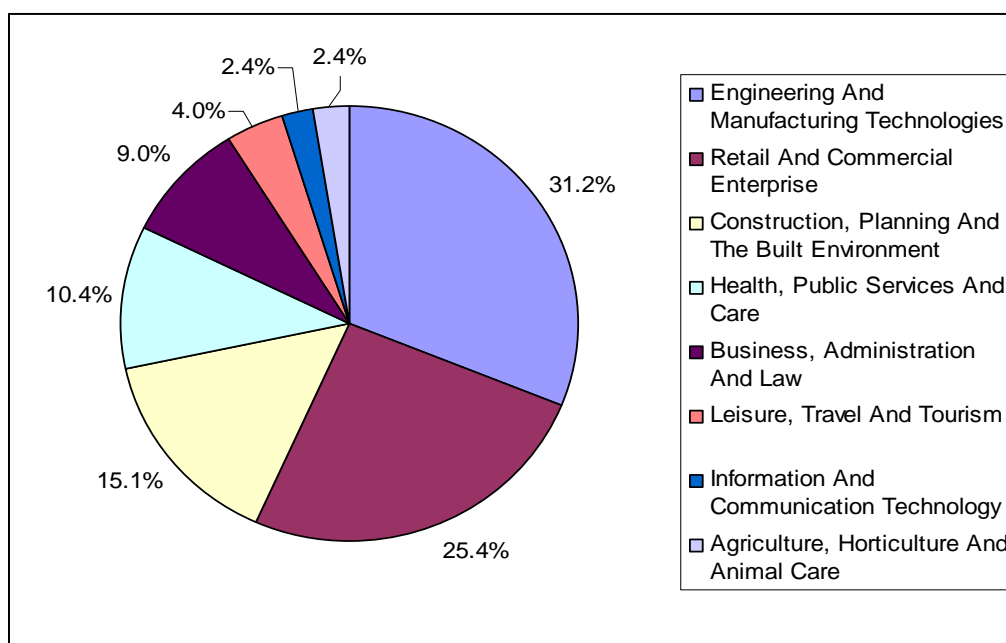


Source: ILR WBL, 2006/07 reference date 11 February 2008

3.29 The sectors in which apprentices living in the South East were working differed for males and females. Apprentices in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and Construction, Planning and the Built Environment were almost exclusively male (fewer than 1 in 30 apprentices in these sectors were female). Whereas, in Retail and Commercial Enterprise and Health, Public Services and Care, around 8 out of 10 apprentices were female.

¹⁶ Education and Training sector and Arts, Media and Publishing sectors not shown due to low numbers.

Figure 3.12 Young people undertaking Apprenticeships by sector, South East, 2006/07¹⁷



Source: ILR WBL, 2006/07 reference date 11 February 2008

3.30 Just under a third of young apprentices living in the South East in 2006/07 were in the Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (EMT) sector (about a quarter of South East resident EMT Apprenticeships are undertaken by young people living on Armed Forces bases in the South East). A further 25 per cent were in Retail and Commercial Enterprise (RCE) and 15 per cent in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment.

3.31 The distribution of 16 -18 year old apprentices differs by subject across the region:

- Nearly 80 per cent living in Wokingham are undertaking EMT Apprenticeships, compared with 31 per cent regionally. This is due to a large number of apprentices in the armed forces based in this area.
- 41 per cent resident on the Isle of Wight and 33 per cent in Windsor and Maidenhead undertake Retail and Commercial Enterprise Apprenticeships, compared with 25 per cent regionally.
- Nearly 30 per cent of 16-18 year old apprentices living in Reading undertake their Apprenticeship in Health, Public Services and Care, compared with 10 per cent regionally.
- More than 20 per cent of Isle of Wight and Slough resident apprentices are in Business, Administration and Law, more than twice the regional rate (9 per cent).

¹⁷ Apprenticeships in Arts, Media and Publishing, Education and Training and those in unknown sectors are not included as they made up less than 1% of the apprentices in the region.

- 25 per cent of apprentices living in Oxfordshire are on Construction Apprenticeships, compared with 15 per cent regionally.
- Around 10 per cent of 16-18 year old apprentices resident in Medway and Milton Keynes are undertaking IT Apprenticeships, around 4 times the regional rate (2.4 per cent).
- 10 per cent of apprentices living in Brighton and Hove are on Leisure, Travel and Tourism Apprenticeships, more than twice the regional rate (4 per cent).

Impact of the raising of the compulsory participation age (ROCPA) in the South East among 16 to 18 year olds

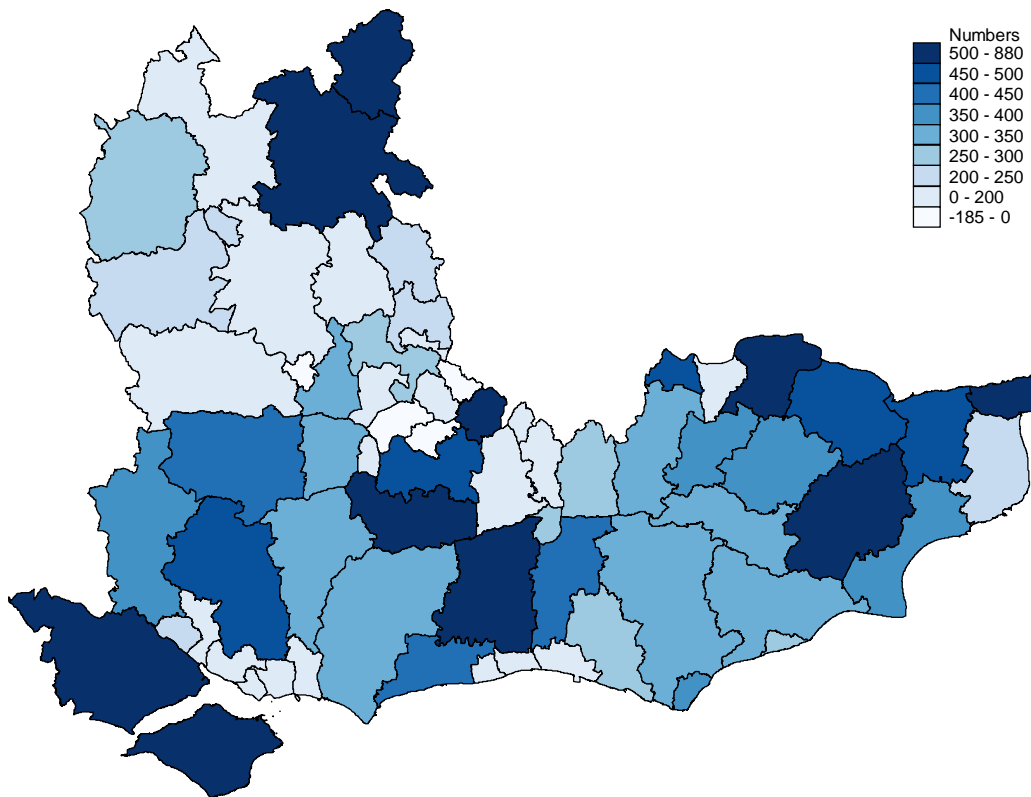
3.32 The LSC (South East) commissioned the report 'Projections of post-compulsory education learner numbers in the South East of England' to develop a model to project forward participation in post-compulsory education. The report includes projections of population, participation rates and learner numbers to 2020. The report provides a framework within which to make judgements about capital bids coming forward from schools and colleges in the coming years.

3.33 This is pertinent because of the recent announcement of the raising of the compulsory participation age to 17 in 2013 and to 18 in 2015. Subject to trends in the age cohort, this will increase the demand on schools and colleges for education post-16. The raising of the school participation age is the main factor driving the forecasts of demand for post-16 education although this is moderated by anticipated changes in the population age cohort.

3.34 Map 3.1 below shows that the projected growth in total number of 16 and 17 year olds in education (including schools, colleges, and independent schools, part-time and work based learning) differs across the region. Milton Keynes has the largest growth in learner numbers between 2006 and 2013 (an increase of 879 learners), Medway have an increase of 744 and Elmbridge numbers increase by 720. In contrast, some districts are projected to see a decline in 16 and 17 year old learners, Reading is projected to see the largest decline (-185), followed by Woking (-67) and Spelthorne (-27).

Map 3.1 Growth of total learner numbers by South East districts, 2006-2013

Growth in total learner numbers



ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

Education Maintenance Allowance

3.35 The recent increase in participation among young people has been supported by the introduction of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). EMA was fully rolled out for 16 to 18 year olds in September 2006, and indications are that take-up is high and rising.

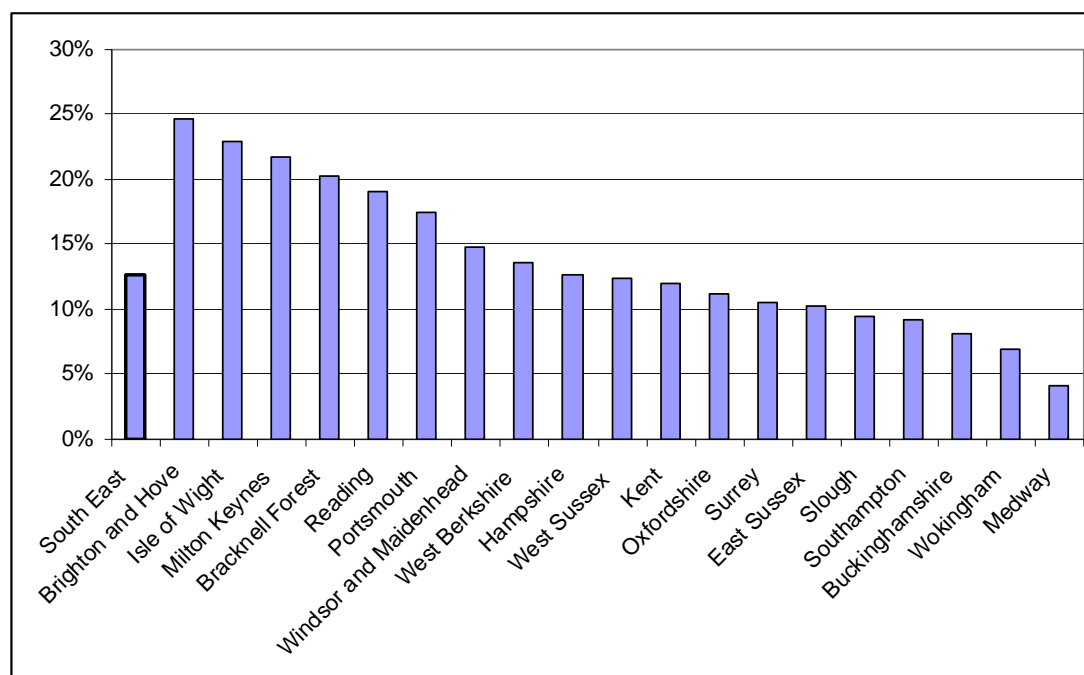
3.36 During the 2007/08 academic year, 65,650 young people in the South received EMA.

3.37 The EMA policy teams are working to promote early take-up, as getting learners on to the allowance early in the academic year encourages the positive behaviour associated with receipt of EMA. For the academic year 2007/08, 53.8 per cent of young people on EMA had taken it up by the end of September 2007. The early take up rate in the South East was higher (56.0 per cent).

Care to Learn¹⁸

3.38 Specific funding is available for young parents to help them back into the education system. Care to Learn is offered to parents under 20 years of age to help them with childcare and travel costs while they participate in learning. Up to August 2008, an estimated 13 per cent of those eligible in the South East took up Care to learn funding, lower than the rate nationally (16 per cent). The take up rate differed within the region, from 25 per cent in Brighton and Hove to only 4 per cent in Medway.

Figure 3.13 Percentage of cohort taking up Care to Learn by South East LAs, August 2008



* Mothers aged under 20. 2005 data, based on numbers of live births adjusted for movement in to / out of the region.

** To date, over academic year.

Source: LSC Care to Learn Regional Take Up Report, August 2008

3.39 Information collected by the South East's Connexions services show that just over 3,000 teenage mothers resident in the region are known to the Connexions services; and that, of these, just 23 per cent are in employment, education, or training (similar to the national figure of 24 per cent). The Department for Children, Schools, and Families estimates that typically just 59 per cent of teenage mothers are known to Connexions services, suggesting that over 5,000 teenage mothers may be resident in the region, of whom around 3,900 could be disengaged from learning or employment.

¹⁸ Source: August 2008, National LSCC Care to Learn report, <https://newintranet.lsc.gov.uk/doccentre/National/Learning/C2L%20Regional%20Data%20August%202008.xls>

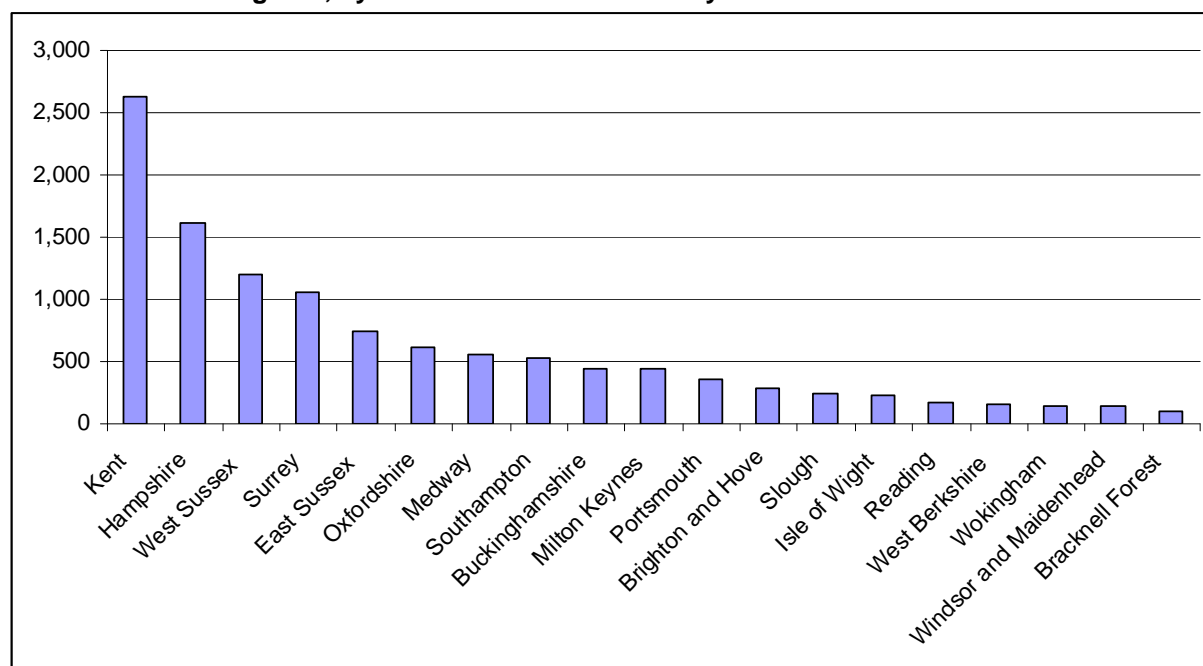
Foundation Learning Tier

3.40 The Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) is an England only programme of work which the Government has asked the Learning and Skills Council and Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to lead on. The vision of the programme is to develop a more focused and strategic approach at Entry Level and Level 1 for both learners aged 14-19 and adults within the Qualifications and Credit Framework, in order to raise participation, achievement and progression amongst learners at these levels. Within FLT, Progression Pathways will be the main organising structures.

3.41 Within the South East there are currently 28 providers trialing one of the three post 16 progression pathways. These providers range from private providers, FE Colleges and Local Authorities. The providers are using qualifications from the Qualifications and Credit Framework at Entry Level and Level 1.

3.42 In 2006/07 there were 11,600 young people living in the South East whose highest level of study was classified as FLT, an increase of 12.3 per cent on the previous year. The number varied within the region, from 2,600 in Kent to 92 in Bracknell Forest.

Figure 3.14 Number of young people whose highest level of study was classified as Foundation Learning Tier, by South East Local Authority 2006/07



Source: ILR, FE F05, 2006/07

Entry to Employment

3.43 Entry to Employment (E2E) aims to engage young people who need additional support to engage in learning and to equip them for further learning, employment or both. E2E programmes are roll-on roll-off, therefore recruitment and progression takes place throughout the year.

3.44 In 2006/07, 4,400 young people started on E2E programmes in the South East, fewer than the previous year (5,100). The positive progression rate for young people on E2E was 49.8 per cent, slightly lower than the rate nationally (50.8 per cent). In the SE there are three E2E options:

General E2E

3.45 General E2E retains young people in the education system and prepares them for their next steps. The programme focuses on all three core strands (Personal and Social Development, Vocational skills and Basic/Key Skills), for those young people who are generally unsure about what they want to do or have barriers in relation to engagement.

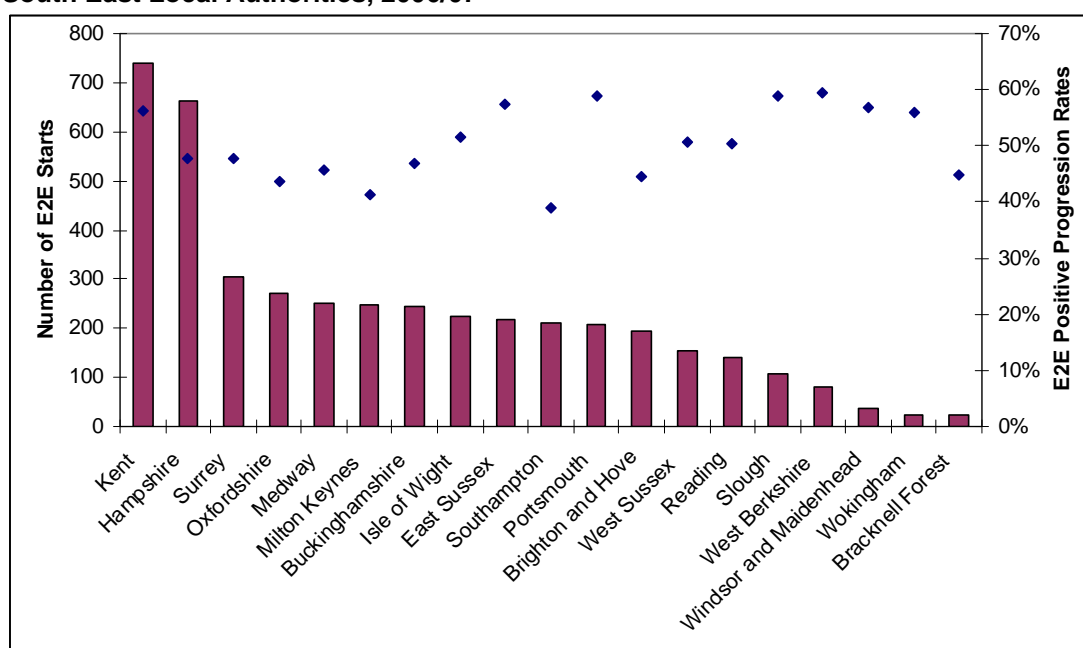
Employment only E2E

3.46 Employment only E2E seeks to furnish young people with the employability skills they need for the workplace and to make them job-ready.

Vocationally focused E2E

3.47 Vocationally focused E2E are aimed at young people who know what they want to do but do not know how to get there. This prepares them for vocational courses e.g. construction or hairdressing and contains a Level 1 qualification.

Figure 3.15 Number of Entry to Employment starts and positive progression rates, by South East Local Authorities, 2006/07



Source: WBL ILR 05/06 and 06/07

3.48 Within the South East, Kent and Hampshire had by far the highest number of E2E starts in 2006/07 (741 and 662 respectively, shown in the bars in Figure 3.15). Between them, these two LAs accounted for a third of all the E2E starts in the region. In contrast, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest had less than 40 starts each.

3.49 The highest positive progression rates (shown as blue diamonds in Figure 3.15) were in Portsmouth, Slough and West Berkshire (59 per cent). In contrast, Southampton had the lowest positive progression rates (39 per cent).

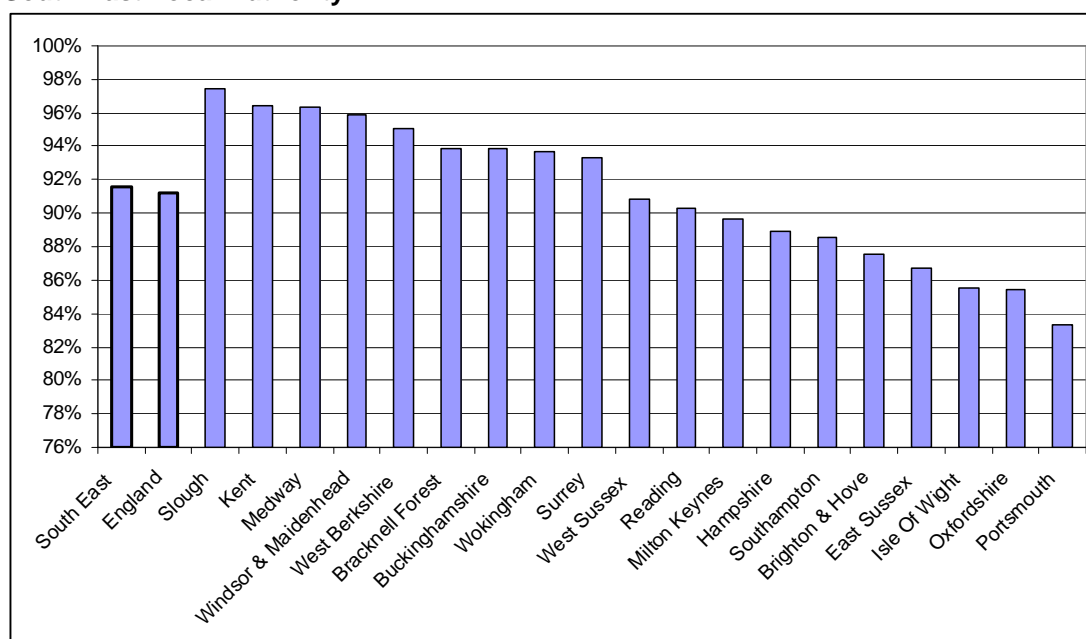
September guarantee

3.50 The government introduced the September Guarantee in 2007 to ensure that by the end of September 2007, every 16 year old who wished to stay in learning would have received an offer of a suitable place. This was the first time that the Guarantee was to apply throughout England. In the South East, 92 per cent of 16 year olds were offered a suitable place to start by January 2008, compared with 91 per cent nationally.

3.51 Some young people refused an offer, or were not in a position to accept an offer at that time (6% of the cohort), and a small number were no longer at the address recorded by Connexions and could not be contacted (2% of the cohort). For only a small number of young people in the total year group (863 out of 96,744) was no offer made, some of whom had applied but had been rejected or were awaiting the result of an application.

3.52 The offer rate differed across the South East, from 97 per cent in Slough to 83 per cent in Portsmouth.

Figure 3.16 Percentage of young people offered a place to start by January 2008, by South East Local Authority



Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families, September Guarantee data

NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)¹⁹

3.53 At November 2007- January 2008, 12,852 people between the ages of 16 and 18 in the South East were classified as NEET. This equates to a regional figure of 5.3 per cent, which is the lowest in England and compares well with the national figure (6.7 per cent). The proportion of NEETs differ across the South East:

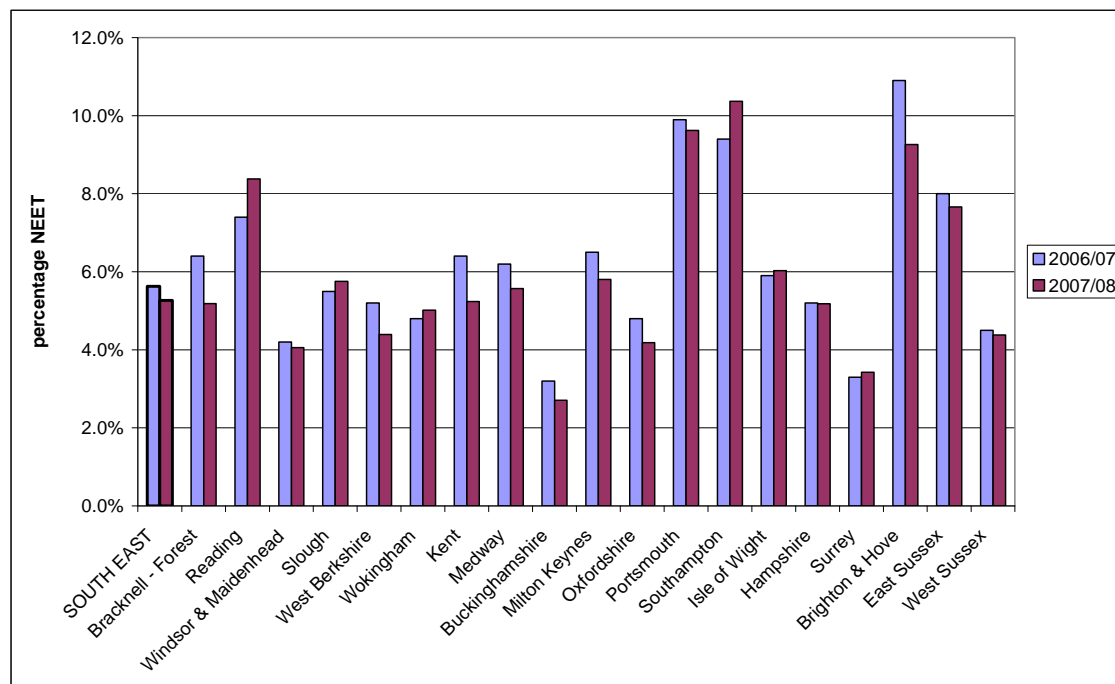
3.54 Portsmouth and Southampton Local Authorities have the highest proportion of NEETs (9.6 per cent and 10.4 per cent). The same period last year saw Portsmouth and Brighton & Hove Local Authorities with the highest proportion of NEETs (9.9 per cent and 10.9 per cent).

3.55 Buckinghamshire has the lowest proportion of NEETs (2.7 per cent) closely followed by Surrey (3.4 per cent). The picture is similar to the same period the previous year, with Buckinghamshire having the lowest proportion followed by Surrey (3.2 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively).

3.56 Reading and Southampton Local Authorities have seen the largest increase in the proportion of NEETs (increase of 1 per cent for both). Conversely Brighton and Hove has seen the largest decreases in the proportion of NEETs (1.6 per cent). This is followed by Bracknell Forest and Kent both with a 1.2 per cent decrease.

¹⁹ The size of the NEET group fluctuates from month to month and all comparisons used nationally compare any given month with the same month in the previous year. In this section the NEET data is presented as the average of November, December and January months and then compared to the same quarter in 2006/07.

Figure 3.17 16-18 year old NEET by Local Authority, 3 monthly average, Nov-Jan 2006/07 & 2007/08



Source: CCIS data, Department for Children, Schools and Families, November 2006 – January 2007 and November 2007 – January 2008.

Table 3.2 16-18 year old NEET by South East Local Authority, 3 monthly average, November to January 2007/08

	Nov 07 - Jan 08 Totals			Nov 06- Jan 07 Totals
	EET	NEET	%NEET	
SOUTH EAST	231,270	12,850	5.3%	5.6%
Bracknell - Forest	2,580	140	5.2%	6.4%
Reading	4,450	410	8.4%	7.4%
Windsor & Maidenhead	3,530	150	4.1%	4.2%
Slough	4,000	240	5.8%	5.5%
West Berkshire	4,630	210	4.4%	5.2%
Wokingham	3,110	160	5.0%	4.8%
Kent	44,830	2,580	5.2%	6.4%
Medway	9,370	550	5.6%	6.2%
Buckinghamshire	13,680	380	2.7%	3.2%
Milton Keynes	7,380	460	5.8%	6.5%
Oxfordshire	16,880	740	4.2%	4.8%
Portsmouth	3,960	420	9.6%	9.9%
Southampton	5,630	650	10.4%	9.4%
Isle of Wight	3,970	260	6.0%	5.9%
Hampshire	38,720	2,120	5.2%	5.2%
Surrey	26,000	920	3.4%	3.3%
Brighton & Hove	5,650	580	9.3%	10.9%
East Sussex	12,940	1,070	7.7%	8.0%
West Sussex	19,970	920	4.4%	4.5%

Source: NCCIS data, DCSF (via GOSE)
 Source: CCIS data, Department for Children, Schools and Families, November 2006 – January 2007 and November 2007 – January 2008.

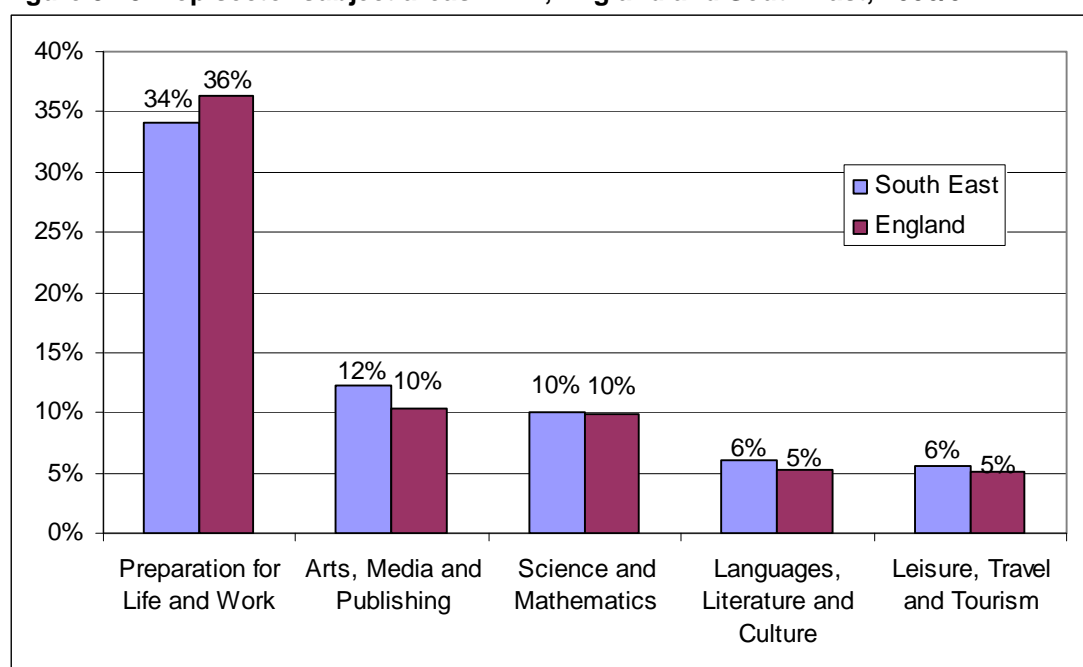
- Notes: 1) Personal Development Opportunities (PDOs) include activities such as voluntary work
 2) Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred
 3) Percentages calculated on un-rounded figures
 4) 'Adjusted' figures have been amended under a nationally-agreed methodology so as to apportion all 'unknown' values into either the 'EET' or 'NEET' categories to provide a best estimate of true levels of NEET activity.

NEETs with learning difficulties or disabilities

3.57 In June 2008, 9.1 per cent of 16-19 year olds who have been recorded by Connexions as having a learning difficulty or disability were not in education, employment or training. This is the lowest rate among the regions and 2.5 percentage points lower than the national rate (11.5 per cent).

LSC FUNDED LEARNING

Figure 3.18 Top sector subject areas in FE, England and South East, 2006/07



Source: Further Education Individual Learner Record, 2006/07

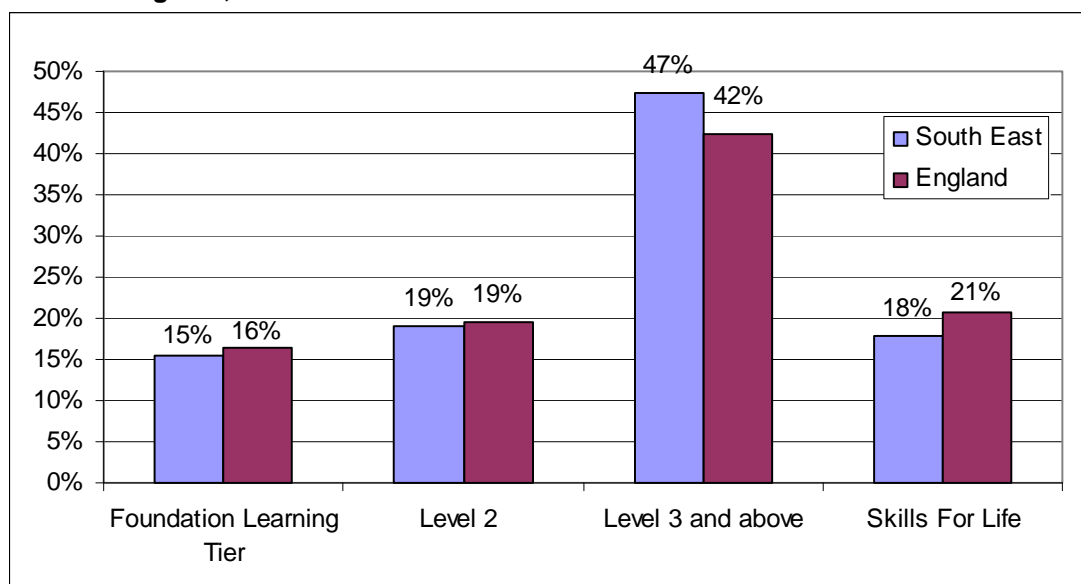
3.58 There were more than 400,000 learning aims²⁰ undertaken by young people in FE across the South East in 2006/07. Around a third of these (34 per cent) were in the Preparation for Life and Work area, slightly lower than the proportion nationally (36 per cent).

²⁰ A learning aim is an individual qualification/study path, a learner may study one learning aim or numerous learning aims as part of their course. For example an A level in Maths would be one learning aim, a learner could be studying 3 A levels as their complete course.

3.59 The mix of FE provision differed within the South East²¹, for instance:

- More than two thirds of learning aims undertaken in FE providers based in Medway were in Preparation for Life and Work (70 per cent), compared with a quarter in Hampshire (25 per cent) and 23 per cent in Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 40 per cent of aims in Windsor and Maidenhead were in Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care (compared with 2 per cent across the South East). This is because this area is home to a specialist agriculture college.
- 20 per cent of aims in West Berkshire were in the Health, Public Services and Care sector, four times the rate for the region (5 per cent).

Figure 3.19 Learning aims/Enrolments undertaken in FE by qualification level, South East and England, 2006/07



Source: Further Education Individual Learner Record, 2006/07

3.60 Provision at Level 3 and above accounted for 47 per cent of provision in the South East, 5 percentage points higher than for England. Conversely, the proportion of provision on Skills for Life was lower than for England (18 per cent compared to 21 per cent).

Learner Demographics

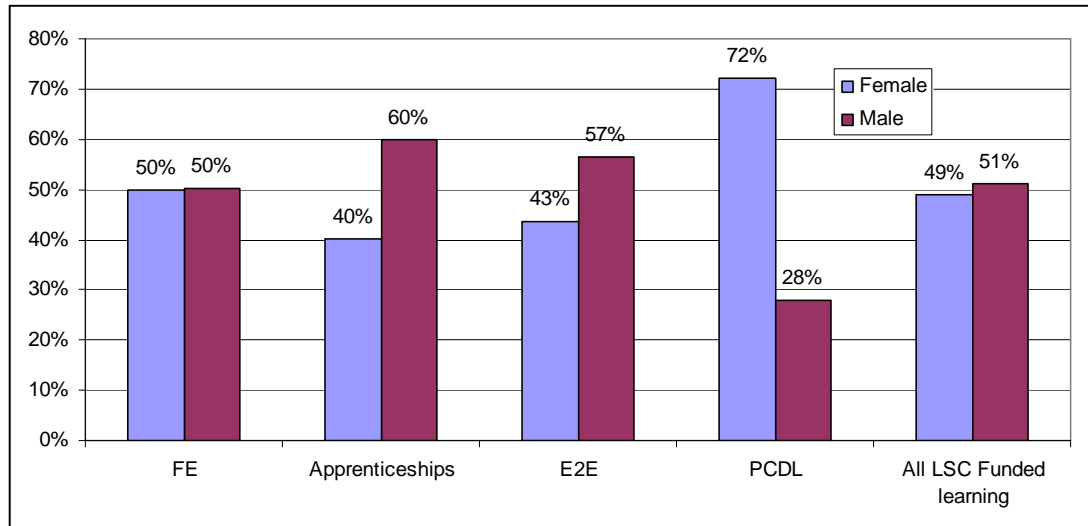
Gender

3.61 Just over half of young people on LSC funded learning in the South East were male (51 per cent). There were relatively large gender differences by programme types:

²¹ The data is based on the main address of the provider and not by learner residence.

- 60 per cent of apprentices were male
- 72 per cent of young people on Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) courses were female
- 57 per cent of young people on Entry to Employment courses were male.

Figure 3.20 Young people on LSC funded programmes by gender, South East, 2006/07



Source: LSC, Learner Residency Information Pack

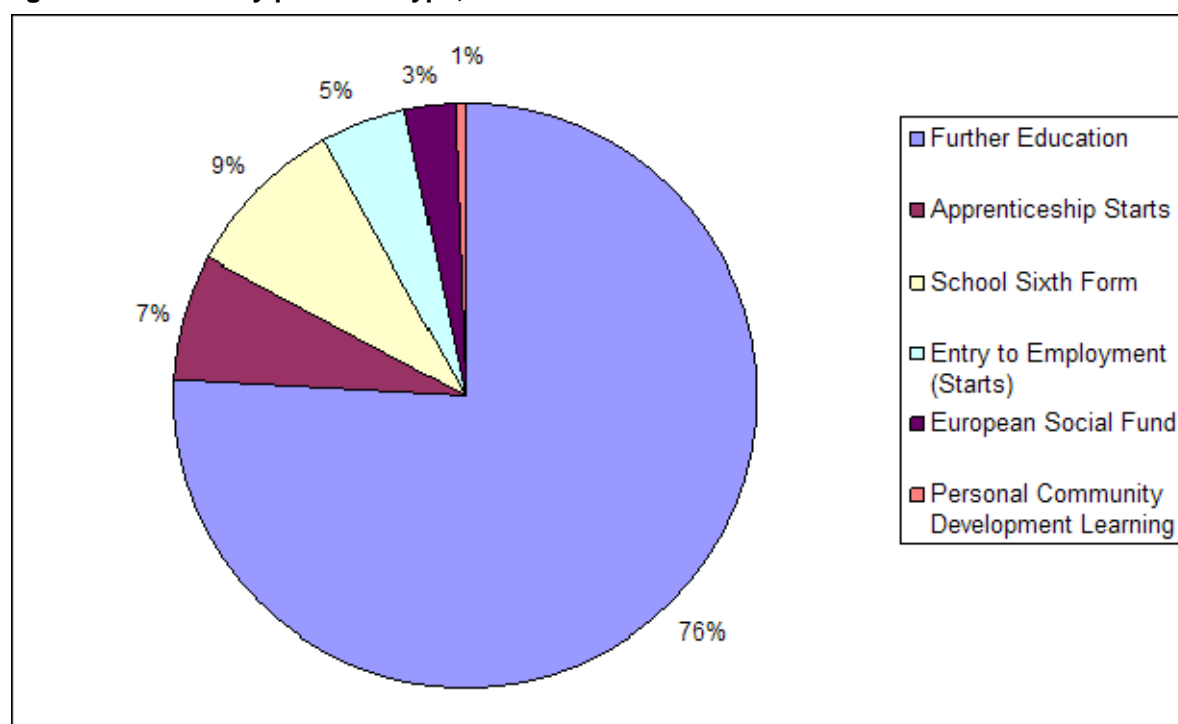
Ethnicity

3.62 Just under 9 out of 10 LSC funded learners in the South East were White British (88.5 per cent). The next largest group of young learners were from the Mixed group (2.2 per cent), followed by Other White group (1.8 per cent).

3.63 The proportion of young people from different ethnic groups undertaking certain types of provision differs, for instance, 84 per cent of young White British people on LSC funded provision are in FE, compared with 95 per cent of young Chinese people and 93 per cent of young Black Africans. Learners from the White British group are more than twice as likely to be on Apprenticeships as young learners from most other ethnic groups.

LEARNERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES

Figure 3.21 LLDD by provision type, 2006/07



Source: LSC, Learner Residency Information Packs

3.64 In 2006/07, just over 27,500 LSC funded learners aged 16-18 were self declared as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD), 14 per cent of learners in this age group. Just over three-quarters of learners with LLDD were in FE (76 per cent) and 7 per cent in Apprenticeships. In 2007/08, there were 464 LLDD learners resident in the South East attending independent specialist colleges.

3.65 A research report was undertaken in 2007 by the South East to investigate the numbers and the needs of LLDD.²² The greatest growth is predicted to be in pupils with autistic spectrum disorders. Although the numbers predicted are relatively small, the LSC will need to ensure that capacity is increased to meet future demand for these highly vulnerable learners.

Offender Learning

3.66 As at August 2008, there were 1,200 learners in 3 young offender institutions in the South East. Almost all the learners (96 per cent) were men, and 32 per cent considered themselves to have a learning difficulty, disability or health problem. Just over half (55 per cent) of the young offenders on LSC funded training were White British and a just under a third (30 per cent) were Black.

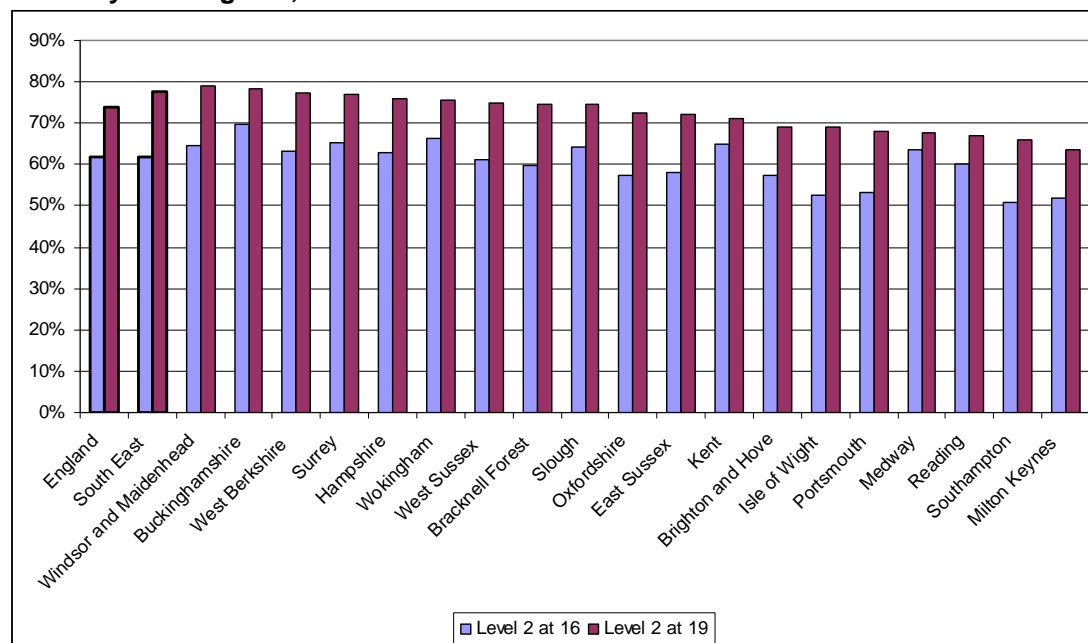
²² Munoz, S. Owusu, S. Faraday S. Hewiston, C. 2007 'Scoping the future: Series of five reports on SEN and learners with LDD' LSC

3.67 Just under a half of the learning aims undertaken in the young offender institutions (48 per cent) were on entry level courses, with a further 30 per cent on Level 1 and 20 per cent on Level 2 courses.

16-18 ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS

Level 2 achievement

Figure 3.22 Proportion achieving Level 2 at aged 16 and 19, by South East Local Authority and England, 2006/07



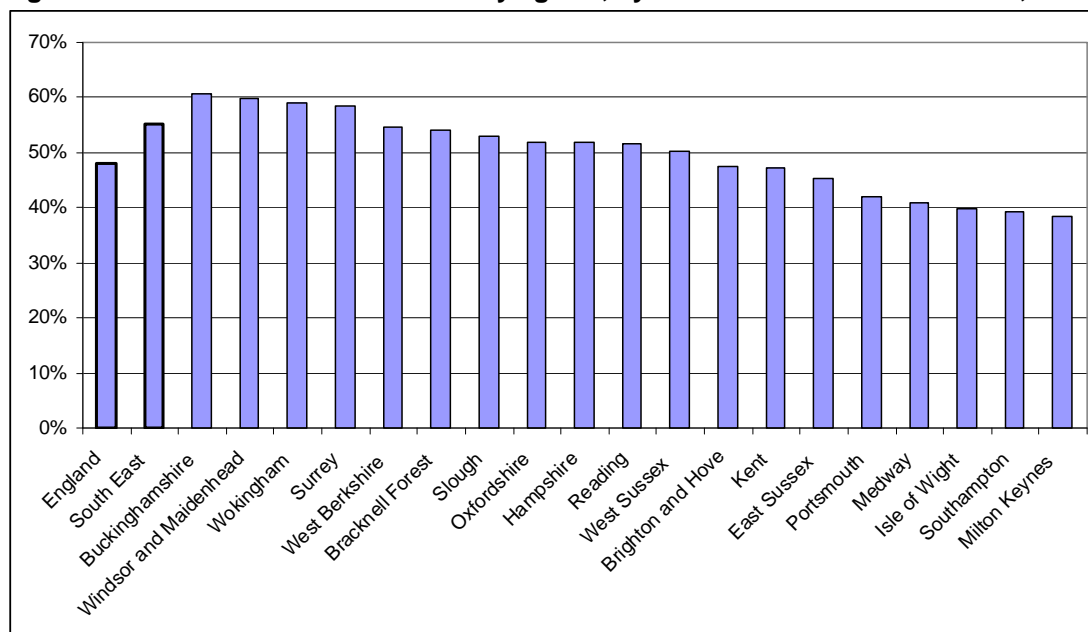
Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families, SFR01/2008

3.68 The proportion of 16 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A* to C (Level 2) in the South East is the same as the national population (62 per cent). Buckinghamshire have the highest proportion of 16 year olds achieving this result (70 per cent) whereas the lowest proportion was in Southampton (51 per cent).

3.69 PSA targets commit the LSC to increasing the number of young people who gain qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3 or above by age 19. In 2006/07, 78 per cent of people aged 19 were qualified to Level 2 or above, almost 4 percentage points higher than the proportion for England (74 per cent). This is the highest rate among all the English regions. Across the region, attainment rates varied, from 80 per cent in Windsor and Maidenhead, to 63 per cent in Milton Keynes. There were 10 Local Authorities across the South East where the Level 2 at aged 19 achievement rate was below the national rate.

Level 3 achievement

Figure 3.23 Full Level 3 achievement by age 19, by South East Local Authorities, 06/07

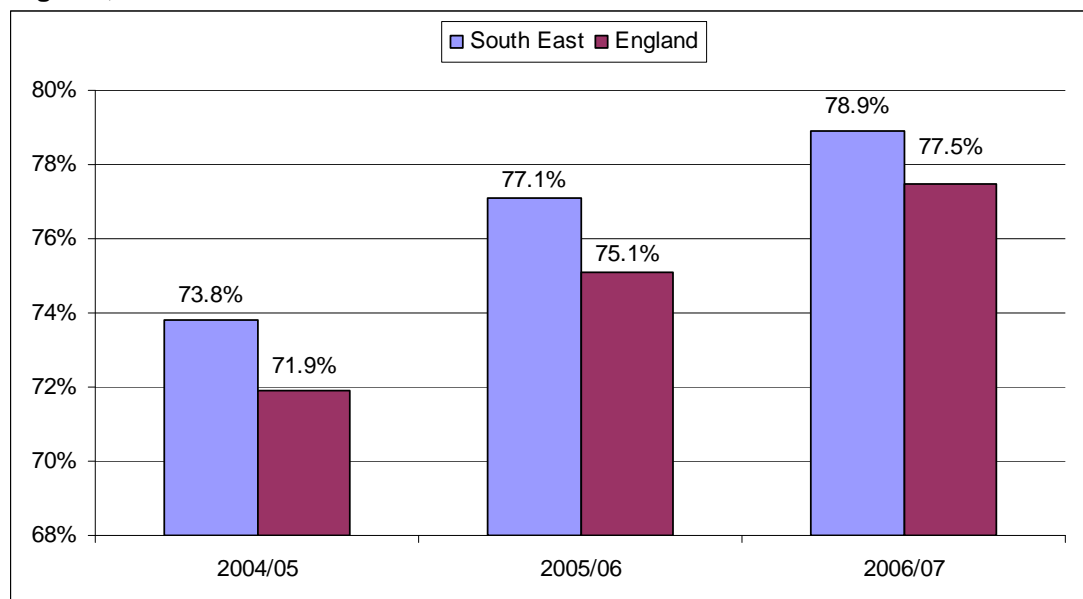


Source: Fisher Family Trust, matched administrative dataset, 2006/07

3.70 The South East region also had the highest proportion of young people qualified to Level 3 and above by age 19; 55 per cent compared with 48 per cent for England. As with Level 2 attainment, there were sub regional differences in attainment rates, from 60 per cent of 19 year olds in both Buckinghamshire and Windsor and Maidenhead to 38 per cent in Milton Keynes and 39 per cent in Southampton. There were 8 Local Authorities across the South East where the Level 3 at aged 19 achievement rate was below the national rate.

Further Education success rates

Figure 3.24 Success rates of young people in Further Education, South East and England, 2004/05 to 2006/07



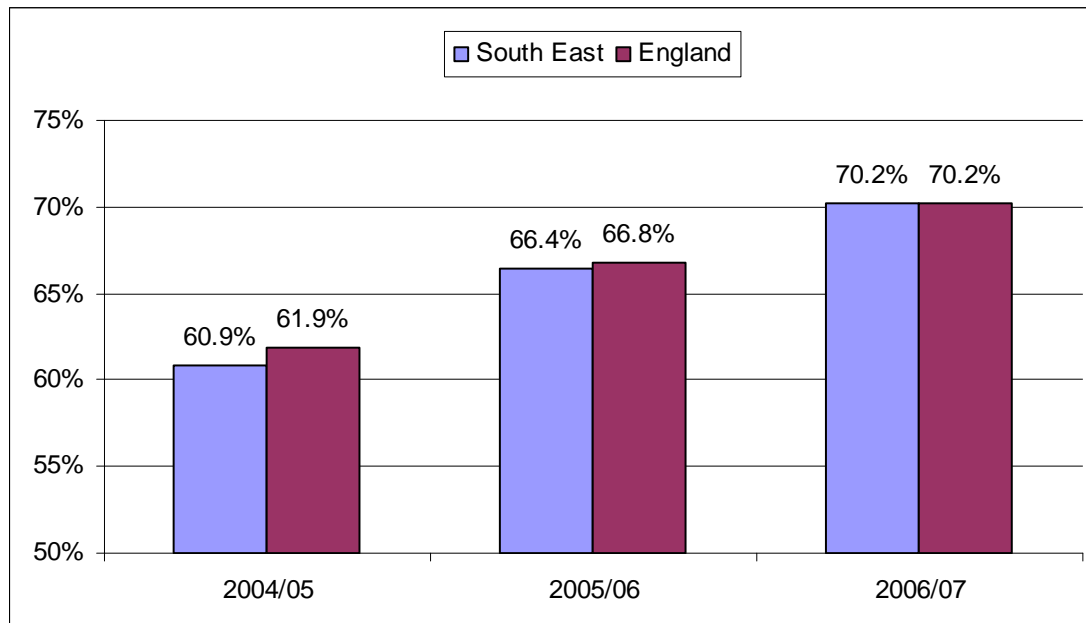
Source: FE ILR F05 2005/06 and 2006/07, Performance Review, June 2008, Table 3.1.1

3.71 FE success rates in the South East were 78.9 per cent in 2006/07, 1.4 percentage points higher than the national rate (77.5 per cent). The rate for the South East has increased by 5.2 percentage points since 2004/05.

3.72 Success rates for FE in 2006/07 differed by the length of course, 85 per cent for short courses (24 weeks or less) compared to 78 per cent for long courses. The rates for both types have increased by 5 percentage points since 2004/05.

Level 2 and Level 3 success rates in FE

Figure 3.25 Young people in FE: Full Level 2 success rates, South East and England, 2004/05 to 2006/07



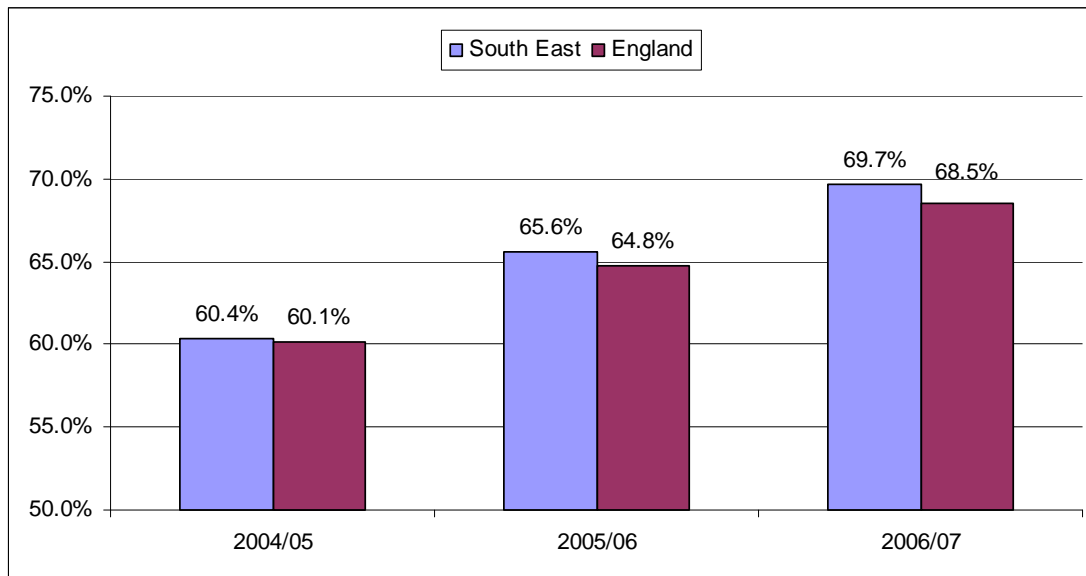
Based on South East providers.

Source: FE ILR F05 2005/06 and 2006/07, Performance Review, June 2008, Table 3.1.1

3.73 In 2004/05 and 2005/06 full Level 2 success rates in the South East for young people in FE were slightly below the national rate. However, in 2006/07 they matched the national rate (70.2 per cent). This represents a 9.3 percentage point increase since 2004/05.

3.74 Full FE Level 2 success rates differed across the region, the highest rate was among young FE students living in Bracknell Forest (77 per cent), compared with 61 per cent in Reading, which had the lowest rate of the South East Local Authorities. Slough had seen the largest increase in success rates between 2004/05 and 2006/07, rising from 64 per cent to 75 per cent.

Figure 3.26 Young people in FE: Full Level 3 success rates, South East and England, 2004/08 to 2006/07



Based on South East providers.

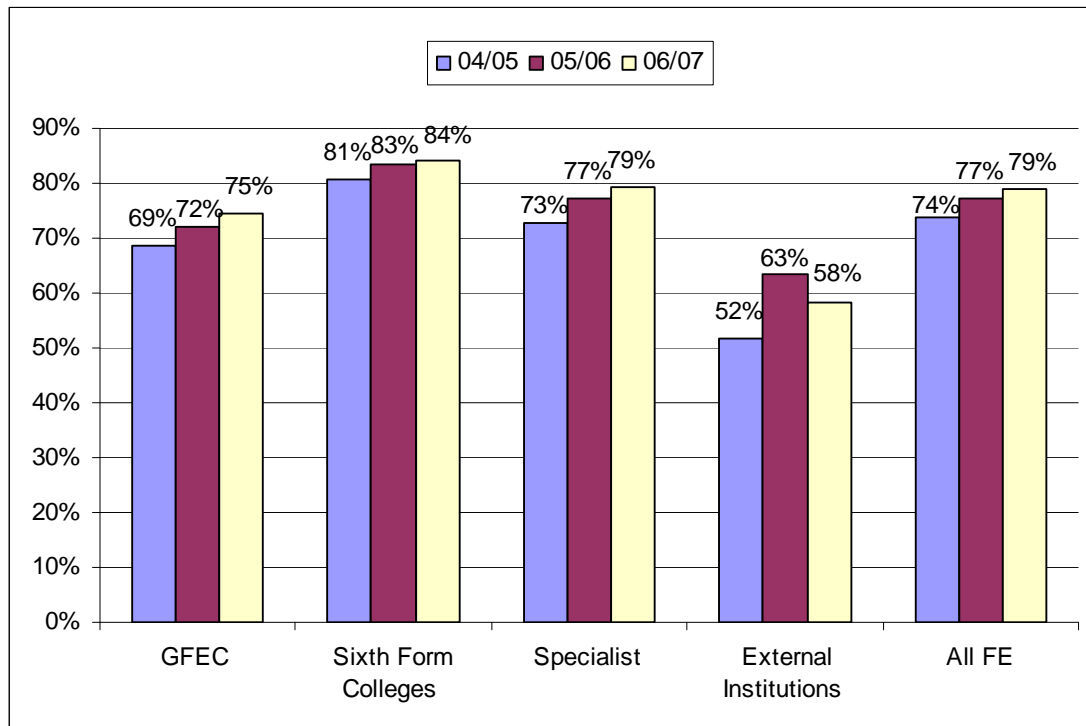
Source: FE ILR F05 2005/06 and 2006/07, Performance Review, June 2008, Table 3.1.1

3.75 Success rates for full Level 3 aims taken by young people in FE 2006/07 were slightly higher in the South East than for England (69.7 per cent compared to 68.5 per cent). Success rates are increasing both nationally and regionally, by 9.3 per cent for the South East and 8.4 per cent for England.

3.76 As with Full Level 2, the rates differed across the region. The highest Full Level 3 success rates were among young FE students living in East Sussex and the Isle of Wight (74 per cent). In contrast, the lowest were in West Berkshire (62 per cent). Slough has also seen the largest increase in success rates, from 61 per cent in 2005/06 to 70 per cent in 2006/07.

Type of provision

Figure 3.27 Success rates for 16-18 year olds in FE in the South East, by institution type, 2004/05 to 2006/07

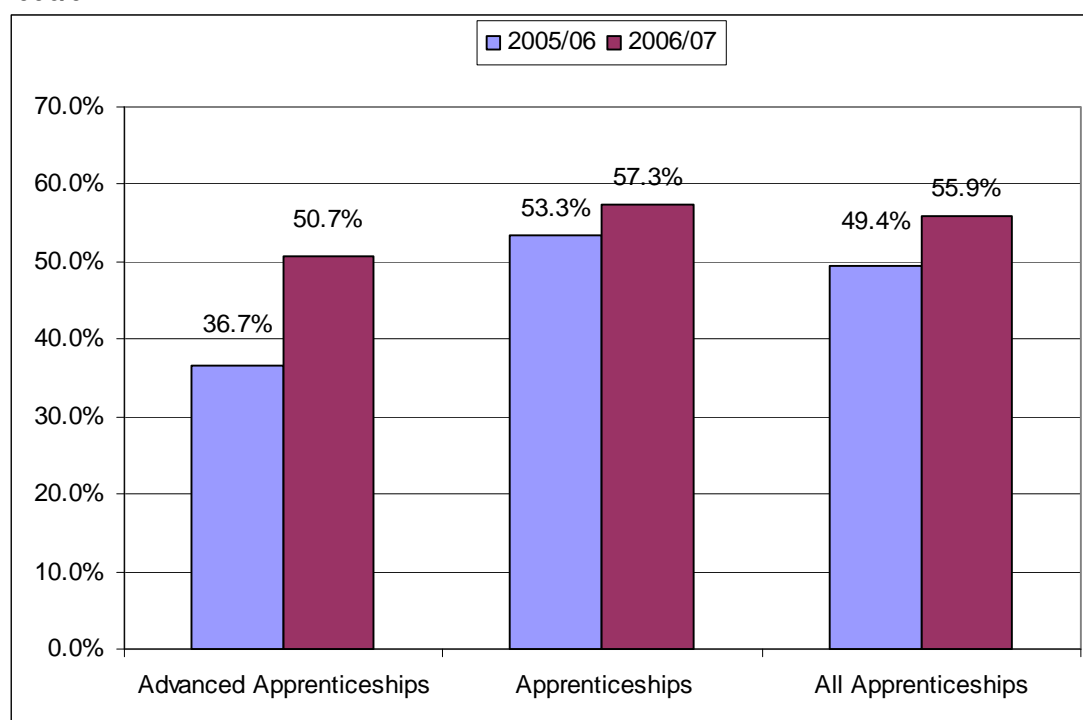


Based on South East providers.

Source: LSC FE Success Rate system 2004/05 to 2006/07

3.77 Success rates in the region increased among all types of FE. Rates were highest among sixth form college providers, increasing from 81 per cent in 2004/05 to 84 per cent in 2006/07. Rates for GFEC had increased by 6 percentage points during the same period, from 69 per cent in 2004/05 to 75 per cent in 2006/07.

Figure 3.28 Apprenticeship success rates for 16-18 year olds, South East, 2005/06 and 2006/07



Source: WBL (0708) New Master - Period 12

3.78 The success rate for all Apprenticeships in the South East increased between 2005/06 and 2006/07, from 49 per cent to 56 per cent. However, this was lower than the national rate (60 per cent). The rate of increase in the South East is slower than the national rate (7 percentage points compared with 10 percentage points over this period). The success rate for Level 2 Apprenticeships in 2006/07 was 57 per cent in the South East, 3 percentage points lower than the national rate (60 per cent).

3.79 The largest increase in success rates in the South East was in Advanced Apprenticeships, 14 percentage points between 05/06 and 06/07 (from 37 per cent to 51 per cent). The success rate for Advanced Apprenticeships in the South East in 2006/07 was 6 percentage points below the national rate of 57 per cent.

3.80 Success rates for all Apprenticeships differed across the region; the highest success rates were for apprentices living on the Isle of Wight (62 per cent), Buckinghamshire (61 per cent) and West Berkshire (61 per cent). In contrast, Hampshire had the lowest success rates (48 per cent), although this area has by far the largest number of apprentice leavers; Hampshire based apprentices accounted for 1 in 5 leavers across the region.²³

3.81 These increases in success rates help to give young people a solid foundation and promote their successful progression into the world of work, higher education and community life.

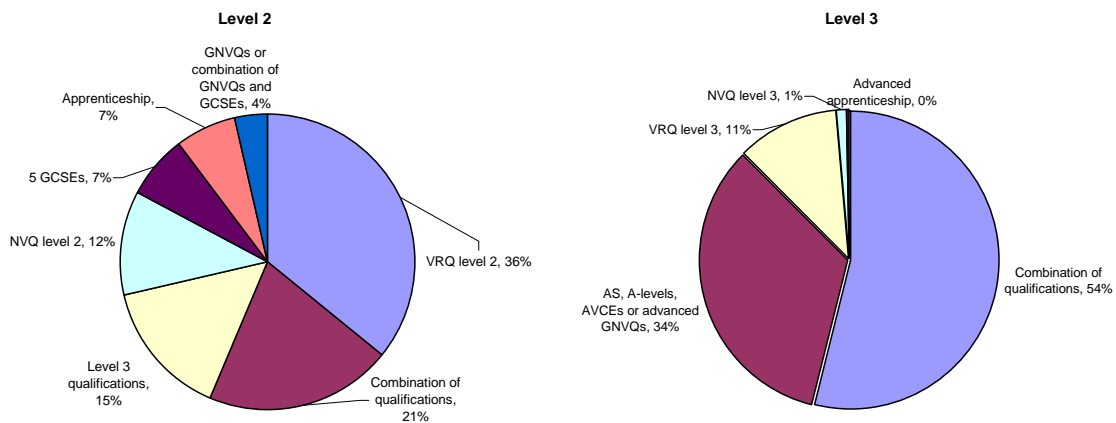
²³ Apprenticeship success rates for Local Authorities are based on the learners residents, regional data is provider based.

Type of qualification

3.82 Figure 3.29 below shows the largest portion of young people studying in FE at Level 2 achieved a Vocational Related Qualification (36 per cent) with a further 15 per cent achieving an NVQ Level 2.

3.83 For those young people studying in FE at Level 3, more than half (53 per cent) were studying a combination of qualifications. A further 34 per cent were studying AS, A-levels, AVCEs or advanced GNVQs.

Figure 3.29 Young people (aged 17 - 19 years old) achieving Level 2 and Level 3, by qualification type, South East. 2006/07



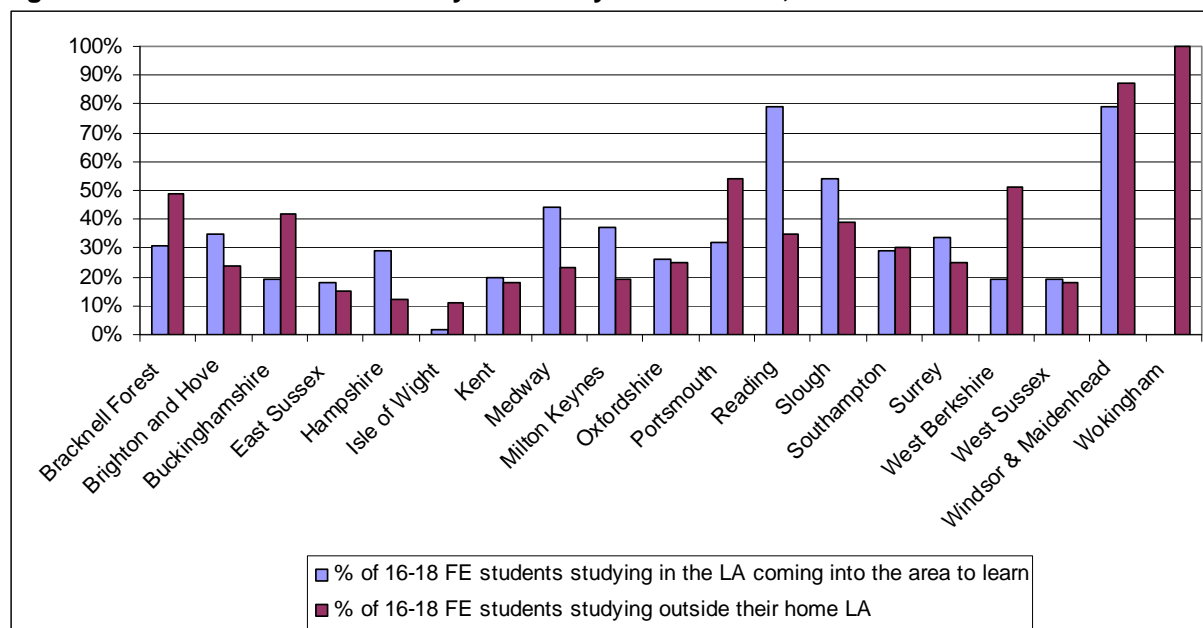
These are young people in post school provision achieving Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications

Source: LSC Matched Administrative Dataset, 2006/07

TRAVEL TO LEARN

Further Education

Figure 3.30 Travel to learn summary for 16-18 year olds in FE, 2006/07



Note: The data for FE providers is based on the postcode of their main address. Wokingham does not have any FE provision so all FE students living in the area are studying outside this LA.

Source: LSC, Individual Learner Record F04 2006/07

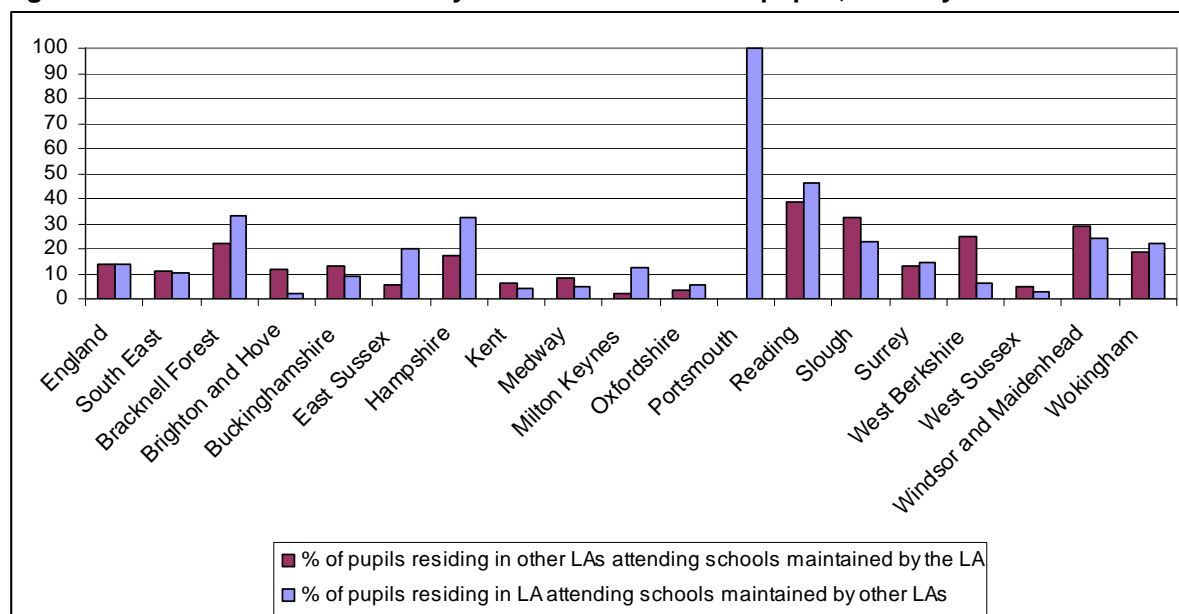
3.84 Figure 3.30 provides information on the travel to learn patterns of 16-18 year old learners in Further Education. It has been used to help inform the development of Local Authority sub-regional groupings, as outlined as part of the Machinery of Government changes.

3.85 Almost 8 out of 10 young FE students (79 per cent) studying in Reading and Windsor and Maidenhead were living outside these Local Authorities. In contrast, only 2 per cent of their counterparts on the Isle of Wight and 18 per cent in East Sussex were living in other areas.

3.86 Students studying on the Isle of Wight were also the least likely to live outside the area (11 per cent). In contrast, in Windsor and Maidenhead around 8 out of 10 16-18 year old FE learners studying in the area were living elsewhere. This is because the only FE provider based in the area is a specialist agricultural college. All 16-18 year olds in FE living in Wokingham are studying outside the area as there is no FE provider with a main address in the area.

School Sixth Form

Figure 3.31 Travel to learn summary for School Sixth Form pupils, January 2008



Note: No data is available for Southampton and the Isle of Wight. Portsmouth has no School Sixth Form (SSF) provision therefore all resident SSF pupils are attending SSFs outside the area.

Source: Department of Children, Schools and Families, Statistical First Release, 09/2008

3.87 Just over 1 in 10 (10.7 per cent) of School Sixth Form (SSF) students studying in the South East lived outside the region. Around the same proportion (10.3 per cent) of SSF students living in the South East were studying outside the region.

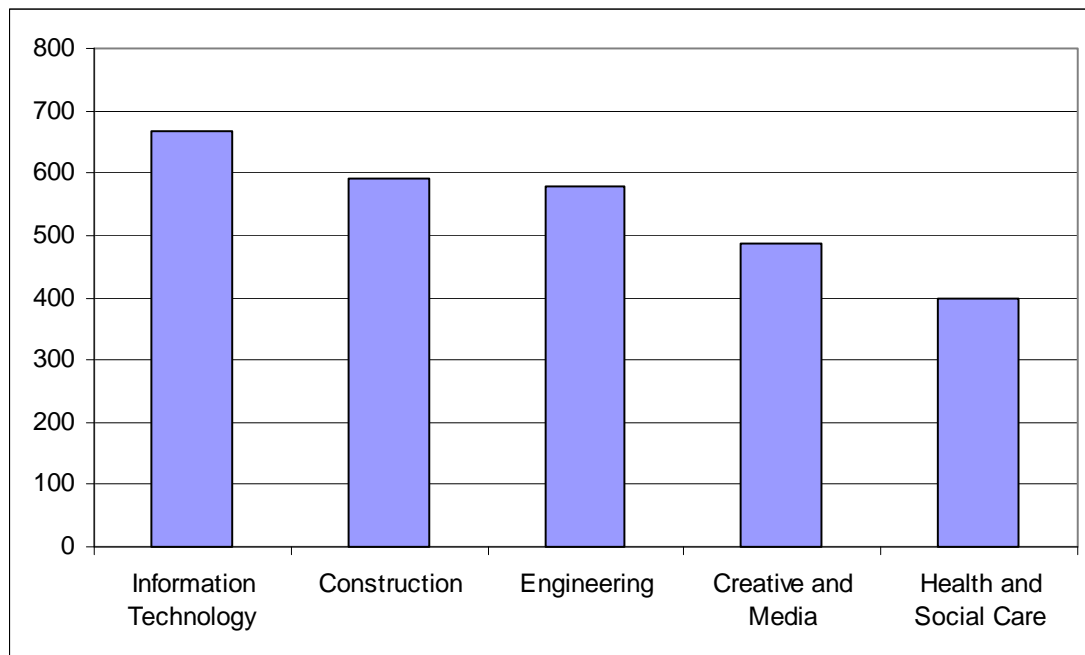
3.88 The proportion of SSF students coming into an LA to study differed across the South East, for instance, just under 4 in 10 pupils (39 per cent) attending SSFs in Reading were living outside the area, the highest proportion across the South East Local Authorities, followed by 32 per cent in Slough and 29 per cent Windsor and Maidenhead.

3.89 In terms of pupil numbers, Kent has the largest number of resident pupils attending SSFs maintained by other Local Authorities (1,119), followed by Buckinghamshire (904) and Surrey (816). As well as having a large number of SSF pupils studying outside the area, Surrey also has the largest number of pupils coming into the area to study in its SSFs (923).

Diplomas

3.90 Diplomas will be available for 14 to 19 year olds in schools and colleges by 2013. They will combine theoretical learning with practical experience in order to develop skills highly valued by employers and universities. The aim is to encourage young people to continue in learning for longer. The courses contain teaching about the functional skills of English, Maths and ICT, as well as the specialist knowledge of each diploma line and approximately 50 days of work experience.

Figure 3.32 Number of learners undertaking Diplomas by subject, South East, September 2008



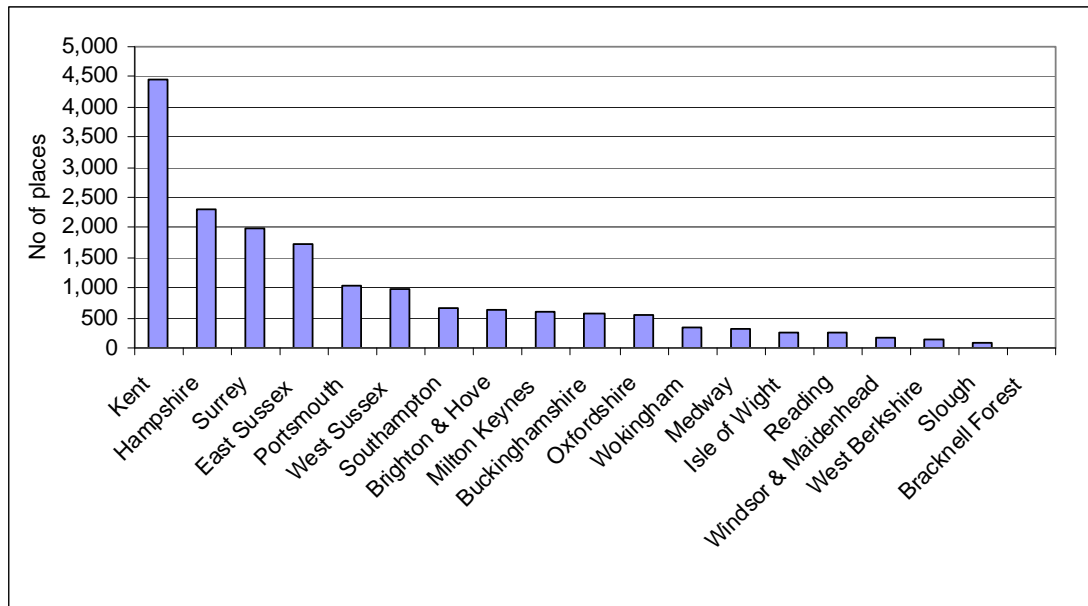
Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families

3.91 The South East has spaces for 2,720 learners on diplomas in September 2008, spread across 5 subject areas. Not all subjects will be available in all areas. For example, 667 places on Information Technology diplomas will be available in the region, however, these are only available in 6 Local Authorities.

Diplomas to start September 2009

3.92 The number of places to be offered in September 2009 in the South East will increase to 17,077 and will also include diplomas in: Business, Administration and Finance; Hair & Beauty; Hospitality; Environmental and Land-Based Studies; Manufacturing; and Society, Health and Development.

Figure 3.33 14-19 Diploma places with a September 2009 start, by Local Authority of consortia



Source: Department of Children, Schools and Families: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/g2_se_grid.doc

3.93 Figure 3.33 shows that Kent Local Authority has by far the highest number of 14-19 diploma places (almost 4,500) in the South East that have been approved to start in September 2009, followed by Hampshire (2,300 places) and Surrey (nearly 2,000 places). Conversely Bracknell Forest has no places as it has no diplomas starting in September 2009 and Slough Local Authority only has 80 places.

4 The Priority for Adults

4.1 Internationally, we have one of the highest rates of employment among the major economies but our productivity lags behind. The priority for our investment in adult learning therefore is to support learning and align provision to support an increase in our levels of productivity and high rates of social inclusion.

TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION IN ADULT LEARNING

4.2 In 2006/07, there were just under half a million adults (485,700) LSC and ESF-funded adult learners (those aged 19 and over) resident in the South East. These were studying in Further Education (FE), Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL), Train to Gain (TtG), European Social Fund (ESF) and Work Based Learning (WBL).

4.3 The majority of these were adult learners participating in FE (217,500). Adult participation in FE in the South East decreased by 28 per cent between 2005/2006 and 2006/07, slightly more than the national decrease (26 per cent). This reflects the greater focus on priority provision; particularly with more learners undertaking Apprenticeships and the growth of Train to Gain.

4.4 There is a continued shift away from the funding of shorter courses and provision that is generally internally certificated or not certificated through the national qualifications framework.

4.5 There were 48,500 adults resident in the South East on WBL programmes in 2006/07 (including Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships and some Train to Gain). This represents an increase of 38 per cent on the previous year. Numbers increased at all levels, with the largest relative increase in Level 2. These are larger increases than the national trend.

4.6 In 2006/07 South East adult residents undertook nearly 29,000 Apprenticeships (Level 2 and Level 3) with regional and national providers. This represents an increase of 18.5 per cent on the previous year.

4.7 In 2006/07 19,300 adults resident in the South East were on TtG programmes. There was an increase in 2007/2008 to 38,700 in the South East on regional and national programmes.

4.8 In 2006/07, 121,000 South East LSC funded adult learners participated in PCDL provision. This represents a decline of just over 18 per cent on the previous year. This is much larger than the national decline (just over 2 per cent) and again reflects the shift in the balance of provision in the South East. Greater emphasis has been placed on funding accredited provision that contributes towards targets, with other types of adult provision increasingly delivered on the basis of full cost recovery.

4.9 In the South East the number of adult learners contributing to Skills for Life targets (improving the language and numeracy skills of 2.25 million adults by 2010) increased by 15.7 per cent between 2005/06 and 2006/07, from 51,500 to 56,400 learners. In 2006/07 62.9 per cent of these learners were studying or taking learning aims that count towards targets, this is higher than the national average of 60.9 per cent.

4.10 The number of adults, including those most vulnerable, in learning in the South East being supported through the European Social Fund (ESF) increased from 39,000 in 2005/06 to 55,500 in 2006/07. This was in addition to those on LSC funded learning.

Adult participation by level of study

4.11 Across all adult FE provision in 2006/07, the highest level studied by 33 per cent of learners (72,400) was Level 2 and 24 per cent of learners (52,500) studied at Level 3. Compared to the national picture, the South East has proportionally more adults studying at Level 3 and slightly fewer studying at Level 2.

4.12 The proportion of adults learners resident in the region who were studying at Level 1 and entry level is slightly lower than nationally (35 and 38 per cent respectively).

4.13 In 2006/07, 24,200 adult learners resident in the South East took full Level 2²⁴ qualifications and 23,800 took full Level 3²⁵ qualifications. For both levels the number of learners decreased slightly from the previous year but is in keeping with national trends.

4.14 Looking at qualification levels of all those studying in WBL (Apprenticeships, NVQs etc) the regional figures quite closely match the national trend, with two thirds (67 per cent) studying at Level 2 and almost all of the remainder studying at Level 3. Very small proportions (less than 1 per cent) are studying at Level 1 and entry level and at Level 4 and higher.

4.15 Apprenticeship numbers increased at all levels, with the largest relative increase in those undertaking Advanced Apprenticeships. These are larger increases than the national trend. Over half (55 per cent) were undertaking Apprenticeships, with the remaining 45 per cent in Advanced Apprenticeships.

4.16 Qualification levels in Train to Gain in 2007/2008 the South East are very similar to the national trend, with about 75 per cent studying at Level 2 and 13 per cent studying Skills for Life. Just less than 12 per cent are studying courses at Level 3 (including Level 2 jumpers)²⁶. Management information on Train to Gain is updated monthly and the South East position can change quickly.

²⁴ Full Level 2 is a level of skill considered as a foundation for employability and lifelong learning.

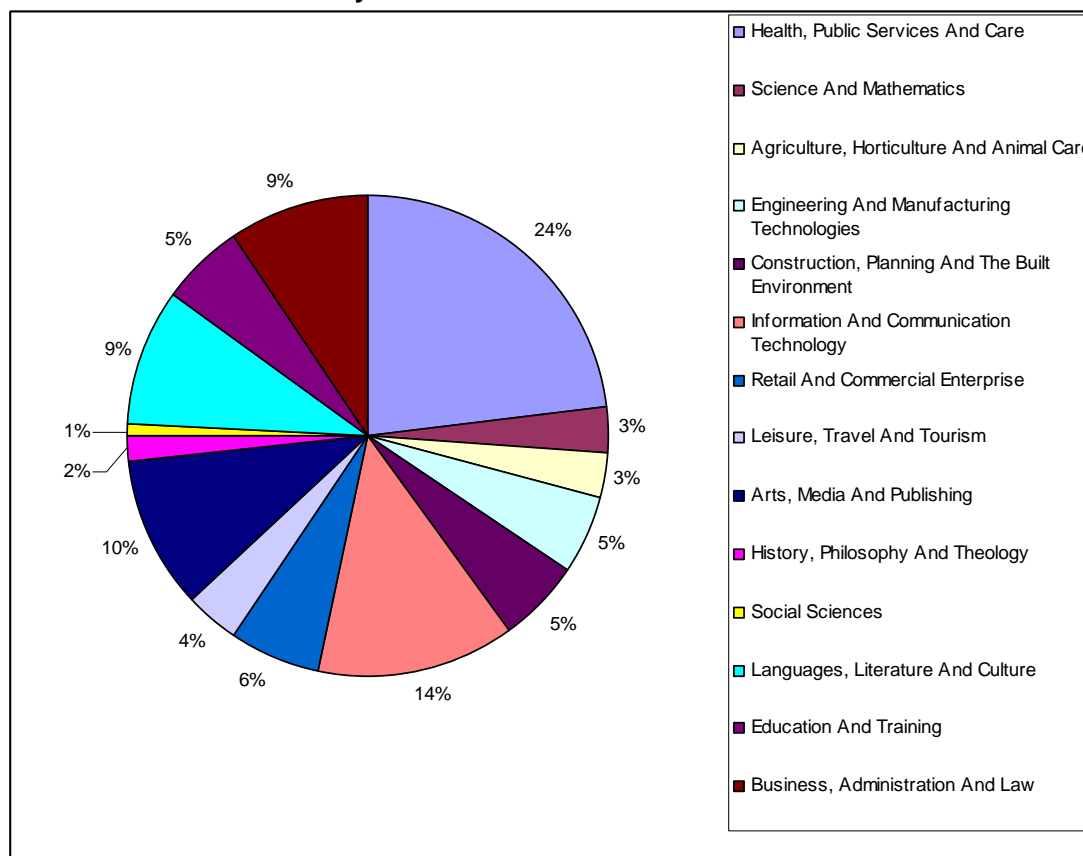
²⁵ Full Level 3 is a higher level of skill at technician, higher craft or associate professional level.

²⁶ Level 2 jumpers have no level 2 qualification, but are undertaking a level 3 qualification.

Adult participation by Sector

Further Education

Figure 4.1 Percentages of LSC funded Further Education learning aims of adults resident in the South East by sector 2006/07²⁷



Source ILR FE Aims F05 2006/07

4.17 Nearly a quarter of the aims of adult learners in FE resident in the South East were in the Health, Public Services and Care (HPC) sector. A further 14 per cent were in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and 10 per cent in Arts, Media and Publishing (AMP).

4.18 The distribution of resident adult learning aims differs by sector across the region. For full Local Authority breakdown please see Annex B. Below are some noteworthy breakdowns:

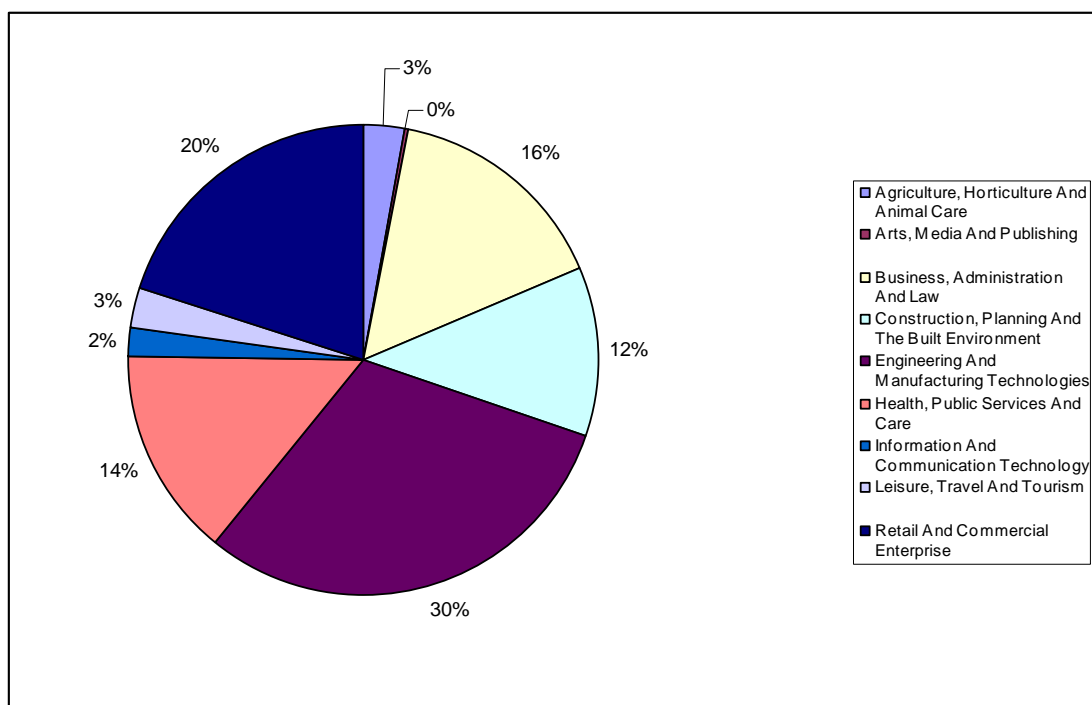
- Over 30 per cent of adult learners resident in Slough are undertaking Health, Public Services and Care aims, compared with 24 per cent regionally and about 18 per cent in Portsmouth and Windsor and Maidenhead.

²⁷ Note Preparation For Life And Work learning aims have been excluded and sectors are reported for highest level of learning

- Nearly a quarter of learners resident in Milton Keynes and 20 per cent in Portsmouth undertake Information and Communication Technology, compared with 14 per cent regionally.
- More than 16 per cent of adult learners resident in East Sussex and in Brighton and Hove undertake their courses in Arts, Media and Publishing, compared with 10 per cent regionally.
- Over 10 per cent of learners resident on the Isle of Wight are on Construction courses, about twice the regional rate (5 per cent).

Adult Apprenticeships

Figure 4.2 Percentage of South East resident adult Apprenticeships by sector



Note: Education and Training sector and Preparation for Life sector not shown due to low numbers.

Source: ILR WBL 0607 freeze date 11th February 2008

4.19 Just under a third of adult apprentices living in the South East in 2006/07 were in the Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (EMT) sector (about 4 in 10 of South East resident EMT Apprenticeships are undertaken by adults living on Armed Forces bases in the South East). A further 20 per cent were in Retail and Commercial Enterprise (RCE) and 16 per cent in Business Administration and Law.

4.20 The distribution of adult apprentices differs by subject across the region. Below are those of note:

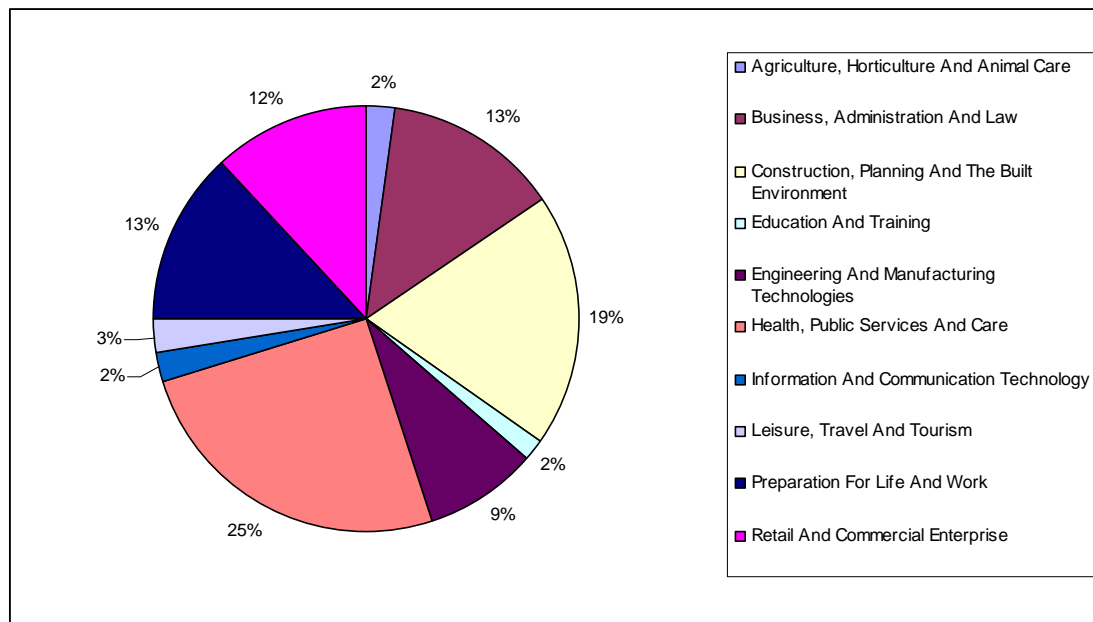
- Over 80 per cent of adult apprentices resident in Wokingham are undertaking Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies

Apprenticeships, compared with 31 per cent regionally. This is largely due to the high number of apprentices in the armed forces based in this area.

- 41 per cent of adult apprentices resident on the Isle of Wight and 31 per cent of adult apprentices resident in Portsmouth undertake Retail and Commercial Enterprise Apprenticeships, compared with 20 per cent regionally.
- Nearly 30 per cent of adult apprentices resident in East Sussex undertake their Apprenticeship in Health, Public Services and Care, compared with 14 per cent regionally.
- More than 30 per cent of Milton Keynes and Slough resident apprentices are in Business, Administration and Law, about twice the regional rate (16 per cent).
- 19 per cent of adult apprentices resident in Oxfordshire are on Construction Apprenticeships, compared with 12 per cent regionally.
- Around 8 per cent of adult apprentices living in Medway and Bracknell Forest are undertaking Information and Communication Technology Apprenticeships, around 4 times the regional average (2 per cent).

Train to Gain

Figure 4.3 Percentages of Train to Gain learning aims of adults resident in the South East by sector 2007/2008



Note: Arts, Media and Publishing sector and Language, Literature and Culture sector not shown due to low numbers

Source: National ILR0708 W12_AIMS (does not include final 'wash out' periods)

4.21 The high percentage of aims in Health, Public Services and Care sector and the Preparation for Life and Work sector is inflated by those undertaking Skills for Life and Health and Safety courses as part of their Train to Gain qualification.

Adult participation by gender

	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
FE	187,000	113,000	134,000	83,000	n/a*	n/a*
ACL	112,000	35,300	95,000	29,600	n/a*	n/a*
WBL	13,500	21,800	12,900	20,200	15,500	22,500
Apprenticeships**	10,900	13,400	11,400	17,400	14,200	20,200
Train to Gain	n/a	n/a	9,600	9,100	17,500	18,700
Total	312,500	170,100	249,600	140,500		

Sources: Individualised learner record (ILR) 2005/06 and 2006/07, freeze date 19th June 2007 (F05) and 3rd April 2008 (F05) respectively. ILR Period 12 WBL 2007/2008

* 2007/2008 ILR F05 and C03 data not yet available for FE and ACL.

** Apprenticeship numbers are also within WBL figures

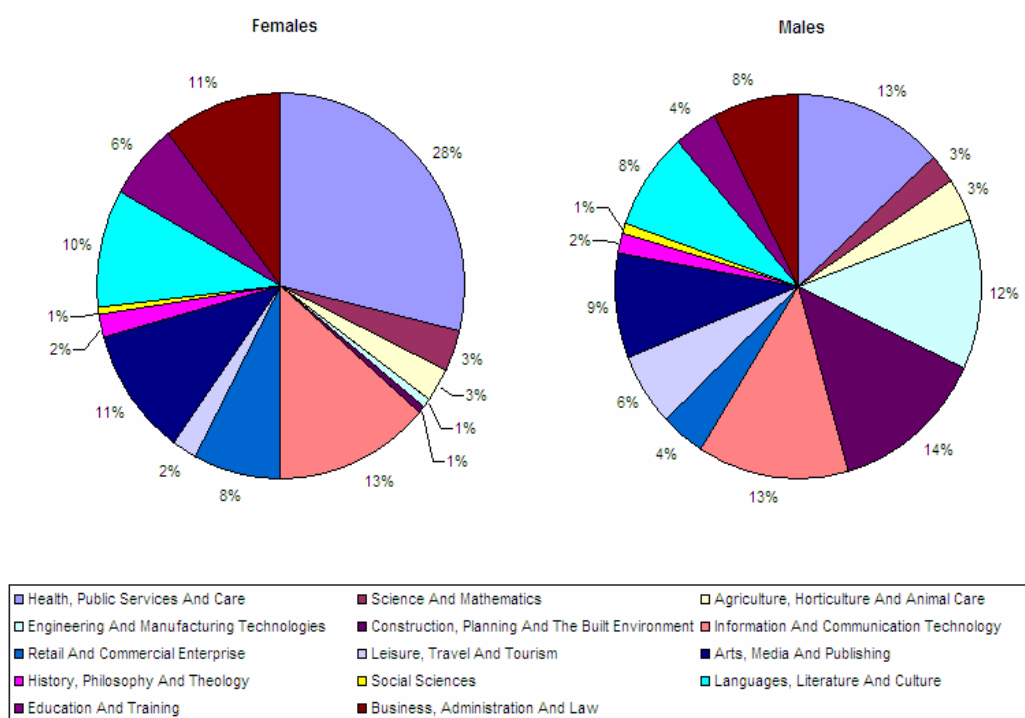
4.22 In 2006/07, 262,900 females participated in LSC funded learning in the South East, compared with 159,300 males (Table 4.1). However, there were gender differences between the programmes, females were more likely than men to participate in FE and ACL, whereas the opposite is true for WBL and Apprenticeships.

Further Education

4.23 As with young females in Further Education adult women are also more likely to be in learning than men (64 per cent compared with 36 per cent in 2006/07). The proportion of male and female adult learners differed by age: 53 per cent of young adult learners (age 19-24) were female, compared with nearly 65 per cent among those aged 25 and over.

4.24 In the Further Education sector the Isle of Wight had the highest proportion of male learners in the young adult age group (64.1 per cent). Windsor and Maidenhead had the highest proportion of young adult female learners (63.1 per cent).

Figure 4.4 Number of Further Education adults resident in the South East by sector and gender, 2006/07



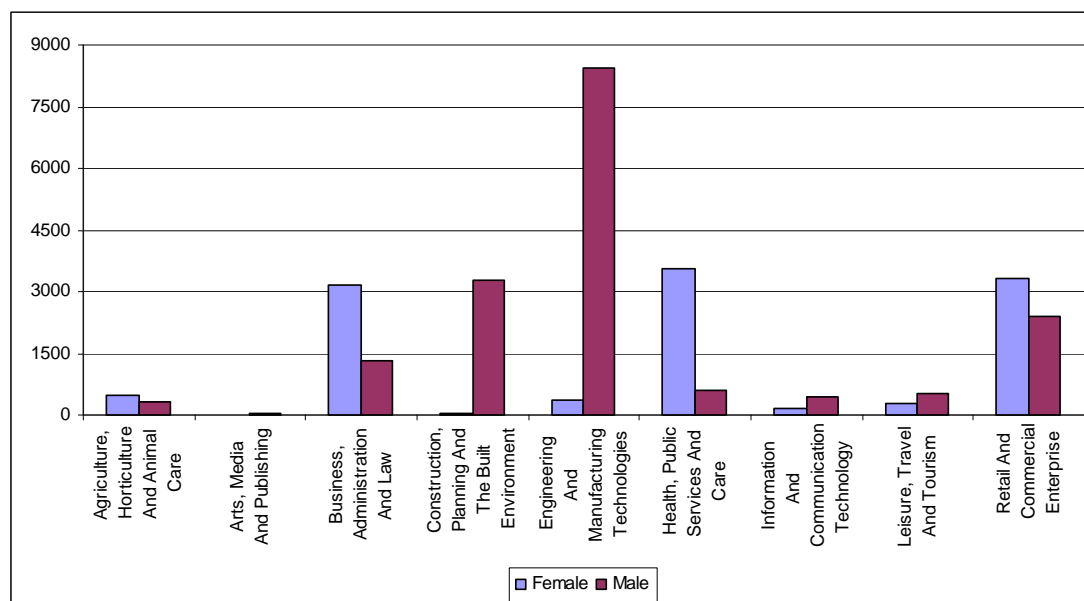
4.25 There are also sectoral differences in what males and females study (Figure 4.4):

- Nearly 30 per cent of females are studying Health, Public Services and Care aims compared with 13 per cent of males.
- Construction (14 per cent) and Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (12 per cent) courses are very largely undertaken by the males; though females undertake these courses in smaller numbers, with 3 per cent in Construction and a further 3 per cent in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies.
- Females (8 per cent) are twice as likely as males (4 per cent) to undertake learning in Retail and Commercial Enterprise.

4.26 There are no gender differences for Information and Communication Technology courses with 13 per cent of both genders studying in this sector.

Adult Apprenticeships

Figure 4.5 Number of Apprenticeships for adults resident in the South East by sector and gender, 2006/07



Note: Education and Training sector and Preparation for Life sector not shown due to low numbers.

Source: ILR WBL 0607 freeze date 11th February 2008

4.27 The sectors in which apprentices living in the South East were working differed for males and females. Apprentices in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and Construction, Planning and the Built Environment were almost exclusively male (fewer than 1 in 25 apprentices in these sectors were female). Whereas, in Health, Public Services and Care, around 8 out of 10 apprentices, and in Business, Administration and Law around 7 out of 10 apprentices, were female. The regional priority sectors of Construction; Engineering and Manufacturing; Health and Social Care; and Retail are well represented by the adult Apprenticeship numbers.

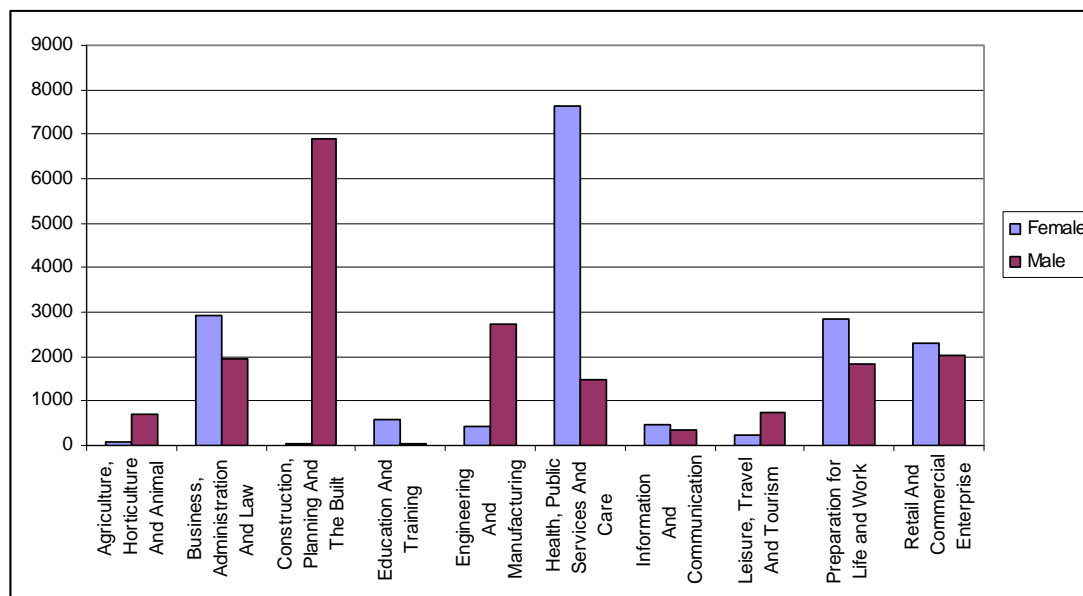
4.28 About 60 per cent of adult apprentices resident in the South East were men, although the proportion differed across the region.

4.29 Hampshire had the largest number of both male and female resident apprentices. Nearly 90 per cent of the apprentices living in Wokingham and nearly three quarters in Windsor and Maidenhead were male. In contrast, almost 60 per cent of apprentices living in East Sussex were females, the largest proportion across all Local Authorities in the region. Just over half of the resident apprentices in Milton Keynes, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth were female.

4.30 The volume of male apprentices in Wokingham and Hampshire, in particular, is partly affected by the amount of engineering apprentices living on armed forces bases in the area.

Train to Gain

Figure 4.6 Number of Train to Gain learning aims of adults resident in the South East by sector by gender 2007/2008



Note: Arts, Media and Publishing sector and Language, Literature and Culture sector not shown due to low numbers

Source: National ILR0708 W12_AIMS (does not include final 'wash out' periods)

4.31 The sectors in which Train to Gain learners living in the South East were working differed for males and females. Train to Gain learners in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and Construction, Planning and the Built Environment were almost exclusively male (fewer than 1 in 40 aims in these sectors were undertaken by females). Whereas, in Health, Public Services and Care, around 8 out of 10 aims, and in Business, Administration and Law around 6 out of 10 aims, were female.

Adult participation by mode of study

4.32 In 2006/07 the majority (91.5 per cent) of adult learners resident in the South East in the FE sector are studying part-time. This is similar to the national figure for part-time adult learners (91 per cent).

ADULT LEARNER ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS

Adult achievement against PSA targets

4.33 By 2011, 79 per cent of working-age adults should be qualified to Level 2 and 56 per cent to Level 3. These targets will ensure that the LSC will remain on track to reduce the number of adults in the workforce without at least a Level 2 qualification by 40 per cent.

4.34 In the South East in 2007, 73.9 per cent of the population aged 19-retirement age were qualified to at least Level 2, the highest rate after the

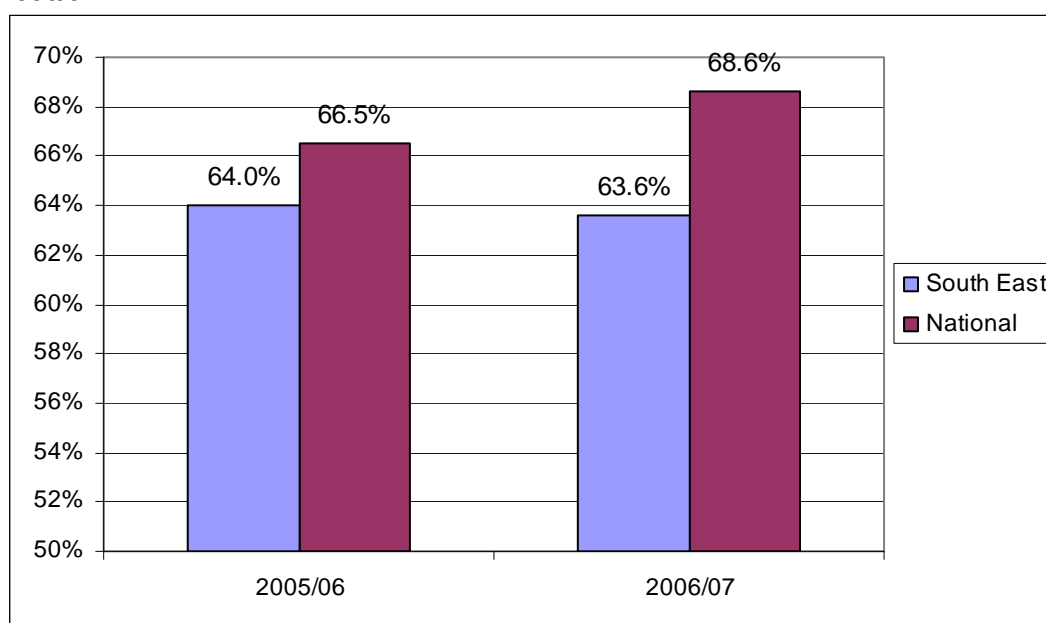
South West (74.4 per cent) and 3.3 percentage points higher than the rate for England²⁸.

4.35 A third (33 per cent) of the adult population (aged 19-retirement age) in the South East were qualified to Level 4 and above, the highest proportion outside London (39 per cent) and 2 percentage points higher than the national rate (31 per cent).

Adult Full Level 2 Success and Achievement

4.36 Figure 4.7 shows that the South East had a success rate of 63.6 per cent for adults in FE: full Level 2 in 2006/07, 5 percentage points lower than the national rate and a slight decrease (0.4 percentage points) from the previous year.

Figure 4.7 Adults in Further Education: Full Level 2 Success rates, 2006/06 and 2006/07



Source: FE ILR F05 2005/06 and 2006/07 final

4.37 The South East saw 12,400 adults achieve a full Level 2 in 2006/07. This accounts for 11 per cent of the total nationally. The region saw a 3 per cent increase from the previous year; this is less than the national increase of 13 per cent.

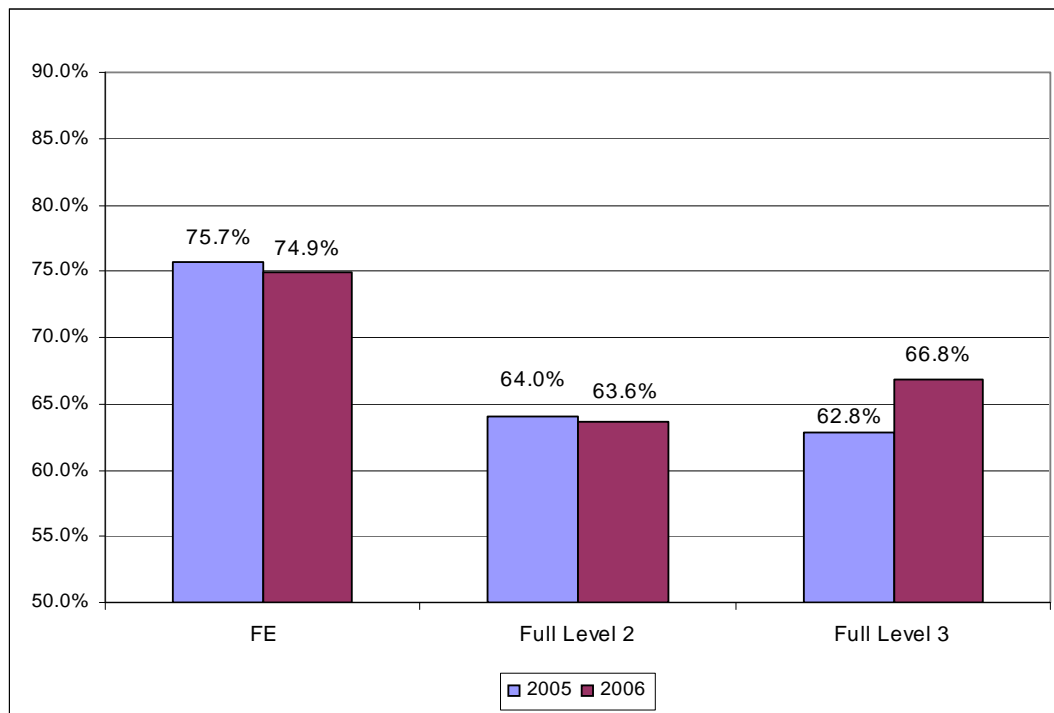
Further Education Success Rates

4.38 Across all providers in the region, overall adult learner success rates in FE have decreased from an average of 75.7 per cent in 2005/06 to 74.9 per cent in 2006/07. Full Level 2 success rates remained about the same (around 64 per cent). However there were improvements in success rates (62.8 per

²⁸ Source: Office for National Statistics, Q4 Labour Force Survey, 2007

cent to 66.8 per cent) achieved in the Full Level 3, between 2005/06 and 2006/07, as illustrated in Figure 4.8 below.

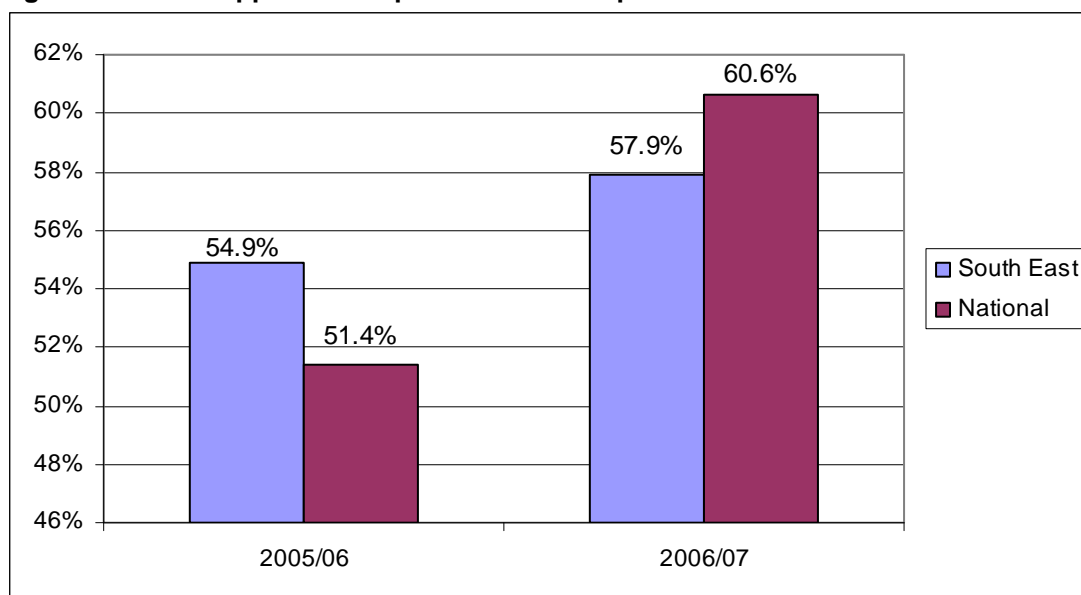
Figure 4.8 Further Education Success Rates, 2005 & 2006



Source: FE Success and Benchmarking (FESB), 0607

4.39 Figure 4.9 illustrates that the South East had an Adult Apprenticeship Level 2 Completion Rate of 57.9 per cent in 2006/07. This is lower than the national average of 60.6 per cent. However, there has been a slight increase from the previous year (3 percentage points).

Figure 4.9 Adult Apprenticeships at Level 2 completion rates

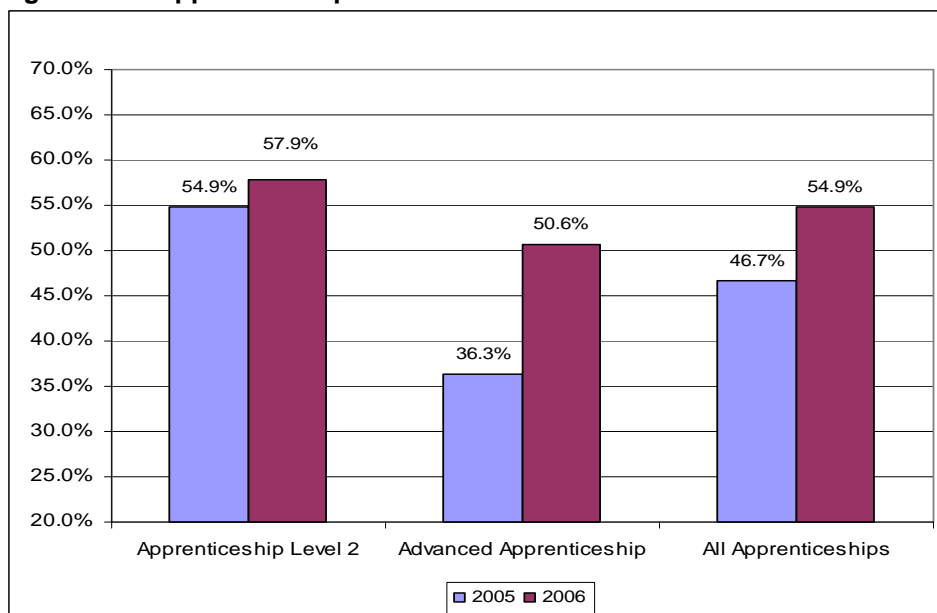


Source: WBL ILR Final 2005/06 and 2006/07

Apprenticeship Success Rates

4.40 In 2006/07 the overall success rate for Apprenticeships in the region (55 per cent) is slightly less than the national rate (59 per cent). Between 2005/06 and 2006/07 the overall increase in successes for Apprenticeships in the region (9 percentage points) is 7 percentage points less than the national increase. For Apprenticeships, success rates in the region have improved, increasing from 47 per cent to 55 per cent; for Advanced Apprenticeships success rates have increased from 36 per cent to 51 per cent. Slightly greater improvements have been achieved nationally.

Figure 4.10 Apprenticeship success rates

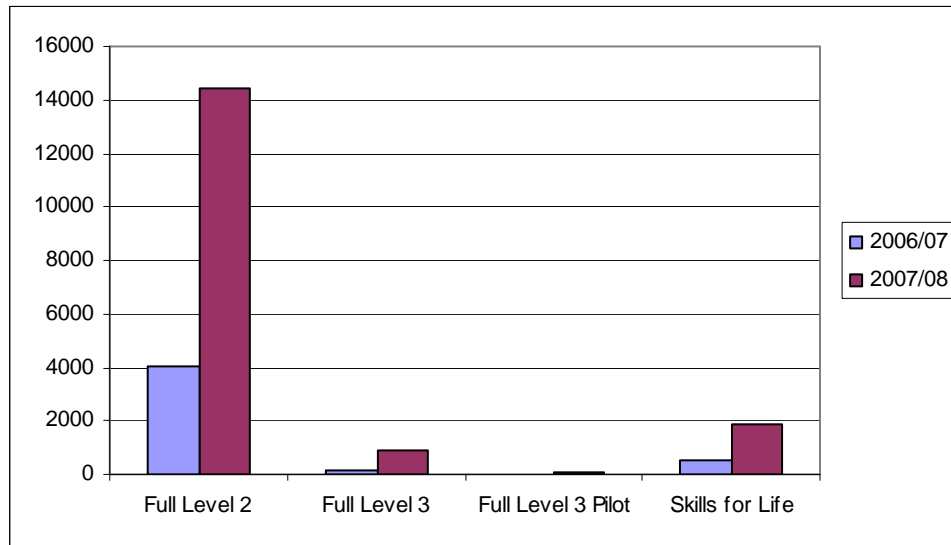


Sources: Performance review Spring 08 - WBL success masterfile 0607

Train to Gain Achievements

4.41 The South East saw an increase in the number of adults on Train to Gain programmes achieving qualifications at all levels between 2006/07 and 2007/08. In particular there was an increase of over 10,000 in those achieving a Full Level 2.

Figure 4.11 Train to Gain achievements. 2006/07 & 2007/08



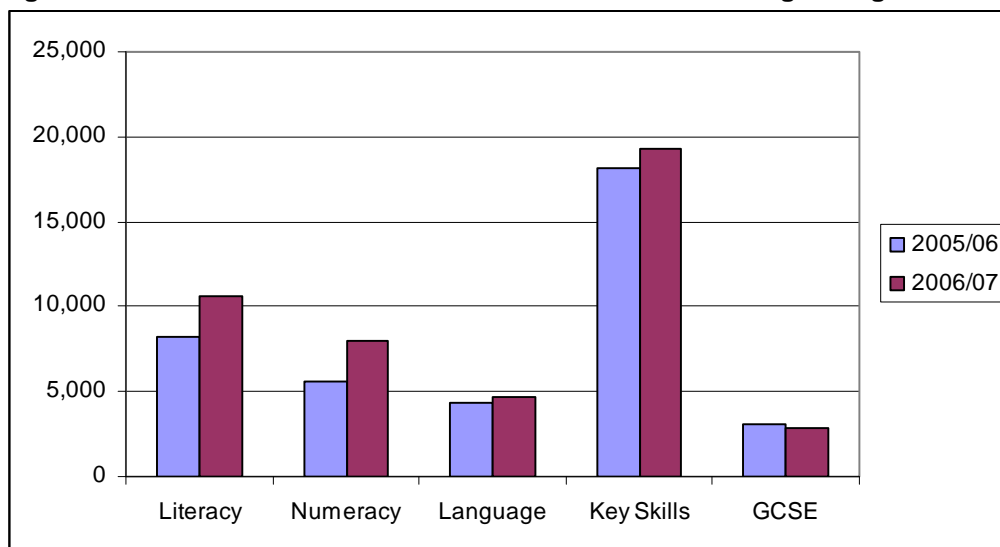
Source: WBL National ILR 0607 (final) & 0708 (period 12 - not final data - does not include 'wash out' due in November 08) - data taken from Tactical MI

Adult Skills for Life Achievement

4.42 The South East saw an increase in the proportion of adults achieving one or more aims that count towards Skills for Life targets of 15.8 per cent between 2005/06 and 2006/07 from 27,600 learners to 31,900 learners. This is higher than the national increase of 12.8 per cent.

4.43 In the South East the number of literacy, numeracy, language and key Skills for Life achievements counting towards targets increased between 2005/06 and 2006/07. However, the number of GCSE achievements counting towards SfL targets decreased between the same time period, this reflects the national pattern.

Figure 4.12 South East Skills for Life – achievements counting to target



Source: FE ILR F05, WBL P15 ILR final, ACL ILR C03, ESF SR, UFI U05 (all 2005/06 and 2006/07), ETP database

EMPLOYER-FACING ACTIVITIES

4.44 Evidence from National Employers Skills Survey 2007 (NESS07) suggests that while employers generally accept the importance of training, barriers to training for many workers remain, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Engaging these employers in training and workforce development activities continues to be a challenging and resource-intensive activity. The South East has a similar proportion of (SMEs) to England as a whole. However, the large number of businesses in the region means that there is a consequently large number of SMEs. This in turn makes employer engagement in the region a substantial task, and in particular makes the roll-out of Train to Gain across the region especially challenging.

Train to Gain

4.45 The LSC's national employer training service, Train to Gain (TtG), commenced in April 2006. This service is designed to reach employers who are less likely to encourage staff training and evidence from the service's first year in operation shows that it has been successful in engaging with some of these hard to reach employers.

4.46 In 2006/07, around 21,200 Train to Gain starts were undertaken in the South East, accounting for nearly 9 per cent of all engagements nationally. In 2007/2008 so far there are 26,200 Train to Gain starts, nearly 11 per cent of all engagements nationally and fourth highest nationally.

4.47 The satisfaction rate with the brokerage service in the South East is the highest in England (91 per cent compared to 83 per cent nationally). Over 5,600 employers were engaged, with 78 per cent employing between 1 and 49 employees, slightly more than nationally (76 per cent). 73 per cent of the first Level 2 learners and 69 per cent of Skills For Life learners achieved a qualification.

4.48 The South East has a number of innovative projects to engage employers through: sector initiatives (e.g. Strategic Health Authority Joint Investment Framework); leadership and management skills in SMEs; market segmentation initiatives with employers; increasing work with the public sector through the South East Public Sector Challenge supported by the Regional Minister. All are aimed at driving up employer engagement.

4.49 The South East has recently established two major initiatives to improve learner start performance, the South East Skills Challenge and Provider Capacity Building/Growth.

South East Skills Challenge

4.50 A joint, stakeholder initiative to up-skill and re-skill at least 250,000 people in the SE workforce over the next three years. This will focus on five, linked action plans to achieve this objective:

- Improving skills in the public sector
- Developing the role of business affinity groups, e.g. Chambers of Commerce, in promoting workforce development to employers
- Targeting priority groups, especially the low-skilled and volunteers to develop their skills
- Working with partners in diamonds for growth areas and a number of other key areas to focus on the needs of the low-skilled
- Supporting providers to develop sector-specific approaches to skills e.g. engineering and manufacturing, transport and logistics.

4.51 For more information about the South East Skills Challenge, please refer to Annex A.

Provider capacity building/growth

4.52 A programme targeting those providers with the potential to grow their Train to Gain business. Aimed at the top 30 performing existing providers and new providers, either out-of-Region good performers or those who do not hold a Train to Gain contract, e.g. DWP providers.

Skills Pledge

4.53 The Skills Pledge was launched as a part of the Government's response to the Leitch Report on 14 June 2007. The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2. It is a promise that, through training, they will work to boost the productivity of their business and realise the potential of their employees. The purpose is to ensure that all staff are skilled, competent and able to make a full contribution to the success of a company or organisation. As at the end of July 2008, 550 employers in the South East had signed the Skills Pledge, covering more than 200,000 employees.

INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

4.54 The expression "Integrated Employment and Skills" (IES) was first used in the Leitch report in 2006 as a call on the separate parts of the public sector responsible for skills and employment to work together to deliver an integrated service to the unemployed and low skilled.

4.55 The two key agencies charged with bringing about this integration are Jobcentre Plus and the LSC. IES is not a specific programme of support, a

funding pot, or a new offer to unemployed adults, but it is being used increasingly as a general term for a wide range of initiatives and programmes emerging from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

4.56 IES is an aspiration for a more joined-up offer to the unemployed which will avoid the current risk that arises when adults move from being unemployed into work and often gain a job but do not continue training or learning. It recognises that if the cycle of unemployment, to poorly paid low skilled work, then back to unemployment is to be broken, training solutions need to be developed to bridge periods of unemployment and employment. This in turn requires that JCP and the LSC programmes of support for the workless must become seamless at the point of delivery.

4.57 Core components to achieving an effective integrated employment and skills strategy in the South East:

- Strengthen the working relationship between the LSC and JCP at strategic and operational levels, both regionally and locally
- Promote the role of the advice and guidance and longer term the Adult Advancement and Carers Service, in providing unemployed people with the support to make the right choices
- Ensure that there is a strong linkage and convergence between programmes which engage employers i.e. Train to Gain and IES
- Develop buy-in from other key stakeholders through Local Area Agreements for example, and ensure alignment with their programmes
- Support this through a number of key initiatives within the South East, including the South East Skills Challenge, Employability programmes, Employer engagement and Skills Accounts.

Programmes of Teaching and Learning

4.58 The offer here is **not** new but there have been significant enhancements to the offer this year.

Employability Skills Programme (enhanced)

4.59 This offers learners SFL training and qualifications, including an employability qualification. It is a taught course, usually run full time, over about 15 weeks but can be delivered part time. Last year the South East funded 1,000 learner places and in 2008/09 it is expected that 2,400 learner places will be funded.

Skills for Jobs (enhanced)

4.60 This offers a wide range of support to workless adults trying to get back into work. It funds the Pre-Employment Training (PET) offer which supports Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) including sector based PET devised and agreed by SSCs. Last year the LSC had a budget of £1.8m and a target of 1,380 learners; in 2008/09 the LSC will be funding the provision through ESF and has a budget of £4m and a target of 2,800 learners (over 2 years).

Stepping Stone provision (enhanced)

4.61 A range of provision that can be used to engage workless adults in taking the first steps toward developing employability skills, and gaining the qualifications that they need to get back into work.

Family Learning and Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (enhanced)

4.62 Enhanced with a new Family Learning Impact Fund (approx £1m for SE) from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to be targeted at areas of high crime and social deprivation.

First Steps provision (enhanced)

4.63 The LSC has increased the provision of First Steps learning by 15 per cent across the South East for 2008/09.

Wider Skills for Life community provision (enhanced)

4.64 New Train to Gain flexibility should increase the take up of Skills For Life within Train to Gain and new numeracy targets should increase that provision too.

Neighbourhood Learning and Deprived Communities provision

4.65 A range of locally agreed provision targeted to the most deprived communities, including capital funding.

Offender learning discrete community provision (enhanced)

4.66 Just over £1m of provision aimed at learners referred from probation, previously used just for SFL provision, from this year will be used for SFL and other skills training. A number of pilot projects are being developed to enable offenders to access Train to Gain funded skills training in the community in conjunction with work placements, work trials and new jobs.

Skills Accounts (New)

4.67 The South East is one of only two regions to be trialling Skills Accounts, along with the East Midlands. The aim of Skills Accounts (SA) is to place more choice into the hands of learners and give them access to a wider range of provision options than they would have without a Skills Account. It also adds value to the current offer through a range of motivational devices including a virtual learning voucher and a statement of learning which sets out the learning programme and the level of state funding.

4.68 Skills Accounts will be trialled specifically with Jobcentre Plus clients from November, in Hampshire. Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) advisers will be the primary delivery agents of Skills Accounts for this group. The LSC has also engaged 12 strategic partners to work particularly closely with to test out the systems and processes that sit behind Skills Accounts. Skills Accounts will provide a new access route to FE funded provision for individual adult learners. The South East is also trialling private training providers offering FE funded provision, through Skills Accounts

Information, Advice and Guidance (Enhanced)

4.69 IAG is now offered through prime contractor model, VT (Careers Enterprise) won the regional contract which runs for 2 years, from August 2008. One of the aims of the new contract is to pilot new services. The contractor will be required to support the Adult Advancement and Careers Service (AACS) pilots as well as to trial new services offered as part of the IES trials; including Skills Health Checks and Advanced Skills Screening.

Adult Advancement and Careers Service (AACS)

4.70 From August 2010 the current IAG contracts will be replaced by the AACS. It will be an "IAG plus" service, which will be telephone and web based, and an enhanced service which will be focussed on those who are out of work, on benefits or in very low paid work. The idea is to provide a "one stop shop" that will deal with all the barriers that workless adults face when trying to get into work including health, housing, debt and caring responsibilities. The South East will run up to 3 pilots from this September, each funded for 2 years. The outcomes of these pilots will inform the final shape of the AACS from Aug 2010. There will be 10 pilots across the country, 6 in IES trial areas, so the South East will play a prominent role in developing this new service.

ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

4.71 The following initiatives are being implemented in South East region to encourage adult participation in learning.

Adult Learning Grant

4.72 The Adult Learning Grant has now being rolled out nationally and the latest take up figures give a generally positive picture. In 2006/07, actual awards totalled over 11,800 nationally. In the South East there were just over 2,800 grants awarded and these have supported learners from less advantaged backgrounds to participate in learning.

Adult Learner Accounts

4.73 Learners in identified areas of economic growth across the South East will have trialed the Government's new Adult Learner Accounts (ALA) in 2007/08. Learners will receive free independent advice on training options and supported access to local learning opportunities. ALA is intended to put the learner at the heart of the learning and skills system and, in-turn, create more demand-led learning. Trials to test the accounts began in September 2007 and around 4,000 accounts were available to help learners over the age of 19 gain full Level 3 qualifications, including National Vocational Qualifications and BTEC National Diplomas. About 35 colleges and providers are offering ALA.

ADULT SAFEGUARDED LEARNING AND FIRST STEPS LEARNING

Adult Safeguarded Learning (ASL)

4.74 Adult Safeguarded Learning (ASL) is funded learning for personal fulfilment, civic participation and community development which are achieved via the four main programme elements from PCDL, Family Programmes and Neighbourhood Learning:

- Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)
- Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN)
- Wider Family Learning
- Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC)

Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)

4.75 Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) is learning for personal development, cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation and for enjoyment. It is also learning developed with local residents and other learners to build the skills, knowledge and understanding for social and community action. There is no requirement that learners must necessarily progress to other learning or that the learning leads to a qualification.

4.76 It will be invigorated through local PCDL Partnerships which look beyond just LSC funded learning and include a wide range of recreational, health-related and cultural learning funded through other sources.

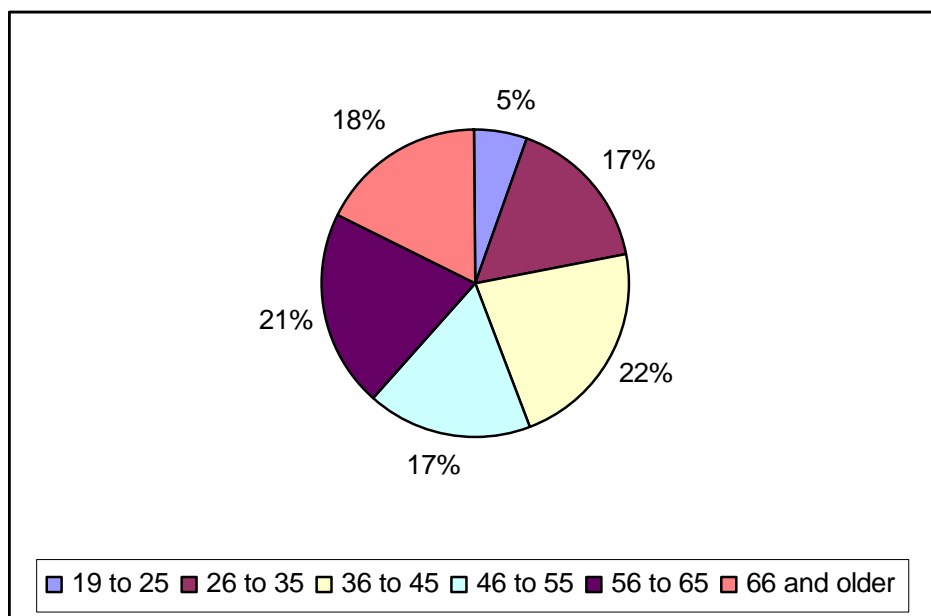
4.77 In 2006/07 a network of 30 South East providers delivered PCDL provision²⁹ to just over 126,000 learners. Nearly 80 per cent of ASL learners were on PCDL provision³⁰, the rest are on family and neighbourhood provision.

4.78 The South East was a net importer of about 5,000 PCDL learners. Over three quarters of PCDL learners are female.

4.79 About seven per cent undertake courses at Level 1 with 91 per cent taking non-qualification level courses.

4.80 The average age of the PCDL learners is 49, with over one fifth aged 36 to 45 and a further fifth aged 56 to 65.

Figure 4.13 Percentage of PCDL funded learners by age group.



Source: ILR ACL C03 2006/07

First Steps Learning (FSL)

4.81 First Steps Learning (FSL) provision aims to enthuse and build the confidence of learners who are returning to learning (particularly at Entry and Level 1) to progress to and achieve Skills for Life and Level 2/3 qualification outcomes. It also continues to support the re-engagement of learners within the context of social inclusion.

4.82 First Steps Learning is not part of the adult safeguard. It is offered as a planned, initial entry point into learning and for learner progression to further

²⁹ Source ILR ACL C03 2006/07 (excludes PCDL in FE ILR returns)

³⁰ Source ILR ACL C02 2006/07 (excludes PCDL in FE ILR returns) SE Performance Review April 08

formal learning; including progression pathways within the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT).

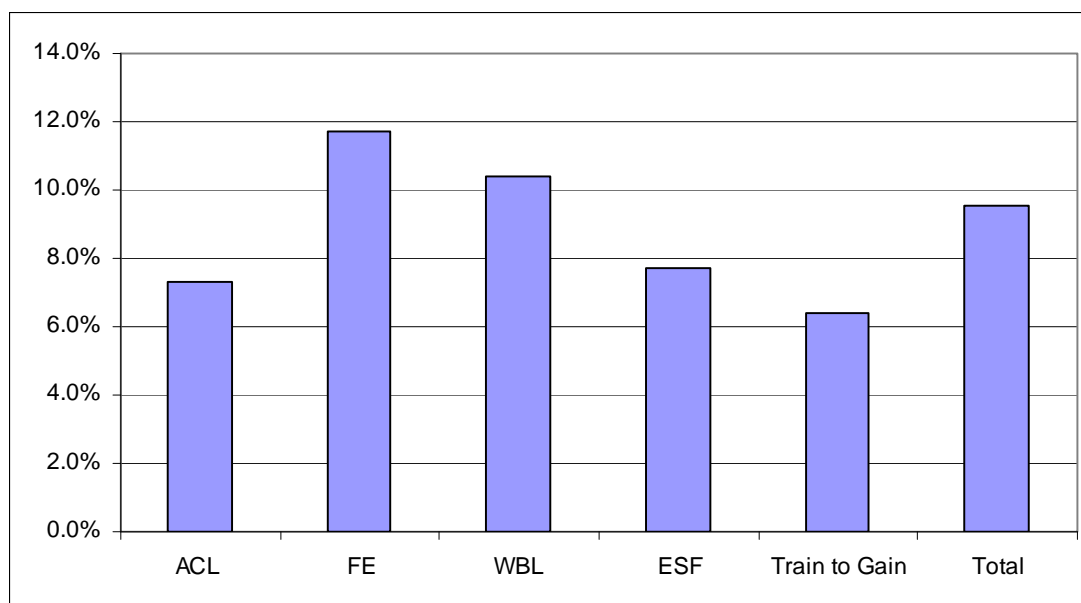
4.83 It is anticipated that FSL will, over time, be fully assimilated into the FLT. The assimilation of FSL would be subject to the provision matching the technical specifications of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

LEARNERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES

4.84 In 2006/07, 10 per cent (44,100) of adult learners in the South East attending funded learning and skills provision were learners self declared as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD). A further 5,800 adult LLDD learners in the South East were attending non-LSC or ESF funded learning and skills provision.

4.85 Figure 4.14 shows that the highest percentage of the learning population with LLDD is in FE (nearly 12 per cent) and the lowest percentage in Train to Gain provision (less than 7 per cent).

Figure 4.14 Percentage of LSC and ESF funded adult Learners with Learning Disability or Difficulties by Provider type.



Source: FE F05 ILR 2006/07, WBL ILR Final 2006/07, ACL ILR C03 2006.07, SR ESF ILR 2006/07 ILR0708 W12_AIMS (for Train to Gain)

OFFENDER LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE (OLASS)

4.86 As at August 2008 there were 9,800 adults on LSC funded learning in adult institutions in the South East. Almost all (93 per cent) were male and 14 per cent considered themselves to have a learning difficulty, disability or health problem. More than half (58 per cent) of offenders on LSC funded training were White British and almost 1 in 5 were Black (19 per cent).

4.87 Just under half (48 per cent) of the learning aims undertaken were at Level 1, with a further 23 per cent on Level 2 and 21 per cent on Entry Level. Just over 6 out of 10 learning aims (61 per cent) were in Preparation for Life and Work, with a further 13 per cent in Information and Communication Technology.

Annex A – South East Skills Challenge

The South East Skills Challenge is a programme comprising 5 projects aimed at upskilling 250,000 people of working age in the South East over the next 3 years. Set out below is a summary of each of these projects with details of progress that has been made to date.

Project 1 - Public sector challenge – around 25 per cent of the South East workforce is employed in the public sector. This project aims to challenge major public sector employers to train their staff to a minimum of Level 2, employ more apprentices and wherever possible recruit and upskill people from their local communities.

So far, Jonathan Shaw, the regional minister for the South East has given his support to the region's Public Sector Skills Challenge and has written to a range of major public sector organisations including Local Authority Chief Executives, and the Police Service. In the coming weeks letters will also be sent to FE college principals and the Chief Executives of all South East NHS Trusts.

Work is now going on at a local level with Local Authorities in particular to start identifying employees who would be able to benefit from training. Skills South East, the regional brokerage service, is supporting this project by dedicating a number of specialist brokers to working with the public sector.

Great progress has also been made in working with the two Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) in the region. A Joint Investment Framework (JIF) has been signed by both SHAs, the LSC and Skills for Health, committing the LSC and the SHAs to match fund training for employees in bands 1 to 4 over the next 3 years. A manager has been appointed in each of the SHAs to give advice and guidance to the Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) on upskilling their workforce and are there to ensure that the JIF is successfully implemented. So far, 26 Trusts and the two SHAs have signed the skills pledge.

Project 2 - Leading edge skills for sectors – aims to help providers develop and increase their knowledge of specific sectors and engage more effectively with employers. The initial focus is on the engineering and manufacturing sectors; expanding to IT, financial services, and transport and logistics later in the year. Over the course of the project's three year duration further sectors will become involved.

So far the LSC has established 3 specialist provider networks in the region. These cover engineering and manufacturing sectors, passenger transport, freight and logistics and IT user skills, focusing on Information Technology Qualifications (ITQ). In November 2008 the LSC will also hold the first meeting of the specialist provider network for Financial Services. The programme of support for providers wishing to do more business in the engineering and manufacturing sectors was launched on 2 September 2008

at the LSC offices in Reading with a very positive response from providers. The programme will run until February 2009.

A programme of support and development has also been designed for providers wishing to expand their business in the delivery of ITQ – to enable employees to improve their IT user skills. This programme will commence in October 2008.

A working party has also been formed from the passenger, freight and logistics network to develop an action plan to address the barriers they have identified.

Project 3 - Business representative groups – here the focus is on recruiting more employers to engage with the Train to Gain service. Business representatives such as Sector Skills Councils, Chambers of Commerce, Institute Of Directors, Confederation of British Industry, Federation of Small Businesses etc, can play an active ‘advocacy role’ in identifying and encouraging new organisations to take advantage of the free Train to Gain service to transform the skills needs and aspirations of their workforces.

The LSC is currently working with Proskills (the Sector Skills Council for building products, coatings, extractive and mineral processing, glass, printing, paper and furniture) who have engaged with a number of employers with several hundred prospective learners identified. The South East Chambers have also identified similar numbers of learners with excellent progress being made, particularly in Kent.

Discussions are planned with a number of other Business Representative groups.

Project 4 - Skills for Priority Learners – The overarching aim is to increase the take-up of skills training among members of two priority groups – economically inactive people and volunteers. Job Centre Plus is working with the LSC to develop approaches for engaging hard to reach individuals. Together they are working on identifying and involving organisations that offer the opportunity to train large number of volunteers. Train to Gain contracts have already been agreed with the Council of Voluntary Service, Scouts and Age Concern.

The LSC has contracted with 3 voluntary sector organisations and have close to 500 starts on programmes to date. They are now in the process of identifying other voluntary organisations to work with to achieve similar results.

As a result of the project the LSC has also worked more closely with providers of training for out of work adults. Take-up of provision and success rates has significantly improved over the last six months. By early July the Employability Skills Programme had 750 learners enrolled against a target of 1000 by the end of August this year, and Skills for Jobs enrolments stood at 445 against a target of 680 for that point in the year.

The LSC have also started working with the Probation Service and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to increase the take up of these programmes by offenders in the community. In the autumn an event will be held to bring providers and Probation / NOMS together to promote the provision and develop relationships between providers and offender managers.

Project 5 - Skills for Growth – This project focuses on the urban environment and builds on existing initiatives allied to Diamonds for Growth and Local Area Agreements. A skills framework designed to meet the needs of business, communities and residents is being developed across urban areas, focusing on the eight Diamonds for Growth areas of Central Oxfordshire, Reading, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale, the Gatwick Diamond, Portsmouth and Urban South Hampshire, Basingstoke, Thames Gateway and Brighton and Hove. The areas of Ashford and Slough will also be included.

This is a complex project where care must be taken to ensure that the additional resource being provided by the LSC complements existing activity and adds value. A skills framework, designed to meet the needs of businesses, the community and the public sector is being developed in each of these areas and once agreed with strategic partners in the area will begin to be implemented. Plans will complement and support other existing strategies, such as local skills and regeneration plans.

Annex B – Local Authority Area Tables

LSC funded Further Education learning aims of adults resident in the South East by Sector 2006/2007

Local Authority	Health, Public Services And Care	Science And Mathematics	Agriculture, Horticulture And Animal Care	Engineering And Manufacturing Technologies	Construction, Planning And The Built Environment	Information And Communication Technology	Retail And Commercial Enterprise	Leisure, Travel And Tourism	Arts, Media And Publishing	History, Philosophy And Theology	Social Sciences	Languages, Literature And Culture	Education And Training	Business, Administration And Law	Unknown
Buckinghamshire	20.66	3.12	4.17	4.39	5.07	15.09	6.05	2.83	10.42	3.14	0.99	9.18	6.80	7.95	0.17
Milton Keynes	21.81	1.95	1.47	3.72	3.61	24.91	7.93	3.07	7.41	0.51	0.31	3.61	6.57	12.86	0.26
East Sussex	24.62	3.33	4.52	3.89	6.75	9.97	5.43	4.48	16.73	1.30	0.80	5.89	5.64	6.49	0.18
Brighton and Hove	26.32	3.52	4.07	4.04	4.92	7.83	6.08	6.93	16.32	0.50	0.81	6.76	4.82	6.82	0.26
Hampshire	21.50	3.52	1.69	4.79	5.55	14.05	6.54	2.95	11.82	1.52	0.31	10.93	4.59	10.17	0.07
Portsmouth	17.91	3.23	0.90	3.71	5.66	20.39	7.96	2.59	9.02	0.51	0.63	15.38	4.03	7.99	0.09
Southampton	27.03	3.88	1.25	5.44	5.85	14.93	6.34	2.85	8.90	1.46	0.41	6.84	4.32	10.43	0.07
Bracknell Forest	25.32	3.21	2.96	5.41	5.49	8.33	4.31	2.75	7.90	0.34	0.34	13.82	7.02	12.76	0.04
Windsor and Maidenhead	17.78	3.25	3.56	5.00	3.34	12.43	3.34	3.47	11.40	2.81	0.37	19.03	7.22	6.69	0.31
West Berkshire	26.40	1.33	2.40	6.97	5.93	18.17	5.17	2.77	6.67	0.73	0.23	6.57	6.60	9.83	0.23
Reading	22.32	2.08	1.47	4.17	4.53	15.51	5.14	3.42	6.40	0.95	0.64	17.18	5.66	9.93	0.62
Slough	30.20	3.71	2.41	5.99	5.28	8.90	6.59	2.21	5.32	0.80	1.04	9.50	8.06	9.90	0.10
Wokingham	18.48	2.26	2.90	5.87	4.64	7.74	4.10	3.81	12.87	1.13	0.48	20.61	6.35	8.67	0.10
Kent	25.69	2.33	3.87	6.60	5.88	9.09	6.29	3.59	7.14	2.40	0.40	11.19	5.55	9.92	0.07
Medway	25.31	4.05	2.58	6.83	7.90	12.71	6.70	3.72	3.03	2.83	0.36	4.52	7.26	12.11	0.11
Isle of Wight	25.01	2.63	1.92	8.34	10.44	13.48	14.19	1.92	8.74	1.83	0.15	1.52	4.06	5.42	0.31
Oxfordshire	25.96	3.76	2.75	4.73	3.31	7.69	5.38	4.34	12.31	2.12	0.55	8.37	4.16	12.39	2.17
Surrey	21.63	2.87	4.36	4.76	5.57	12.99	3.69	4.11	12.11	3.31	1.53	7.73	6.13	8.73	0.48
West Sussex	21.85	2.25	3.84	6.05	5.52	18.86	7.73	3.89	6.76	2.06	0.54	6.53	5.35	8.68	0.07

Source: ILR FE Aims F05 2006/07

Profile of employment by Industry, 2007

	Agriculture and fishing	Energy and water	Manufacturing	Construction	Distribution, hotels and restaurants	Transport and communications	Banking, finance and insurance	Public admin. education and health	Other services
England	1.5	1.3	17.2	10.5	24.6	9.1	22.6	35.6	8.1
South East	1.6	1.2	14.4	10.4	23.8	9.3	24.6	34.3	7.9
Bracknell Forest	*	*	16.4	10.4	21.3	10.7	31.6	29.6	7.2
Brighton and Hove	*	1.5	8.0	8.5	21.7	7.9	20.6	39.6	10.2
Buckinghamshire	2.8	!	15.3	8.4	21.3	9.9	25.2	33.3	10.4
East Sussex	2.6	*	11.6	10.2	27.7	6.2	23.1	34.9	8.0
Hampshire	1.5	1.5	15.9	10.2	23.8	8.2	23.9	36.0	8.0
Isle of Wight	*	*	15.4	9.7	29.6	6.6	11.8	43.0	9.0
Kent	1.8	0.9	14.7	14.0	26.1	8.7	21.4	36.1	7.7
Medway	*	*	18.1	19.2	27.4	9.2	22.6	34.5	6.2
Milton Keynes	2.9	!	19.1	7.3	25.0	12.9	25.5	32.1	4.5
Oxfordshire	1.6	1.6	18.5	9.3	21.8	7.8	25.1	38.6	6.7
Portsmouth	!	*	14.7	11.9	28.8	6.8	13.8	41.0	9.6
Reading	*	1.6	10.8	7.5	25.5	11.6	29.4	27.5	6.0
Slough	*	*	19.7	8.8	30.3	17.8	22.2	24.3	5.3
Southampton	!	*	15.4	10.2	18.9	14.5	18.8	38.8	9.1
Surrey	1.2	1.3	10.6	7.4	20.9	9.4	31.2	30.1	8.4
West Berkshire	1.9	3.0	18.0	8.4	20.5	11.1	29.8	29.6	8.8
West Sussex	2.1	1.6	12.8	12.9	26.7	10.7	23.5	32.2	6.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	!	*	17.3	6.7	16.2	15.1	30.1	27.7	10.9
Wokingham	*	1.4	14.3	6.9	17.3	8.1	34.4	31.1	8.9

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey 2007

! Estimate and confidence interval not available since the group sample size is zero or disclosive (0-2).

* Estimate and confidence interval unreliable since the group sample size is small (3-9).

Proportion of people employed by occupation, by local authority, 2007

	Managers and senior officials	Professional occupations	Associate prof & tech occupations	Administrative and secretarial occupations	Skilled trades occupations	Personal service occupations	Sales and customer service occupations	Process, plant and machine operatives	Elementary occupations
England	15.7	13.1	14.6	11.8	10.7	7.8	7.5	7.1	11.3
South East	17.5	14.5	15.4	12.1	10.3	7.6	7.1	5.2	10.2
Windsor and Maidenhead	25.5	18.1	18.2	10.9	6.7	4.6	4.4	4.2	7.3
Wokingham	23.9	18.3	16.4	13.1	6.5	7.8	5.0	3.3	5.7
Surrey	21.5	17.2	16.9	12.4	8.7	7.0	6.7	2.2	7.0
Brighton and Hove	20.2	17.3	17.3	8.8	7.5	7.4	8.3	3.6	9.6
Buckinghamshire	21.3	13.6	18.6	12.5	9.4	8.4	3.4	4.2	8.6
Bracknell Forest	18.7	16.9	15.8	13.5	10.6	6.6	5.6	2.8	9.4
West Berkshire	19.6	15.5	14.8	12.4	10.4	5.8	6.9	5.7	8.7
Reading	15.0	19.4	15.5	9.8	7.8	5.6	9.3	5.1	12.2
Oxfordshire	16.3	17.0	15.5	11.5	9.2	7.2	5.6	6.4	11.2
Hampshire	16.8	14.0	15.7	12.6	10.5	7.8	6.4	5.7	10.3
West Sussex	18.4	13.2	14.1	12.5	10.1	7.9	8.7	4.6	10.1
Milton Keynes	16.0	12.7	15.1	14.1	8.9	6.0	7.3	6.7	13.1
Kent	15.5	13.5	13.4	12.1	12.1	7.8	7.6	5.9	12.0
East Sussex	16.0	11.8	13.6	11.1	13.7	10.1	8.8	5.0	10.1
Portsmouth	13.1	11.8	15.4	10.9	10.2	7.3	11.5	5.7	13.6
Southampton	9.0	14.8	15.4	12.2	10.9	7.5	8.2	9.6	12.3
Isle of Wight	14.0	9.1	15.2	11.3	15.8	10.6	7.8	5.5	10.7
Medway	12.4	10.4	14.8	12.3	13.7	8.0	10.2	8.2	9.6
Slough	13.3	10.0	11.6	11.7	10.2	7.6	8.7	10.2	16.1

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey 2007

Age distribution of the working age population, by local authority, 2007

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 +
England	14.8	43.9	41.3
South East	13.9	43.2	42.9
Bracknell Forest	13.5	49.0	37.6
Brighton and Hove	16.4	47.0	36.6
Buckinghamshire	11.6	44.5	43.9
East Sussex	12.0	37.3	50.7
Hampshire	13.6	41.9	44.4
Isle of Wight	13.7	33.7	52.6
Kent	13.4	41.8	44.8
Medway	16.7	43.9	39.5
Milton Keynes	16.7	48.5	34.8
Oxfordshire	16.1	44.9	39.0
Portsmouth	20.4	44.9	34.7
Reading	19.2	50.3	30.5
Slough	17.7	51.4	30.9
Southampton	18.1	45.1	36.8
Surrey	12.5	44.5	43.0
West Berkshire	12.7	45.3	42.0
West Sussex	11.7	40.1	48.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	10.9	46.5	42.6
Wokingham	13.2	48.1	38.7

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey 2007

Incapacity Benefit/ Severe Disablement Allowance Claimants by local authority, Feb 2008

	Caseload (Thousands)	Proportion of South East total
South East	236.70	
Bracknell Forest	2.49	27.1
Brighton and Hove	12.92	140.6
Isle of Wight	6.18	67.2
Medway	9.19	100.0
Milton Keynes	7.48	81.4
Portsmouth	7.72	84.0
Reading	4.52	49.2
Slough	4.54	49.4
Southampton	9.62	104.7
West Berkshire	3.16	34.4
Windsor and Maidenhead	2.58	28.1
Wokingham	2.31	25.1
Buckinghamshire	9.7	105.5
East Sussex	19.71	214.5
Hampshire	27.3	297.1
Kent	48.43	527.0
Oxfordshire	13.88	151.0
Surrey	22.97	249.9
West Sussex	22	239.4

Source: DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Report abbreviations

AACS: Adult Advancement and Careers Service
ALA: Adult Learner Accounts
APS: Annual Population Survey
ASHE: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
ASL: Adult Safeguarded Learning
BME: Black and Minority Ethnic
CBI: Confederation of British Industry
CVS: Council of Voluntary Service
DCSF: Department of Children, Schools and Families
DIUS: Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills
DWP: Department for Work and Pensions
E2E: Entry to Employment
EMA: Education Maintenance Allowance
EMT: Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
ESF: European Social Fund
ESOL: English for speakers of other languages
ESP: Employability Skills Programme
FE: further education
FLLN: Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy
FLT: Foundation Learning Tier
FSB: Federation of Small Businesses
FSL: First Steps Learning
GFEC: General Further Education Colleges
GOSE: Government Office of the South East
HE: higher education
ICT: Information Communications Technology
IES: Integrated Employment and Skills
IPS: International Passenger Survey
IOD: Institute of Directors
ITQ: information technology qualification
JCP: Jobcentre Plus
LA: Local Authority
LAA: local area agreement
LLDD: Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
LLUK: Lifelong Learning UK
MLP: Minimum Level of Performance
MOG: Machinery of Government
NAS: National Apprenticeship Service
NEET: not in education, employment or training
NESS: National Employer Skills Survey
NINo: National Insurance Number
NIS: National Indicator Set
NLDC: Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities
NVQ: National Vocational Qualification
OLASS: Offender Learning and Skills Service
ONS: Office for National Statistics
PCDL: personal and community development learning
PET: Pre-Employment Training
PSA: Public Service Agreement
QCF: Qualifications and Credit Framework
QIA: Quality Improvement Agency
RCE: Retail and Commercial Enterprise
RDA: Regional Development Agency

RES: Regional Economic Strategy
ROCPA: Raising of Compulsory Participation Age
RQIP: Regional Quality Improvement Partnerships
S6F: School Sixth Forms
SEEDA: South East England Development Agency
SEERA: South East England Regional Assembly
SES: Single Equality Scheme
SFA: Skills Funding Agency
SfL: Skills for Life
SME: Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SSA: Sector Subject Area
SSC: Sector Skills Council
SSV: skill-shortage vacancies
TtG: Train to Gain
WBL: Work Based Learning
YPLA: Young Peoples Learning Agency

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