



Leading learning and skills

Youth Participation

07 November 2007

Key Issues & Facts

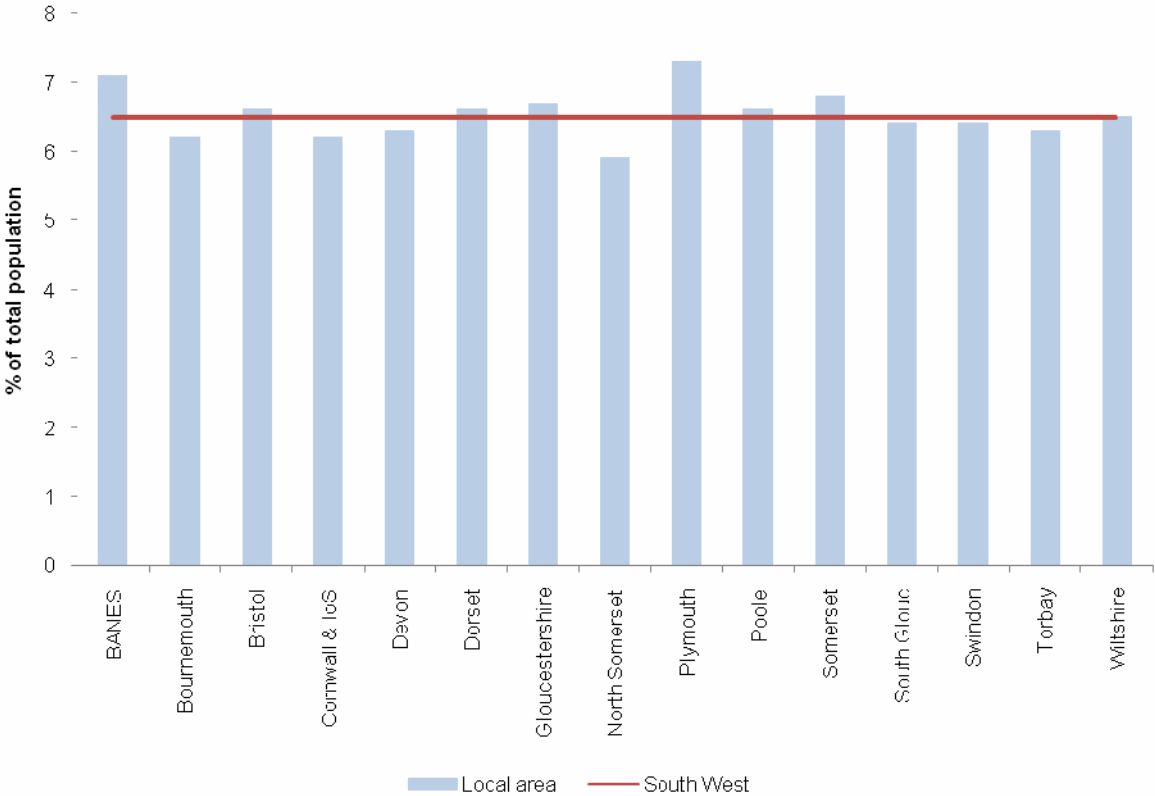
- The number of young people (aged 15-19) is fall in 2008 from around 330,000 to a low of approximately 297,000 by 2019.
- Devon has the largest population of young people. The smallest populations of young people are seen in areas such as Poole, Torbay and Bournemouth.
- Over 80% of young people participate in education or work-based learning (WBL) after leaving compulsory school education.
- Of those 16 and 17 year olds participating in full-time learning 40% do so in maintained schools; 46% in FE (general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges); 10% in independent schools (non-maintained special schools, independent schools, city technology colleges, academies and pupil referral units), and: 3% in sixth form colleges.
- In absolute terms the number of young people aged 16 to 17 participating in LSC-funded learning has risen from approximately 87,300 in 2001 to its present level in 2005 of 98,700.
- Whilst the majority of young people go on to further education and training there is a proportion of the population who are NEET. Local level data for August 2007 shows there were approximately 7,800 (6.4%) young people who were NEET after leaving compulsory schooling.

Youth Population

Current figures for 2006 estimate the number of young people aged 15 to 19 in the region at approximately 335,000, or 6.5% of the total population. As a proportion this is in line with the national average.

Within the region Plymouth (7.3%) and Bath and North East Somerset (7.1%) have the highest proportions of their population aged between 15 and 19. At 5.9% North Somerset has the smallest proportion of its population aged between 15 and 19.

Figure 1: Proportion of population aged between 15 and 19, South West, 2006 population estimates

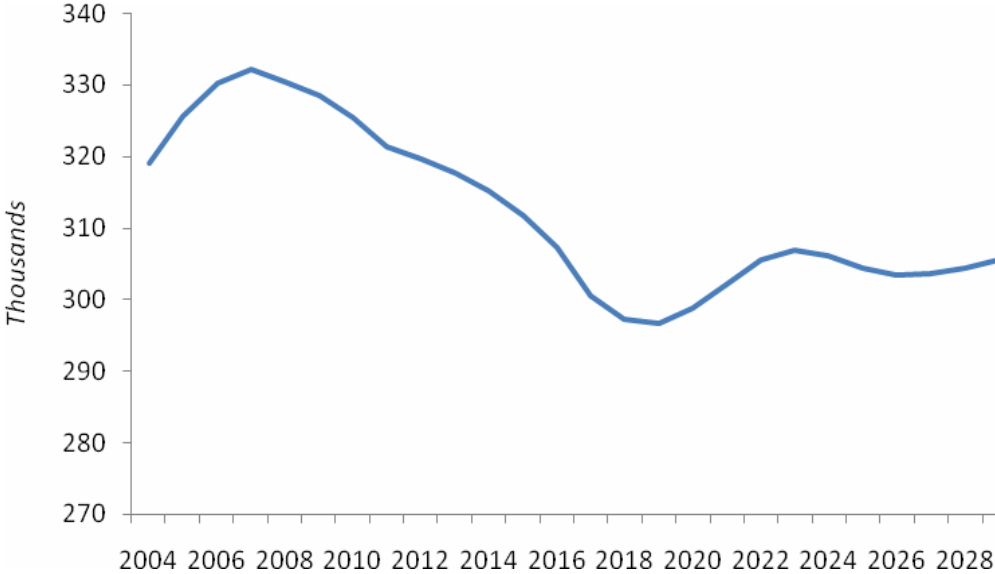


Source: ONS population estimates, NOMIS data service, 2007 © Crown Copyright.

[\[Link to Figure 1 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Latest local level population projections¹ (2004-based) for the South West suggest that the number of people aged between 15 and 19 will continue to rise until a peak in 2008 of around 330 thousand. Numbers are projected to fall to a low of approximately 297 thousand in 2019 before slowly rising to the low 300 thousands.

Figure 2: Population projections for people aged between 15 and 19, South West, 2004 to 2029 (thousands)



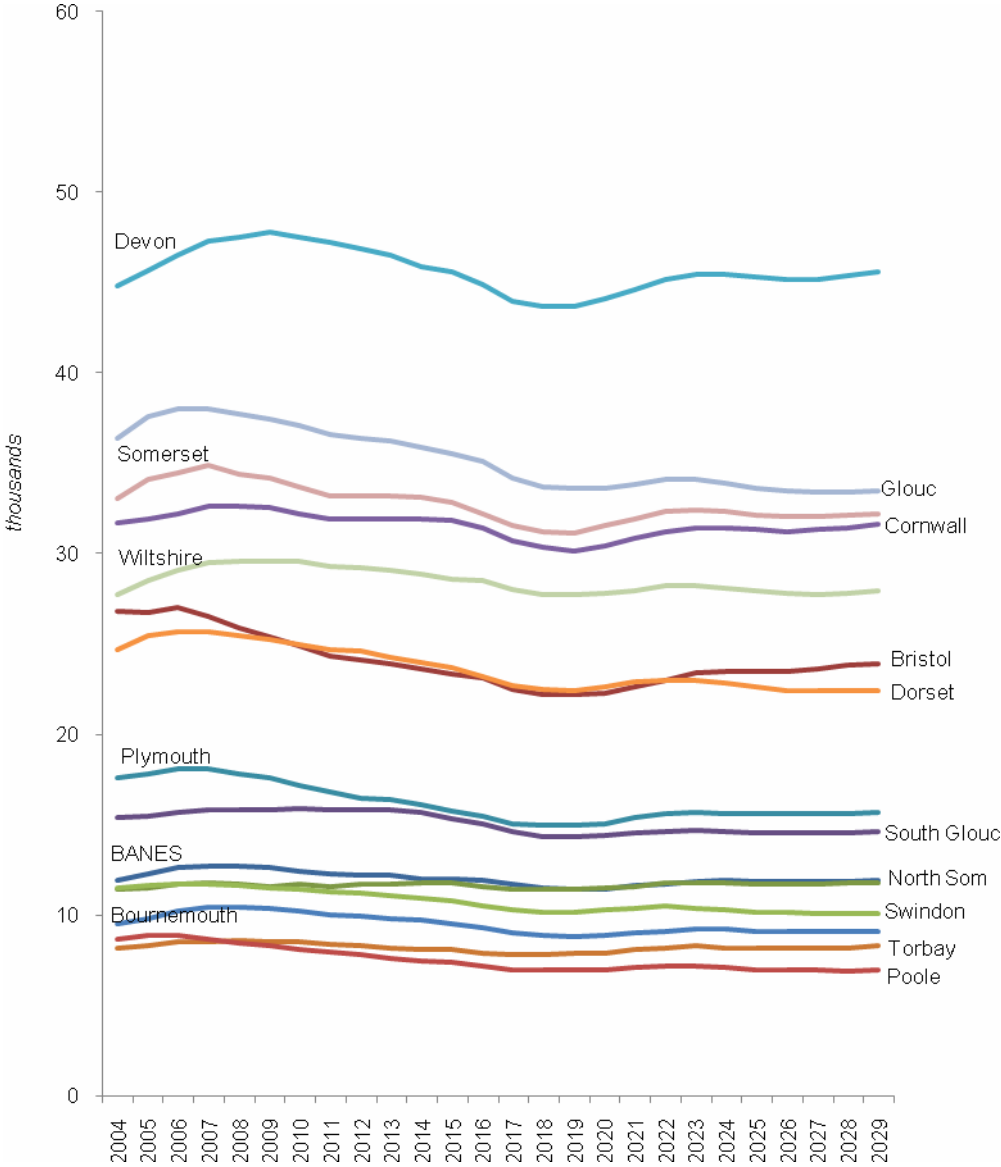
Source: ONS population projections, 2004-based, 2006 © Crown Copyright.

[\[Link to Figure 2 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

¹ Regional and local level population projections are currently 2004-based. 2006-based projections as per current national projections will be available in Spring/Summer 2008.

Within the region the population projections for young people follow regional and national trends. The fall and gradual rise in numbers is more prominent within those local areas with larger populations of young people such as Devon, which has in absolute numbers the largest population of young people. The smallest populations of young people are seen in areas such as Poole, Torbay and Bournemouth and these areas show a flatter population trend to 2029.

Figure 3: Population projections for people aged between 15 and 19, South West local areas, 2004 to 2029 (thousands)

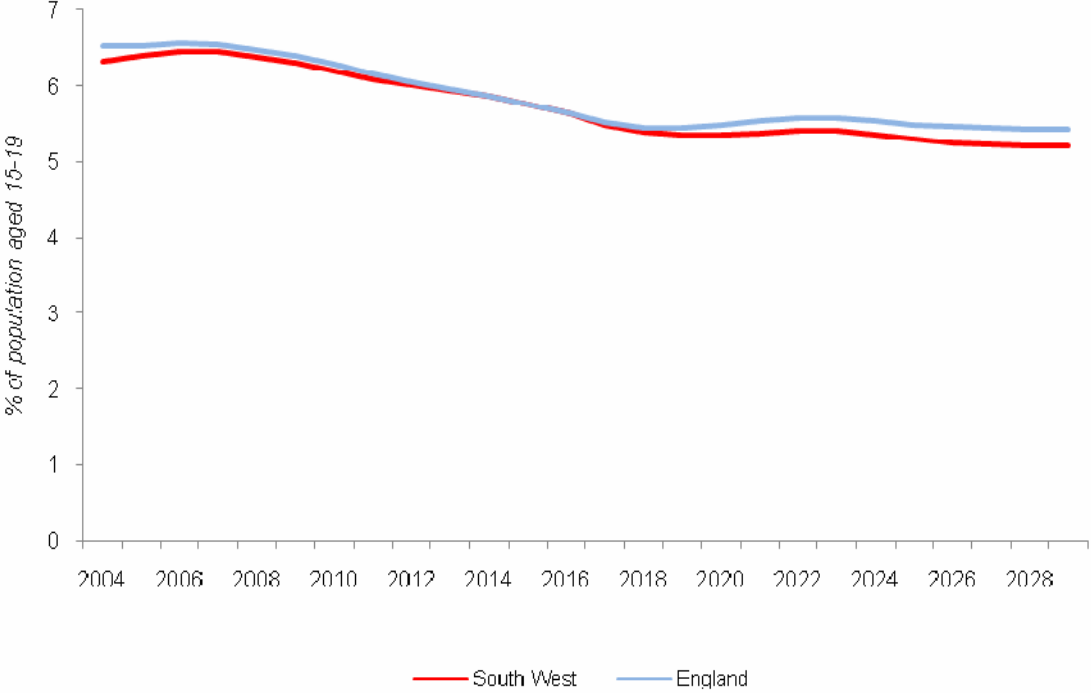


Source: ONS population projections, 2004-based, 2006 © Crown Copyright.

[\[Link to Figure 3 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Looking at this population of young people as a proportion of the total population (aged 0 to 85+) the South West generally mirrors national trends but with a fractionally smaller proportion of young people amongst its general population. The proportion of young people in the region is projected to fall from 6.3% in 2004 to 5.2% by 2029 and this compares to 6.5% nationally in 2004 to 5.4% by 2029.

Figure 4: *Proportion of population aged 15 to 19, South West & England, 2004 to 2029*



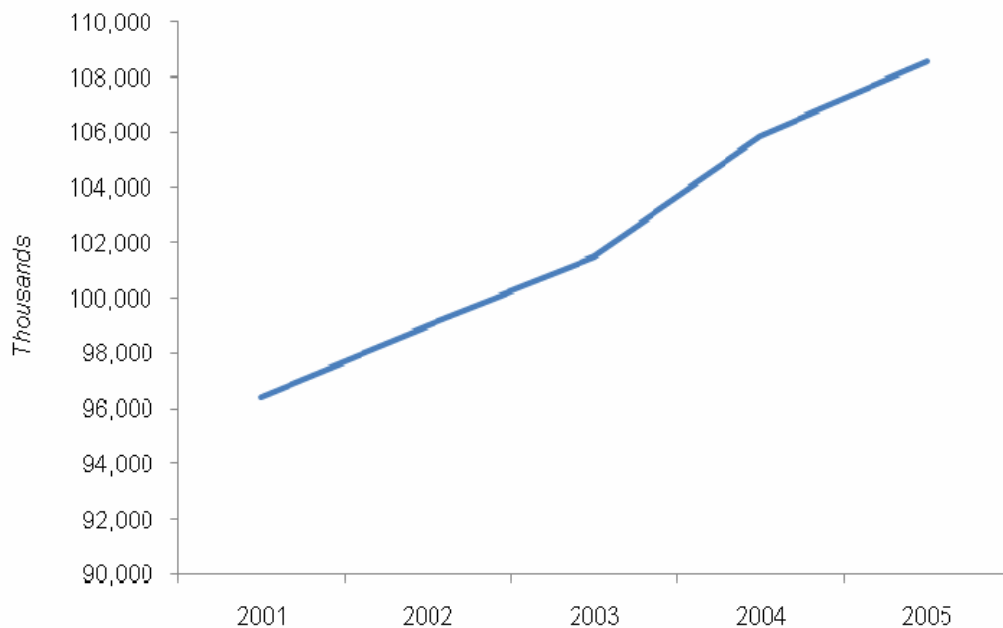
Source: ONS population projections, 2004-based, 2006 © Crown Copyright.

[\[Link to Figure 4 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Youth Participation in Learning

The majority of young people participate in education or work-based learning (WBL) after leaving compulsory school education. Latest figures for 2005 show 82% of 16 and 17 year olds remained in education or WBL in the region. This is in line with the regional average and as a proportion of the population aged 16 to 17 has remained consistent over the last five years. Looking at absolute numbers the figures have increased from 96,400 in 2001 to 108,600 by 2005.

Figure 5: Number of 16 and 17 year olds (combined) participating in learning, South West, 2001 to 2005



*Excludes the full-time education overlaps with Government Supported Training
Figures are provisional.
Source: DfES, 2005*

[\[Link to Figure 5 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Full-time education accounts for the vast majority of young people who are participating in learning (70%) with WBL accounting for around 7% and part-time education 5%.

Table 1: Participation in education and training of 16 & 17 year olds combined, South West & England, 2005

	South West	England
Full-time education		
<i>Maintained schools¹</i>	28	26
<i>Independent schools²</i>	7	6
<i>Sixth form college</i>	2	10
<i>Other FE³</i>	32	27
Total Full-time education	70	69
WBL	7	7
Part-time education	5	5
Total in education & WBL	82	81

*Excludes the full-time education overlaps with Government Supported Training
 Figures are provisional.
 Source: DfES, 2005*

□ [\[Link to Table 1 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

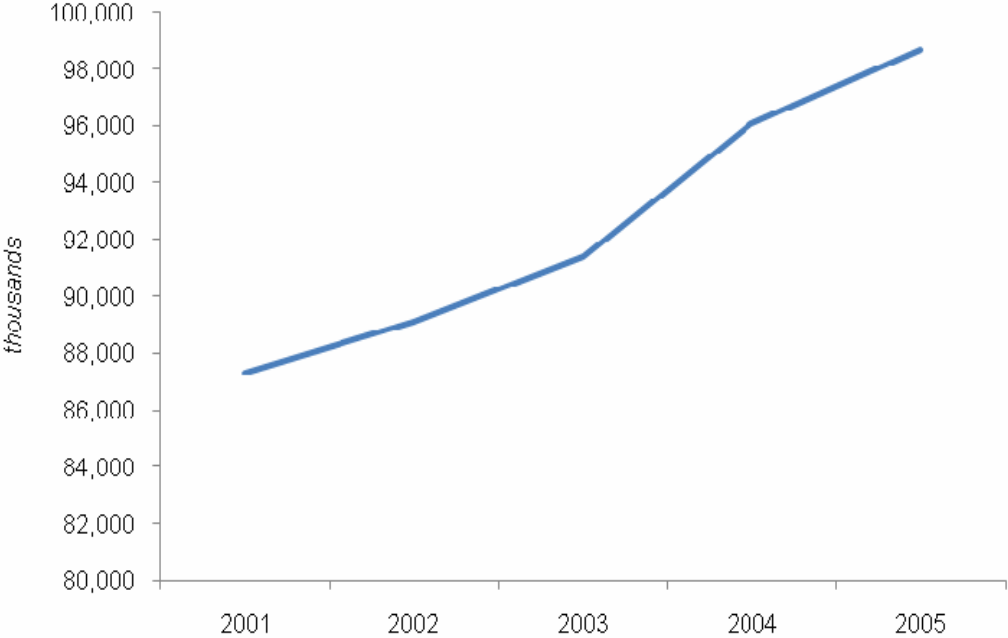
Of those 16 and 17 year olds participating in full-time learning 40% do so in maintained schools; 46% in FE (general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges); 10% in independent schools (non-maintained special schools, independent schools, city technology colleges, academies and pupil referral units), and: 3% in sixth form colleges.

Rates of WBL are higher amongst males than females with rates of 9% for males aged 16 and 17 compared with 5% for females. This is likely due to the higher levels of employment amongst males in industries such as manufacturing where there is a greater use of WBL programmes such as Apprenticeships. This is also reflected in the greater levels of participation in WBL seen in regions towards the northern half of England such as the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber where there is a higher concentration of industries such as manufacturing.

Looking specifically at participation in LSC-funded learning or training – so all learning and training with the exception of learning taking place in the independent schools, which include non-maintained special schools; independent schools; city technology colleges; academies and; pupil referral units – approximately 98,700 young people participated in learning and training in 2005. This equates to 76% of the population ages 16 and 17 and is in-line with the national average. In absolute terms the number of young people aged 16 to 17 participating in LSC-funded learning has risen from approximately 87,300 in 2001 to its present level in 2005 of 98,700.

The independent sector (non-LSC funded) accounts for 9,900 young people who are participating in learning, a figure that has remained fairly consistent over the last five years. This equates to approximately 7.5% of young people.

Figure 6: Number of 16 and 17 year olds (combined) participating in LSC-funded learning, South West, 2001 to 2005



*Excludes the full-time education overlaps with Government Supported Training
Figures are provisional.
Source: DfES, 2005*

[\[Link to Figure 6 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Within the South West rates of participation in learning are fairly uniform across the local LSC areas. At a more local level rates tend to vary. Bath and North East Somerset, Cornwall and Devon have the highest levels of participation at between 85 and 86%, with the lowest being seen in Poole and Torbay at 78 and 79%.

Figure 7: Participation in education and training of 16 & 17 year olds combined, South West, 2005



*Excludes the full-time education overlaps with Government Supported Training
 Figures are provisional. BANES= Bath & North East Somerset.
 Source: DiES, 2005*

[\[Link to Figure 7 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Looking specifically at LSC funded learning rather than learning that includes the independent sector, participation is highest in areas such as Cornwall, Plymouth, Swindon, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Torbay and Bournemouth all of which have proportions above the national average. The lowest levels of LSC-funded participation are in areas such as Bristol and Bath and North East Somerset.

Table 2: Participation in education and training of 16 & 17 year olds combined, South West local areas, 2005

	Full-time education				WBL	Part-time education	Total education & WBL	Total LSC funded	% LSC funded
	Maintained schools	Independent schools	6 th Form college	Other FE					
Bath & NE Somerset	1,400	800	200	1,000	200	200	3,900	3,000	66.7
Bournemouth	1,000	100	0	1,300	200	200	2,900	2,700	75.0
Bristol	1,300	1,800	700	3,000	600	600	7,900	6,200	66.7
Cornwall	2,900	300	0	6,400	1,000	900	11,400	11,200	83.6
Devon	5,100	1,100	200	6,100	1,300	800	14,700	13,500	74.2
Dorset	4,100	1,000	0	2,300	800	500	8,800	7,700	70.0
Gloucestershire	5,500	1,300	0	4,200	900	500	12,400	11,100	71.2
North Somerset	1,400	100	0	1,900	400	300	4,100	4,000	80.0
Plymouth	2,800	200	0	1,400	600	700	5,600	5,500	83.3
Poole	1,400	200	0	900	300	200	3,000	2,800	73.7
Somerset South	2,000	1,700	1,300	5,300	1,200	700	12,100	10,500	71.9
Gloucestershire	2,400	100	300	1,800	500	400	5,400	5,400	81.8
Swindon	400	-	0	3,000	300	300	3,900	4,000	83.3
Torbay	1,400	-	0	800	300	200	2,700	2,700	79.4
Wiltshire	3,800	1,100	200	3,400	700	400	9,600	8,500	71.4
South West	36,700	9,900	3,000	42,900	9,300	6,800	#####	98,700	74.5

*Excludes the full-time education overlaps with Government Supported Training
 Figures are provisional. BANES= Bath & North East Somerset.
 Source: DfES, 2005*

□ [\[Link to Table 2 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

The Connexions Service *Annual Activity Survey* of the destinations of young people completing secondary education also shows the South West to have high levels of participation in learning. It estimates 86% of young people leaving Year 11 in 2005 went on into full-time learning, whether this be full-time education, Government Supported Training or employment with training. The vast majority (76%) went on into full-time education.

Table 3: *Destinations of young people leaving Year 11 in 2005, South West & England*

	South West	England
Full-time education	76.0	75.4
GST Training	2.3	3.3
GST Employed	3.5	3.0
Employment <i>with training</i>	4.2	4.1
<i>no Training</i>	3.5	2.5
Not settled	6.1	7.8
Moved out of contact	2.5	1.7
No response	1.6	2.1

Source: Connexions Service, 2007

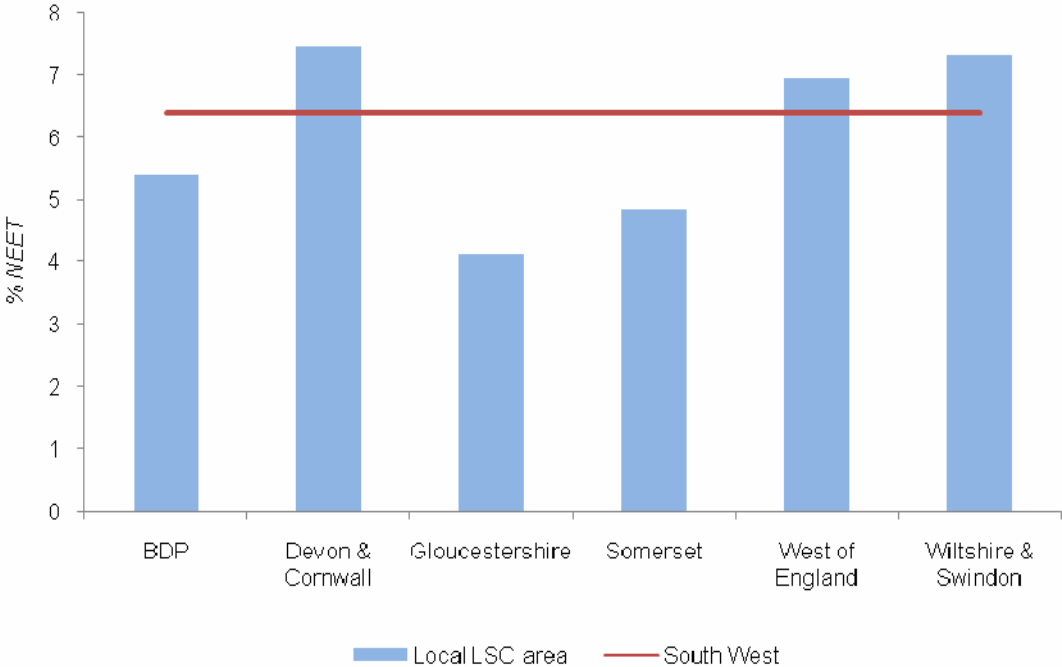
▣ [\[Link to Table 3 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Whilst the majority of young people remain in some form of education and training post compulsory school age, there is still a significant number who do not. Approximately 18% of young people in the South West are not in either education or training (NET). Within the region this figure ranges from 14 to 22%.

Looking specifically at those young people who are not in either education, employment or training (NEET), the current official estimate relating to the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to “reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 2 percentage points by 2010”, are calculated using the NET figure and a “not in employment” estimate from the Labour Force Survey is not available below national level.

Local level monitoring data from Connexions for August 2007 shows there were approximately 7,800 (6.4%) young people who were NEET after leaving compulsory schooling. The proportion of the school leaving cohort who were NEET is between 4 and 5.5% for Gloucestershire, Somerset and Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. Rates are higher in the West of England, Wiltshire and Swindon and Devon and Cornwall at between 7 and 7.5% and above the regional average.

Figure 8: *Proportion of compulsory school leavers who are NEET, South West local LSC areas, August 2007*



Source: LSC, 2007

[\[Link to Figure 8 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Local level Partnership data for 2006 shows that whilst in general the number of young people who are NEET is lower in the South West in comparison to the national picture, two of the Connexions partnership areas of Swindon (8.3%) and Bournemouth (8.5%) do have levels of NEET higher than the national average (7.7%).

Table 4: Proportion of 16 -18 year olds NEET, Connexions partnership area, 2006

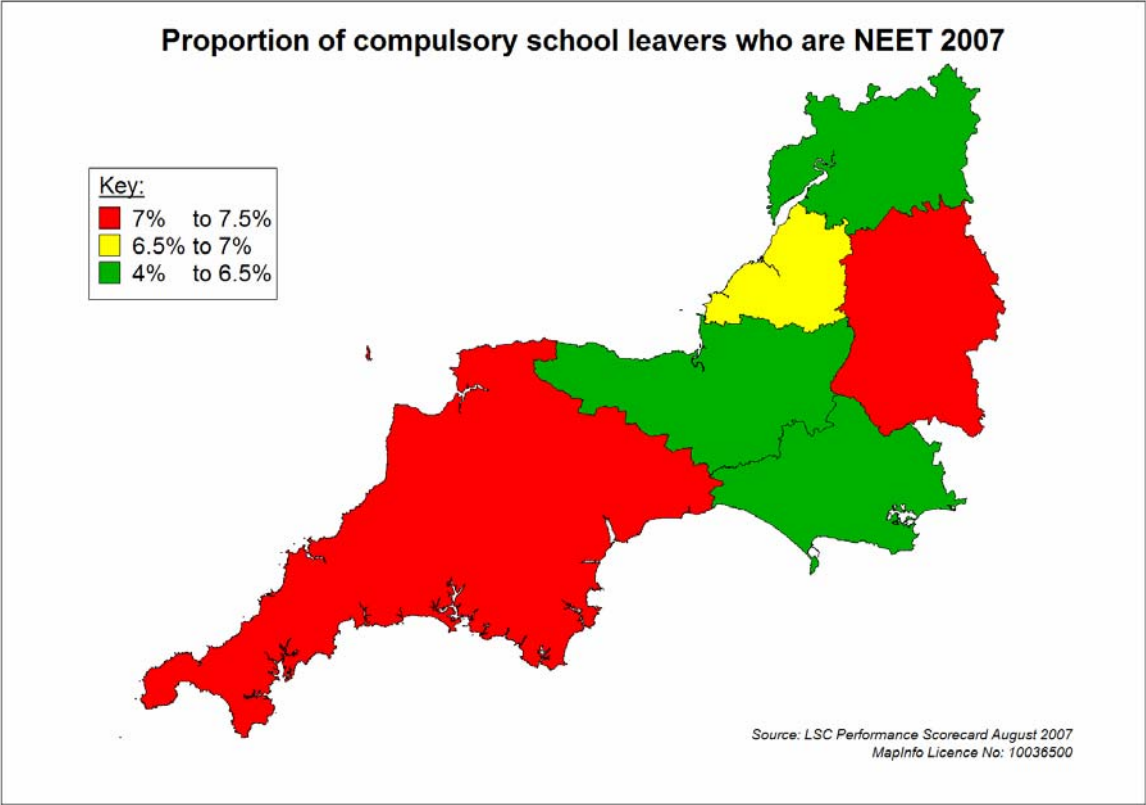
	16-18 year olds known to Connexions	16-18 yr olds NEET		% of 16-18 year olds whose current activity is not known
		Estimated number	%	
Bath & North East Somerset	6,290	260	4.2	3.8
Bournemouth	4,700	400	8.5	5.8
Bristol	12,200	950	7.8	5.5
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	17,300	1,060	6.1	0.9
Devon	21,720	1,300	6.0	1.4
Dorset	11,300	770	6.8	5.0
Gloucestershire	19,900	920	4.6	6.1
North Somerset	5,240	250	4.8	3.6
Plymouth	9,640	710	7.4	1.5
Poole	4,720	290	6.2	4.9
Somerset	15,930	760	4.8	4.8
South Gloucestershire	7,760	390	5.0	3.4
Swindon	7,030	580	8.3	3.9
Torbay	4,670	320	6.8	0.8
Wiltshire	12,270	740	6.0	3.2
England	1,641,980	126,150	7.7	5.0

Source: Connexions Service, 2007

Notes: 2006 data are an average of the figures provided by Connexions at the end of November 2006, December 2006 and January 2007. They include all young people known to Connexions who were aged 16, 17 or 18 on these dates

□ [\[Link to Table 4 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Map 1: Proportion of compulsory school leavers who are NEET, South West, 2007



[\[Link to Map 1 data in South West Document Library – click here\]](#)

Creator Laura Smith
Job title Consultant
Email enquiries matt.jago@lsc.gov.uk
Date created 11 October 2007
LSC office Learning and Skills Council West of England
St Lawrence House 29-31 Broad Street Bristol BS1 2HF
T 0845 019 4168 F 0117 372 6433 www.lsc.gov.uk/