

# Offender Learning and Skills Service



Leading learning and skills

September 2008

## Information Service

**Purpose:** This document forms the 'Offender Learning and Skills Service' section of the South West Strategic Analysis 2008. The Strategic Analysis is the annual 'stock-take' analysis and considers labour market intelligence, performance information and Government policy to develop a full strategic picture of current education and training marketplace. The analysis is supported by national skills research (including Skills in England Report 2007, National Employer Skills Survey and Working Futures). The stock-take provides the intelligence to confirm our strategies and priorities.

**Theme:** Offender Learning and Skills

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## Introduction

Since April 2004 the LSC has had responsibility for the learning and skills of offenders in the community and from August 2005 for offenders in custody.

## Offenders in custody

In the region there are 13 prisons and Youth Offending Institutions where the LSC fund learning and skills for offenders. At Eastwood Park, there is a separate female juvenile unit. The LSC has responsibility for learning and skills in this unit. There is 1 private prison (Ashfield YOI). The LSC is not responsible for provision here; it is the responsibility of the private organisations that runs the whole establishment.

In the 13 prisons the LSC funds the delivery of teaching hours and these are allocated as follows:

**Figure 1: Prison types and LSC funded delivery hours**

PRISON	PRISON TYPE	2008-2009 Delivery hours
Bristol	Local	13512
Channings Wood	Training	34430
Dartmoor	Training	21380
Dorchester	Local	10015
Eastwood Park	Women's	12470
Erlestoke	Training	30042
Exeter	Local	15000
Gloucester	Local	8658
Guys Marsh	Training	23442
Leyhill	Open	14325
Portland	YOI	43954
Shepton Mallet	Lifers	8702
The Verne	Training	14725

In addition, the LSC funds IAG provision in each prison.

There are several ways to measure prison population. One is Certified Normal Accommodation. C.N.A in July 2008 was as below.

**Figure 2: Certified Normal Accommodation - prison populations**

<b>PRISON</b>	
<b>Bristol</b>	424
<b>Channings Wood</b>	696
<b>Dartmoor</b>	624
<b>Dorchester</b>	145
<b>Eastwood Park</b>	326
<b>Erlestoke</b>	470
<b>Exeter</b>	316
<b>Gloucester</b>	225
<b>Guys Marsh</b>	520
<b>Leyhill</b>	510
<b>Portland</b>	579
<b>Shepton Mallet</b>	162
<b>The Verne</b>	560

It should be noted that actual population levels can be higher than this. The total number of offenders in prison during 2007-2008 could be determined from the number of new receptions in each establishment. In addition, it should be understood that not all offenders will access learning and skills. Nationally, approximately 39% of offenders engage in OLASS provision and this level is reflected in the region.

In 2007-2008, the teaching hours were devoted to the curriculum areas as below:

**Figure 3: Teaching hours devoted to curriculum areas 2007/08**

<b>PRISON</b>	<b>SKILLS FOR LIFE</b>	<b>VOCATIONAL</b>	<b>PERSONAL &amp; SOCIAL</b>
<b>BRISTOL</b>	31%	34%	35%
<b>DORCHESTER</b>	32%	50%	18%
<b>EXETER</b>	18%	44%	37%
<b>GLOUCESTER</b>	14%	35%	51%
<b>EASTWOOD PARK</b>	18%	53%	29%
<b>LEYHILL</b>	14%	35%	51%
<b>PORTLAND</b>	19%	42%	39%
<b>SHEPTON MALLET</b>	10%	62%	28%
<b>THE VERNE</b>	18%	61%	21%
<b>CHANNINGS WOOD</b>	21%	56%	23%
<b>DARTMOOR</b>	35%	53%	12%
<b>ERLESTOKE</b>	19%	58%	23%
<b>GUYS MARSH</b>	18%	68%	14%

A wide range of qualifications are offered in the region's prisons. The table below shows the number of qualifications achieved during 2007-2008.

**Figure 4: Number of qualifications achieved 2007/08**

<b>PRISON</b>	<b>2007-2008 Qualifications achieved</b>
<b>Bristol</b>	1124
<b>Channings Wood</b>	2577
<b>Dartmoor</b>	1710
<b>Dorchester</b>	590
<b>Eastwood Park</b>	1198
<b>Erlestoke</b>	1589
<b>Exeter</b>	2338
<b>Gloucester</b>	760
<b>Guys Marsh</b>	2677
<b>Leyhill</b>	3153
<b>Portland</b>	3655
<b>Shepton Mallet</b>	325
<b>The Verne</b>	2072

Skills for Life achievements account for 18% of total qualifications achieved, with approximately 62% at Levels 1 and 2. Achievement rates in the region for Skills for Life are at the national OLASS average. Achievement rates in the region for non-Skills for Life programmes are slight higher than the national OLASS average.

The LSC is currently retendering for the delivery of learning and skills to offenders in custody. The new service, to be delivered from 1 August 2009, will be designed to align more closely with the needs of individual offenders and employers, and to ensure that OLASS continues to contribute to reducing reoffending.

## **Offenders in the community**

There are five probation areas in the region and each has a number of targets relating to skills and employment as in the table below:

**Figure 5: Probation areas and skills & employment targets**

<b>PROBATION AREA</b>	<b>REFERRALS MADE TO LSC-FUNDED PROVISION</b>	<b>OFFENDERS UNDER SUPERVISION WHO FIND AND SUSTAIN EMPLOYMENT</b>
Avon & Somerset	1200	488
Devon & Cornwall	1200	400
Dorset	459	104
Gloucester	480	90
Wiltshire	650	115

The LSC works with probation areas to ensure that offenders in the community access the full range of LSC-funded programmes, including, but not restricted to, Skills for Life and IAG. This work is extended to include Job Centre Plus and covers all activities that support an offender's integrated employment and skills journey.

### **Information sources**

Data included in this report has been provided by the SW Prison Service Area Office, the probation areas, the LSC and its providers.

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