

# Young People, Learning and Skills in Cheshire and Warrington

DRAFT FINAL REPORT

BRENNAN WILSON LTD

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## 1. Introduction

This report has been produced as one of several commissioned by Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in phase 2 of its Labour Market Intelligence programme. These reports cover the following themes:

- Young People
- Adults
- Employer Demand for Skills - a) the immediate impact of Covid-19; and b) the future demand for skills
- Digital Skills
- The supply of training and education
- The alignment of skills supply with employer demand

This report covers the first of the topics listed above and, amongst other issues, seeks to address the following questions:

- To what extent are young people informed about the local economy and the likely impacts on opportunities following the Covid-19 crisis, and satisfied with the careers advice they receive?
- What are the characteristics of NEET young people and are there particular spatial concentrations of NEET?
- What is the spatial distribution (ward level) and the characteristics profile of learners' participation and achievement in FE and Apprenticeships?
- What changes have there been in the take-up of apprenticeships and FE?
- What is known about progression to HE?
- What is known about the attainment of disadvantaged young people?

The report also updates (where relevant), and provides further detail on, a number of areas reported on in the Cheshire and Warrington Labour and Learning Market Assessment produced in 2019 during phase 1 of this work.

The report has 9 sections. The remaining sections are:

- Executive Summary
- Young People – Population, Deprivation and Participation in Education and Employment
- Young People's Education and Progression
- Young People and the Labour Market
- Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Overview
- Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Below Level 2
- Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Level 2
- Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Level 3

## 2. Executive Summary

### Young People – Population, Deprivation, and Participation in Employment and Education

The estimated population of 16-18 year olds is highest in the following wards: Leighton, Prestbury and Wilmslow (Cheshire East); Appleton, and Poplars and Hulme (Warrington); and, Farndon, and Winsford Wharton (Cheshire West and Chester).

The population of 15-19 year olds in Cheshire and Warrington is forecast to grow 17% from 48,792 (5% of the total population) in 2018 to 56,883 (6% of the total population) in 2028. This population age segment is forecast to grow in all three local authorities with a 15% growth in Cheshire East, a 21% growth in Cheshire West and Chester and an 11% growth in Warrington.

The Income Deprivation affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. The highest levels of deprivation on this measure occur in Ellesmere Port, areas to the north west of Chester, parts of Warrington, parts of Winsford and areas of Crewe.

In May 2020, there were 5,520 people aged 16-24 claiming out of work benefits in Cheshire and Warrington. Of the ten wards with the highest estimated percentage of 16-24 claimants, 7 are in Cheshire West and Chester (Westminster, Central & Grange, Netherpool, Blacon, Wolverham, Winsford Swanlow, Winsford Wharton), 1 is in Cheshire East (Macclesfield South), and 2 are in Warrington (Orford, and Fairfield and Howley).

The total participation rate in education by 16 and 17 year olds in all three Local Authorities was higher than for England and the region. In all three local authorities, participation in full time education and training was slightly higher than England, and participation in apprenticeships was at or below the English rate. Over 3% of the cohort in both Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester were in employment with study, compared to 0.7% following this route in England.

In Cheshire and Warrington, 16 year olds had a higher participation rate in education than 17 year olds and females had a higher participation rate than males. Participation rates by gender and age were higher in all three local authorities than for England and the North West.

The participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds with Special Educational Needs (SEN) support in Cheshire East is 69.6% which is 26.4% lower than the rate for those with no Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or statement or SEN report in Cheshire East and 17.5% lower than the English participation rate for this cohort. In other words, over 30% of young people with SEN support in Cheshire East were 'Not in Employment Education or Training' (NEET) or 'Not Known'.

The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds who were NEET or Not Known in 2020 was significantly lower in all three local authorities than was the case for England and the North West. This is because the proportion that were Not Known is higher in England and the North West. The percentage that were NEET in 2020 was similar in the three local authorities and England, with Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester slightly below, and Warrington slightly above the English rate of 2.7%.

The NEET and Not Known rate for 'Mixed Race' young people was 7.1% in Cheshire West and Chester which compares with a rate of 2.8% for all young people in the authority and a national rate of 5.7% for this cohort.

Whilst the NEET/Not Known rate in the three Local Authorities has consistently been below the English and North West rate, the gap has closed over time with slight increases in the rate in Cheshire and Warrington and slight decreases in the rate in England and the North West.

The wards with rates of NEET more than 10% in Warrington in May 2020 were: Bewsey and Whitecross (17.5%); Orford (16.4%); Poplars and Hulme (14.9%); Fairfield and Howley (12.8%); Great Sankey South (12.2%); Poulton North (12.2%); Latchford East (12%); and Latchford West (10.4%).

Over the past three years, the wards in Warrington with increases of over 5% in the NEET/Not Known rate were: Orford; Birchwood; Poplars and Hulme; Latchford West; and Burtonwood and Winwick.

In Warrington between May 2018 and May 2020, the NEET/Not Known indicator increased from 12.5% to 17.4% for the SEND cohort; from 16.5% to 19.7% for the FSM cohort; and from 35.4% to 59.5% for teenage parents. By contrast, the rate for young offenders in Warrington decreased from 38.8% in May 2018 to 16.6% in May 2020.

### **Young People's Education and Progression**

The areas that are most deprived on the Children and Young People Education Subdomain indicator of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019) are clustered in Ellesmere Port, Warrington, and Crewe with additional clusters in Winsford, Nantwich, Chester, and Macclesfield.

There are six parliamentary constituencies where the percentage taught in schools rated 'Outstanding' or 'Good' by Ofsted is higher than for England (which is 80%), including four constituencies where 100% of students are taught in such providers - Congleton, Eddisbury, Tatton and Warrington North. By contrast, only 35.6% of secondary school places in Ellesmere Port and Neston are with 'Good' or 'Outstanding' providers.

Five parliamentary constituencies in Cheshire and Warrington had a higher proportion than England (24.9%) of pupils achieving grade 4 or above in all components of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and five were below, with 16.6% achieving on this measure in Crewe and Nantwich and 36.7% achieving in Weaver Vale.

Three parliamentary constituencies – Ellesmere Port and Neston, Crewe and Nantwich, and Warrington North – scored below the English average for Attainment 8 at Key Stage 4. Four parliamentary constituencies – Ellesmere Port and Neston, Crewe and Nantwich, City of Chester and Warrington South – scored below the English average on Progress 8.

At Key Stage 4, a slightly higher percentage of disadvantaged pupils (90%) progress to sustained education or employment in Cheshire East compared to England. However, Warrington and Cheshire West and Chester (87% and 84% respectively) are both below the English level of 88%.

At Key Stage 4, the proportion of disadvantaged pupils who secure a sustained education destination was lower in Cheshire East (78%), Cheshire West and Chester (72%) and Warrington (78%) than for England (81%). The gap between disadvantaged pupils securing a sustained education destination compared to all other pupils was larger for all three local authorities (12%, 14%, 12%) than the English figure of 7%.

Three parliamentary constituencies – City of Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston, and Eddisbury – attained sustained progression rates at Key Stage 4 lower than the English average of 94%.

The proportion of 19 year olds not eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities that achieved a Level 2 has been at or above the English proportion for this cohort between 2005 and 2019. By contrast, the proportion of 19 year olds eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities that achieved a Level 2 has been at or below the English proportion for this cohort between 2005 and 2019.

Similarly, the proportion of 19 year olds not eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities that achieved a Level 3 has been at or above the English proportion for this cohort between 2005 and 2019. By contrast, the proportion of 19 year olds eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities that achieved a Level 3 has been at or below the English proportion for this cohort for most years between 2005 and 2019.

In 2019, 14.1% of A Level students secured a minimum of AAB at A level in England. Six of Cheshire and Warrington's parliamentary constituencies failed to achieve this proportion, with no students achieving these grades in the Warrington North constituency.

The percentage of Key Stage 5 (KS5) leavers securing any sustained destination was higher than England (81%) for all three Cheshire and Warrington local authorities. The percentage securing employment as a sustained destination was also higher than England in all three local authorities. Nine of the ten parliamentary constituencies had percentages that secured any sustained destination that were the same or higher than the English. However, in Warrington North only 73% of 18 year olds were able to secure a sustained destination.

When the destinations for Cheshire and Warrington's KS5 leavers are considered by their prior educational attainment, the most common destination for Level 1 KS5 leavers tends to be 'failure to secure a destination'; the most common destination for Level 2 KS5 leavers is to secure sustained employment; and the most common destination for Level 3 KS5 leavers is a sustained education destination.

The areas of Cheshire and Warrington with the lowest levels of HE participation by young people are in Warrington, Ellesmere Port, Crewe, Winsford, Nantwich and parts of Macclesfield.

### **Young People and the Labour Market**

In 2019, the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) published its third "State of the Nation" report presenting the data gathered on the Gatsby benchmarks by its Compass tool and revealing how career guidance is developing in England's schools and colleges. 58% of schools in Cheshire and Warrington completed Compass in 2018/19. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> highest school response rate for a LEP area in England. The average number of Gatsby benchmarks achieved by schools in Cheshire and Warrington was 2.3. This was the lowest for any LEP area in England and compared with a national average of 3 benchmarks achieved. The highest average of benchmarks achieved in a LEP area was 4.2 (Tees Valley and Buckinghamshire).

The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge conduct an annual "Yoursay" survey of young people. Key findings of the 2020 survey include:

- Most respondents (50%) felt that they had received enough information about apprenticeships. For all other categories, more respondents felt that they had not received enough information than felt that they had.
- A clear majority (55%) of respondents agreed with the statement "the advice or support given to you from school, helped you, or would be helpful, in choosing a career."

- More respondents (40%) disagreed with the statement “The careers advice I received at school has helped me decide on whether University or Apprenticeship Degrees are my best option” than agreed with it (32%). Just over a quarter (28%) did not know.

### **Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning - Overview**

It is estimated that in 2018/19 in Cheshire and Warrington, 54% of those aged 16-18 in learning attended a College or Sixth Form College, 32% attended a School Sixth Form and 14% were apprentices. The areas with the highest levels of participation in FE and apprenticeships combined run in a band through the centre of Cheshire and Warrington going from Warrington in the north, through Winsford, to Crewe in the South.

There was a 7.6% decline in the number of 16-18 year olds enrolled in FE between 2016/17 and 2018/19 and a commensurate decline in learning aim starts.

There was also a decline of 29% in the number of apprentices aged 16-18, with a large decline (44%) in apprenticeship starts at Level 2. Every local authority suffered a decline in 16-18 participation in apprenticeships, the largest percentage decline being 32% in Cheshire West and Chester. There were also large drops in apprenticeship starts in Business, Administration and Law, and Retail and Commercial Enterprise.

There were significant gender disparities in FE and apprenticeships by learners aged 16-18 in 2018/19. There were high proportions of female starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprises, and in Health, Public Services and Care. There were high proportions of male starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; Construction and the Built Environment; and Information and Communications Technology.

The 16-18 FE achievement rate for all types of provider at all levels in Cheshire and Warrington in 2018/19 was 85.6% which was higher than that for England which was 82.6%. The Cheshire and Warrington wards with an estimated 16-18 achievement rate below 70% in 2018/19 were Wolverham; Neston; Wilmslow Dean Row; Blacon; Central & Grange; Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft; Macclesfield South; Odd Rode; Wilmslow Lacey Green; Disley; and Lache

The apprenticeship achievement rate for residents of Cheshire and Warrington aged 16-18 in all providers in 2018/19 was 65.3% which was 2.9% lower than the rate for England. The apprenticeship achievement rate for every type of provider was lower for Cheshire and Warrington residents than for England as a whole.

### **Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Level 2**

62% of all Level 2 learning aims taken by learners aged 16-18 between 2016/17 and 2018/19 were GCSE English and Maths, a further 15% were Diplomas and 10% were Certificates.

The number of GCSE English and Maths starts declined by 13% between 2016 and 2019. This suggests that fewer learners without English and Maths GCSEs enrolled in FE in 2018/19 than in 2016/17. Between 2016/17 and 2018/19 FE 16-18 starts in GCSE English and Maths declined in every local authority – by 22% in Cheshire East, by 4% in Cheshire West and Chester and by 12% in Warrington.

The overall decline in Level 2 (Intermediate) apprenticeship starts in Cheshire and Warrington of 44% was mirrored in each of the local authorities with a decline of 46% in Cheshire East, a decline of



50% in Cheshire West and Chester and a decline of 34% in Warrington. This decline in starts in Intermediate Apprenticeships was also experienced in all ten parliamentary constituencies.

Most SSAs of Intermediate Apprentices showed a significant gender disparity. 99% of starts in Construction, Planning and Building Services, and 94% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies were by males. 78% of starts in Health, Public Services and Care, and 65% of starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprises were by females.

The wards with an estimated 16-18 FE Level 2 achievement rate below 70% are: Wolverham; Lymm South; Wybunbury; Central & Grange; Handbridge Park; Helsby; Macclesfield South; Neston; High Legh; Wilmslow Lacey Green; Macclesfield Hurdsfield; Northwich Winnington & Castle; Blacon; Birchwood; Farndon; Great Boughton; Odd Rode; Sandstone; and Winsford Swanlow.

The achievement rate for Intermediate Apprenticeships for residents of Cheshire and Warrington aged 16-18 is 61.7% which is 4.1% lower than for England. The achievement rate is lower with every type of provider in Cheshire and Warrington compared with England.

### **Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Level 2**

Learning aim starts at Level 3 declined by 20% between 2016/17 and 2018/19. This decline in starts is directly linked to the changed status of AS Levels in the 16-18 curriculum. A decline in starts was experienced in all three local authorities – 25% in Cheshire East, 33% in Cheshire West and Chester and 7% in Warrington.

In 2018/19, 58% of A Levels in FE were started by females. This proportion rose to 67% for A Levels in Arts, Media and Publishing, and 78% for A levels in Languages, Literature and Culture. Conversely, 92% of A levels in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, and 85% of A levels in Information and Communication Technologies were started by males.

In 2018/19, males accounted for 52% of Level 3 Diploma starts. However, there were significant variations in the gender split for starts on individual SSAs. Males accounted for 65% of starts in Leisure, Travel and Tourism; 91% of starts in Information and Communications Technologies; 90% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; and 98% of starts in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment. By contrast, females accounted for 83% of the starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprise; 69% of the starts in Health, Public Services and Care; and 60% of the starts in Science and Mathematics.

For the three academic years 2016/17 to 2018/19, starts on Level 3 Apprenticeships by young people aged 16-18 declined 17%. Starts in every local authority declined – 17% in Cheshire East, 23% in Cheshire West and Chester and 9% in Warrington.

There are significant gender disparities as evidenced by the proportion of males and females that started Advanced Apprenticeships overall and in different SSAs in 2018/19. Overall, 65% of starts were by males, with males starting 75% of apprenticeships in Information and Communication Technologies, 98% in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment, 93% in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies. Conversely 92% of Advanced Apprenticeships in Health, Public Services and Care were started by females.

The wards with an estimated 16-18 Level 3 FE achievement rate below 70% are: Wilmslow Dean Row; Lache; Strawberry; Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft; Wilmslow East; Poynton West and

Adlington; Burtonwood and Winwick; Disley; Ledsham & Manor; Macclesfield Tytherington; Odd Rode; Westbrook; Winsford Swanlow; Blacon; and Crewe Central.

The Level 3 Apprenticeship achievement rate for 16-18 residents of Cheshire and Warrington, at 71.1%, is 1.2% lower than for England. The achievement rate at Level 3 for Cheshire and Warrington residents is lower with both Independent Training Providers and Colleges compared to England.

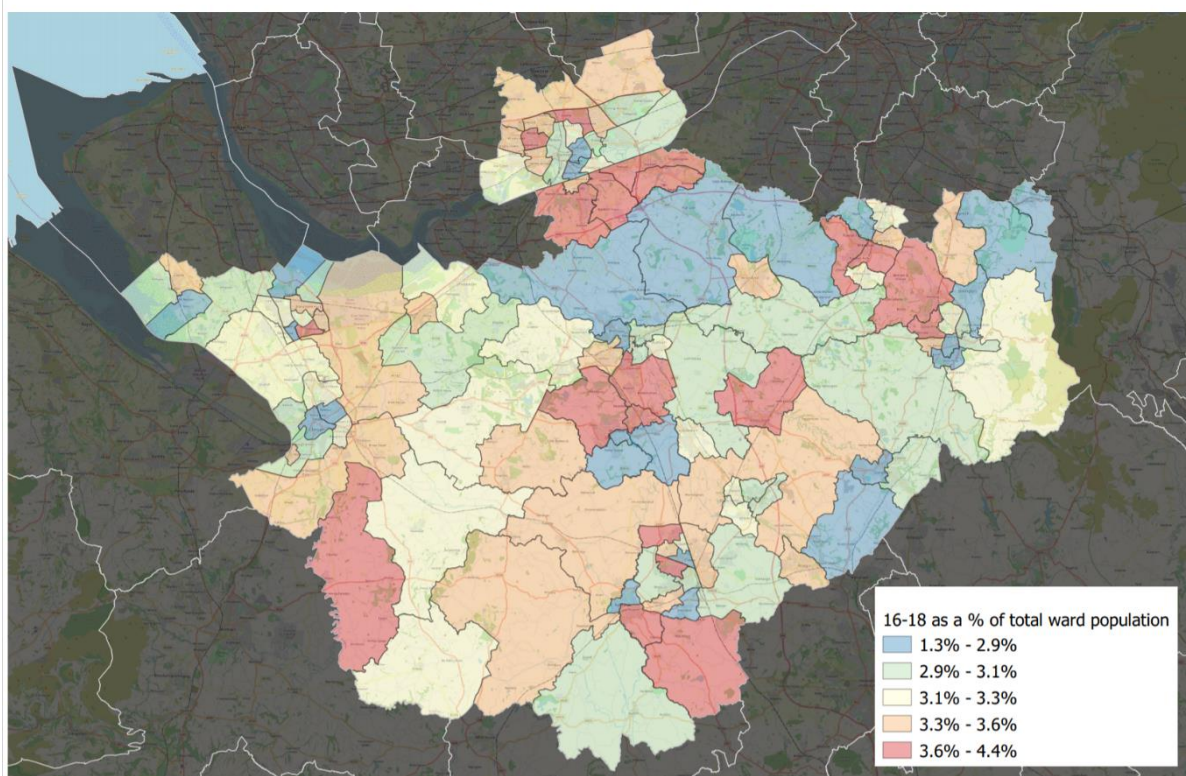
### 3. Young People – Population, Deprivation, and Participation in Employment and Education

#### 3.1 Current and Forecast Population of Young People

The map below illustrates the estimated population density of 16-18 year olds, by ward, in Cheshire and Warrington in 2020. This is calculated by taking the 2018 ONS estimate of 14-16 year olds as a percentage of estimated total ward population in 2018.

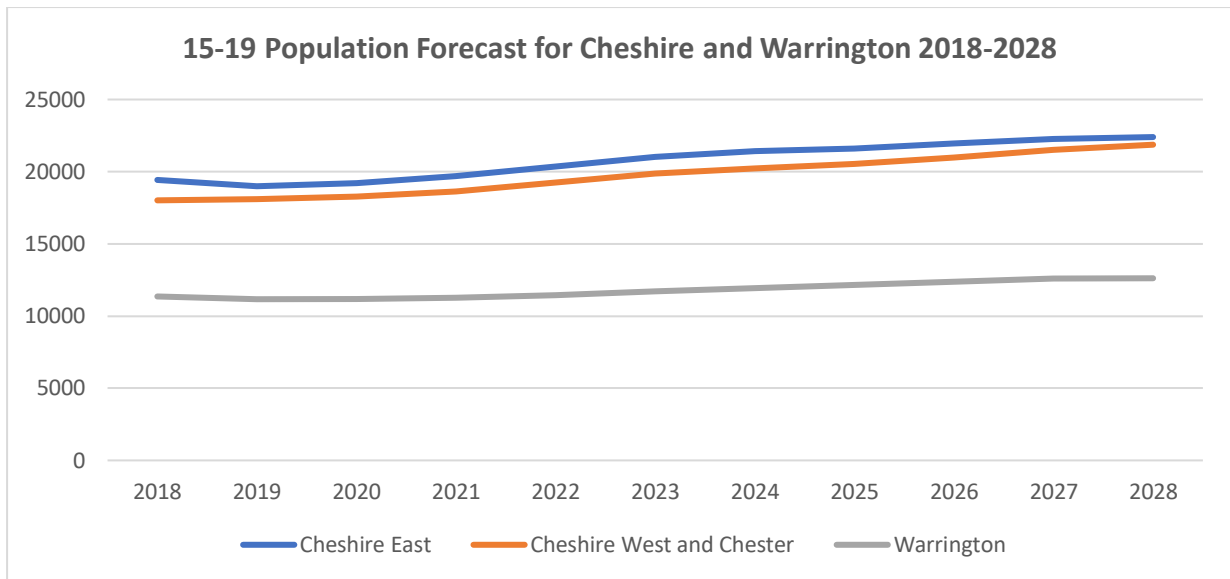
The estimated population of 16-18 year olds is highest in the following wards: Leighton, Prestbury and Wilmslow (Cheshire East); Appleton, and Poplars and Hulme (Warrington); and, Farndon, and Winsford Wharton (Cheshire West and Chester). The estimated population of 16-18 year olds is lowest in the following wards: Shavington, Macclesfield Central, and Mobberley (Cheshire East); Fairfield and Howley (Warrington); and, Little Neston, Newton & Hoole, Winsford Gravel, and Chester City & the Garden Quarter (Cheshire West and Chester).

16-18 year olds as a percentage of total population, by ward, in 2020



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from ONS, OS and OpenStreetMap

The population of 15-19 year olds in Cheshire and Warrington is forecast to grow 17% from 48,792 (5% of the total population) in 2018 to 56,883 (6% of the total population) in 2028. This population age segment will grow in all three local authorities with a 15% growth in Cheshire East, a 21% growth in Cheshire West and Chester and an 11% growth in Warrington.



**Source: ONS 2018-based subnational principal population projections for local authorities and higher administrative areas in England**

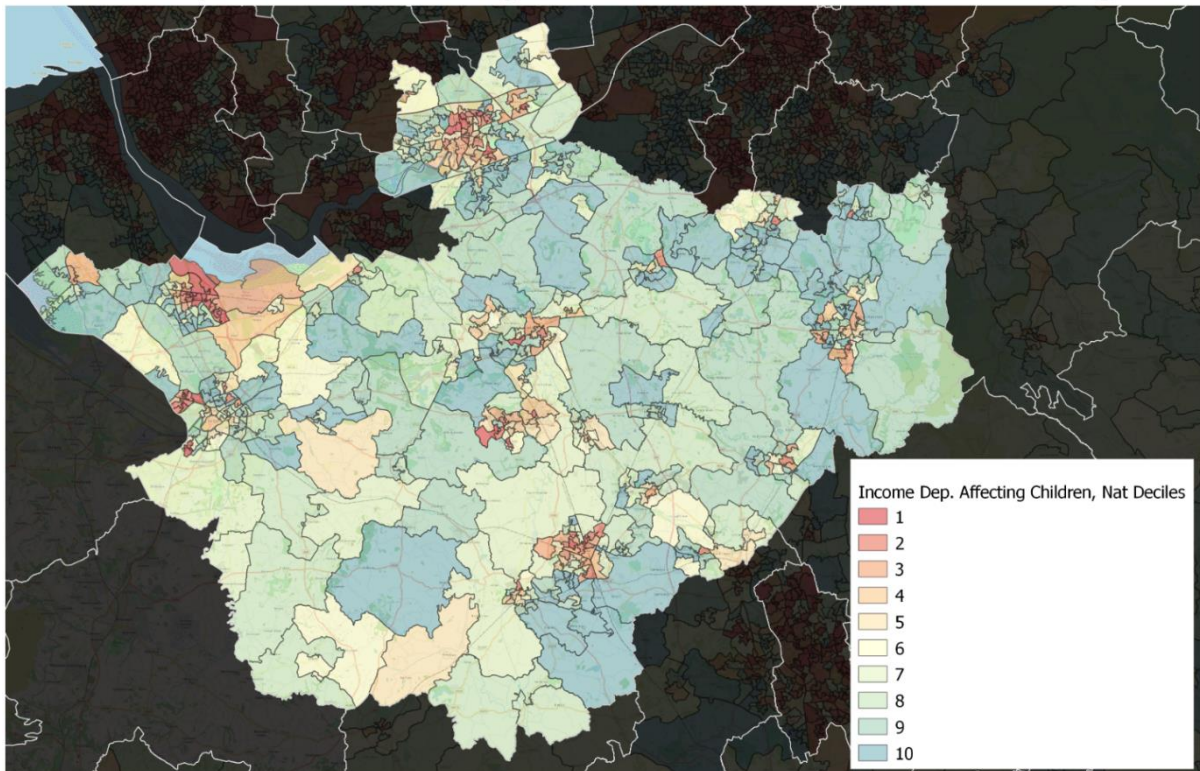
### 3.2 Young People and Deprivation

The Income Deprivation affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019) which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to income.

The map below shows the Lower Super Output Areas of Cheshire and Warrington categorised according to their IDACI scores. Areas shaded dark red are in the most deprived decile nationally. Areas shaded blue are in the least deprived decile nationally.

The highest levels of deprivation occur in Ellesmere Port, areas to the north West of Chester, parts of Warrington, parts of Winsford and areas of Crewe.

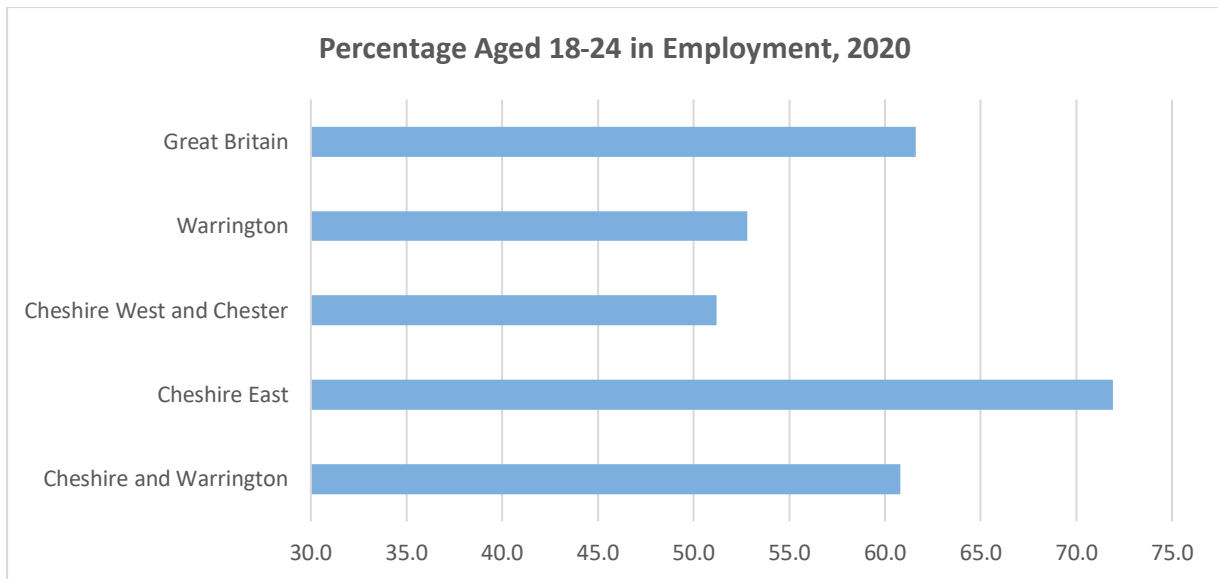
## Income Deprivation Affecting Children in Cheshire and Warrington



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in OGIS. Data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019), OS and OpenStreetMap

### 3.3 Economic Activity of Young People

The table below sets out the available data on the employment rate of 18-24 year olds for Great Britain, Cheshire and Warrington, and the three local authorities. The Local Authority data, in particular, should be treated with caution as the confidence intervals on this survey-based data are quite large. In general, a lower employment rate for 18-24 year olds tends to be offset by a higher rate of participation by residents in full-time education. The estimated employment rate for this age group is similar for Cheshire and Warrington and Great Britain.



**Source: Annual Population Survey, NOMIS**

### 3.4 Out of Work Benefit Claims of 16-24 Year Olds

The table below sets out the data for those aged 16-24 claiming out of work benefits by Local Authority. In May 2020, there were 5,520 people aged 16-24 claiming out of work benefits in Cheshire and Warrington.

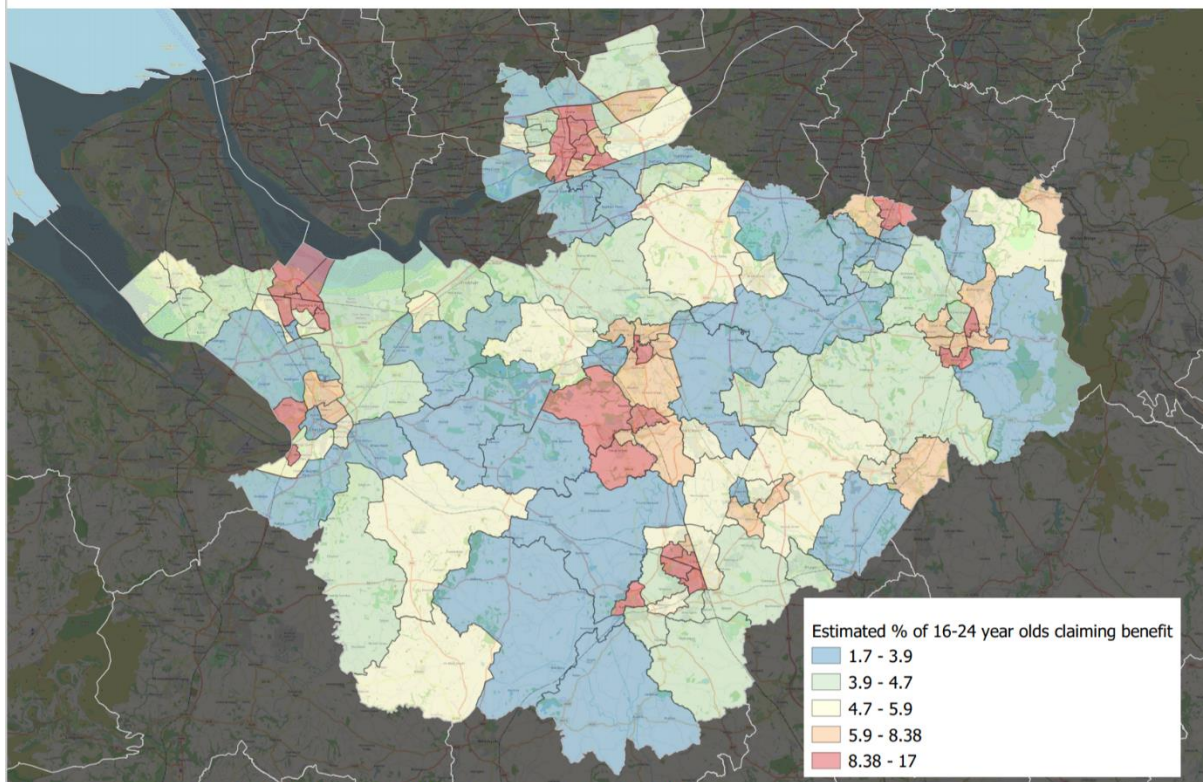
<b>Benefit Claimants aged 16-24 by Local Authority, May 2020</b>				
	Age 16-17	Age 18-19	Age 20-24	Total
Cheshire East	18	506	1460	1983
Cheshire West and Chester	41	568	1648	2255
Warrington	35	330	915	1282
Cheshire and Warrington	94	1404	4023	5520

**Source: Alternative Claimant Count, StatXplore**

The map below provides an estimate (by ward) for the percentage of the 16-24 year old total population that were claiming out of work benefits in May 2020. The data is taken from the Department of Work and pensions (DWP) Stat-Xplore system and the ONS mid-year ward population estimates. The figure for the 2020 16-19 population has been estimated as being the same as the 2018 14-17 population estimate, the figure for the 2020 20-24 population has been estimated to be the same as the 2018 20-24 population.

Of the ten wards with the highest estimated percentage of 16-24 claimants, 7 are in Cheshire West and Chester (Westminster, Central & Grange, Netherpool, Blacon, Wolverham, Winsford Swanlow, Winsford Wharton), 1 is in Cheshire East (Macclesfield South), and 2 are in Warrington (Orford, and Fairfield and Howley).

### Estimated percentage of 16-24 yr olds claiming benefit, May 2020, by Ward



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from ONS, StatXplore and OpenStreetMap

### 3.5 Participation of 16 and 17 Year Olds in Education

The table below presents data on the proportion of 16-17 year olds participating in different forms of education and training by Local Authority, for the North West and for England in March 2020. The total participation rate in all three Local Authorities was higher than for England and the region. Participation in full time education and training was slightly higher in all three local authorities, participation in apprenticeships was at or below the English rate in the Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities, and over 3% of the cohort in both Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester were in employment with study, compared to 0.7% following this route in England.

Proportion of 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training, March 2020 by type of activity									
	Proportion participating in:						Total	Change in year	Not known
	F/t edu & training	Apps	WBL	P/t edu	Employment with study	Other			
Cheshire East	87.0%	3.9%	1.1%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	95.4%	-1.0	0.0%
Cheshire West and Chester	87.0%	5.0%	0.2%	0.0%	3.2%	0.7%	96.1%	-0.6	0.5%
Warrington	85.9%	5.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	1.2%	93.1%	-0.9	0.2%
North West	83.0%	6.1%	1.5%	0.2%	0.9%	0.3%	92.0%	0.5	2.0%
England	85.4%	5.1%	1.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%	92.6%	0.1	2.3%

Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE

The participation of 16-17 year olds in education and training by age and gender is shown in the table below. In all places, 16 year olds had a higher participation rate than 17 year olds and females had a higher participation rate than males. Participation rates by gender and age were higher in all three local authorities than for England and the North West.

<b>Proportion of 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training, March 2020, by gender</b>						
	% 16 year olds recorded as participating in education or training			% 17 year olds recorded as participating in education or training		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
England	96.3%	94.5%	95.4%	91.2%	88.2%	89.7%
North West	95.6%	93.6%	94.6%	90.7%	87.8%	89.4%
Cheshire East	97.6%	96.5%	97.0%	95.6%	92.1%	93.8%
Cheshire West and Chester	97.2%	95.7%	96.6%	96.1%	95.1%	95.6%
Warrington	96.0%	95.3%	95.7%	92.0%	89.4%	90.6%

*Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE*

The table below provides data on the proportion of 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training, March 2020, with Special Educational Needs (SEN)/ Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Support. The participation of those with no Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement or SEN support tends to be higher than those with SEN/SEND support. The participation in education and training of the 20 16 and 17 year olds with SEN support in Cheshire East was 69.6% which is 26.4% lower than the rate for those with no EHCP or statement or SEN report in Cheshire East and 17.5% lower than the English participation rate.

<b>Proportion of 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training, March 2020, SEN/SEND Support</b>				
	with SEND (EHCP or statement)	with SEN support	without SEND (no EHCP or statement or SEN support)	Total
England	88.5%	87.1%	93.2%	92.6%
North West	86.3%	86.1%	92.6%	92.0%
Cheshire East	85.4%	69.6%	96.0%	95.4%
Cheshire West and Chester	89.1%	96.3%	96.4%	96.1%
Warrington	86.3%	91.8%	93.5%	93.1%

*Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE*

The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds who were NEET or whose status was not known in 2020 was significantly lower in all three local authorities than was the case for England and the North West. This is because the proportion that were not known is higher in England and the North West. The percentage that were NEET in 2020 was similar in the three local authorities and England, with Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester slightly below, and Warrington slightly above the English rate of 2.7%.



Proportion of 16 and 17 year olds NEET or whose activity is not known, 2020				
	NEET or not known	of which known to be NEET	of which activity not known	NEET/NK Change in year in percentage points
England	5.5%	2.7%	2.8%	-0.1
North West	5.4%	3.3%	2.1%	-0.9
Cheshire East	2.7%	2.6%	0.0%	0.5
Cheshire West and Chester	2.8%	2.5%	0.3%	0.2
Warrington	3.7%	2.9%	0.8%	0.6

**Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE**

The table below sets out the proportion of NEET and Not Known for England, the North West and the three local authorities by gender. For all cases NEET and Not known was higher for males than for females and the rates were lower in the three local authorities than for England and the North West.

Proportion of NEET or not known, 2020			
	All	Males	Females
England	5.5%	6.2%	4.7%
North West	5.4%	6.1%	4.6%
Cheshire East	2.7%	3.5%	1.8%
Cheshire West and Chester	2.8%	3.6%	2.3%
Warrington	3.7%	4.1%	3.2%

**Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE**

The table below provides data on NEET and Not Known by ethnicity. Generally, NEET and Not Known rates were lower in the three local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington than in England or the North West. However, the NEET and Not Known rate for 'Black or Black British' young people was 10.5% for the 20 young people in this category in Cheshire East. Also, the NEET and Not Known rate for 'Mixed Race' young people was 7.1% for the 50 young people in this category in Cheshire West and Chester which compares with a rate of 2.8% for all young people in the authority and a national rate of 5.7% for this cohort.

Percentage of 16-17 year olds recorded as NEET or not known by ethnicity, 2020							
	White	Mixed Race	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese	Other	Total
England	5.7%	5.7%	4.1%	2.5%	2.0%	4.7%	5.5%
North West	5.2%	5.7%	3.3%	2.1%	1.9%	5.3%	5.4%
Cheshire East	2.5%	2.4%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
Cheshire West and Chester	4.2%	7.1%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%
Warrington	3.7%	5.1%	1.9%	1.4%	0.0%	5.0%	3.7%

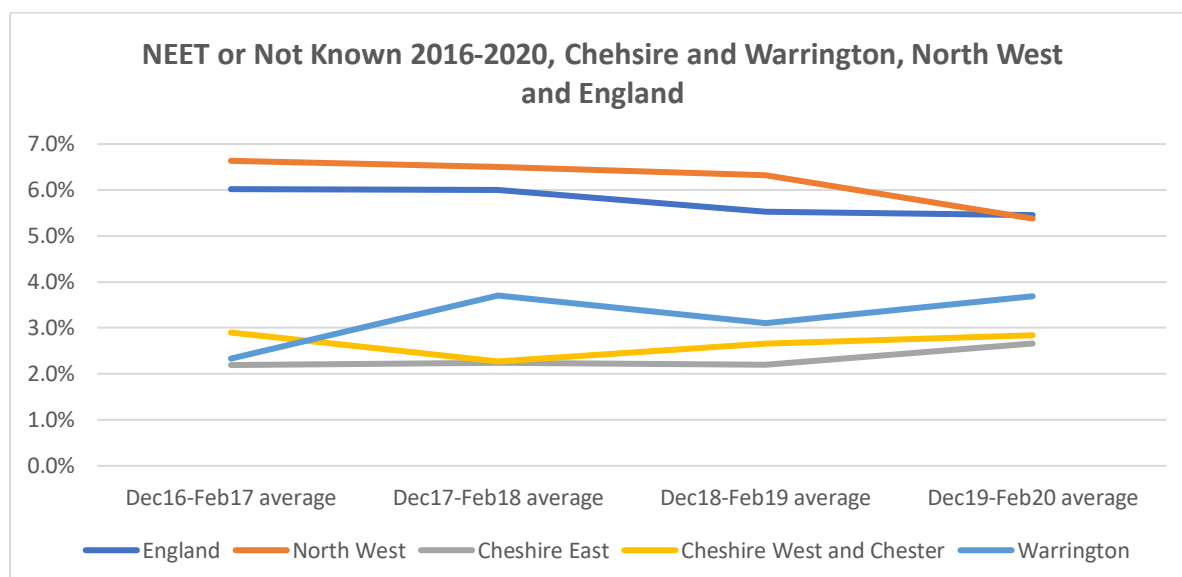
**Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE**

As might be expected from the participation data reported above, the proportion who were NEET or Not Known in 2020 was higher for those with SEND (EHCP or Statement) or with SEN support than for those without SEND. This is the case for England, the North West and for the three Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities. Over 30% of young people with SEN support in Cheshire East were NEET or Not Known.

<b>NEET or activity not known by Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and SEN support</b>				
	<b>with SEND (EHCP or statement)</b>	<b>with SEN support</b>	<b>without SEND (no EHCP or statement, no SEN support)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>England</b>	9.4%	9.2%	5.0%	5.5%
<b>North West</b>	10.7%	10.0%	4.9%	5.4%
<b>Cheshire East</b>	7.5%	30.2%	2.3%	2.7%
<b>Cheshire West and Chester</b>	10.2%	n/a	2.5%	2.8%
<b>Warrington</b>	10.8%	3.8%	3.3%	3.7%

*Source: 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2020, DfE*

The graph below shows the trend over four years for the NEET and Not Known rate in England, the North West and the three Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities. It can be seen from this that, whilst the rate in the three Local Authorities has consistently been below the English and North West rate, the gap has closed over time with slight increases in the rate in Cheshire and Warrington and slight decreases in the rate in England and the North West.

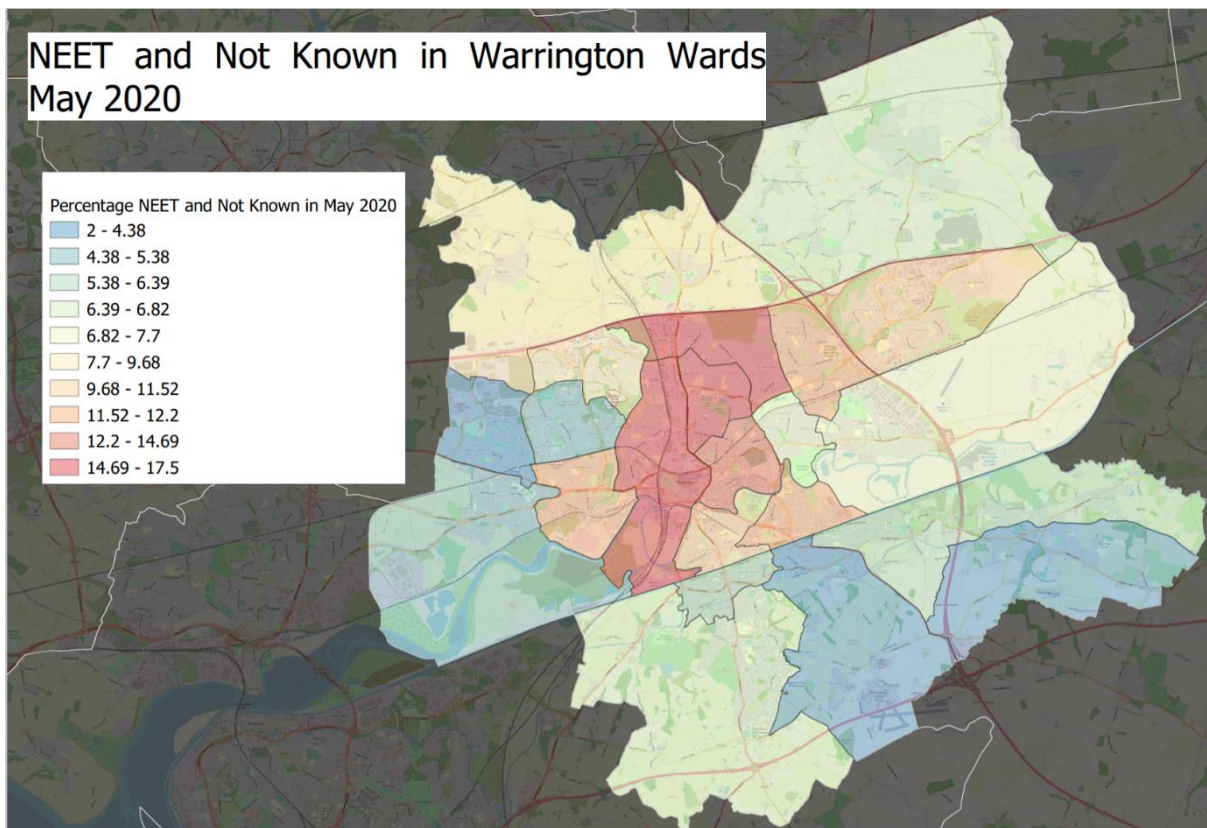


### 3.6 Focus on NEET in Warrington

Warrington Borough Council were able to provide an extract of their NEET data to enable ward-level analysis of NEET and to support a focus on understanding the extent to which NEET is an issue for the most vulnerable young people. Some of the key issues are reported below.

The map below illustrates the incidence of NEET within Warrington In May 2020. The wards with rates of NEET more than 10% were:

- Bewsey and Whitecross (17.5%)
- Orford (16.4%)
- Poplars and Hulme (14.9%)
- Fairfield and Howley (12.8%)
- Great Sankey South (12.2%)
- Poulton North (12.2%)
- Latchford East (12%)
- Latchford West (10.4%)

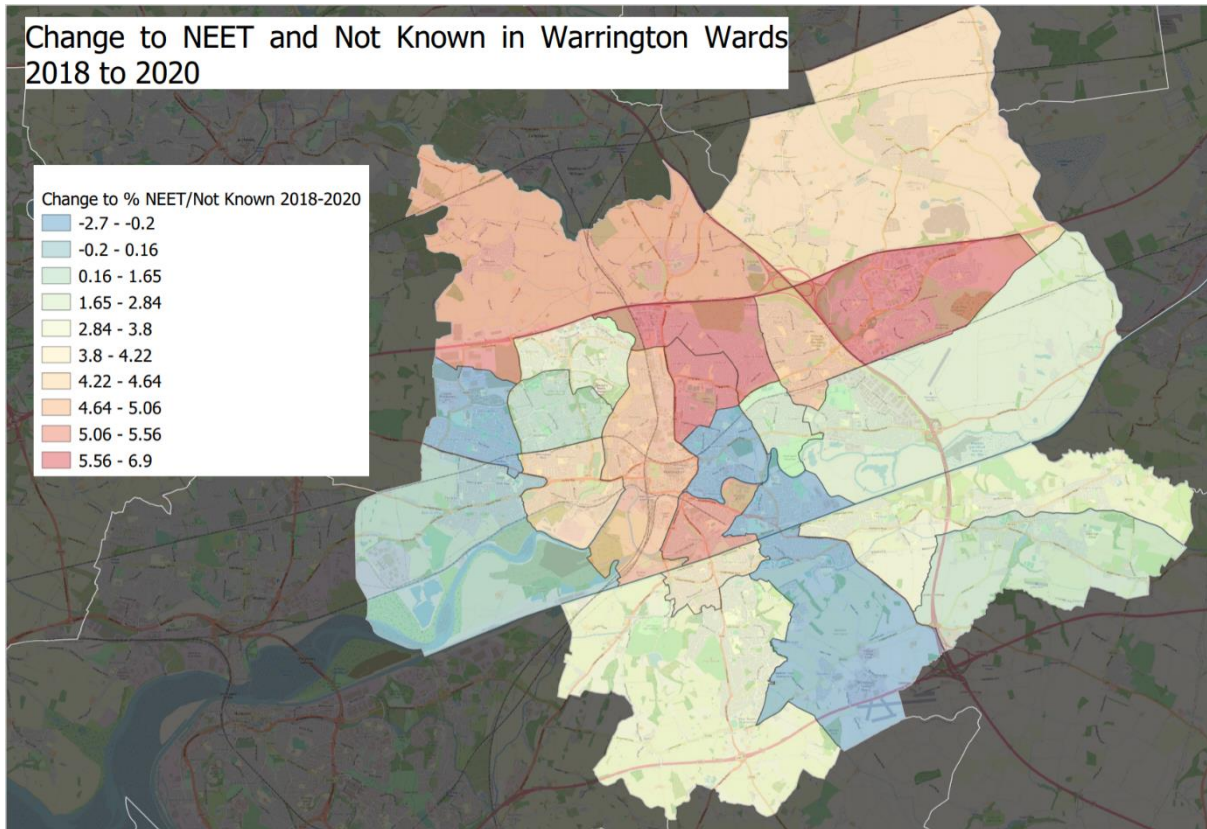


Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from Warrington Borough Council, OS and OpenStreetMap

Data is available between May 2018 and May 2020 so it is possible to identify how NEET/Not Known has changed across the borough's wards over these three year. The map below illustrates this change with dark red representing the wards with the highest increase in the NEET/Not Known rate over this time. Increases tended to be highest in the north of the borough. The wards with increases of over 5% were:

- Orford
- Birchwood
- Poplars and Hulme
- Latchford West
- Burtonwood and Winwick

## Change to NEET and Not Known in Warrington Wards 2018 to 2020



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from Warrington Borough Council, OS and OpenStreetMap

Only four wards saw decreases in the NEET/Not Known rate. These were:

- Latchford East
- Grappenhall
- Great Sankey North and Whittle Hall
- Fairfield and Howley

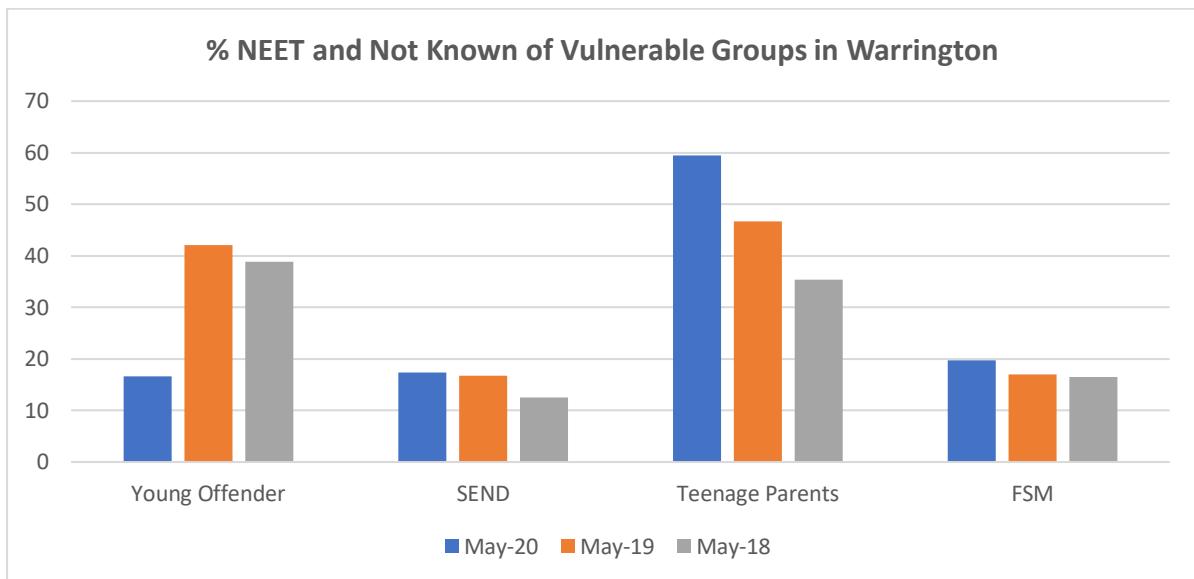
The table below confirms that the NEET/Not Known rate for Warrington increased from 6.2% in May 2018 to 9.3% in May 2020. Inspection of the data shows that this increase was driven by a 3.6% increase in the Not Known rate from 1.3% to 4.9%. There was a slight decrease in the NEET rate over the same period (4.9% in May 2018 to 4.4% in May 2020).

NEET and Not Known in Warrington May 2018 to May 2020			
	May-20	May-19	May-18
NEET Cohort	4.4%	4.5%	4.9%
Not Known	4.9%	2.0%	1.3%
Total in Learning	90.7%	93.5%	93.7%

**Source: Warrington Borough Council**

The graph below provides information on the NEET/Not Known indicator for young offenders, SEND young people, teenage parents and the free school meals (FSM) cohorts in Warrington. Between May 2018 and May 2020, the NEET/Not Known indicator increased for three of these groups of young people. The rate increased from 12.5% to 17.4% for the SEND cohort, from 16.5% to 19.7% for

the FSM cohort and from 35.4% to 59.5% for teenage parents. By contrast, the rate for young offenders decreased from 38.8% in May 2018 to 16.6% in May 2020.



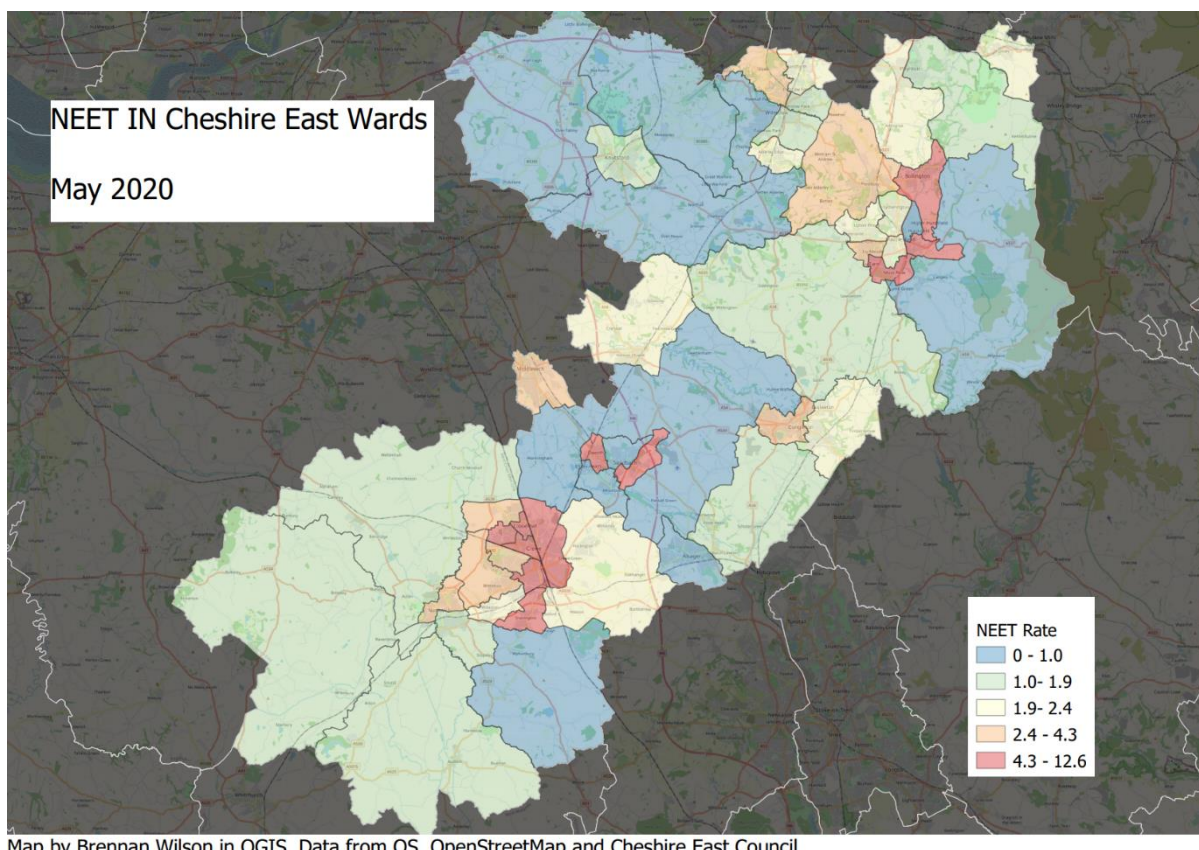
### 3.7 Focus on NEET in Cheshire East

Cheshire East Council were able to provide an extract of their NEET data to enable ward-level analysis of NEET. Some of the key issues are reported below.

The map below illustrates the incidence of NEET in Cheshire East In May 2020. The wards with rates of NEET more than 5% were:

- Crewe Central
- Shavington
- Crewe North
- Crewe South
- Macclesfield South
- Crewe St Barnabas
- Crewe East
- Bollington

The size of the cohort of 16- and 17-year olds in each of these wards varied between 56 and 283.



The table below provides information on the level of NEET in Cheshire East each year between May 2018 and May 2020. The NEET rate in Cheshire East has increased from 2.1% to 2.9% representing an increase in the number of NEET 16 and 17 year olds of 59 (from 156 to 259).

<b>NEET Cheshire East between May 2018 and May 2020</b>						
<b>Academic Age 16 - 17</b>						
	<b>May-20</b>		<b>May-19</b>		<b>May-18</b>	
	<b>No. in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No. in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No. in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>EET</b>	7126	97.1%	6936	97.6%	7164	97.8%
<b>NEET</b>	215	2.9%	165	2.3%	156	2.1%
<b>Other</b>	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	5	0.1%
<b>Not Known</b>	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7342</b>		<b>7103</b>		<b>7326</b>	

*Source: Cheshire East Council*

This data is available at ward level, so it is possible to identify how NEET has changed across the borough's wards over these three years. The map below illustrates this change with dark red representing the wards with the highest increase in the NEET rate over this time. The wards with increases of over 2% were:

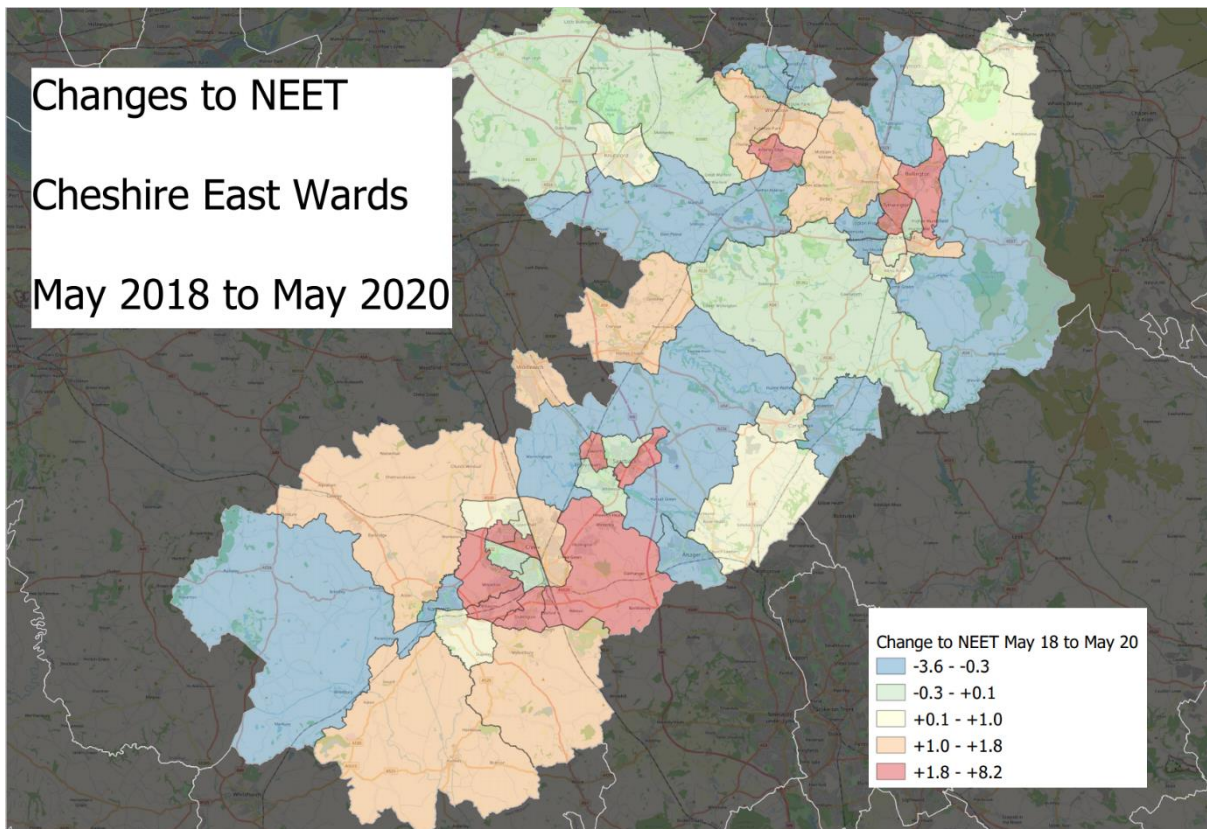
- Shavington
- Crewe Central
- Bollington
- Sandbach Elworth

- Wistaston
- Crewe South
- Macclesfield Tytherington
- Alderley Edge
- Willaston and Rope

The size of the cohort of 16- and 17-year olds in each of these wards varied between 48 and 257.

Between 2018 and 2020, NEET decreased in the following wards in Cheshire East:

- Chelford
- Handforth
- Sutton
- Poynton West and Adlington
- Nantwich North and West
- Alsager
- Broken Cross and Upton
- Wrenbury
- Wilmslow Lacey Green
- Brereton Rural
- Macclesfield West and Ivy
- Congleton East
- Crewe West
- Crewe St Barnabas
- Gawsworth



Map by Brennan Wilson in QGIS. Data from OS, OpenStreet Map and Cheshire East Council

### 3.8 Focus on NEET in Cheshire West and Chester

Cheshire West and Chester Council was able to provide a ward-level analysis of NEET. Some of the key issues the council have identified are reported below.

The wards with rates of NEET & Not Known above 8% in Cheshire West and Chester in May 2020, are also the wards with highest NEET rate. Information is provided in the table below.

Wards with highest NEET/Not Known rates in May 2020			
	NEET/NK Combined	NEET	Not Known
Winsford Wharton	11.4%	8.72%	2.68%
Winsford Over & Verdin	9.0%	7.76%	1.19%
Winsford Swanlow	8.9%	8.89%	0.00%
Winsford Dene	8.6%	8.60%	0.00%
Blacon	8.5%	7.42%	1.06%

Data is available between May 2019 and May 2020, so it is possible to identify how NEET/Not Known has changed across the borough's wards over the 2 years. The wards with increases of over 5% were:

- Shakerley Ward, 6.4%
- Malpas Ward, 6.3%
- Winsford Over & Verdin Ward, 5.5%

Eleven wards saw decreases in the NEET/Not Known rate between May 2019 and May 2020. These were:

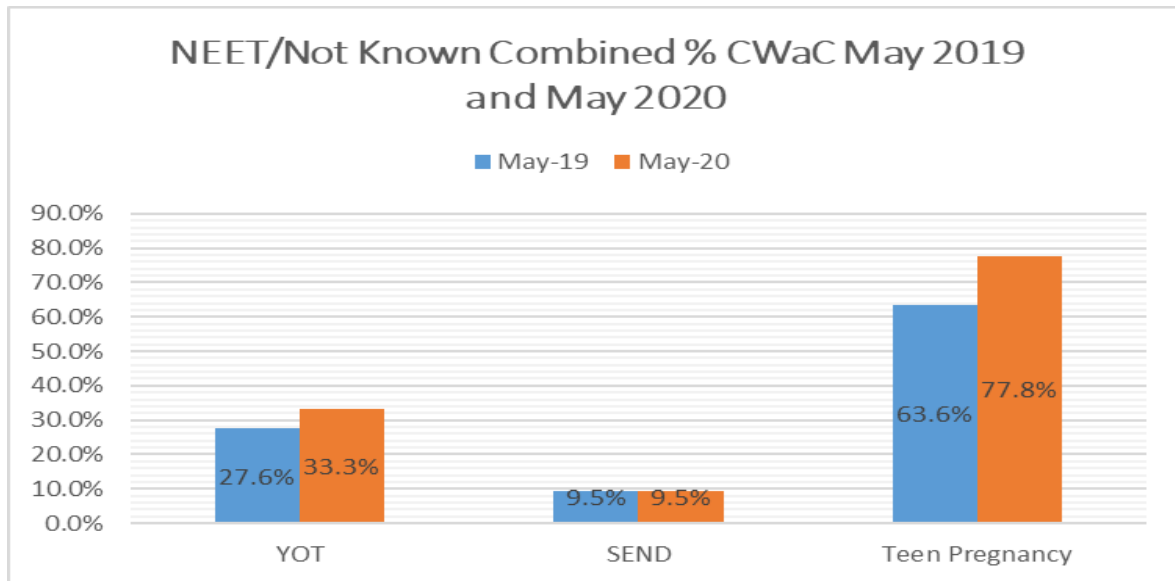
- Tarvin & Kelsall Ward, -0.1%
- Northwich Leftwich Ward, -0.4%
- Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead ward, -0.4%
- Saughall & Mollington Ward, -0.9%
- Great Boughton Ward, -1.0%
- Hartford & Greenbank Ward, -1.4%
- Parkgate Ward, -1.5%
- Northwich Winnington & Castle ward, -1.6%
- Christleton & Huntington Ward, -2.4%
- Chester City & the Garden Quarter Ward, -3.0%
- Neston Ward, -3.0%

NEET in Cheshire West and Chester increased from 2.2% to 2.9% between May 2019 and May 2020. Not known also increased slightly from 0.2% to 0.4% in this period.

NEET and Not Known in Cheshire West and Chester May 2019 and May 2020		
	May-19	May-20
NEET Cohort	2.2%	2.9%
Not Known	0.2%	0.4%
Total in Learning	96.9%	96.1%
<b>Source: Cheshire West and Chester Council</b>		



The graph below provides information on the NEET/Not Known indicator for young offenders, SEND young people, teenage young people between May 2019 and May 2020



## 4. Young People's Education and Progression

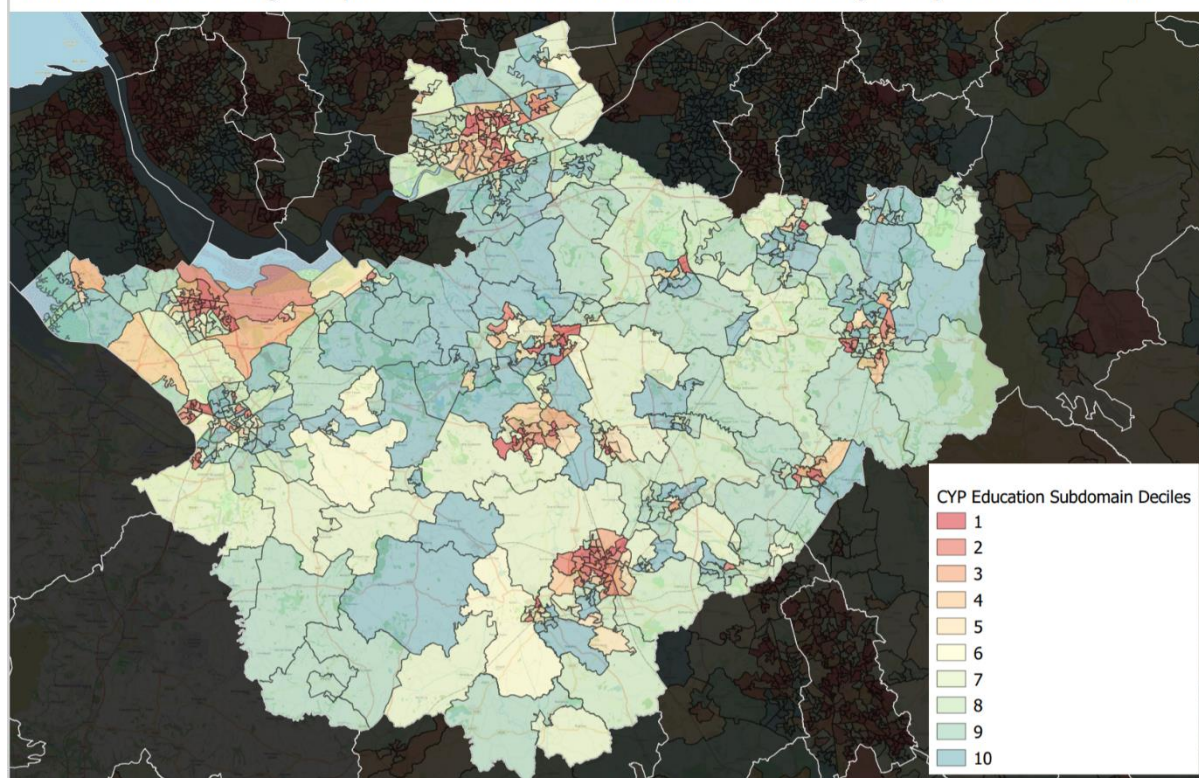
### 4.1 The Children and Young People Education Subdomain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Education, Skills and Training Domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019) measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills. The indicators that are used in the Children and Young People Education sub-domain are:

- Key Stage 2 attainment: The scaled score of pupils taking Mathematics, English reading and English grammar, punctuation and spelling Key Stage 2 exams
- Key Stage 4 attainment: The average capped points score of pupils taking Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalent) exams
- Secondary school absence: The proportion of authorised and unauthorised absences from secondary school
- Staying on in education post 16: The proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16
- Entry to higher education: A measure of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education

The map below illustrates the distribution of scores from the Children and Young People Education Subdomain in Cheshire and Warrington. Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived national decile are shaded dark red. Those in the least deprived are shaded blue. It can be seen from the map that the areas that are deprived on this indicator are clustered in Ellesmere Port, Warrington, and Crewe with additional clusters in Winsford, Nantwich, Chester and Macclesfield.

Children and Young People Education Subdomain of the IMD(2019) National Deciles



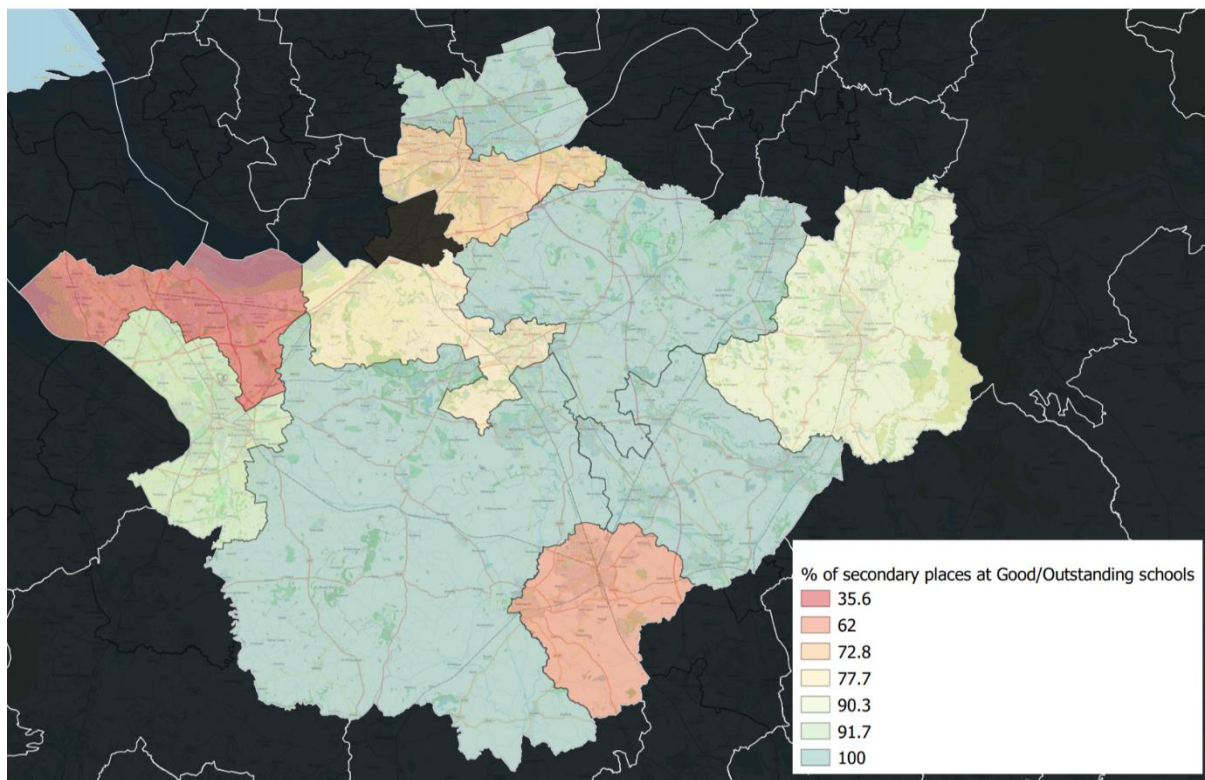
Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from IMD(2019), OS and OpenStreetMap

## 4.1 Secondary School Quality

The House of Commons Library publishes a range of data relating to education in parliamentary constituencies. One of the indicators that is published is for the number of secondary school places in schools graded as good or outstanding. The map below presents this data for parliamentary constituencies in Cheshire and Warrington.

80% of secondary school students in England are taught in schools rated outstanding or good by Ofsted. There are six parliamentary constituencies where the percentage is higher than for England, including four where 100% of students are taught in such providers - Congleton, Eddisbury, Tatton and Warrington North. By contrast, only 35.6% of secondary places in Ellesmere Port and Neston are with Good or Outstanding providers.

Percentage of Secondary Places with Good/Outstanding Schools by Parliamentary Constituency, February 2020



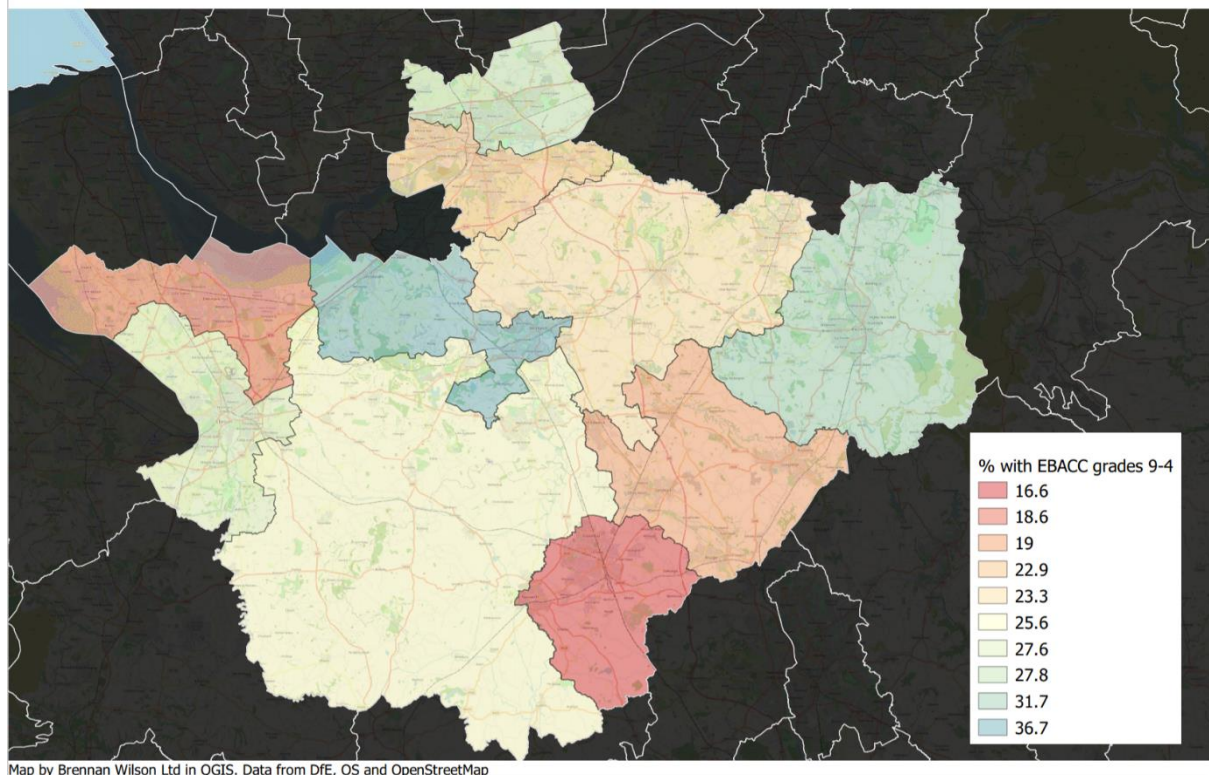
Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from House of Commons Library, OS and OpenStreetMap

## 4.2 Young People at Key Stage 4

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) consists of English, maths, science, a language, and history or geography at GCSE level (or AS). To count in the EBacc, qualifications must be on the English Baccalaureate list of qualifications. The proportion of pupils in England who achieved all components of the EBacc at grades 5 or above was 17.1% in 2019, up from 16.7% in 2018, and at grades 4 or above, it was 24.9%, up from 24.1%.

The percentage of learners at Key Stage 4 securing the EBacc (grade 4 or above) in each parliamentary constituency in Cheshire and Warrington is shown in the map below. Five constituencies were above the 2019 English average and 5 were below, with only 16.6% achieving on this measure in Crewe and Nantwich and 36.7% achieving in Weaver Vale.

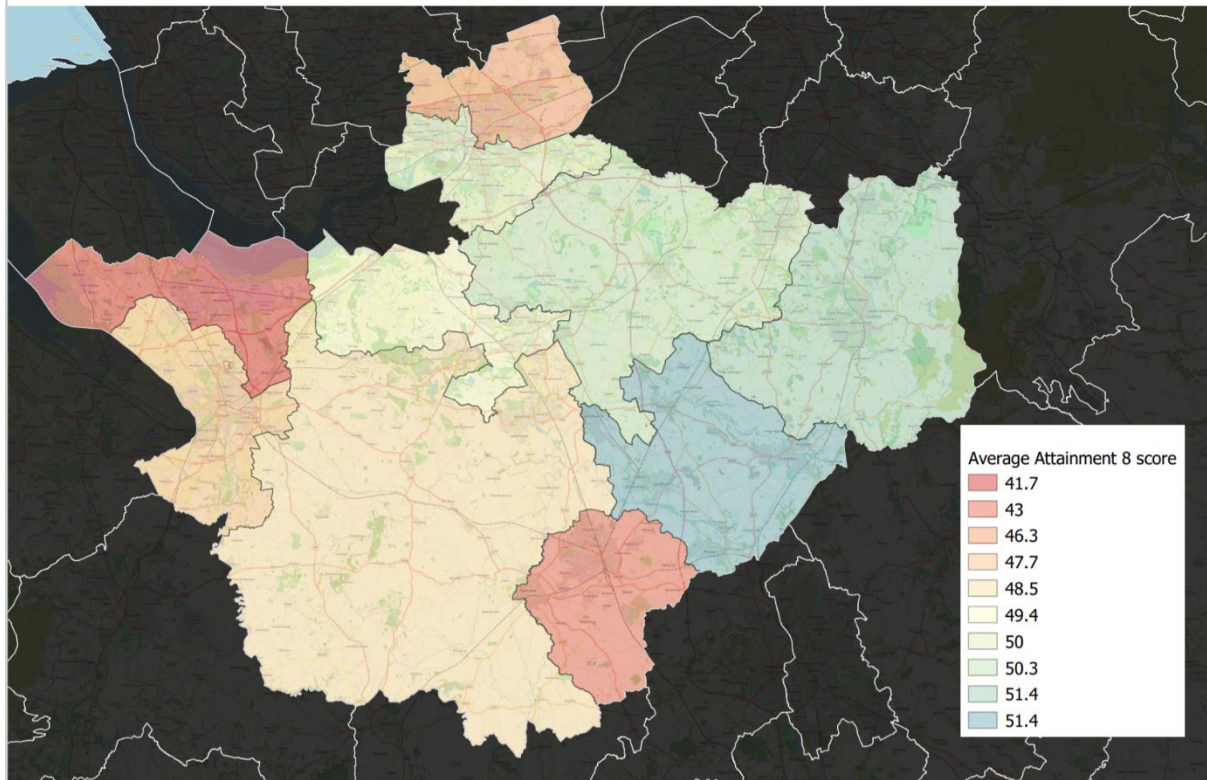
## Attainment of the EBACC (grades 9-4) at Key Stage 4, by Parliamentary Constituency, in 2019



Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. This includes: English (double weighted if both GCSEs in language and literature are taken); maths (double weighted); three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc); and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list.

The average Attainment 8 score for England in 2019 was 46.8 and for the North West was 45.5. The average Attainment 8 score by parliamentary constituency in 2019 is shown in the map below. Three parliamentary constituencies – Ellesmere Port and Neston, Crewe and Nantwich, and Warrington North – scored below the English average on this measure in 2019. Two constituencies – Macclesfield and Congleton – scored 51.4 on this measure in 2019.

## Average Attainment 8 Score, by Parliamentary Constituency, 2019

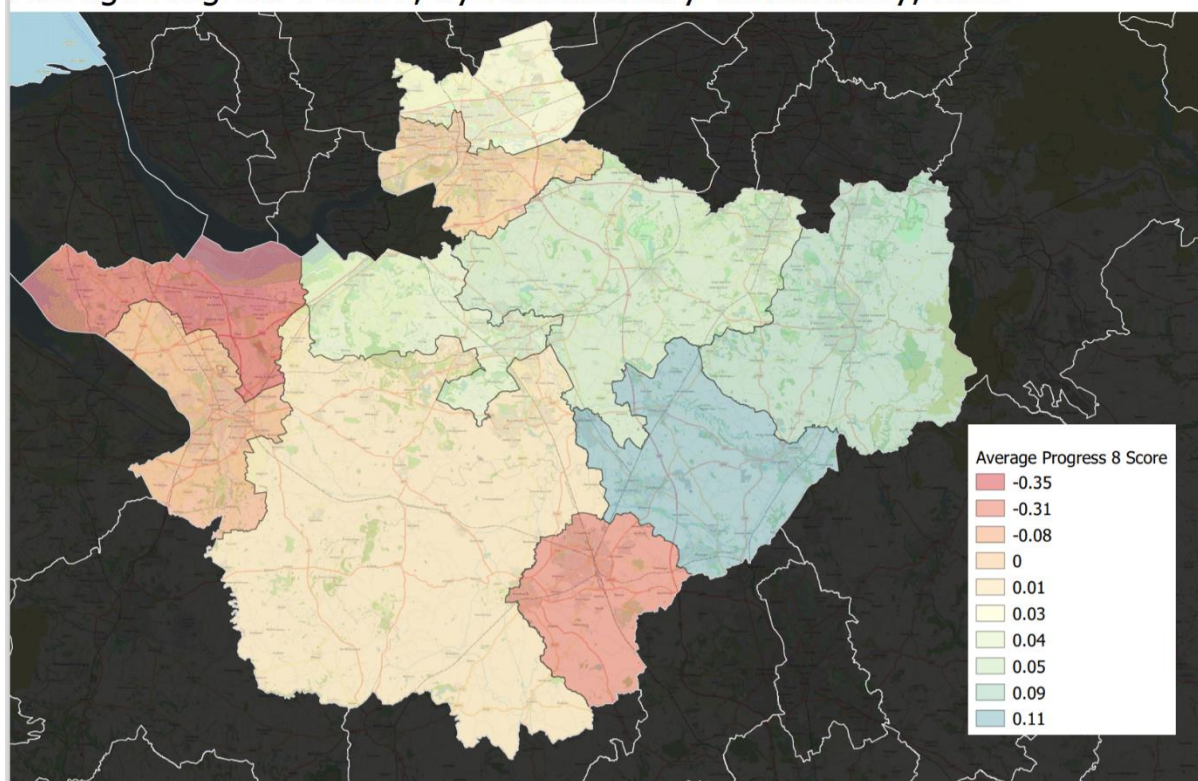


Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from DfE, OS and OpenStreetMap

Progress 8 aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 (KS2) to the end of KS4. It compares pupils' achievement – their Attainment 8 score (see above) – with the national average Attainment 8 score of all pupils who had a similar starting point (or 'prior attainment'), calculated using assessment results from the end of primary school. Progress 8 is a relative measure, therefore the national average Progress 8 score for mainstream schools is very close to zero.

The average Progress 8 score for each parliamentary constituency is shown in the map below. Progress made is at or below the national average in four parliamentary constituencies – Ellesmere Port and Neston, Crewe and Nantwich, City of Chester and Warrington South – and above the English average in six.

## Average Progress 8 Score, by Parliamentary Constituency, 2019



The table below provides data on pupil destinations after Key Stage 4 for disadvantaged pupils (defined as pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) in any spring, autumn, summer, alternative provision or pupil referral unit census from year 6 to year 11 or that are looked after children for at least one day or are adopted from care) and all other pupils.

A slightly higher percentage of disadvantaged pupils (90%) progress to sustained education or employment in Cheshire East compared to the English average. However, Warrington and Cheshire West and Chester (87% and 84% respectively) are both below the English average of 88% on this measure.

Pupil destinations after completing key stage 4 by disadvantaged status						
Year: 2017/18 destinations for the 2016/17 cohort						
Local Authority District	Any sustained education or employment			Any sustained education destination		
	Disadv pupils	All other pupils	Total	Disadv pupils	All other pupils	Total
England	88	96	94	81	88	86
North West	87	96	93	78	87	84
Cheshire East	90	98	96	78	90	88
Cheshire West and Chester	84	95	93	72	86	83
Warrington	87	97	95	78	90	87

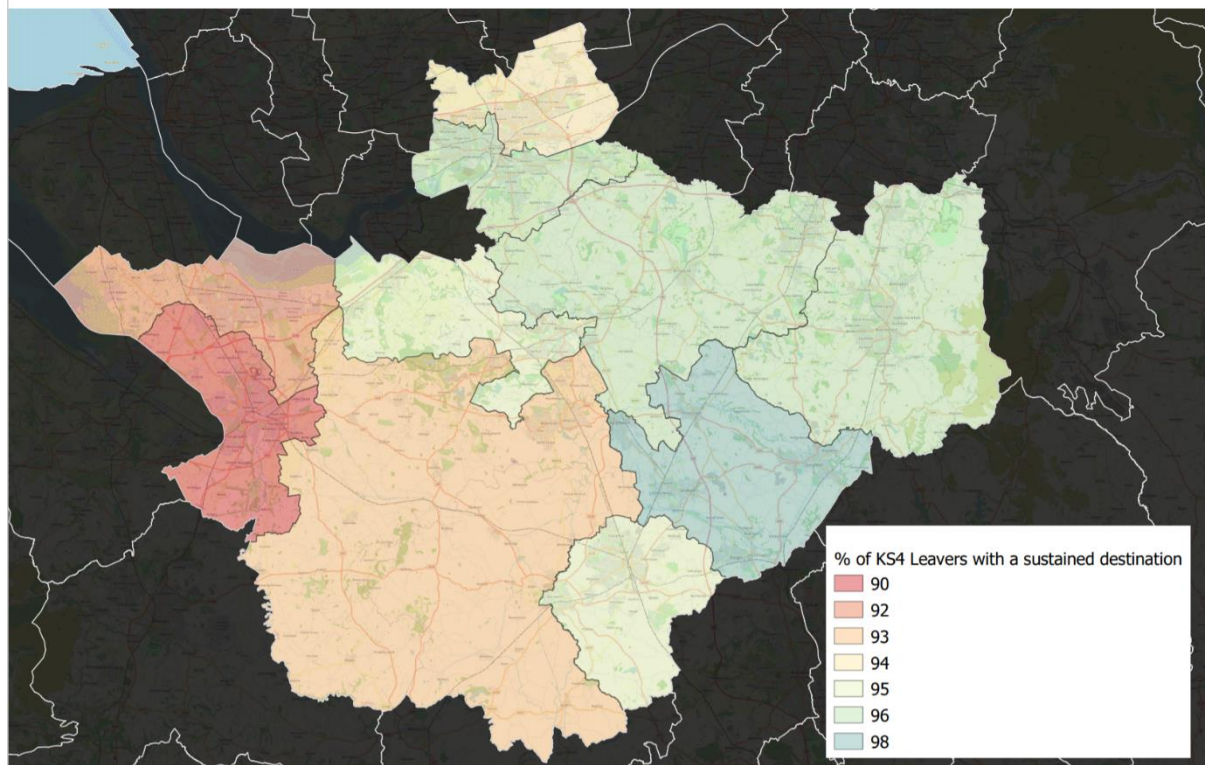
**Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset**

The gap between disadvantaged pupils and all other pupils in securing sustained education or employment is 8% for England which is the same as for Cheshire East. The gap is greater in both

Cheshire West and Chester (11%) and Warrington (10%). It is of concern that the proportion of disadvantaged pupils who secure a sustained education destination is lower in Cheshire East (78%), Cheshire West and Chester (72%) and Warrington (78%) than for England (81%). It is also concerning that the gap between disadvantaged pupils securing a sustained education destination compared to all other pupils is larger for all three local authorities (12%, 14%, 12%) than the English average of 7%.

This data is presented for parliamentary constituencies in the map below. Three parliamentary constituencies – City of Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston, and Eddisbury – attained sustained progression rates at Key Stage 4 lower than the English average of 94%.

### Sustained Destinations at Key Stage 4 by Parliamentary Constituency 2017/18



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from DfE, OS and OpenStreetMap

The table below provides information on the destinations of Key Stage 4 leavers in 2017/18 by route followed, comparing the three local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington with England and the North West. Cheshire East (96%) and Warrington (95%) were both slightly above the English average of 94% securing any sustained education or employment destination, with Cheshire West and Chester (93%) slightly below the national average.

Pupil destinations after completing key stage 4, state funded schools (mainstream and special), 2017/18						
		England	NW	Cheshire East	Cheshire West and Chester	Warrington
<b>Any sustained education or employment</b>		94	93	96	93	95
<b>Education destinations</b>	Any sustained education destination	86	84	88	83	87
	FE	37	41	36	31	56
	School sixth form	37	24	45	37	21
	Sixth form college	11	17	7	13	10
	Other	2	2	1	2	1
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	All sustained apprenticeships	4	5	5	5	5
	Level 3+	1	2	2	1	2
	Level 2	3	4	4	3	3
<b>Sustained employment destination</b>		3	4	3	5	3
<b>Destination not sustained</b>		5	6	3	5	4
<b>Activity not captured</b>		1	1	1	2	-
<b>Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset</b>						

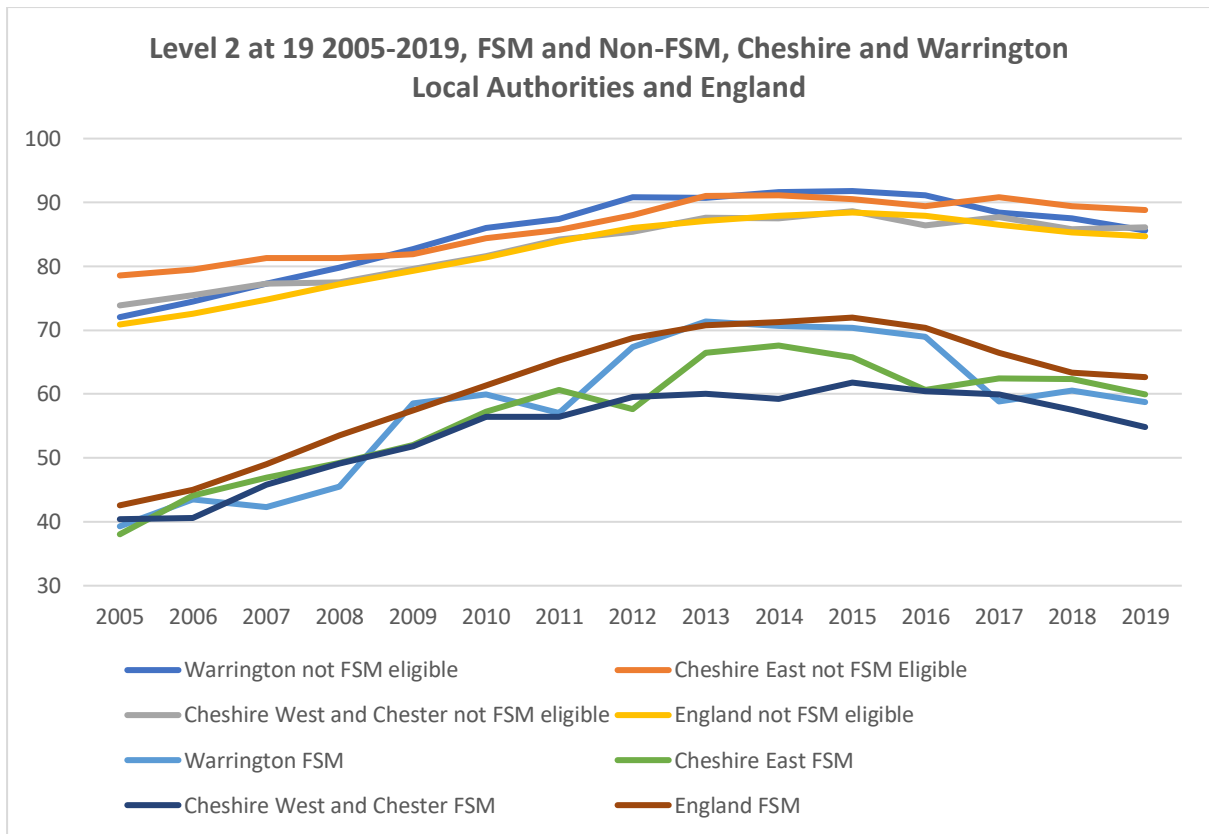
### 4.3 Young People at Key Stage 5

The graph below presents the data from 2005 to 2019 for the attainment of Level 2 by 19 year olds in the three Local Authorities of Cheshire and Warrington and for England. The data is presented for those eligible, and not eligible, for free school meals (FSM). Level 2 is regarded as the threshold qualification level for sustained future employment. The majority of 19 year olds with a level 2 will have attained that level of qualification at age 16 (ie 3 years earlier than the measurement date) although some will have achieved their level 2 in the 16-19 phase of education.

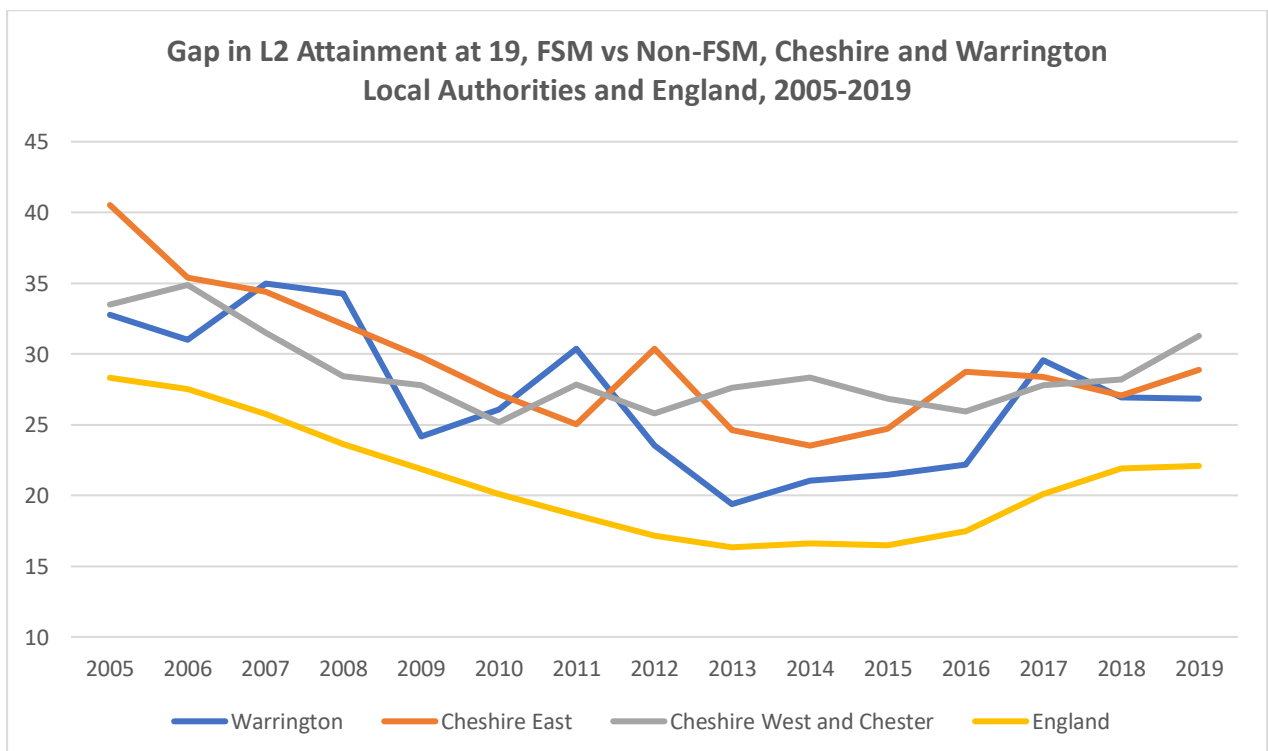
The trend for England for those not eligible for free school meals was for a steady increase in this measure from 2005 to 2015 followed by a slight decline from this date (88% in 2015, 85% in 2019). In general, 19 year olds not eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities have achieved at or above the English level in most years considered.

The trend for England for those eligible for free school meals was for a steady increase in this measure from 2005 to 2015 followed by a sharper decline from this date (72% in 2015, 63% in 2019). In general, 19 year olds eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities, unlike their non-FSM eligible counterparts, have achieved at or *below* the English level in most years considered.





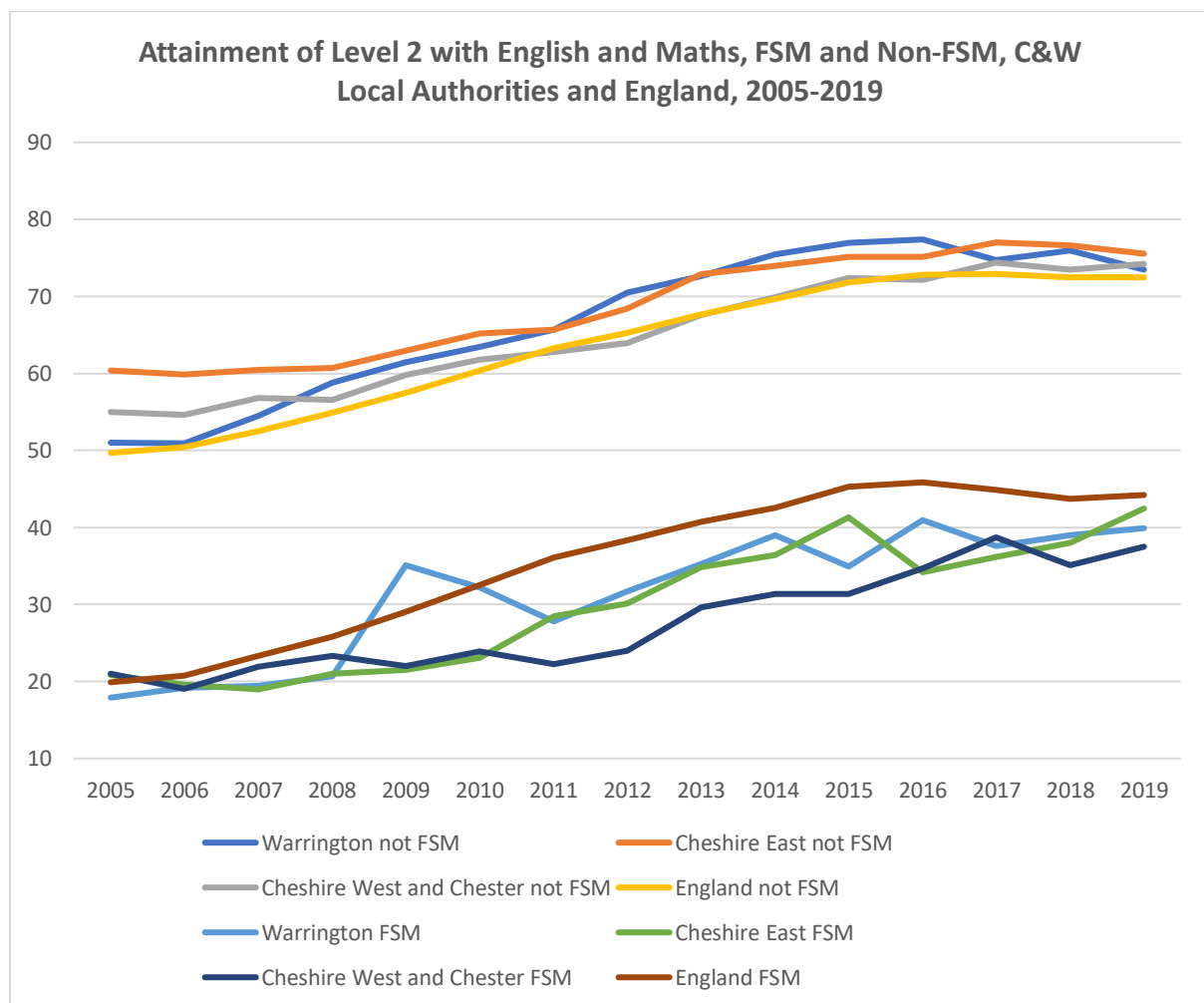
The graph below gives data for the gap in the attainment of Level 2 at age 19 between those eligible and not eligible for free school meals. Data is provided for England and for the three local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington. The gap has been bigger for all three local authorities than in England, every year since 2005. A steady decline in the gap in England stopped in 2013 and it has now risen back to 2009 levels.



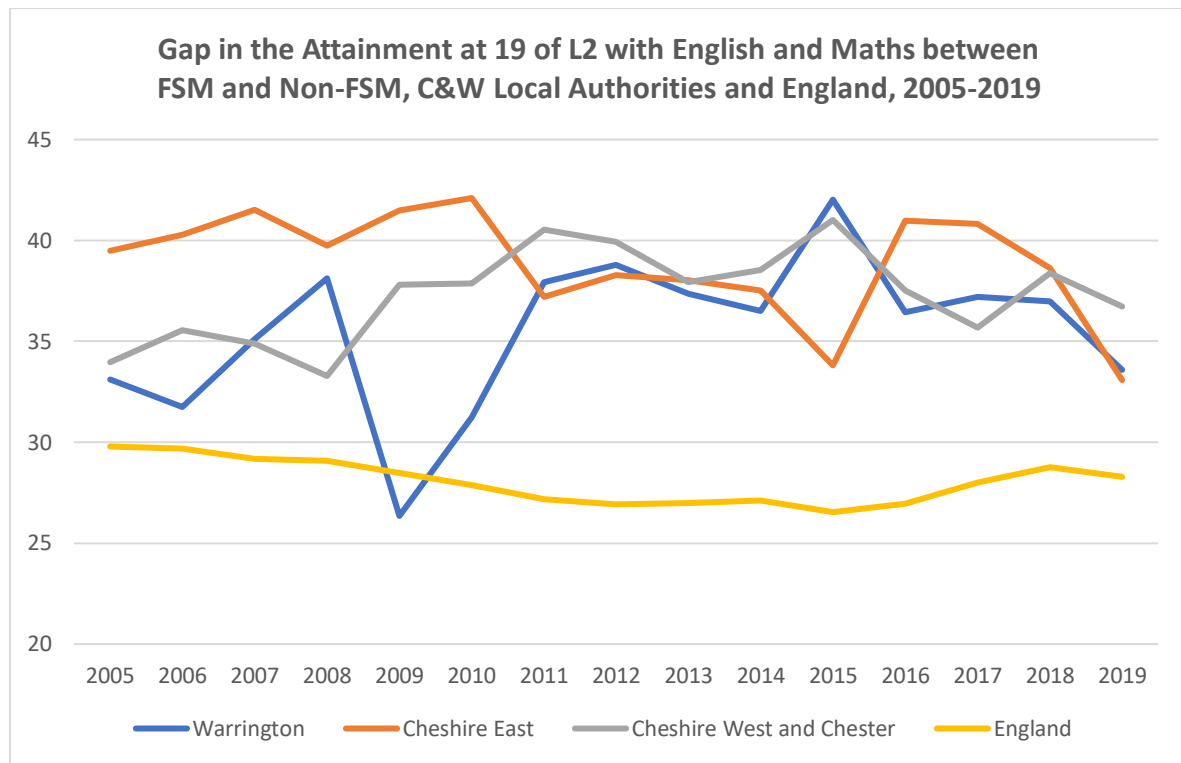
The graph below presents the data from 2005 to 2019 for the attainment of Level 2 with English and Maths by 19 year olds in the three Local Authorities of Cheshire and Warrington and for England. The data is presented for those eligible, and not eligible, for free school meals (FSM). Level 2 with English and Maths is a prerequisite for progression to Level 3 and above. The majority of 19 year olds with a level 2 with English and Maths will have attained that level of qualification at age 16 (ie 3 years earlier than the measurement date) although some will have achieved this in the 16-19 phase of education.

The trend for England for those not eligible for free school meals was for a steady increase in this measure from 2005 to 2016 followed by a plateau (73% in 2016, 72% in 2019). In general, 19 year olds not eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities have achieved at or above the English level in most years considered, although there has been a slight convergence between England and Cheshire and Warrington since 2016.

The trend for England for those eligible for free school meals was for a steady increase in this measure from 2005 to 2016 followed by a slight decline from this date (46% in 2016, 44% in 2019). In general, 19 year olds eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities, unlike their non-FSM eligible counterparts, have achieved at or *below* the English level in most years considered, although there has been a slight convergence with England in recent years.



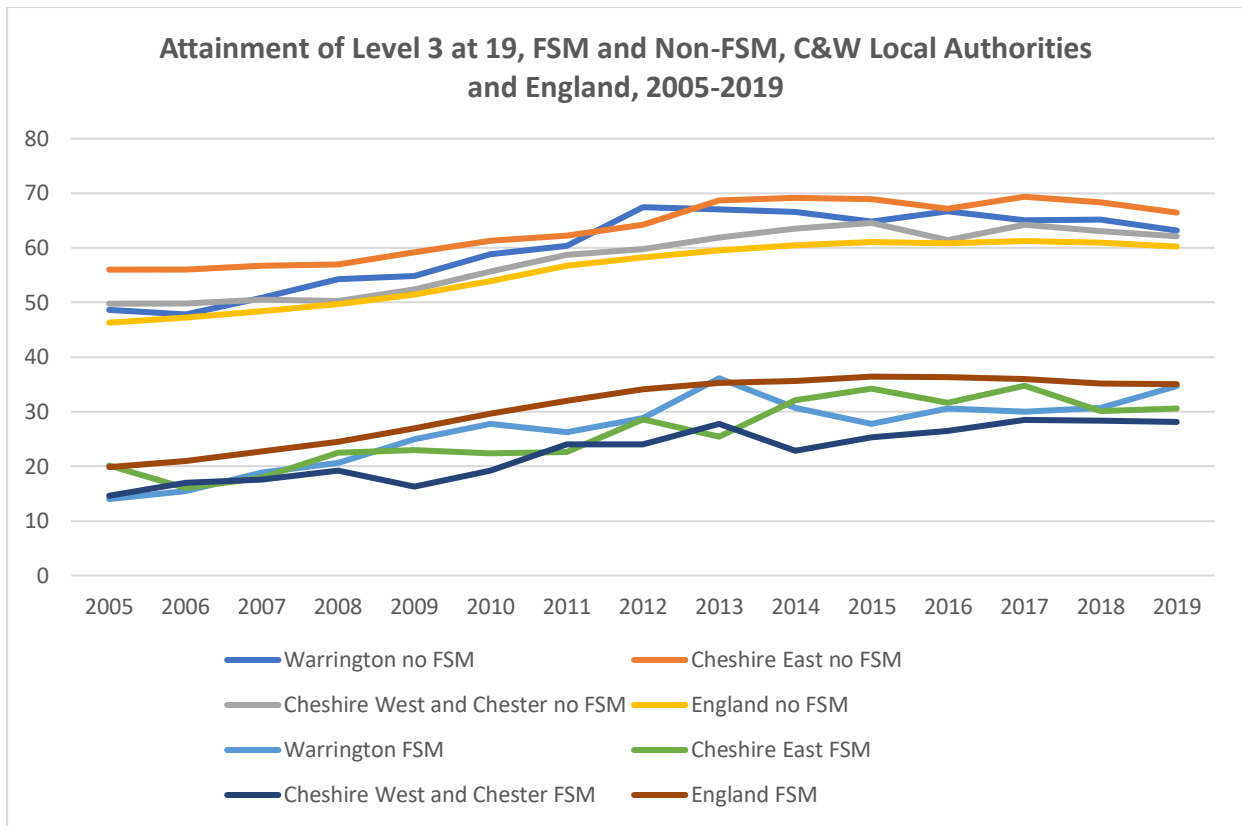
The graph below presents data for the gap in attainment of Level 2 with English and Maths for those eligible and those not eligible for FSM for 2005 to 2019. In England the gap declined slightly from 30% in 2005 to 26.5% in 2015, but has now risen back to 28% in 2019. The three Cheshire and Warrington local authorities have all consistently had a gap more than England.



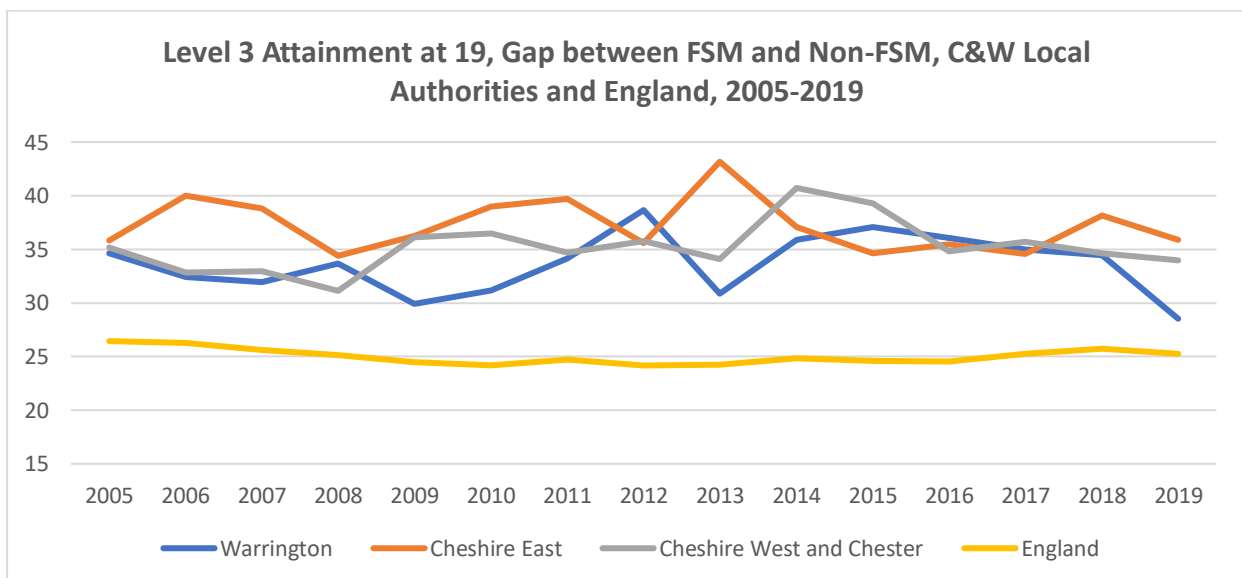
The graph below presents the data from 2005 to 2019 for the attainment of Level 3 by 19 year olds in the three local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington and for England. The data is presented for those eligible, and not eligible, for free school meals (FSM).

The trend for England for those not eligible for free school meals was for a steady increase in this measure from 2005 to 2013 followed by a plateau (60% in 2016, 60% in 2019). In general, 19 year olds not eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities have achieved at or above the English level in most years considered.

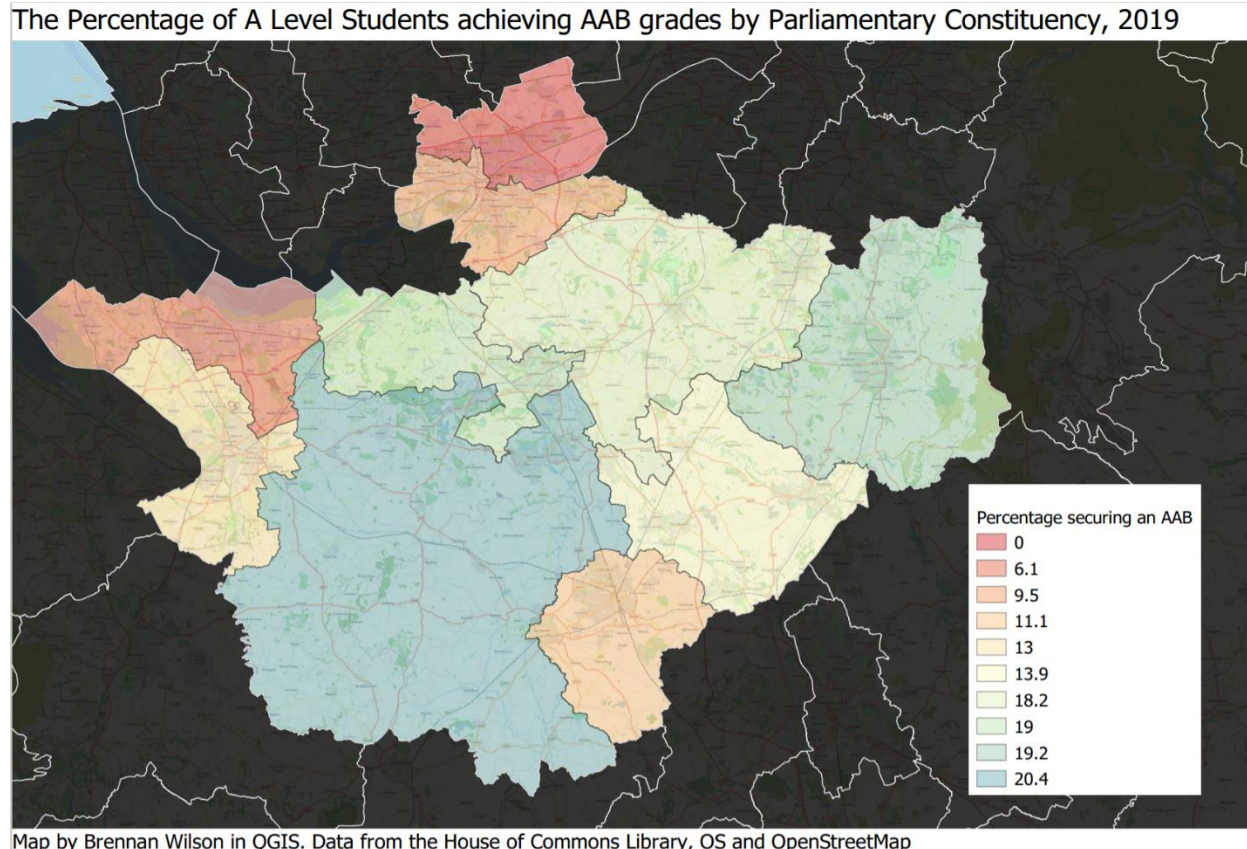
The trend for England for those eligible for free school meals was for a steady increase in this measure from 2005 to 2015 followed by a slight decline from this date (36% in 2015, 35% in 2019). In general, 19 year olds eligible for free school meals from Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities, unlike their non-FSM eligible counterparts, have achieved at or *below* the English level in most years considered.



The graph below presents data for the gap in attainment of Level 3 for those eligible and those not eligible for FSM for 2005 to 2019. In England the gap has been slightly above or slightly below 25% for this period. The three Cheshire and Warrington local authorities have all consistently had a gap in excess of England, usually greater than 5ppt.



Government publishes data for the percentage of A level students that have secured top grades (A\*AB) by parliamentary constituency. This data for 2019 is presented on the map below. 14.1% of students secured a minimum of AAB at A level in England. Six of Cheshire and Warrington’s parliamentary constituencies failed to achieve this level, with no students achieving this level in the Warrington North constituency.



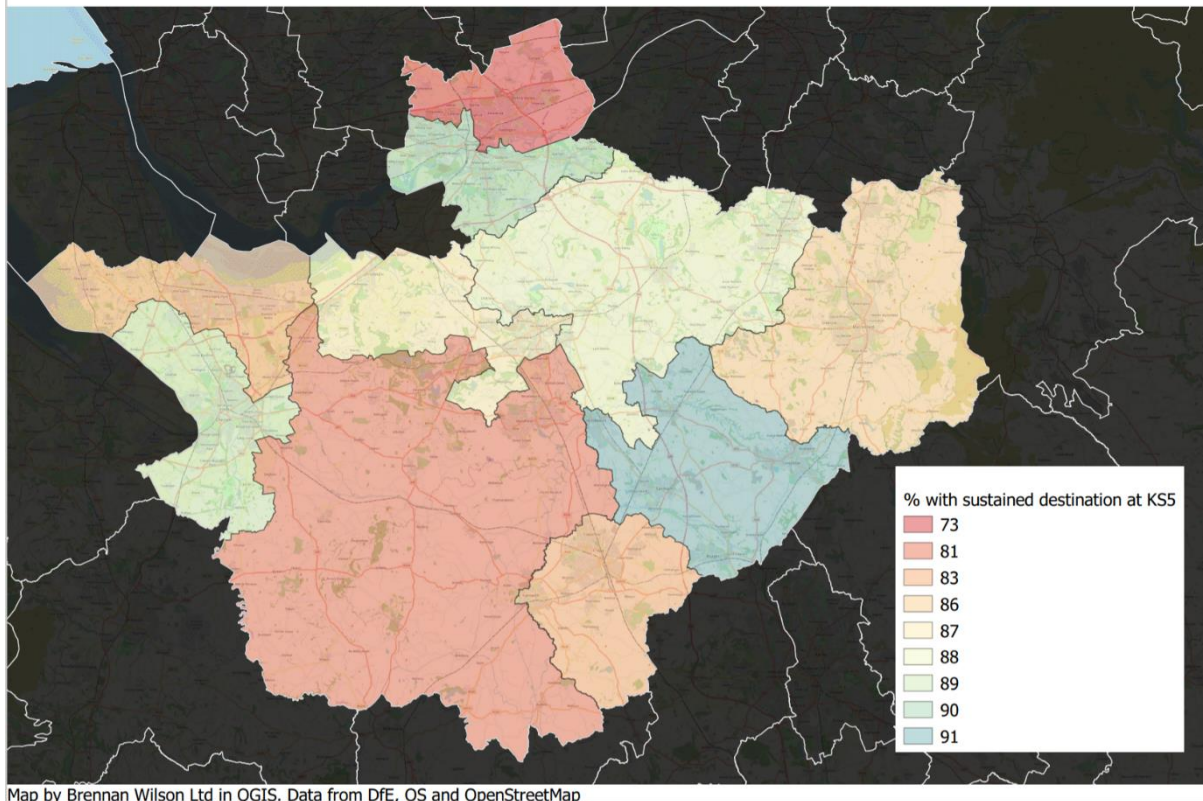
The table below sets out information on the destinations secured by Key Stage 5 leavers (18 yr olds) in the three Cheshire and Warrington local authorities and England in 2017/18. The percentage securing any sustained destination was higher than England for all three local authorities. The percentage securing employment as a sustained destination was also higher than England in all three local authorities.

<b>Sustained destinations at Key Stage 5 by Local authority and Route, 2017/18</b>						
	Any sustained destination	Education	Apprenticeship	Employment	Destination not sustained	Activity not captured
England	81	47	10	25	13	6
Cheshire East	85	44	12	28	10	5
Cheshire West and Chester	86	51	9	26	10	4
Warrington	84	43	12	29	12	4

**Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset**

The same data is mapped below for Cheshire and Warrington’s parliamentary constituencies. Nine of the ten constituencies had percentages that secured any sustained destination that were the same or higher than the English average of 81%. However, in Warrington North only 73% of 18 year olds were able to secure a sustained destination.

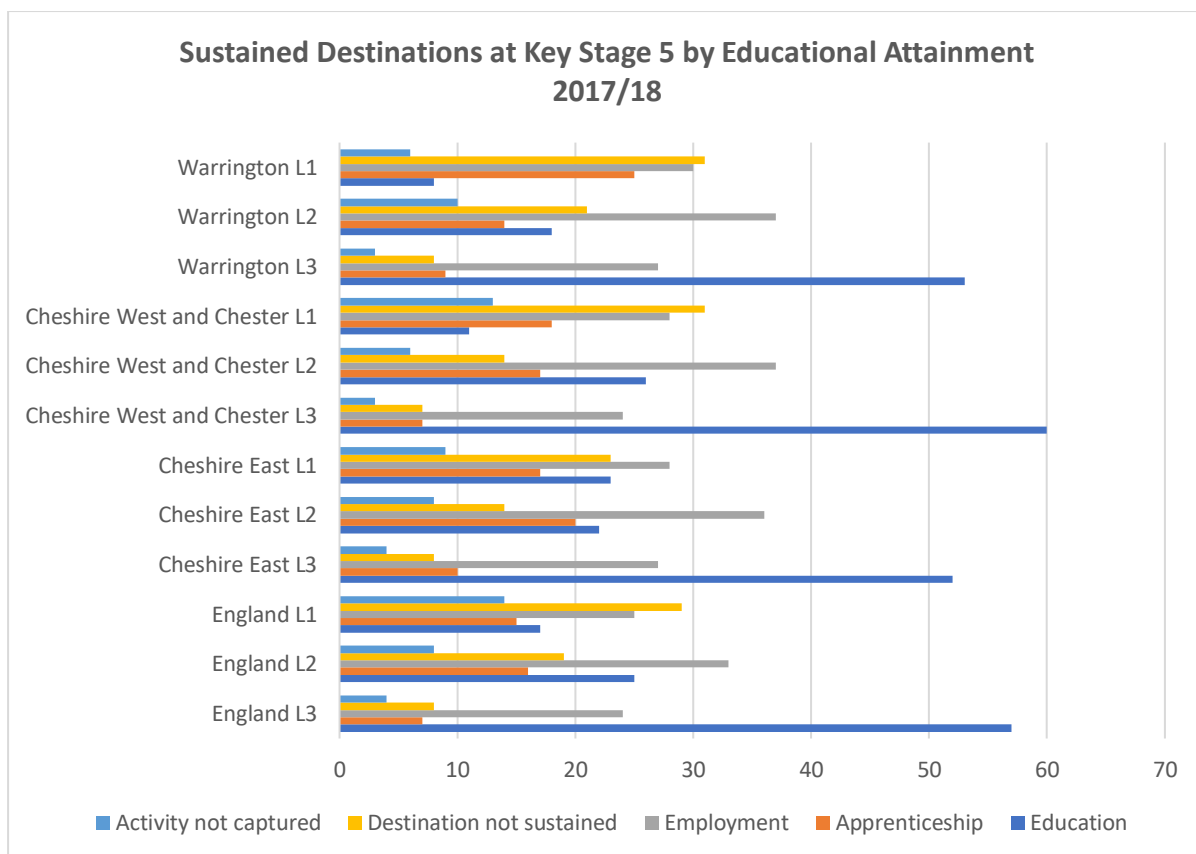
Percentage Securing a Sustained Destination at Key Stage 5 by Parliamentary Constituency 2017/18



The graph below provides data on the percentage of Key Stage 5 leavers that secure a sustained destination by local authority and by level of educational attainment. Data is presented for the three local authorities in Cheshire and Warrington and England. From this it can be seen that the most common destination for Level 1 KS5 leavers tends to be ‘failure to secure a destination’. 31% of Key Stage 5 leavers at level 1 in Warrington and in Cheshire West and Chester and fail to secure a sustained destination. This compares with 29% for Level 1 KS5 leavers for England as a whole. In Cheshire East 23% of Level 1 leavers fail to secure a destination with more Level 1 leavers (28%) securing a sustained employment destination.

The most common destination for Level 2 KS5 leavers is to secure a sustained employment destination, with 37% doing so in Warrington, 37% in Cheshire West and Chester, and 36% doing so in Cheshire East. This compares with 33% of Level 2 KS5 leavers securing a sustained employment destination in England.

The most common destination for Level 3 KS5 leavers is to secure a sustained education destination, with 53% doing so in Warrington, 60% in Cheshire West and Chester, and 52% doing so in Cheshire East. This compares with 57% of Level 3 KS5 leavers securing a sustained education destination in England.



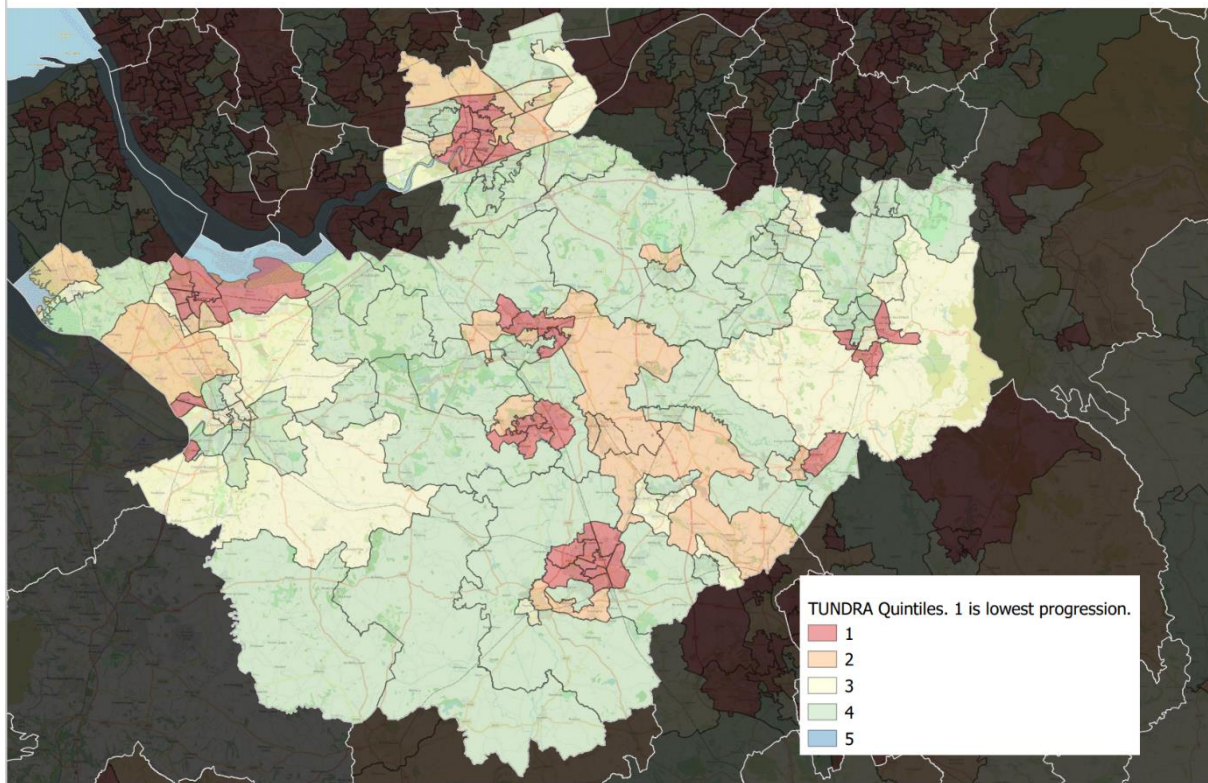
TUNDRA (tracking underrepresentation by area) is an area-based measure that uses tracking of state-funded mainstream school pupils in England to calculate young participation. TUNDRA classifies local areas across England into five equal groups – or quintiles - based on the proportion of 16 year old state-funded mainstream school pupils who participate in higher education aged 18 or 19 years. Quintile one shows the lowest rate of participation. Quintile five shows the highest rate of participation. The measure focuses on state-funded mainstream students who are typically included in geographically based outreach. The main objective for the creation of the measure is to help outreach programmes identify and target areas of low HE participation more effectively.

TUNDRA classifies local areas across England using Middle Layer Super Output areas (MSOAs) according to the young participation rate in higher education. TUNDRA uses data-linking to track cohorts of 16 year old state-funded mainstream school pupils in local areas in England who completed their GCSEs (Key Stage 4) in the summer of 2010 to 2014. It matches them to higher education records for academic years 2012-13 to 2017-18 when they would have been 18 or 19.

To calculate the young participation rate for each local area, the number of young participants is divided by the original number of Key Stage 4 pupils in the area. Each local area is ranked according to its young participation rate and assigned approximately equally across five groups (quintiles), where quintile one areas have the lowest participation rates and quintile five areas have the highest participation rates.

The map below provides TUNDRA national quintile data on HE participation rates for MSOAs in Cheshire and Warrington. It can be seen from this that many areas perform reasonably well regarding progression to Higher Education. The areas with the lowest levels of HE participation are in Warrington, Ellesmere Port, Crewe, Winsford, Nantwich and parts of Macclesfield.

# Progression to Higher Education by Young People in Middle Layer Super Output Areas by TUNDRA Quintiles



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from OS, OpenStreetMap and Office for Students



## 5. Young People and the Labour Market

To secure the skills and qualifications that young people need to make the most of their futures it is important that they have access to high quality teaching and learning. But it is also important that their decisions about what they learn and which skills they acquire are well founded and underpinned with good quality information, experience of enterprise and the world of work. The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) put it like this “Careers and enterprise provision is critical to young people’s futures. Where young people build the skills and knowledge that they need to manage their careers and where they are able to access the support that they need, they have the best chance to go on to build successful lives and make a contribution to society.”

This section of the report considers the performance of Cheshire and Warrington against the Gatsby Benchmarks. It also reports on the results of the 2020 “Yoursay” survey of young people in Cheshire and Warrington.

### 5.1 Gatsby Benchmarks

Research by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation<sup>1</sup> has established eight benchmarks that schools can use as a framework for improving their careers provision:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

To support schools and colleges to improve their careers provision and help them to engage with the Gatsby Benchmarks, the Careers and Enterprise Company worked with the Gatsby Charitable Foundation to develop Compass. Compass is a self-assessment tool which allows schools and colleges to compare their provision to both the Gatsby Benchmarks and to other providers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>

## The eight Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance

<b>1.</b>	<b>A stable careers programme</b>	Schools and colleges should have an embedded programme of careers education and guidance that is known and understood by students/learners, parents, teachers/college staff, governors, employers and other agencies.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Learning from career and labour market information</b>	Every student/learner in schools and colleges, and their parents (where appropriate for learners), should have access to good-quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities. They will need the support of an informed adviser to make best use of available information.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Addressing the needs of each student</b>	Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each student/learner. A school or college careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Linking curriculum learning to careers</b>	In schools, all teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths.  In colleges, all subject staff should link curriculum learning with careers, even on courses that are not specifically occupation-led. For example, STEM subject staff should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths. Programmes of study should also reflect the importance of Maths and English as a key expectation from employers.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Encounters with employers and employees</b>	Every school student should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.  Every college learner should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes, and should include learners' own part-time employment where it exists.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Experiences of workplaces</b>	Every student/learner should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Encounters with further and higher education</b>	All students/learners should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Personal guidance</b>	Every student/learner should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a career adviser, who could be internal (a member of school/college staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made. They should be expected for all students but should be timed to meet their individual needs.

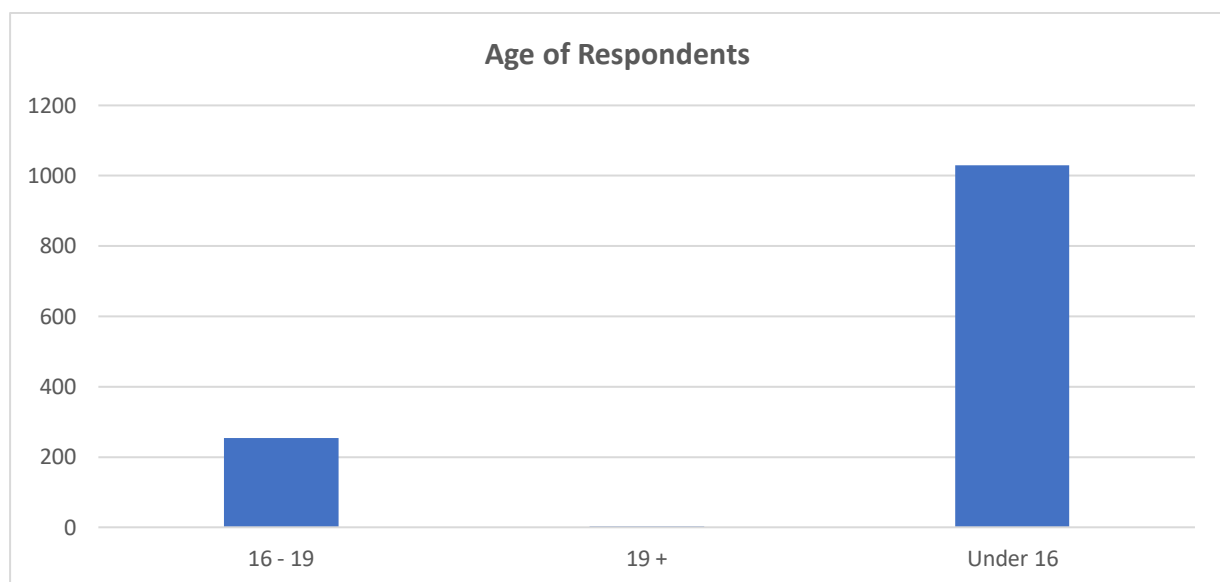
In 2019, the CEC published its third “State of the Nation” report presenting the data gathered by the Compass tool and revealing how career guidance is developing in England’s schools and colleges. This report included data disaggregated to the level of England’s 38 LEAs and so can provide an insight into the practice of schools in Cheshire and Warrington.

58% of schools in Cheshire and Warrington completed Compass in 2018/19. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> highest school response rate for a LEA area in England. The average number of Gatsby benchmarks achieved

by schools in Cheshire and Warrington was 2.3. This was the lowest for any LEP area in England and compared with a national average of 3 benchmarks achieved. The highest average of benchmarks achieved in a LEP area was 4.2 (Tees Valley and Buckinghamshire). The context for this is that Cheshire and Warrington was late to gain Enterprise Coordinators to cover the whole of the sub region. It is understood that in the last academic year all of the mainstream secondary schools and FE colleges have signed up to the network and all special schools and alternative provision providers are being targeted to sign up by the end of this calendar year. The infrastructure and engagement is now stronger and it is anticipated that the sub region may rise quickly, and possibly report results above the national average by the end of this academic year.

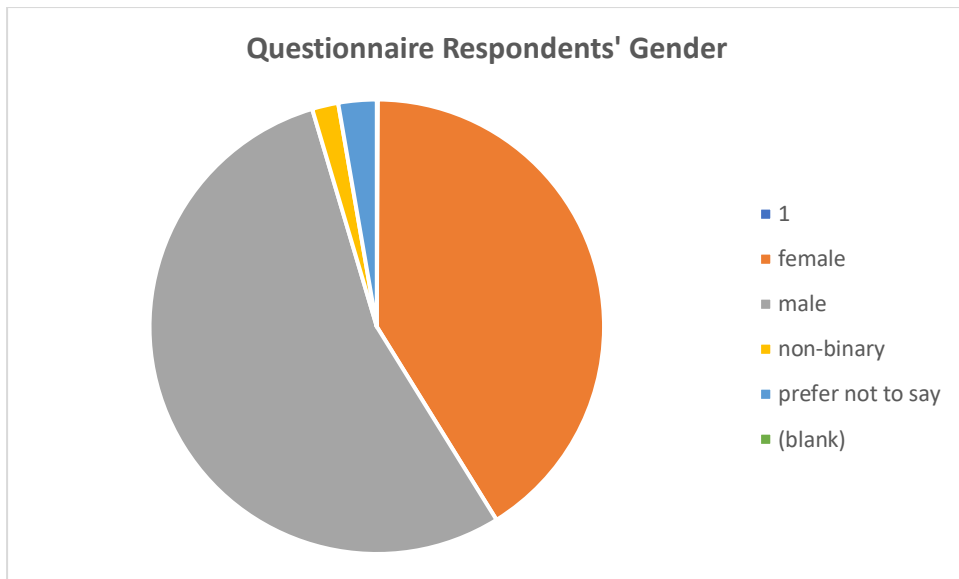
## 5.2 “Yoursay” Survey

The 2020 Yoursay survey is a survey designed by The Pledge in Cheshire and Warrington to capture young people’s experience and views of careers and enterprise. The pandemic disrupted the collection of data for the 2020 survey. Original plans were to capture the view of young people in colleges, apprenticeships, employment, NEET and school. However, the constraints arising from the Covid-19 situation meant that data was only collected from young people in school. Notwithstanding this, data was collected from 1284 respondents. The age distribution of respondents is shown in the chart below. 80% of respondents were aged under 16.



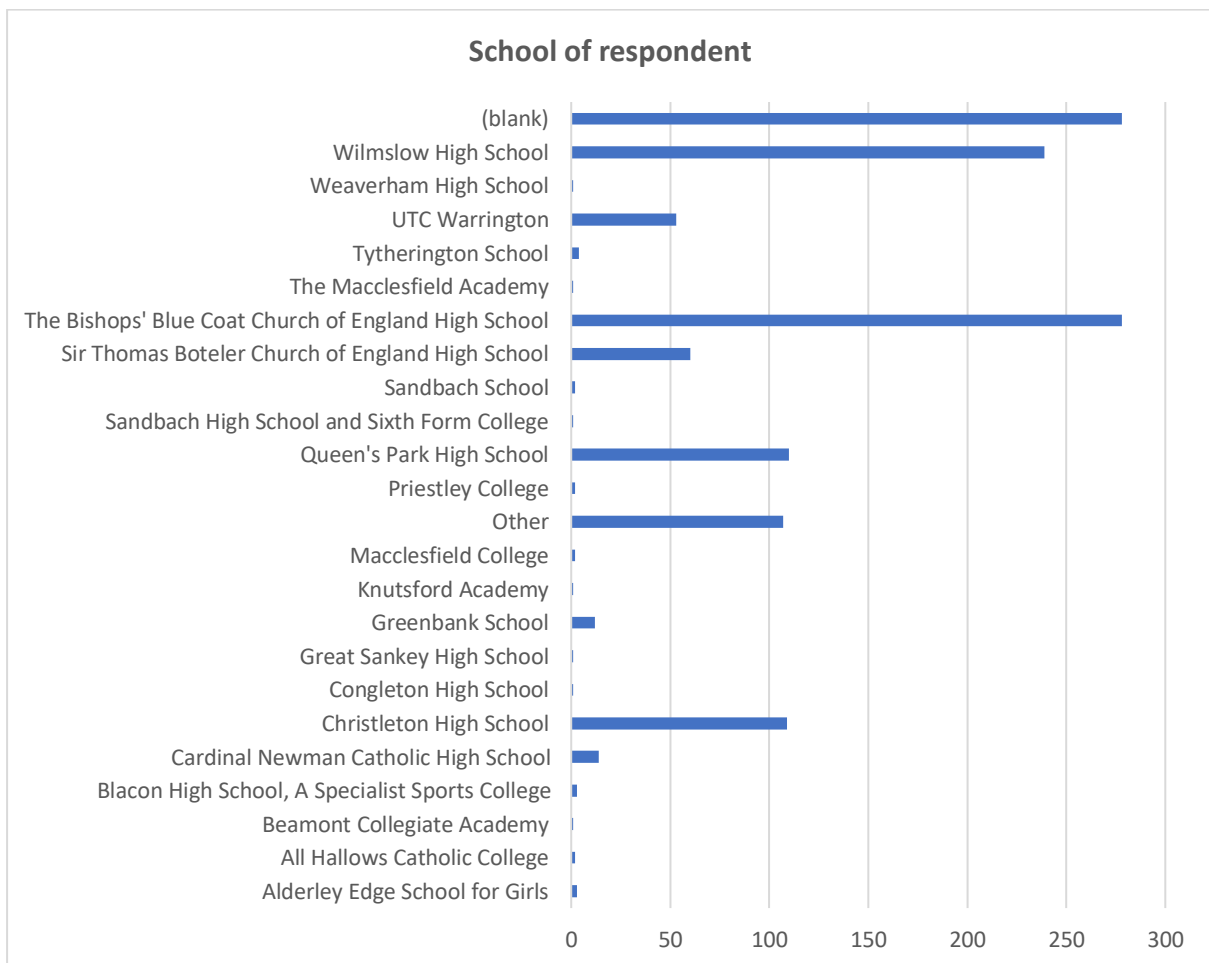
**Source: Yoursay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

The gender of respondents is shown in the pie chart below. 41% of the respondents identified as female.



**Source: Yoursay Survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

The school of respondents is shown below. 22% (278) of respondents did not identify their school. Of the 1006 respondents that did identify a school, over half went to one of two schools - 28% (278) attended The Bishop's Blue Coat Church of England High school and 24% (239) attended Wilmslow High school.

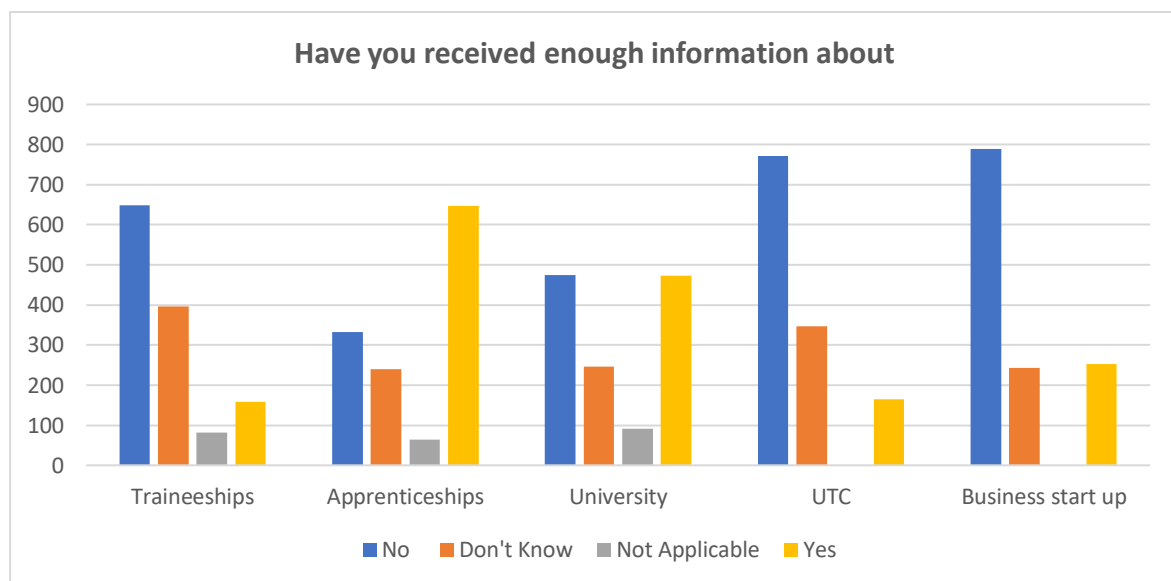


**Source: Yoursay Survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

Participants were asked “Have you received enough information about the following:

- a. Traineeships
- b. Apprenticeships
- c. University choices
- d. University Technical College (UTC)
- e. Starting your own business”

The responses to this question are illustrated in the chart below. A majority (50%) felt that they had received enough information about apprenticeships. For all other categories, more respondents felt that they had not received enough information than felt that they had.

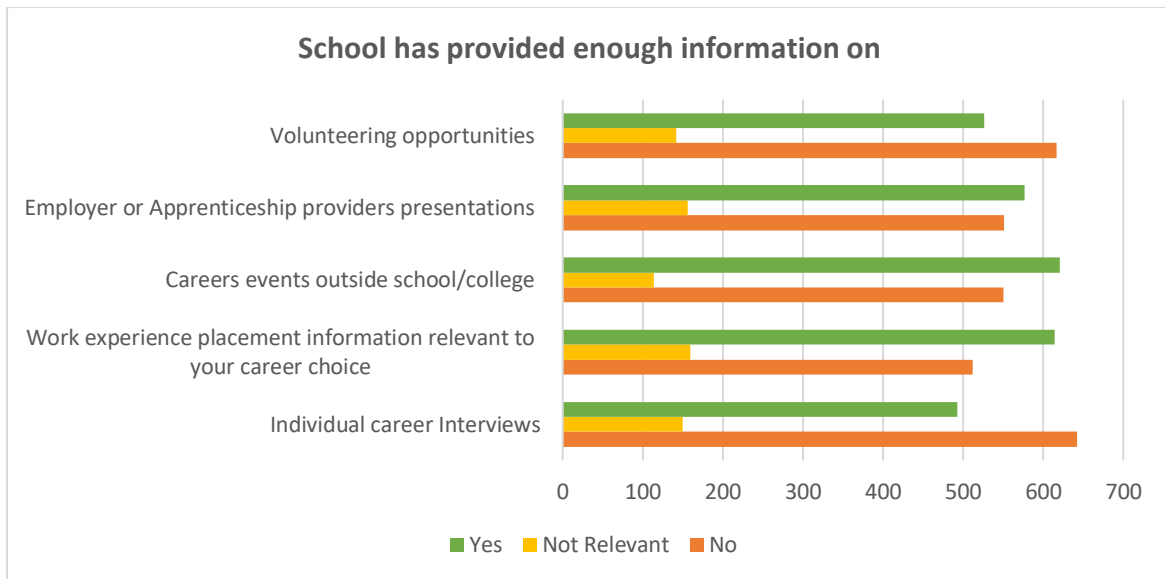


**Source: Yoursay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

Participants were asked “Has/did your school provided you with enough information on:

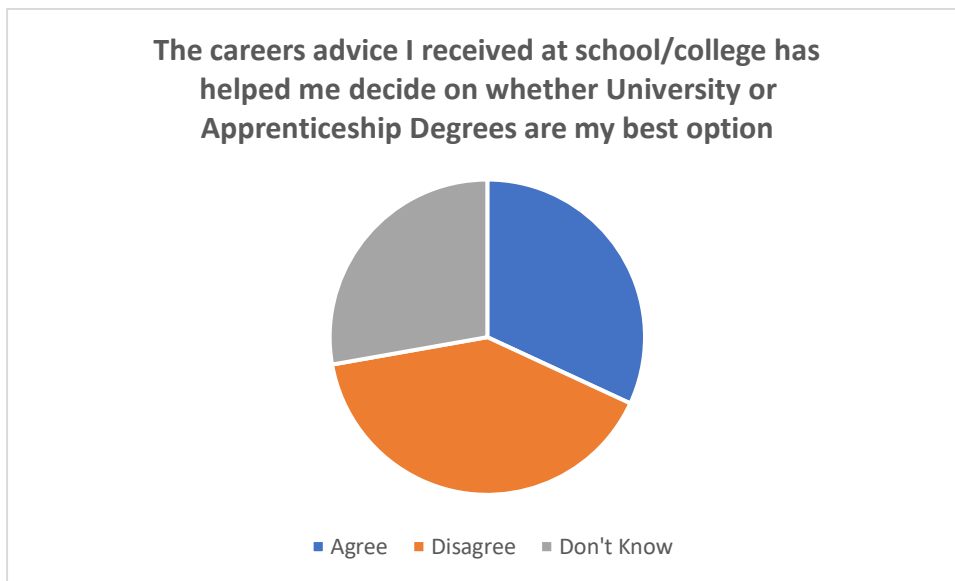
- a. Individual career interviews
- b. Work experience placement information relevant to your career choice
- c. Careers events outside school/college
- d. Employer or Apprenticeship providers presentations
- e. Volunteering opportunities”

More respondents felt that they had received enough information from their school on: careers events outside of school, work experience placements; and employer or apprenticeship presentations than felt that they had not. On the other hand, only 41% felt that their school had provided enough information on volunteering opportunities and only 38% felt their school had provided enough information on individual career interviews.



**Source: Yoursay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

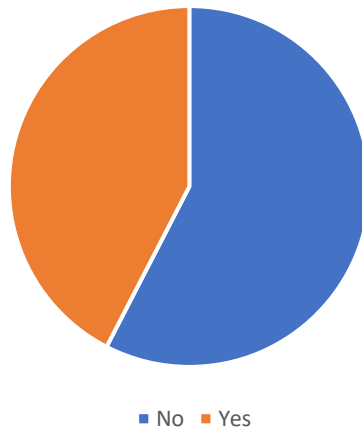
More respondents (40%) disagreed with the statement “The careers advice I received at school has helped me decide on whether University or Apprenticeship Degrees are my best option” than agreed with it (32%). Just over a quarter (28%) did not know.



**Source: Yoursay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

Almost three fifths (58%) of respondents were not aware of any other organisations, apart from school, that provide information, advice and guidance on careers.

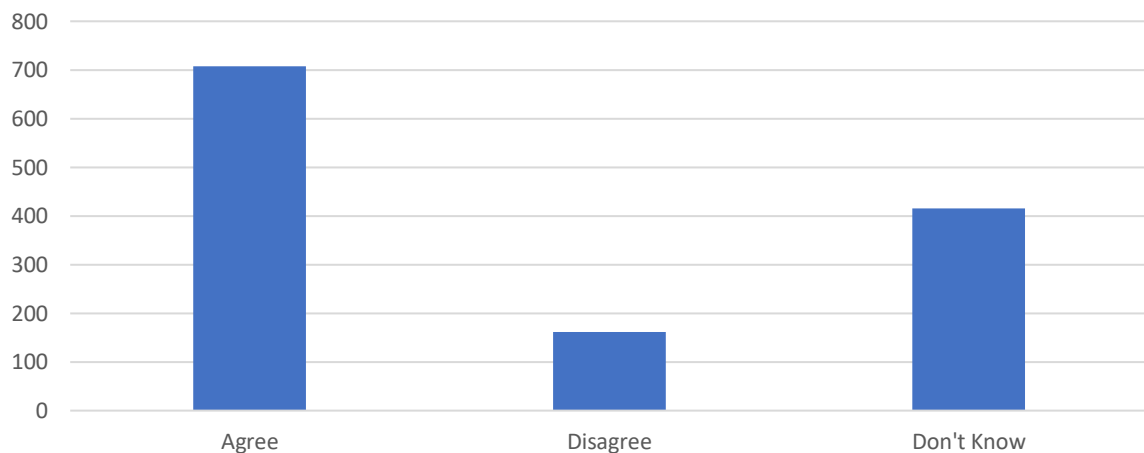
Apart from school, are you aware of any other organisations that provide information, advice and guidance on careers?



Source: Yoursay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge

A clear majority (55%) of respondents agreed with the statement “the advice or support given to you from school, helped you, or would be helpful, in choosing a career.”

The advice or support given to you from school is helpful in choosing a career



Source: Yoursay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge

Survey participants were asked “What do you think an employer considers most important?”

- Qualifications
- Work Experience
- Positive Attitude
- Skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving”

Respondents were asked to rank these in order of importance. The response data is illustrated in the chart below. 36% of respondents felt that employers consider qualifications the most important, followed by 34% ranking teamwork skills etc most important, followed by 29% believing employers value a positive attitude most, and 19% identifying work experience.



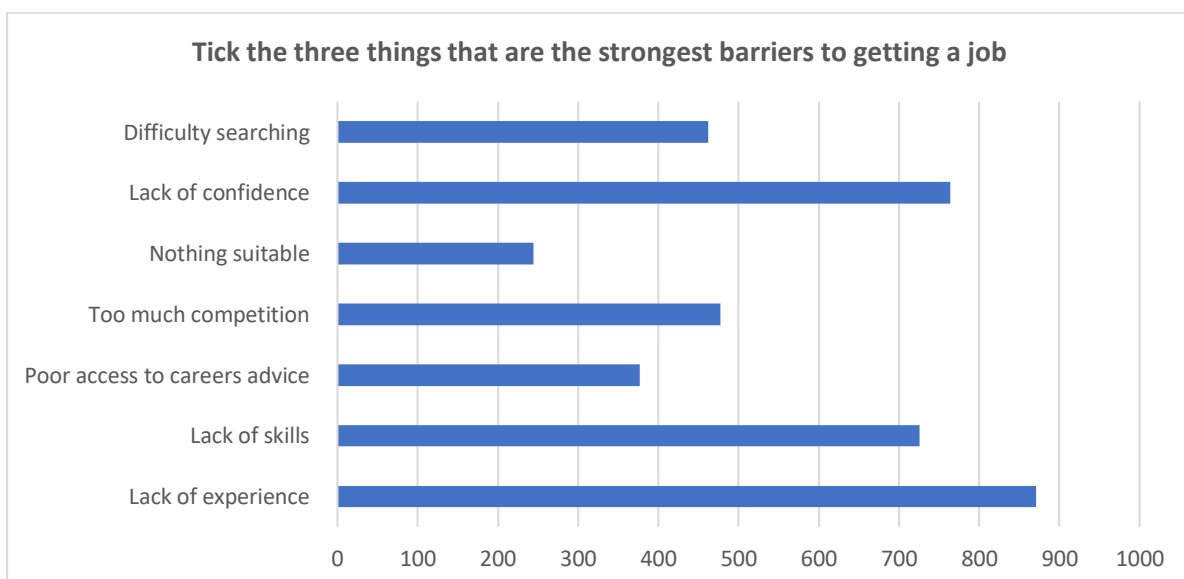
**Source: Yousay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**

Respondents were asked to “tick the three items you feel are the strongest barriers to getting a job. Lack of experience

- a. Lack of skills
- b. Poor access to careers advice
- c. Too much competition
- d. Nothing suitable
- e. Lack of confidence
- f. Difficulty searching”

The three top barriers identified were (in order):

- Lack of experience
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of skills



**Source: Yousay survey 2020, Cheshire and Warrington Pledge**



## 6. Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning - Overview

### 6.1 Participation Routes

There are three main routes that Key Stage 4 leavers can follow into Key Stage 5. They are Further Education (General FE College, Specialist FE College or Sixth Form College); school sixth form; and apprenticeships. The curriculum followed in FE spans A Levels and vocational qualifications from entry level to level 3. School sixth forms deliver a predominantly Level 3 A Level curriculum but with other qualifications such as BTECs also in the mix. 16-18 apprentices are employed and complete a basket of qualifications at Level 2 or Level 3 linked to their occupational specialism.

Data about participation and achievement in Further Education and Apprenticeships is collected using the Individualised Learner Record. Cheshire and Warrington LEP has access to a cut of this dataset from the ESFA Localities data cube. Data about participation in school sixth forms is collected through the Schools Census. Cheshire and Warrington partners can access the publicly published data from the school census. This does not include data on the curriculum followed by learners.

The table below provides an estimate of the numbers of 16-18 year olds (ie in Years 12, 13 and 14) following the different routes in 2018/19. It is an estimate because the counts of the different routes are taken at different times (eg FE in October 2018, Schools in January 2019) so there could be double counting. From this it is estimated that 54% of those aged 16-18 in learning attended a College or Sixth Form College, 32% attended a School Sixth Form and 14% were apprentices.

Participation of 16-18 year olds in post-16 learning by route 2018/19	
Schools	6839
Apprenticeships	3199
FE	11617

*Source: ESFA Localities data cube 2018/19 final , Schools Census Underlying data Jan 2019 count*

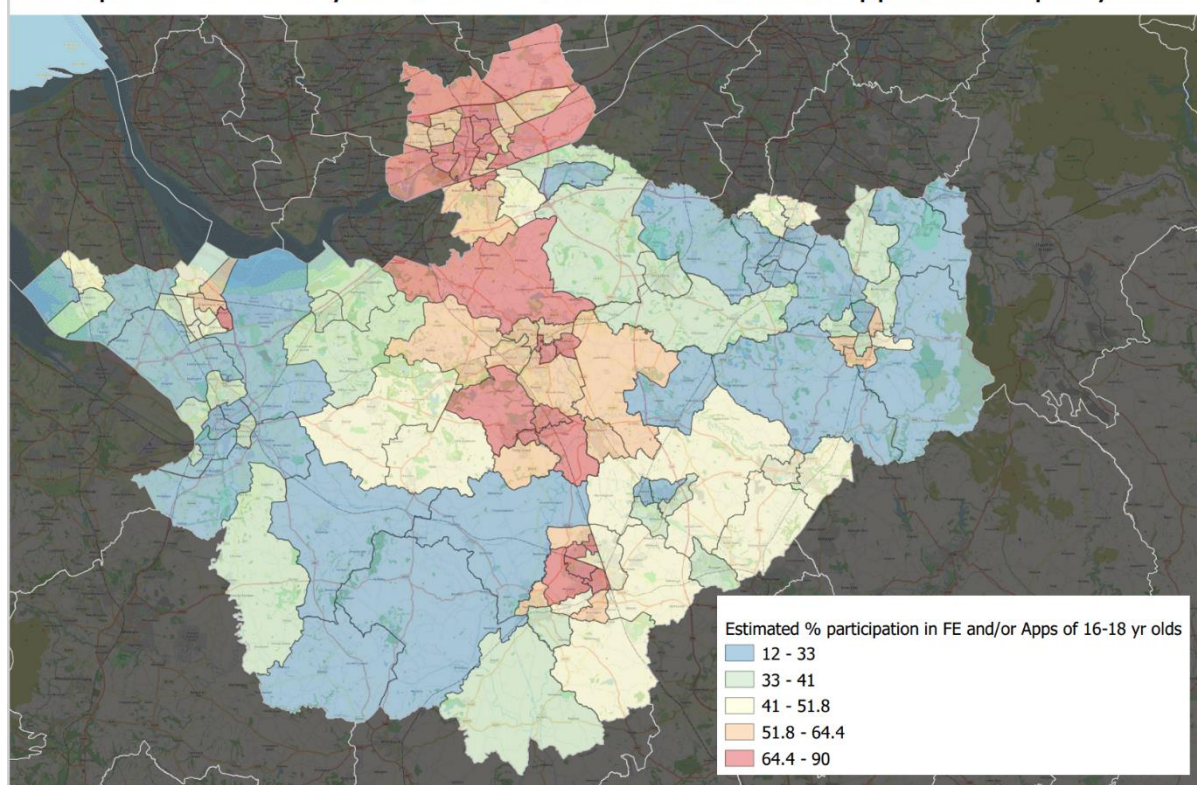
The rate of participation by 16-18 year olds in the three different routes will vary from place to place according to factors such as learner prior attainment, the density and sector composition of the local employer base (impacting the range, volume and availability of apprenticeships), the proximity of local college and schools delivery, public transport availability etc.

Whilst FE and apprenticeship participation data is available by the ward of residence of the learner, publicly available schools participation data is not. The map below takes the volume of 16-18 residents participating in FE and apprenticeships and calculates an estimated ward participation rate in FE and apprenticeships based on estimates of the size of the ward 16-18 population that have been published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Those areas of the map shaded blue are likely to have quite high levels of participation by 16-18 year olds in school sixth forms and relatively low levels of participation in FE and apprenticeships combined. Conversely, those areas shaded red have a relatively high participation rate for FE and apprenticeships combined.

It can be seen from this map that the areas with the highest proportions of participation in FE and apprenticeships combined run in a band through the centre of Cheshire and Warrington going from Warrington in the north, through Winsford, to Crewe in the South.

## Participation of 16-18 year olds in Further Education and Apprenticeships by ward



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from ESFA Localities datacube (residency), ONS, OS and OpenStreetMap

### 6.2 Prior Attainment of Learners in FE and Apprenticeships

No data is available on the prior attainment of learners in school sixth forms although it would be expected that the majority will be qualified at full level 2.

The table below sets out the prior attainment of young people aged 16-18 starting Intermediate (Level 2), Advanced (Level 3) and Higher (Level 4+) apprenticeships. A third of apprenticeship starters are qualified below Level 2, slightly fewer than half (49%) are qualified at Level 2 and 18% are qualified at Level 3. It can also be seen that half of the young people starting a Level 2 apprenticeship are already qualified at Level 2. 22% of Advanced apprentices are already qualified to level 3.

Prior attainment of apprenticeship starters aged 16-18, 2018/19					
	Prior Attainment				
	Entry Level	Full Level 2	Full Level 3	Level 1	No Qualifications
Intermediate Apprenticeship	25	325	50	313	41
Advanced Apprenticeship	2	399	150	120	14
Higher Apprenticeship	0	26	71	1	
Grand Total	27	750	271	434	55

**Source: ESFA localities data cube (residency)**

The table below sets out the prior attainment of young people aged 16-18 starting learning aims in Further Education. The prior attainment of 57% was below a full Level 2. A further 44% were qualified at Level 2.

<b>Prior Attainment of 16-18 learners in FE by Level of Learning Aim started,</b>					
	Prior Attainment				
Learning Aim Level	Entry Level	Full Level 2	Full Level 3	Level 1	No Qualifications
Below Level 2	374	278	22	1431	404
Level 2	237	1499	132	4012	180
Level 3	37	3538	183	874	26
Grand Total	757	7108	475	7792	691

*Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)*

### 6.3 Participation in Apprenticeships and FE

The table below provides a count of young people enrolled in Further Education by gender and academic year. It can be seen from this that there has been a 7.6% decline in the number of 16-18 year olds enrolled in FE between 2016/17 and 2018/19 (8.9% reduction of females, 6.4% reduction of males) with a total reduction of 956 in the headcount.

<b>Participation of 16-18 year olds in Further Education by year, 2016-2019</b>			
Gender	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Female	6087	5698	5545
Male	6486	6065	6072
Grand Total	12573	11763	11617

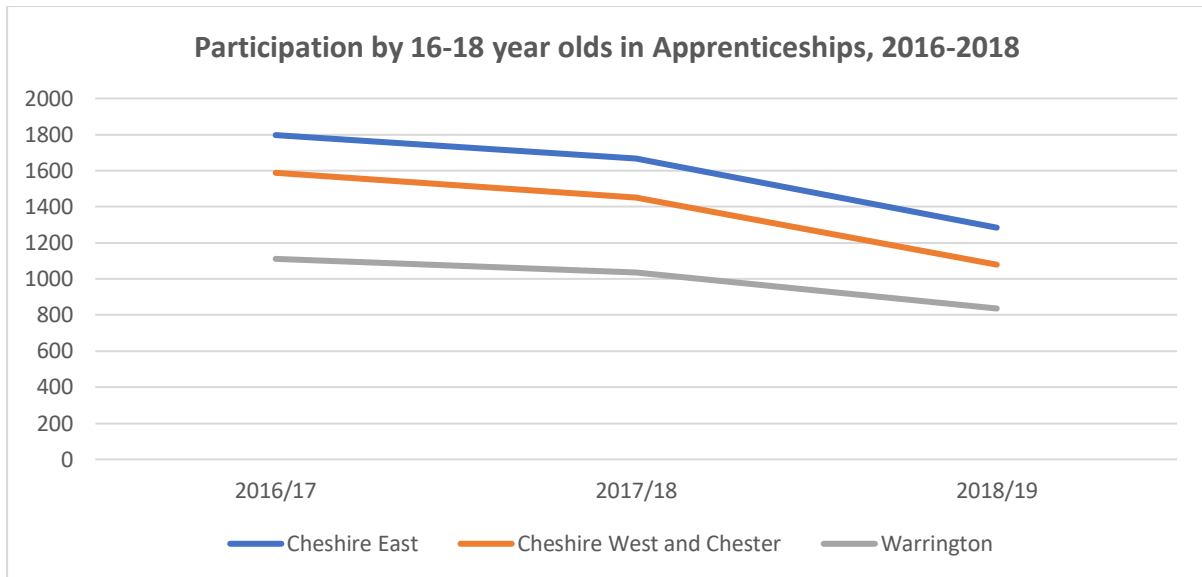
*Source: ESFA Localities data cube*

The table below provides a count of young people aged 16-18 enrolled in Further Education by parliamentary constituency and academic year. It can be seen from this that in most constituencies enrolments have declined or stayed at roughly the same level over the three academic years in question.

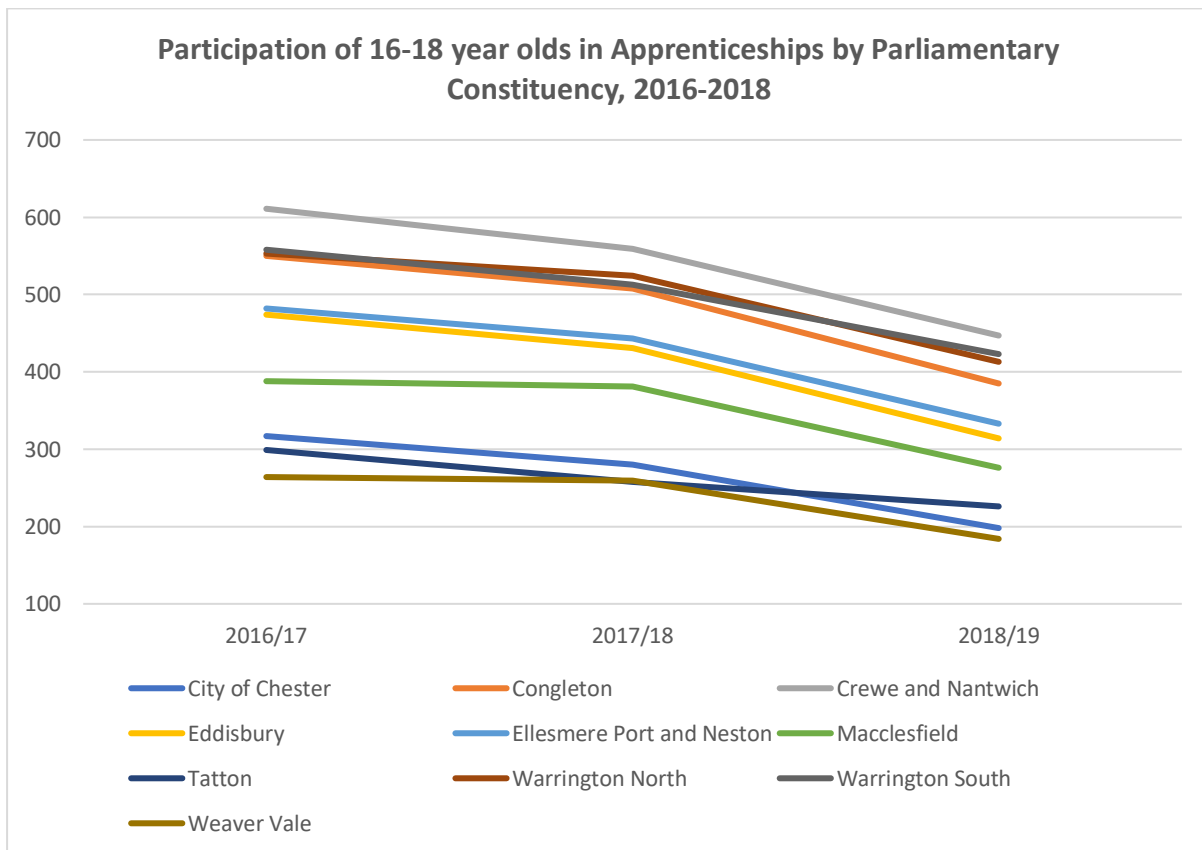
<b>Participation of 16-18 year olds in Further Education by Parliamentary Constituency, 2016-2019</b>			
Constituency	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
City of Chester	834	710	696
Congleton	1055	1006	904
Crewe and Nantwich	1719	1677	1617
Eddisbury	1196	1212	1225
Ellesmere Port and Neston	1078	926	907
Macclesfield	976	839	803
Tatton	837	822	800
Warrington North	1867	1785	1745
Warrington South	1964	1838	1951
Weaver Vale	982	892	915

*Source: ESFA localities data cube (residency)*

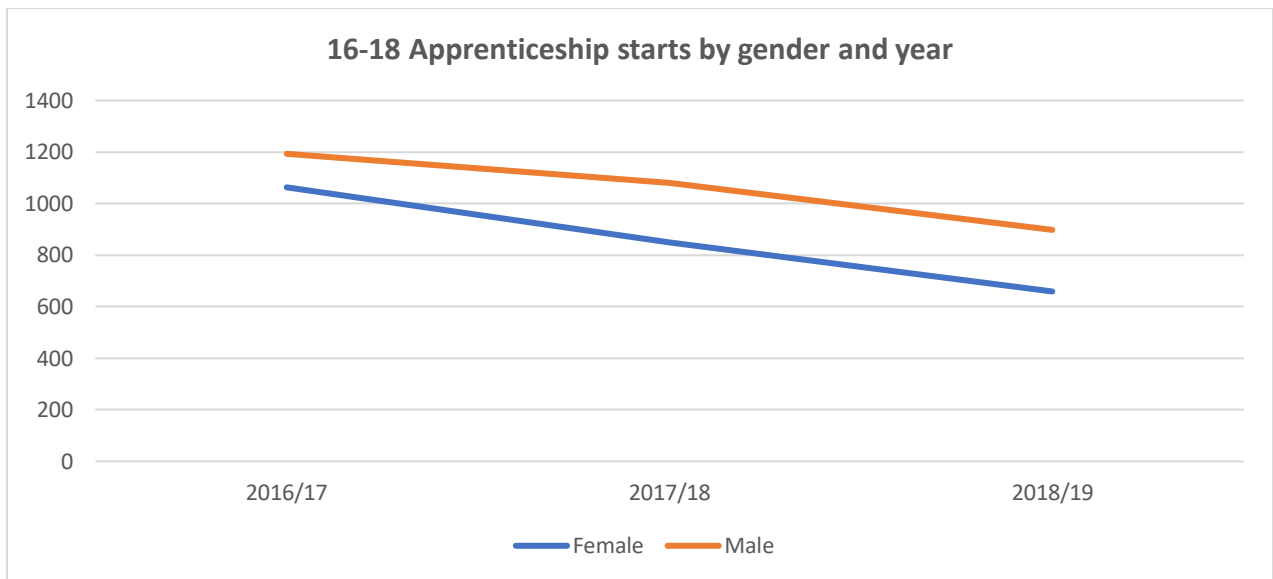
The graph below shows the participation in apprenticeships by 16-18 year olds between 2016/17 and 2018/19 in each of the three local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington. Total participation declined by 1,297 (from 4496 to 3199) – a decline of 29%. Every area suffered a decline in participation, the largest percentage decline being 32% in Cheshire West and Chester.



The graph below shows the participation in apprenticeships by 16-18 year olds between 2016/17 and 2018/19 in each of the ten parliamentary constituencies. On average, participation declined by 29%. Every constituency suffered a decline in participation of between 24% in Warrington South and Tatton to a 38% decline in the City of Chester.

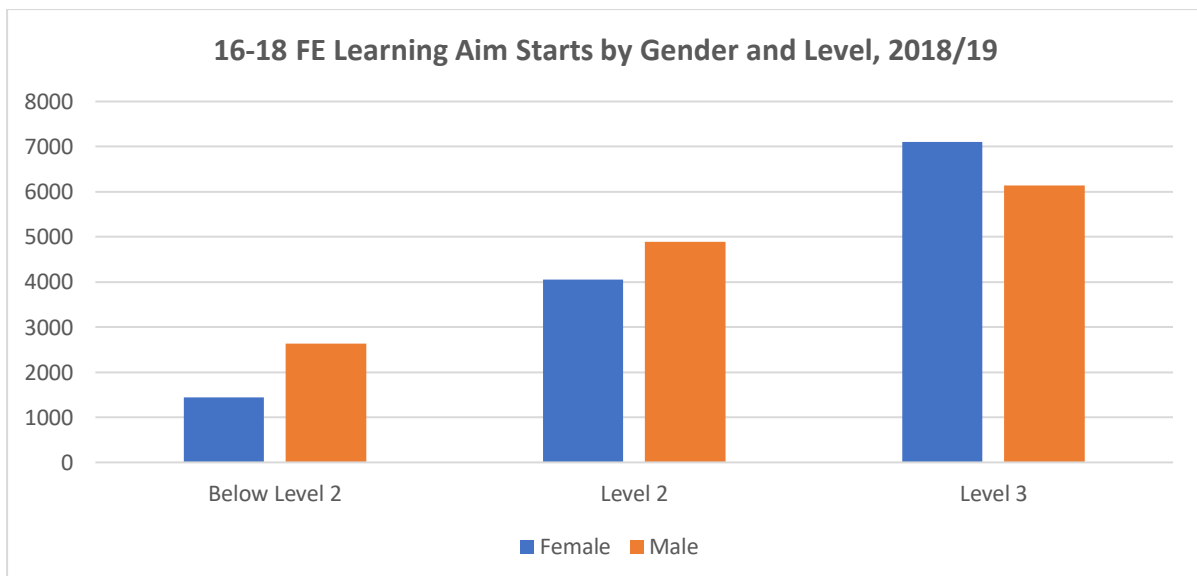


The graph below shows the starts on apprenticeships by 16-18 year olds by academic year and by gender. Starts have declined for both males and females with male starts decreasing by 25% between 2016/17 and 2018/19 and female starts decreasing by 38%. In 2018/19 58% of apprenticeship starts were by males, 42% by females.



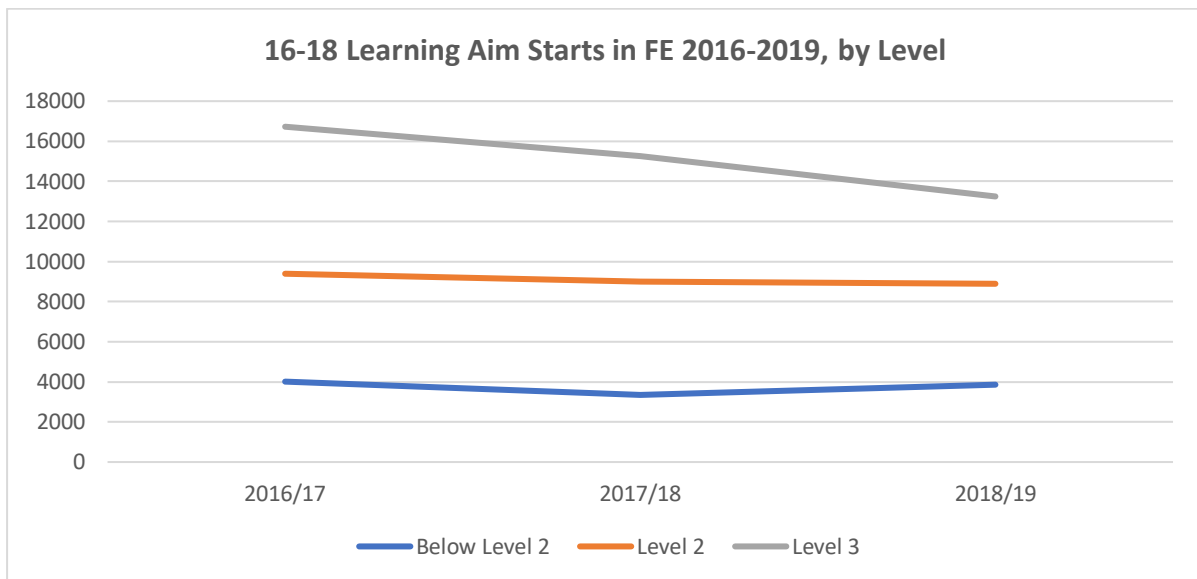
#### 6.4 Participation by Level

The graph below provides information on the gender of 16-18 learners starting learning aims at different levels in 2018/19. This shows that there were more learning aim starts by males than females below Level 2 (2,628 compared to 1,436) and at Level 2 (4,887 compared to 4,056), but more learning aim starts by females than males at Level 3 (7,109 compared to 6,137)

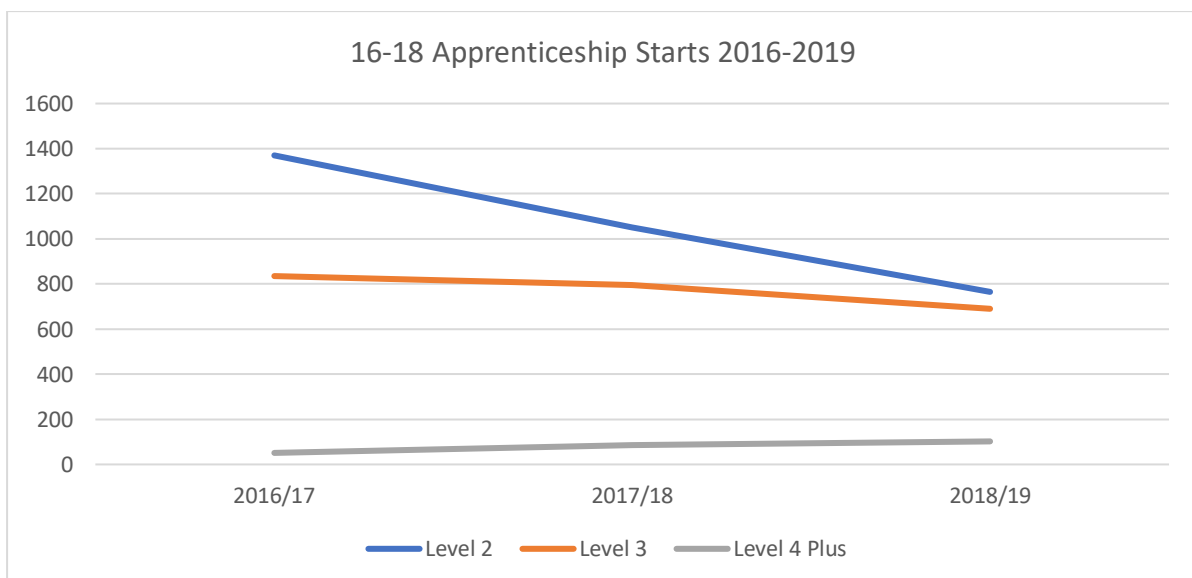


The graph below shows the volume of learning aim starts by learners aged 16-18 in FE in Cheshire and Warrington from 2016/17 to 2018/19. There were declines in Learning Aim starts at all three levels although the decline at Level 3, which is discussed in the relevant section below, can almost

entirely be attributed to the changed status of AS Levels and the resulting decline in starts on these learning aims.



The graph below shows 16-18 apprenticeship starts by level between 2016/17 and 2018/19. From this it can be seen that decreases in starts at Level 2 and 3 were offset, slightly, by increases in Level 4. Level 2 starts declined by 605 from 1370 to 765 (-44%), Level 3 starts declined by 145 from 835 to 690 (-17%). Level 4 starts increased from 51 to 102 (+100%).



The table below provides information on apprenticeship starts by 16-18 year olds by gender and level in 2018/19. As reported above, 58% of all starts were by males, 42% by females. There were more male starts than female starts for each level. Level 2 starts were almost evenly split with 51% being by males, this increased to 65% of all level 3 starts being by males and 67% of all Level 4+ starts being by males.

<b>Apprenticeship starts, by gender and level, 2018/19</b>			
<b>Level</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Advanced Apprenticeship	260	475	735
Higher Apprenticeship	35	70	105
Intermediate Apprenticeship	387	398	785
Grand Total	682	943	1625
<i>Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)</i>			

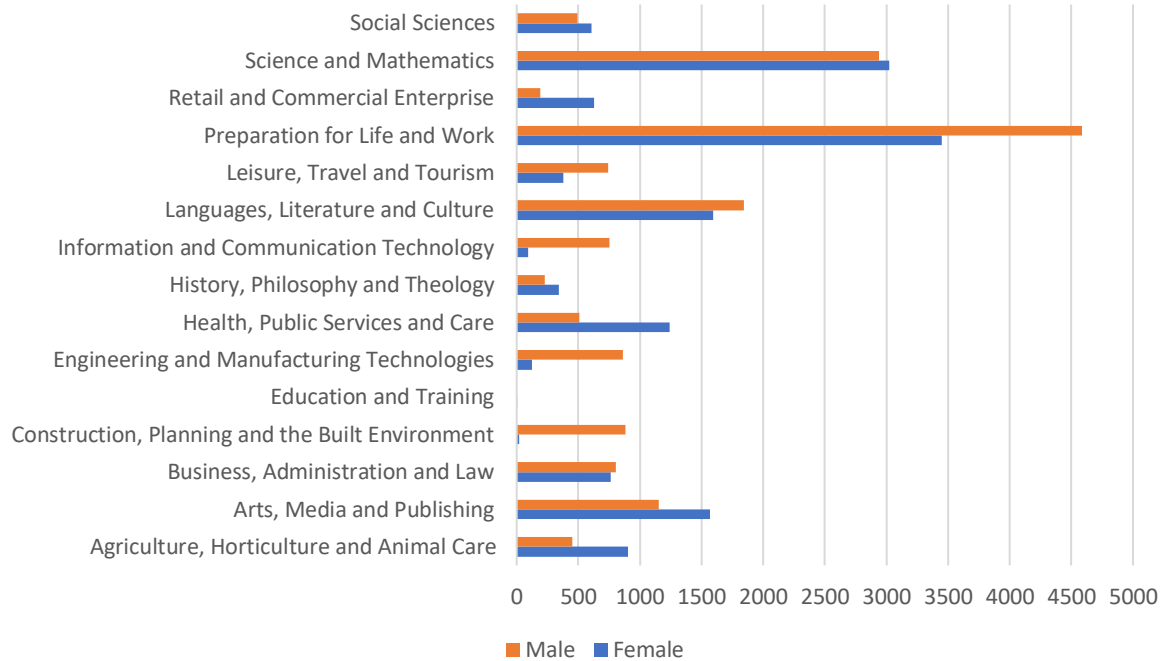
## 6.5 Participation by Sector Subject Area

The table below sets out the Sector Subject Area of learning aim starts in FE by learners aged 16-18 between 2016/17 and 2018/19. This shows that starts decreased in most SSAs (aside from Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care, and Health Public Services and Care). The SSAs with the highest reduction in starts were Science and Mathematics (declined by 1,355 starts); Arts, Media and Publishing (declined by 800 starts); and Languages, Literature and Culture (declined by 814 starts).

<b>Learning Aim Starts all Levels in FE by Learners Aged 16-18 by SSA and Year</b>			
	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	812	1267	1350
Arts, Media and Publishing	3523	3239	2723
Business, Administration and Law	1973	1647	1567
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	894	827	863
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	1046	1057	982
Health, Public Services and Care	1708	1667	1750
History, Philosophy and Theology	773	699	566
Information and Communication Technology	985	858	846
Languages, Literature and Culture	4250	3782	3436
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	1409	1126	1120
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	889	815	816
Science and Mathematics	7314	6643	5959
Social Sciences	1494	1325	1098
<i>Source: ESFA Localities data cube</i>			

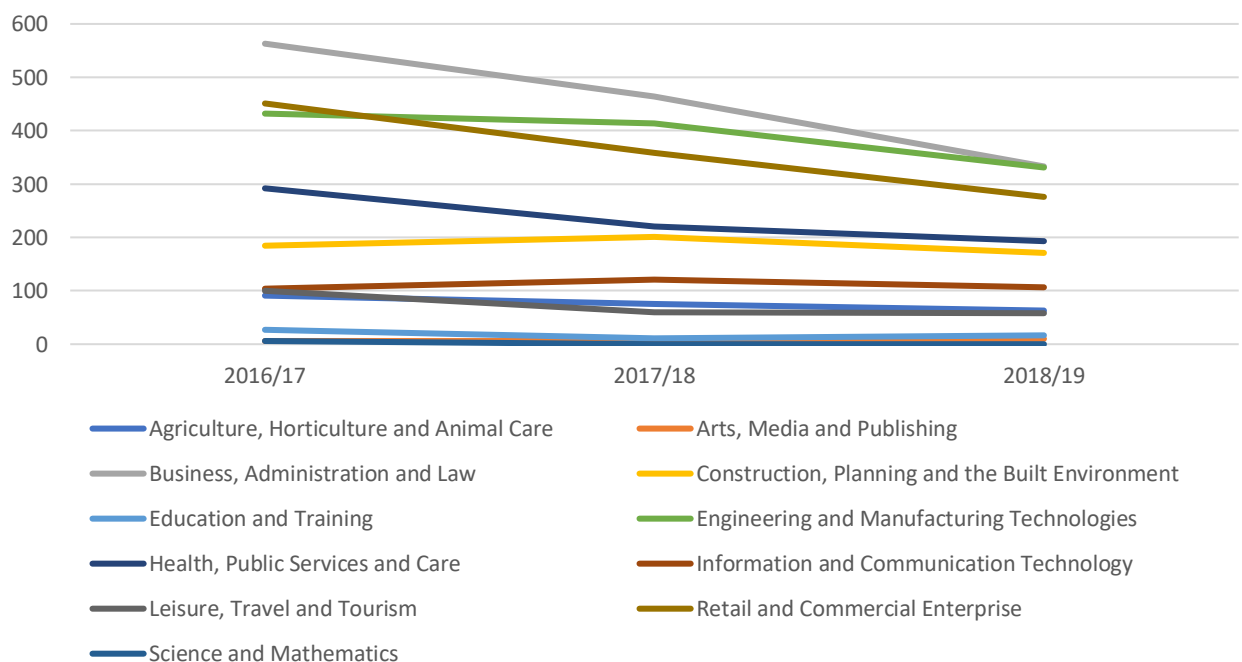
The chart below provides information on FE starts by 16-18 year olds by SSA and gender in 2018/19. There are significant gender disparities: 628 of the 818 learning aim starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprises were by females; 1242 of the 1750 learning aim starts in Health, Public Services and Care were by females; 860 of 982 learning aim starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies were by males; and 880 of 902 learning aim starts in Construction and the Built Environment were by males.

### 16-18 FE Learning Aim Starts by SSA and Gender 2018/19



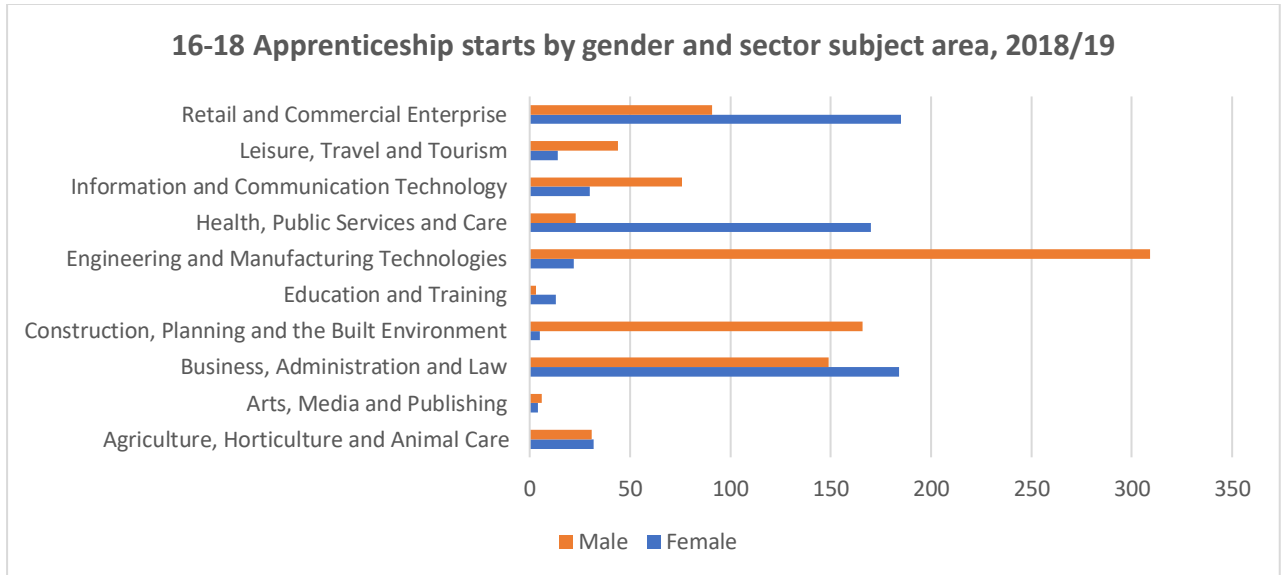
The graph below sets out starts by 16-18 year olds on apprenticeships by Sector Subject Area and academic year. From this it is clear that, whilst the overall decline in apprenticeship numbers was driven by a decline in starts on Intermediary (Level 2) apprenticeships as described above, it was also driven by a decline in particular Sector Subject Areas: most notably a decline of 230 from 563 to 333 in Business, Administration and Law; and a decline of 175 from 451 to 276 in Retail and Commercial Enterprise. By contrast starts in Information and Communications Technology increased very slightly from 104 in 2016/17 to 106 in 2018/19.

### 16-18 Apprenticeship starts by Sector Subject Area and year





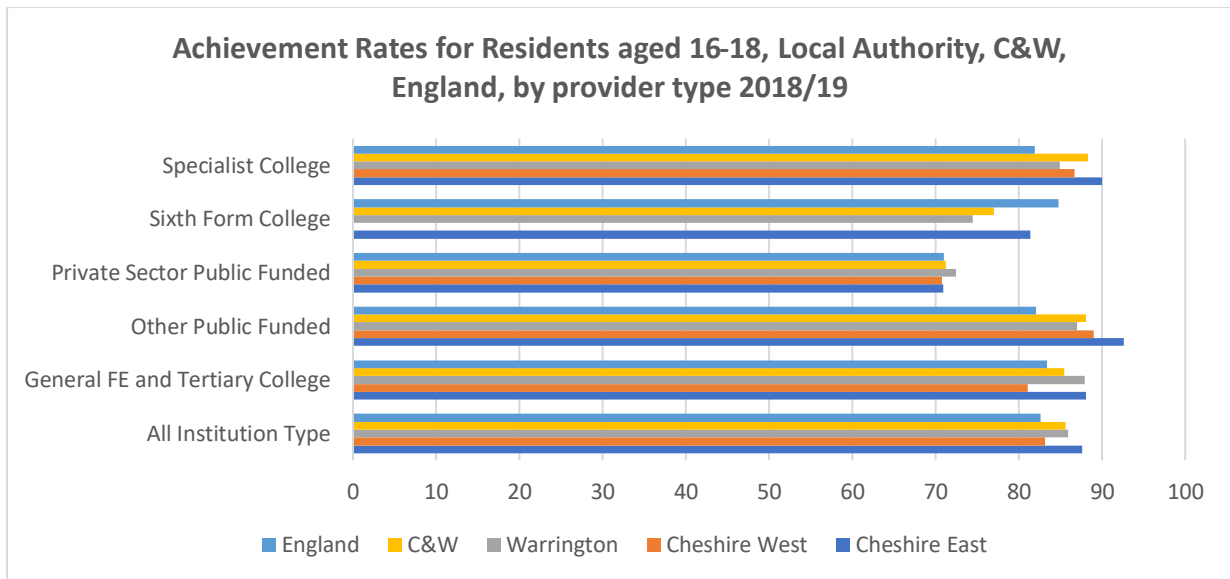
The chart below provides information on starts on apprenticeships by 16-18 year olds in 2018/19 by gender and SSA. There are some SSAs where the starts were very gendered. For example, of the 171 starts in Construction and the Built Environment, 166 were by males. Similarly, of the 331 starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, 309 were by males and there were 76 starts by males in Information and Communications Technology from a total of 106. Conversely, 170 of the 193 starts in Health, Public Services and Care were by females, and 185 of 276 starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprises were by females.



## 6.6 Attainment in FE

The achievement rate is an important measure of quality in Further Education. The achievement rate for a learning aim is the percentage of learners confirmed as starting a learning aim that achieve that learning aim in a given academic year. Colleges and other providers will invest significant management time in understanding what can be done to improve the achievement rates of individual learning aims to inform pedagogy and approaches to teaching and learning at learning aim level.

The table below presents achievement rate data for residents aged 16-18 in Cheshire and Warrington, its local authorities and England, by provider type. The achievement rate in all types of provider, at 85.6% is higher than for England (82.6%).



**Source: NARTS, 2018/19**

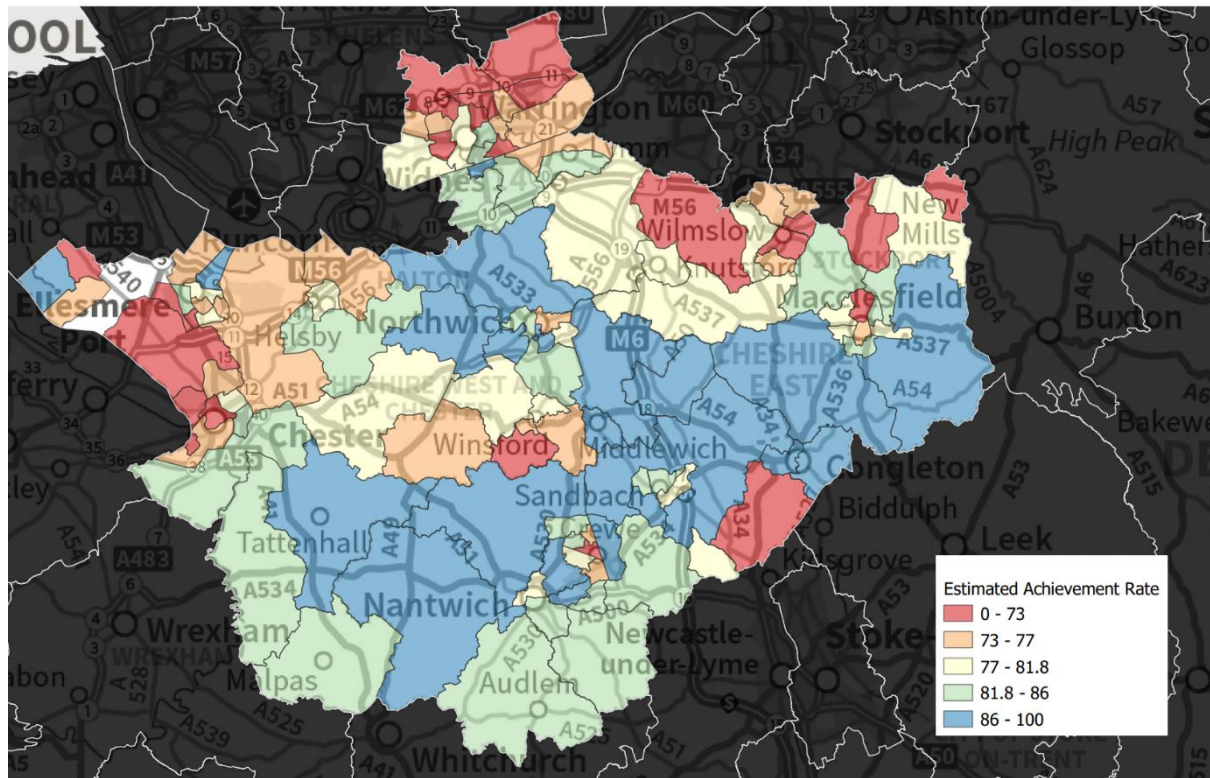
It can also be instructive to consider the achievement rate for all learning aims for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence. This is because it may be possible to pick up cross-cutting issues associated with where a learner lives that impacts on their likelihood to succeed - such as deprivation, or poor public transport links, or poor youth services.

The map below presents the achievement rate for all learning aims for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence for 2018/19. The wards with an estimated 16-18 achievement rate below 70% are:

- Wolverham
- Neston
- Wilmslow Dean Row
- Blacon
- Central & Grange
- Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft
- Macclesfield South
- Odd Rode
- Wilmslow Lacey Green
- Disley
- Lache

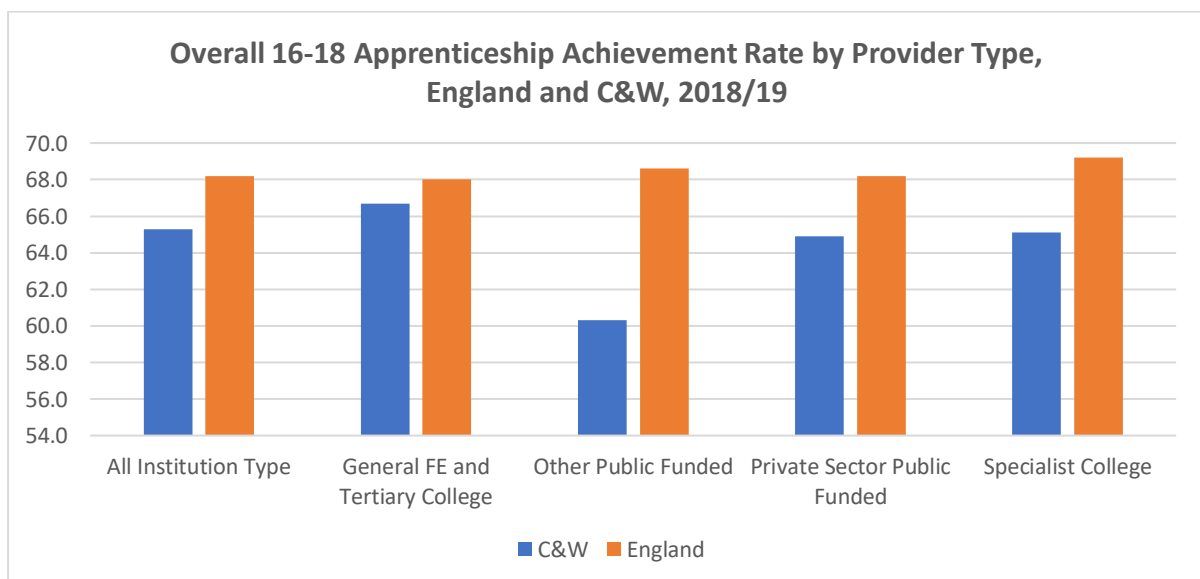
/

## Estimated 16-18 FE Achievement Rate in C&W, by Ward, 2018/19



### 6.7 Attainment in Apprenticeships

The Department for Education publish annually the National Achievement Rate Tables (NARTs) for Education and Skills activity in England. The overall achievement rate for apprentices aged 16-18 in England across all provider types is 68.2%. The chart below illustrates the NARTs data for the overall achievement rate for apprenticeships with different types of provider, by residents of Cheshire and Warrington, and for England aged 16-18.



Source: NARTs 2018/19

The rate for residents of Cheshire and Warrington aged 16-18 for all provider types in 2018/19 was 65.3% (2.9% lower than England). The achievement rate for every type of provider was lower for Cheshire and Warrington residents than for England as a whole.

## 7. Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Below Level 2

### 7.1 Participation in Learning Below Level 2

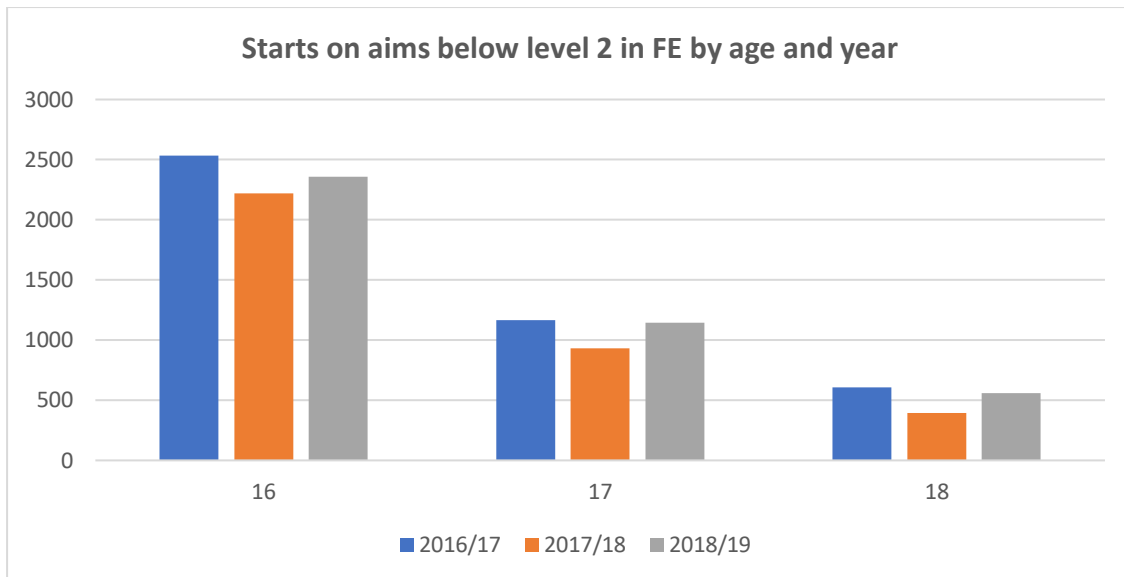
The main delivery of learning below level 2 to 16-18 year olds in Cheshire and Warrington will be by FE colleges (and some Independent Training Providers). Learners will start a learning aim below Level 2 for a variety of reasons including:

- The learning aim is part of a study programme with other qualifications at a higher level (eg a CV writing award)
- The learning aim is part of a vocational curriculum programme below Level 2 designed to help learners make the right choice of a Level 2 Study Programme (eg a 'Construction Carousel' with tasters of different trades)
- The learning aim is part of a traineeship programme
- The learning aim is being followed by a learner with SEN/EHCP
- The learning aim is a Functional Skills learning aim in Maths or English being taken alongside a wider Study Programme

As the table below shows, the majority of learning aims below Level 2 are funded via the mainstream ESFA budget although some are funded through Traineeships with Independent Training Providers and, in 2018/19, 16% of all such learning aims was funded from the High Needs Students budget which is used to support learners with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).

<b>Funding type of 16-18 activity below level 2</b>			
Funding stream	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
16-18 Traineeships (Adult Funded)		12	29
16-18 Traineeships (Non-EFA)	79		
16-19 High Needs Students (HNS)	487	430	633
16-19 Students (excluding HNS)	3740	3098	3402
<b>Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)</b>			

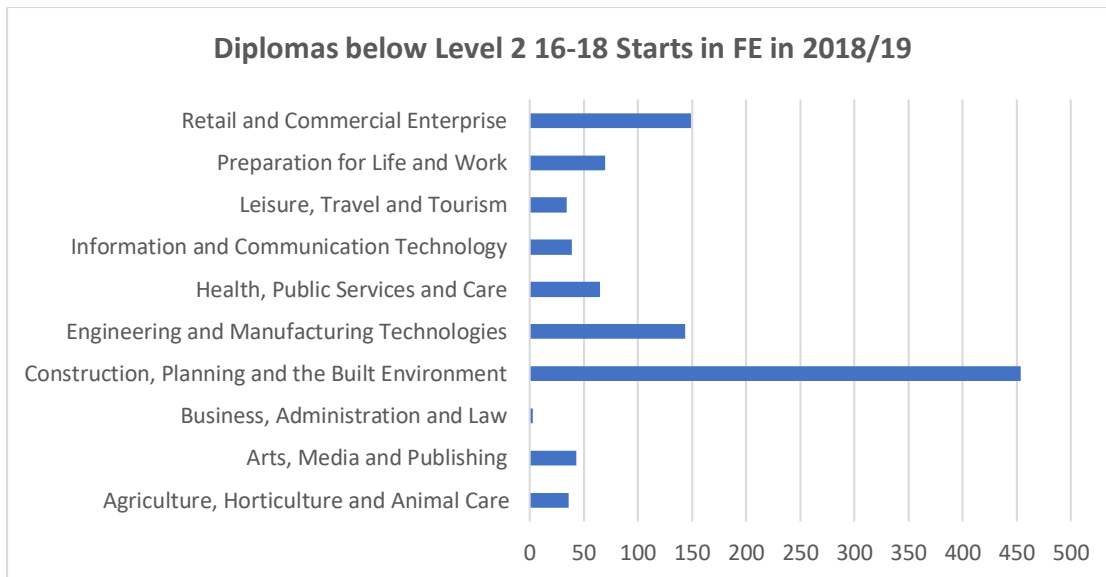
The chart below shows the age of learners starting learning aims below Level 2 by academic year. In 2018/19, 58% of Learning aims below Level 2 were started by learners aged 16, 28% by learners aged 17 and the remainder by 18 year olds. This is consistent with this type of Learning aim being to support learners to progress to programmes at a higher level.



The types of qualifications followed by 16-18 learners on learning aims below Level 2 are set out for the academic years 2016/17 to 2018/19 in the table below. In 2018/19, 39% of all such learning aims were in Functional Skills (English and Maths), a further 26% were Diplomas.

Qualification type of learning aims in FE below level 2				
Qualification Type	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Grand Total
Award	453	378	426	1257
Basic Skills Maths and English	1568	1247	1598	4413
Certificate	665	573	551	1789
Diploma	1018	1018	1037	3073
ESOL	82	62	129	273
Other Non-Regulated	490	259	322	1071
Other Regulated	30	3	1	34
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4306</b>	<b>3540</b>	<b>4064</b>	<b>11910</b>
<i>Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)</i>				

The chart below sets out the Sector Subject Areas of the vocationally specific Diplomas taken below Level 2. 44% of these were in Construction and the Built Environment.



## 7.2 Attainment of Learning Aims Below Level 2

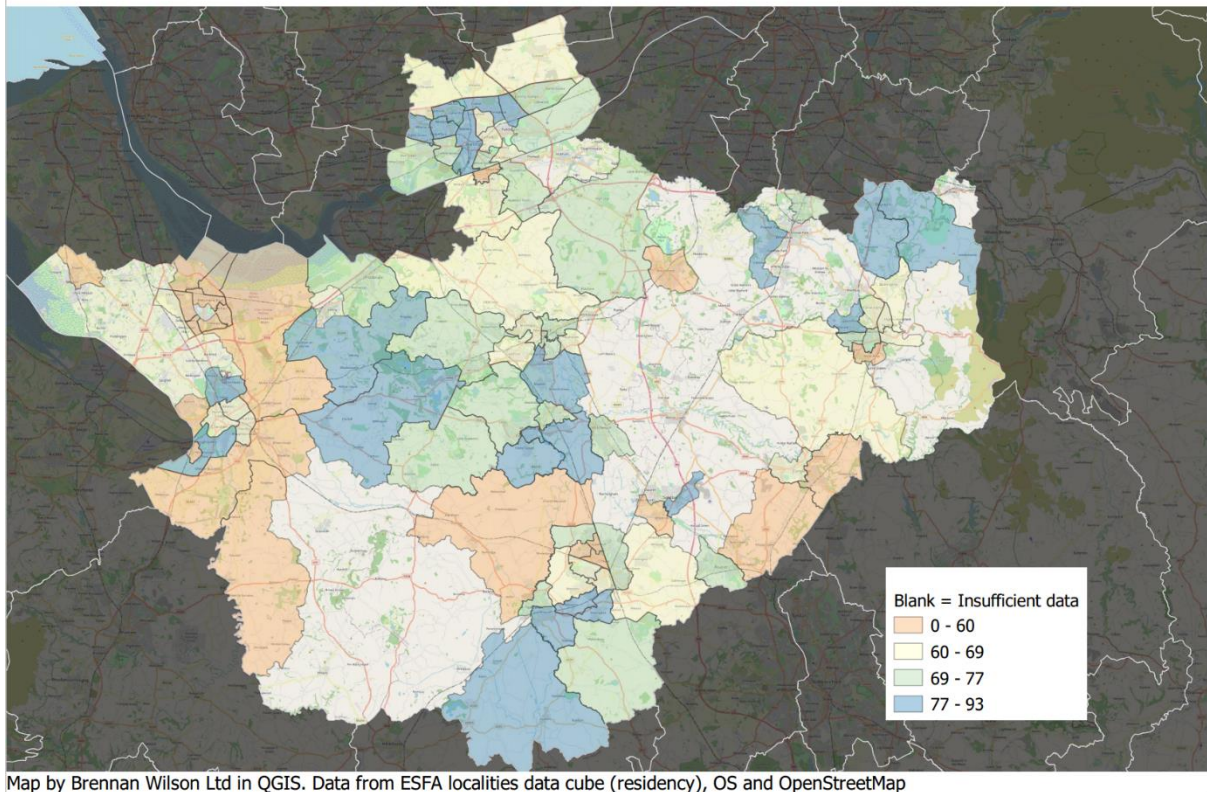
As discussed in the Overview section above, the achievement rate is an important measure of quality in Further Education. It is instructive to consider the achievement rate for learning aims below Level 2 for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence. This may help to pick up cross-cutting issues associated with where a learner lives such as deprivation, or poor public transport links, or poor youth services.

The map below presents the achievement rate for all learning aims below Level 2 for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence for 2018/19. Where there are fewer than 10 learning aim starts for a ward, these areas have been classified as having insufficient data and have been left unshaded on the map. The wards with an estimated 16-18 achievement rate below 60% are:

- Farndon
- Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock
- Lache
- Wolverham
- Netherpool
- Blacon
- Gowy Rural
- Congleton East
- Whitby Groves
- Macclesfield South
- Central & Grange
- Sutton Villages
- Crewe Central
- Bunbury
- Odd Rode
- Stockton Heath
- Strawberry
- Christleton & Huntington
- Crewe North
- Knutsford

- Westminster

Estimated achievement rate for 16-18 Learning Aims below Level 2, by Ward, 2018/19



Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from ESFA localities data cube (residency), OS and OpenStreetMap

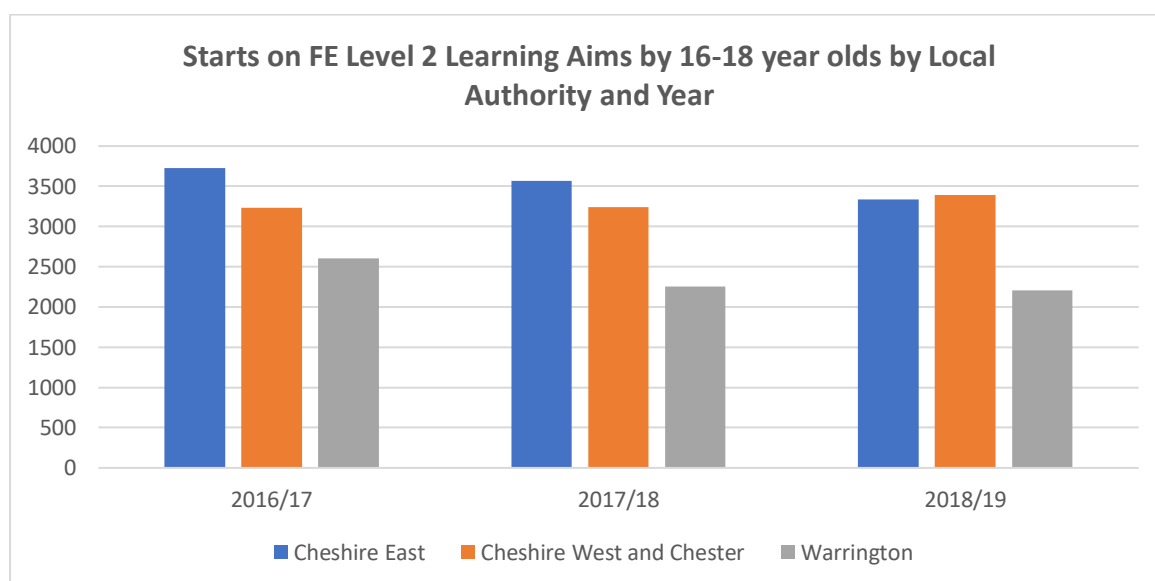


## 8. Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Level 2

The main routes to a Level 2 qualification for 16-18 year olds is at an FE college or through an apprenticeship. This section of the report will consider delivery of Level 2 learning aims to 16-18 year olds through FE and through apprenticeships in turn.

### 8.1 Further Education at Level 2

The chart below provides information on the volume of Level 2 learning aims started by learners aged 16-18 in each local authority of Cheshire and Warrington in the academic years 2016/17 to 2018/19. Overall, the number of Level 2 learning aim starts declined by 6.5% from 9,567 in 2016/17 to 8,943 in 2018/19. This decline was experienced in two of the local authorities in Cheshire and Warrington. There was a 10.5% decline in Cheshire East and a 15% decline in Warrington but there was an increase of 5% in Cheshire West and Chester.

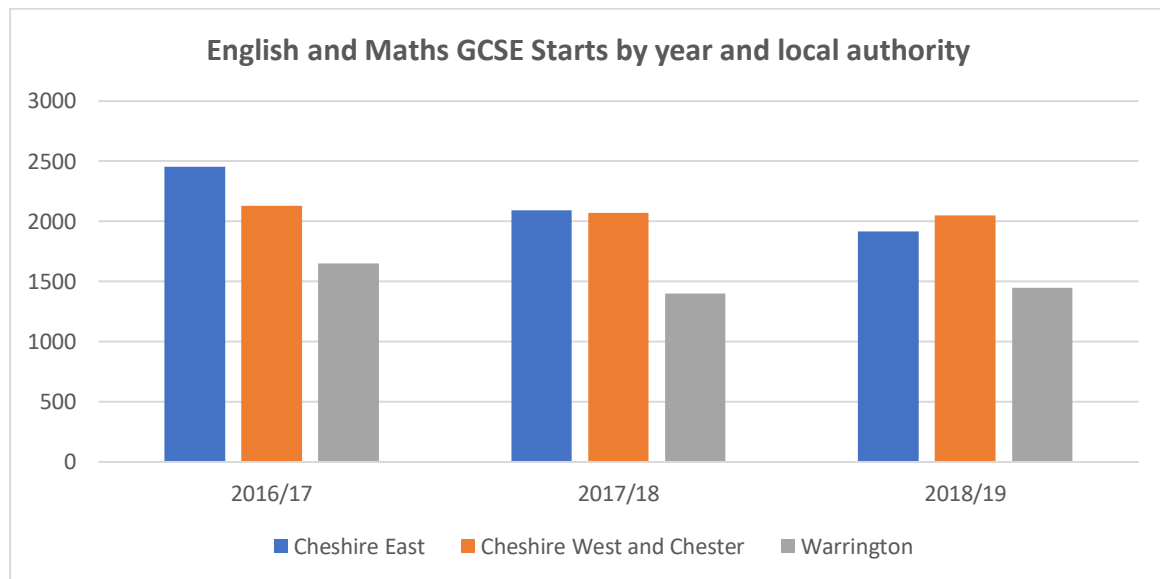


The table below sets out the types and volumes of qualifications that were delivered through FE at Level 2 in Cheshire and Warrington between 2016/17 and 2018/19. 62% of all such learning aims in this period were GCSE English and Maths, a further 15% were Diplomas and 10% Certificates. The total number of learning aims started reduced by 624 in 2018/19 compared with 2016/17.

Types of Level 2 qualifications started in 2018/19				
Qualification Type	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Award	160	201	231	592
Basic Skills Maths and English	245	157	187	589
Certificate	1036	953	839	2828
Diploma	1410	1285	1343	4038
ESOL	3	17	3	23
GCSE Maths and English	6234	5558	5417	17209
GCSE Other	48	19	21	88
Other Non-Regulated	372	811	868	2051
Other Regulated	59	57	34	150
Grand Total	9567	9058	8943	27568

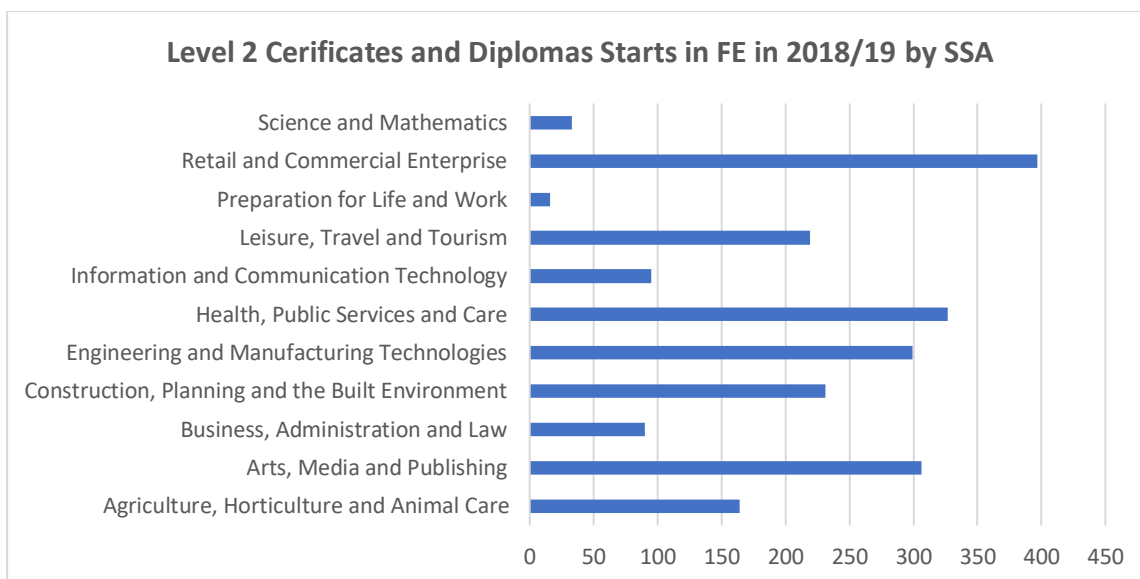
*Source: ESFA localities data cube (residency)*

GCSE English and Maths learning aim starts reduced by 817 between 2016/17 and 2018/19. Since it is mandatory for colleges to deliver GCSE English and Maths to learners who have not achieved a Grade 4 (Grade C) at Key Stage 4, this would suggest a reduction in the order of 13% in the volume of learners requiring such support in FE in Cheshire and Warrington in these 3 years. The chart below provides information on starts on GCSE English and Maths by learners aged 16-18 by local authority and academic year. This shows that between 2016/17 and 2018/19 starts in GCSE English and Maths declined in every local authority – by 22% in Cheshire East, by 4% in Cheshire West and Chester and by 12% in Warrington.



**Source ESFA Localities data cube (residency)**

24% of the qualifications started at Level 2 in 2018/19 were Diplomas or Certificates. Most of these qualifications will be the main qualification in a Level 2 vocational Study Programme. The chart below sets out the volume of these learning aim starts by Sector Subject Area. The highest volume of such starts was in Retail and Commercial Enterprise; Health, Public Services and Care; Arts, Media and Publishing; and Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies.



**Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)**

In 2018/19 53% of Level 2 learning aim starts for 16-18 year olds were by 16 year olds, 33% were by 17 year olds and 15% by 18 year olds.

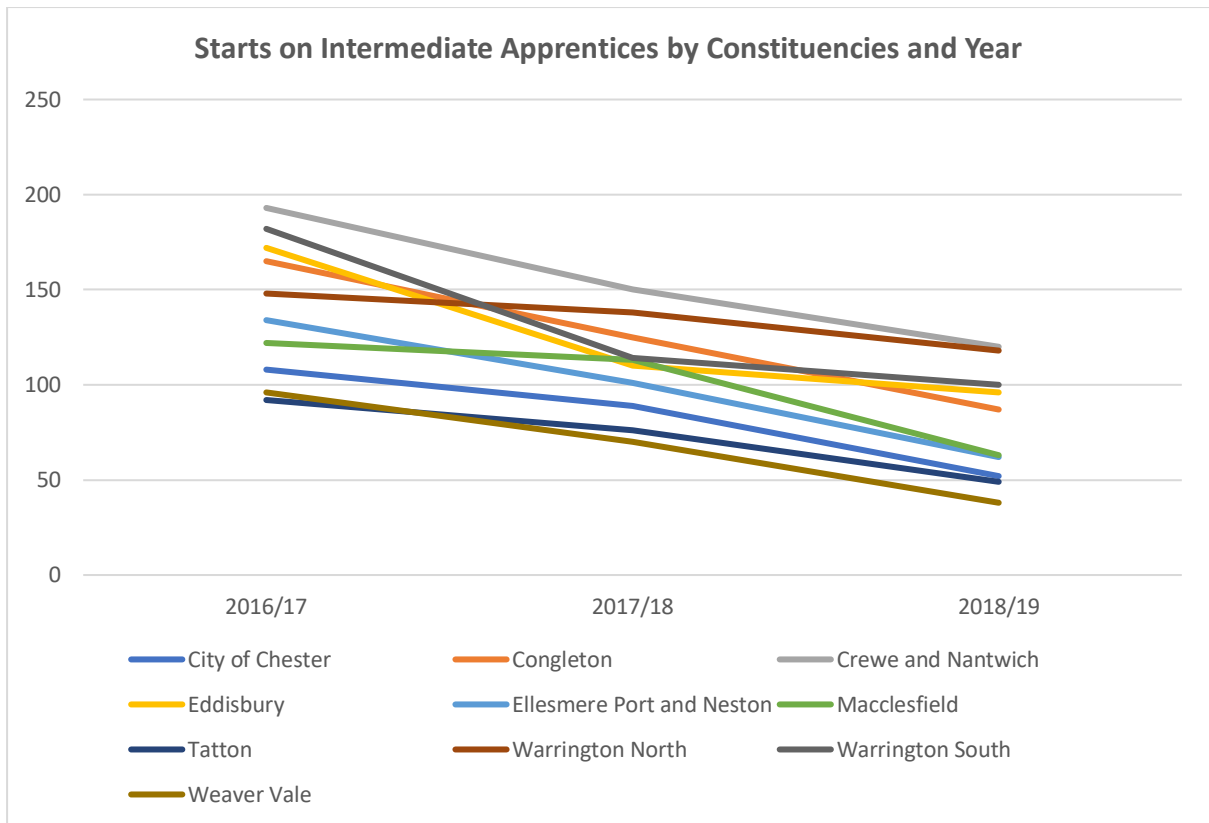
## 8.2 Intermediate (Level 2) Apprenticeships

As noted in the section above, there was a significant decline in the number of Intermediate Apprenticeship starts by learners aged 16-18 in Cheshire and Warrington between 2016/17 and 2018/19. The table below, which shows starts on Intermediate Apprenticeships by local authority and year shows how this played out in each local authority. The overall decline in Level 2 starts in Cheshire and Warrington of 44% was mirrored in each of the local authorities with a decline of 46% in Cheshire East, a decline of 50% in Cheshire West and Chester and a decline of 34% in Warrington.

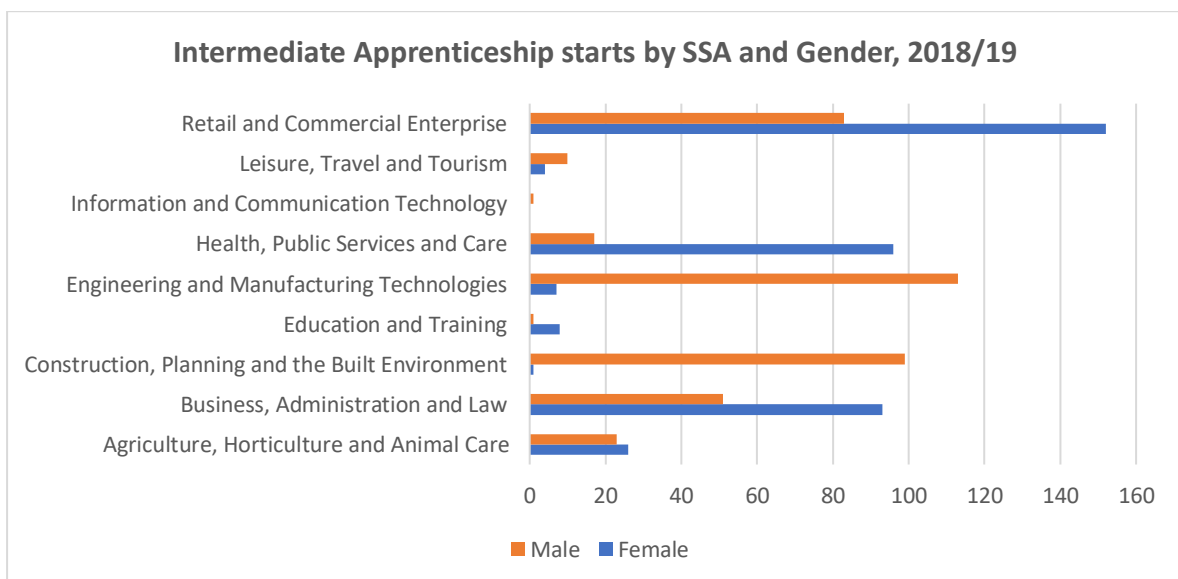
<b>Starts on Intermediate Apprenticeships by Local Authority and Year, 2016-2019</b>			
Local Authority	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Cheshire East	550	449	298
Cheshire West and Chester	532	385	268
Warrington	330	252	218
Grand Total	1412	1086	785

**Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)**

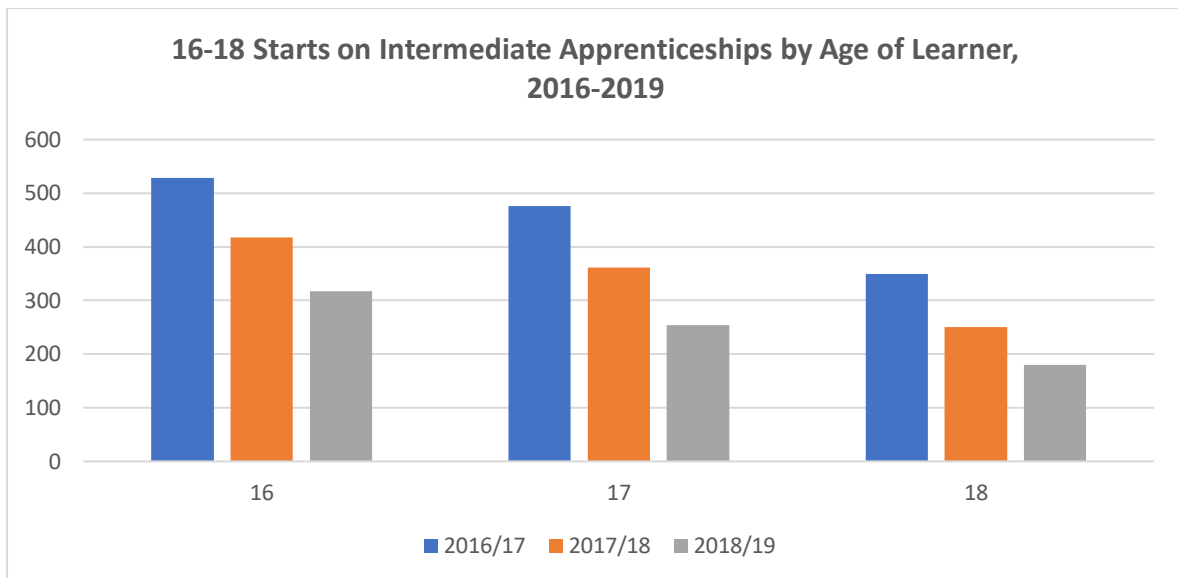
This decline in starts in Intermediate Apprenticeships by learners aged 16-18 between 2016/17 and 2018/19 was also experienced in all ten parliamentary constituencies as can be seen from the graph below.



The chart below provides information on apprenticeship starts in 2018/19 by Sector Subject Area and gender. Most SSAs showed a significant gender disparity: 99% of starts in Construction, Planning and Building Services were by males; 94% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies were by males; 78% of starts in Health, Public Services and Care were by females; and 65% of starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprises were by females.



The chart below shows Intermediate Apprenticeship starts between 2016/17 and 2018/19 by age of learner. There was a 40% decline in the number of starts by 16 year olds; a 47% decline in starts by 17 year olds; and a 49% decline in starts by 18 year olds.



### 8.3 Level 2 attainment in FE

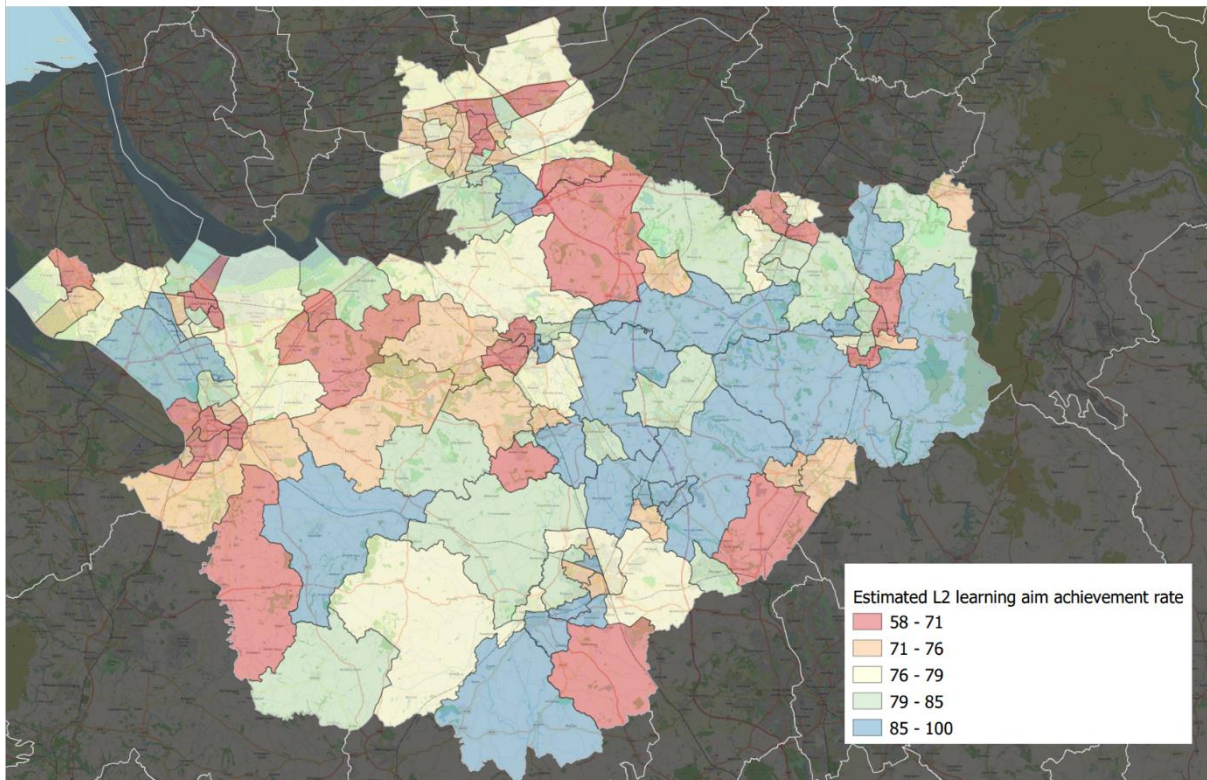
As noted in section above, the achievement rate is an important measure of quality in Further Education. It is instructive to consider the achievement rate for learning aims at Level 2 for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence. This may help to pick up cross-cutting issues associated with where a learner lives such as deprivation, or poor public transport links, or poor youth services.

The map below presents the achievement rate for all learning aims at Level 2 for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence for 2018/19. Where there are fewer than 10 learning aim starts for a ward, these areas have been classified as having insufficient data and have been left unshaded on the map. The wards with an estimated 16-18 Level 2 achievement rate below 70% are:

- Wolverham
- Lymm South
- Wybunbury
- Central & Grange
- Handbridge Park
- Helsby
- Macclesfield South
- Neston
- High Legh
- Wilmslow Lacey Green
- Macclesfield Hurdsfield
- Northwich Winnington & Castle
- Blacon
- Birchwood
- Farndon
- Great Boughton
- Odd Rode
- Sandstone

- Winsford Swanlow

### Estimated Achievement Rate for 16-18 L2 Learning Aims, by Ward, 2018/19

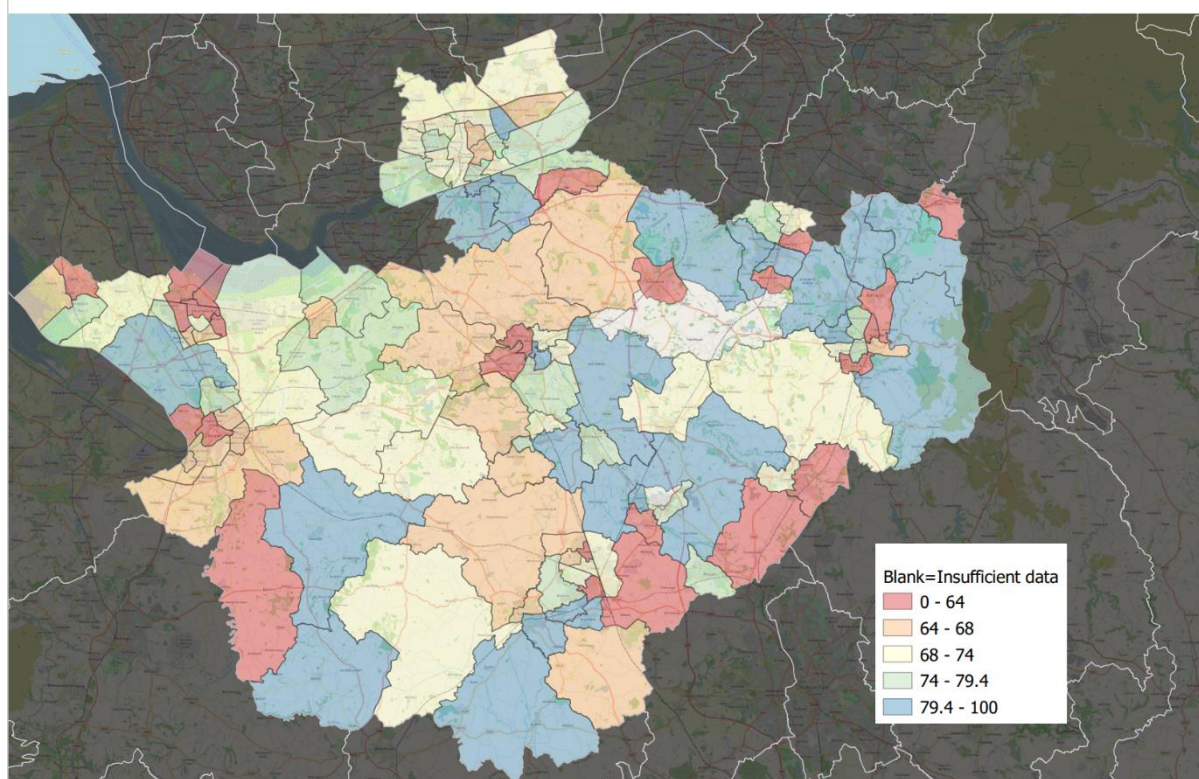


Map by Brennan Wilson in QGIS. Data from ESFA Localities Databcube, OS and OpenStreetMap

Similarly, it is possible to ascertain estimated achievement rates for GCSE English and Maths and Functional Skills English and Maths (all levels). The map below presents the achievement rate for all learning aims in GCSE English and Maths and Functional Skills (all levels) for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence for 2018/19. Where there are fewer than 10 learning aim starts for a ward, these areas have been classified as having insufficient data and have been left unshaded on the map. The wards with an estimated 16-18 achievement rate below 60% are:

- Wolverham
- Farndon
- Neston
- Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock
- Central & Grange
- Macclesfield Hurdsfield
- Blacon
- Macclesfield South
- Sutton Villages
- Westminster
- Haslington
- Northwich Winnington & Castle
- Odd Rode
- Alderley Edge
- Netherpool

Estimated achievement rates for 16-18 GCSE English and Maths and Functional Skills, by Ward, 2018/19

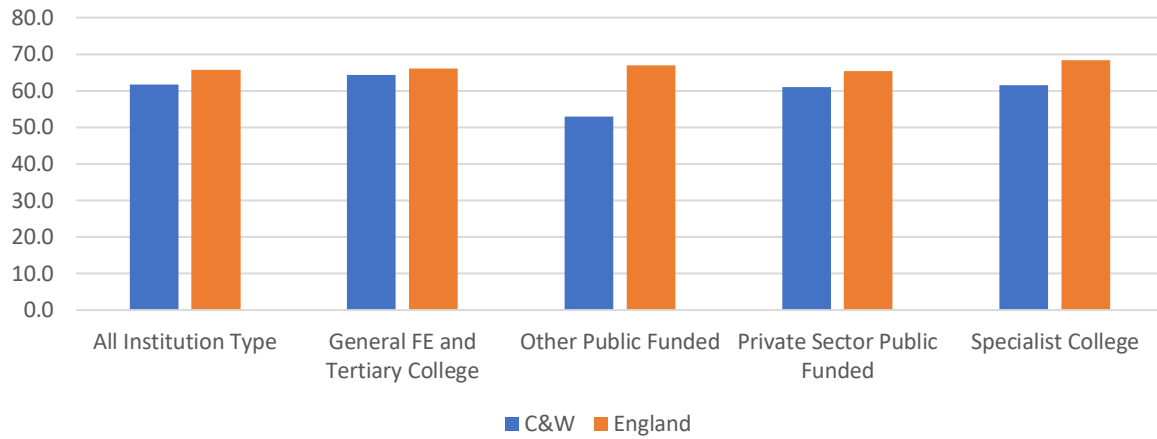


Map by Brennan Wilson Ltd in QGIS. Data from ESFA localities data cube (residency), OS and OpenStreetMap

## 8.4 Apprenticeship Attainment at Level 2

The Department for Education publish annually the National Achievement Rate Tables (NARTs) for Education and Skills activity in England. The overall achievement rate for Level 2 apprentices aged 16-18 in England across all provider types is 65.8%. The chart below illustrates the NARTs data for the overall achievement rate for Level 2 apprenticeships with different types of provider, by residents of Cheshire and Warrington, and for England aged 16-18. The achievement rate for residents of Cheshire and Warrington, at 61.7%, is 4.1% lower than for England. The achievement rate at Level 2 for Cheshire and Warrington residents is lower with every type of provider.

### Overall 16-18 Level 2 Apprenticeship Achievement Rate by Provider Type, England and C&W, 2018/19





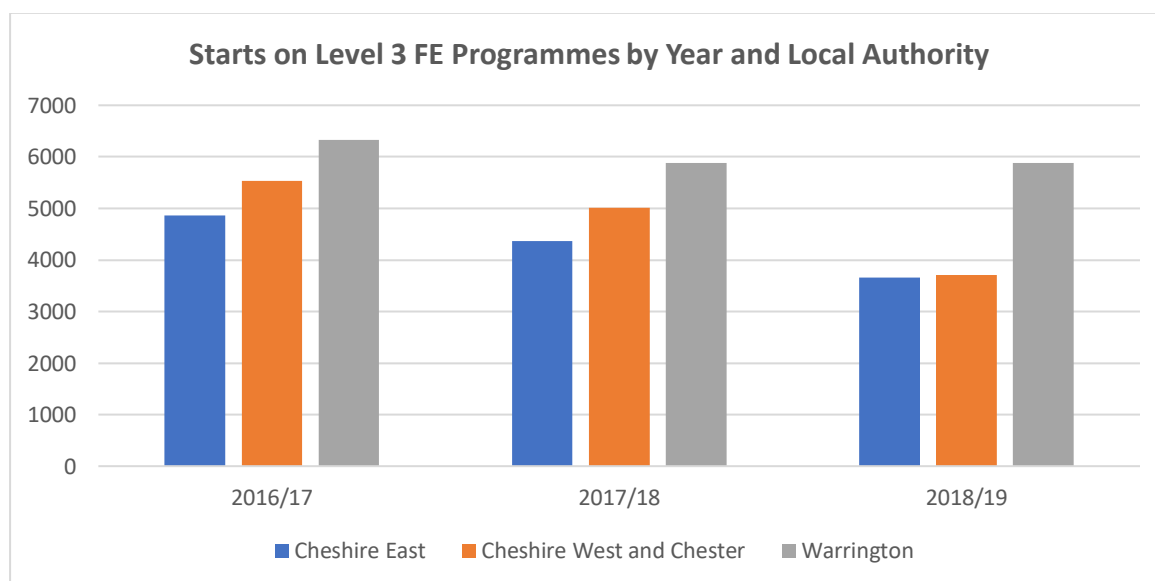
## 9. Young People aged 16-18 Participation in Learning – Level 3

Learners aged 16-18 in Cheshire and Warrington will secure a Level 3 qualification in school, in college or through an apprenticeship. Quite a lot of data is available regarding the delivery of level 3 qualifications in college and through apprenticeships. This is not the case for delivery in schools. The information regarding the aggregate curriculum offered in schools is limited. Whilst it is a reasonable assumption that most delivery in school sixth forms will be of A Levels, it is possible that other qualifications at level 3 and below – for example BTECs or AS Levels – will be delivered by some school sixth forms.

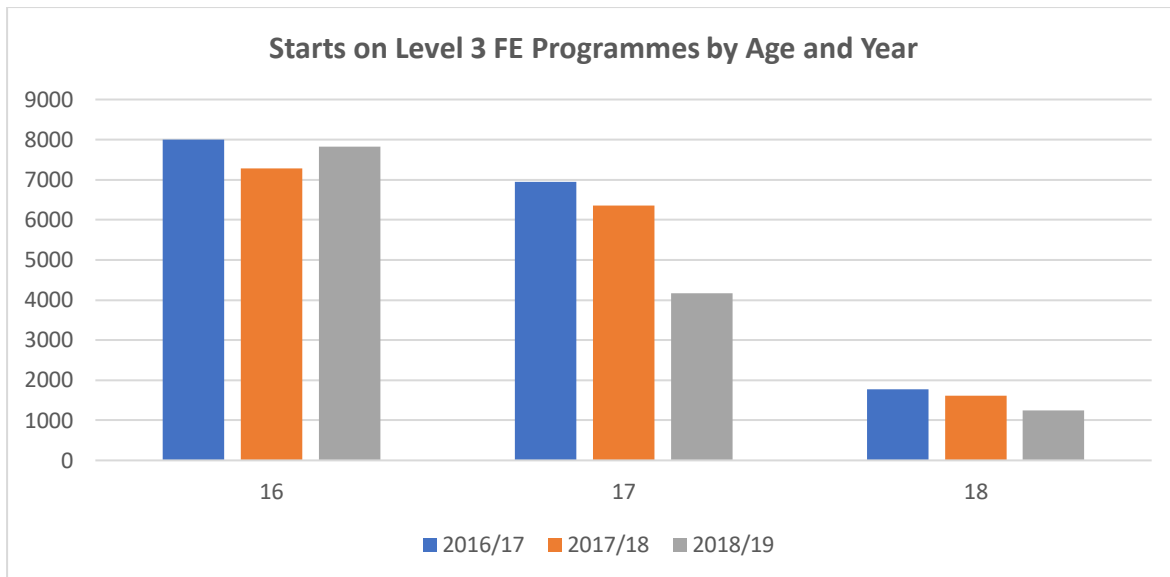
This restriction on the availability of data about schools delivery means that the analysis below focuses on activity that has been delivered through apprenticeships or in a further education setting.

### 9.1 Level 3 in Further Education

The chart below illustrates the volume of learning aim starts at Level 3 in Further Education in Cheshire and Warrington local authorities between the academic years 2016/17 and 2018/19. Learning aim starts at Level 3 have declined by 20% from 16,725 to 13,426. This decline in starts is directly linked to the changed status of AS Levels in the 16-18 curriculum which is discussed below. A decline has been experienced in all three local authorities – 25% in Cheshire East, 33% in Cheshire West and Chester and 7% in Warrington.



The graph below provides information on the age of learners starting Level 3 programmes in FE by age in the three academic years 2016/17 to 2018/19. There was a significant decrease (40%) in starts at 17 over these three years and that is likely to be attributable to the changed relationship between A and AS Levels mentioned below. In 2018/19 58% of starts on Level 3 programmes were by 16 year olds, 31% by 17 year olds and 11% by 18 year olds.



The table below shows the types of learning aims started by learners in FE aged 16-18 between 2016/17 and 2018/19. The number of AS Levels started declined by 75% from 5,692 to 1,432. This decline can be directly attributed to the decoupling of AS Levels from A (A2) Levels by Government. This decline of 4,260 AS level starts between 2016/17 and 2018/19 exceeds the overall decline in Level 3 starts of 3,299 reported above.

Starts on A levels increased by 13% over these three years. There was a decrease of 323 in the number of Diplomas started and an increase of 372 in the number of Certificates started. It is important to note that these figures are a count of learning aim starts, not learners. For example, a single learner taking 3 A Levels would generate 3 A level starts.

<b>The Types of Level 3 Qualifications starts by 16-18 yr olds in FE in C&amp;W 2016-2019</b>			
<b>Qualification Type</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
A Level	4848	6619	5498
Access to HE	14	14	21
AS Level	5692	2309	1434
Award	15	85	85
Certificate	856	998	1232
Diploma	4927	4829	4604
Other Non-Regulated	73	63	81
Other Regulated	300	328	291
<b>Total</b>	<b>16725</b>	<b>15245</b>	<b>13246</b>
<b>Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)</b>			

It is clear from the above table that Level 3 learning programmes undertaken by learners aged 16-18 have been predominantly vocational Diploma Programmes or academic A/AS programmes. These different types of Study Programmes are considered separately in the paragraphs below.

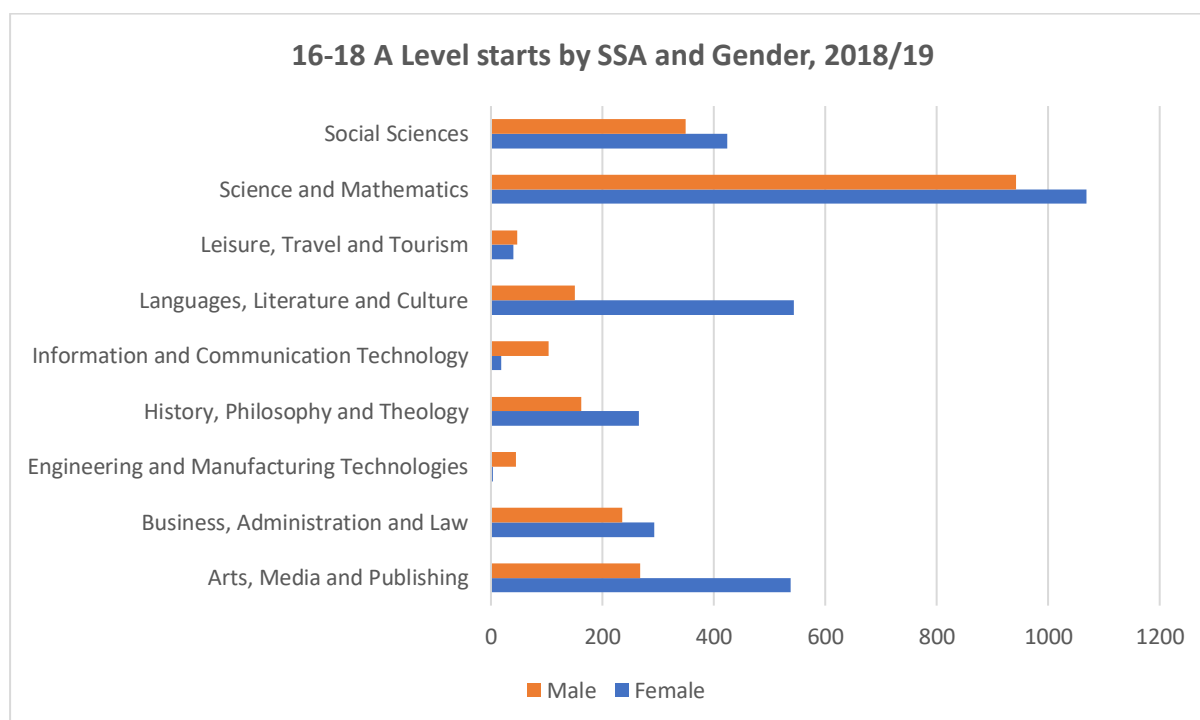
The table below provides information on the volume of learners (rather than learning aim starts) taking A/AS levels by parliamentary constituency. Overall, there has been a 5% decline in the number of learners in FE on such programmes between 2016/17 and 2018/19. This decline has not

been uniform across Cheshire and Warrington with 6 Constituencies experience a decline in A level learners and 4 Constituencies experiencing an increase.

<b>Participation of 16-18 yr olds in A Level/AS in FE, by Parliamentary Constituency, 2016-2019</b>			
<b>Constituency</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
City of Chester	79	73	59
Congleton	267	284	259
Crewe and Nantwich	337	285	321
Eddisbury	381	393	400
Ellesmere Port and Neston	67	71	73
Macclesfield	105	79	67
Tatton	253	277	262
Warrington North	760	636	633
Warrington South	858	855	894
Weaver Vale	478	451	438
<b>Total</b>	<b>3585</b>	<b>3404</b>	<b>3406</b>

*Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)*

The chart below provides information on the starts on A levels by learners aged 16-18 by SSA and gender in 2018/19. Overall, 58% of A Levels in FE were started by females. This proportion rose to 67% for A Levels in Arts, Media and Publishing, and 78% for A levels in Languages, Literature and Culture. Conversely, 92% of A levels in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, and 85% of A levels in Information and Communication Technologies were started by males.



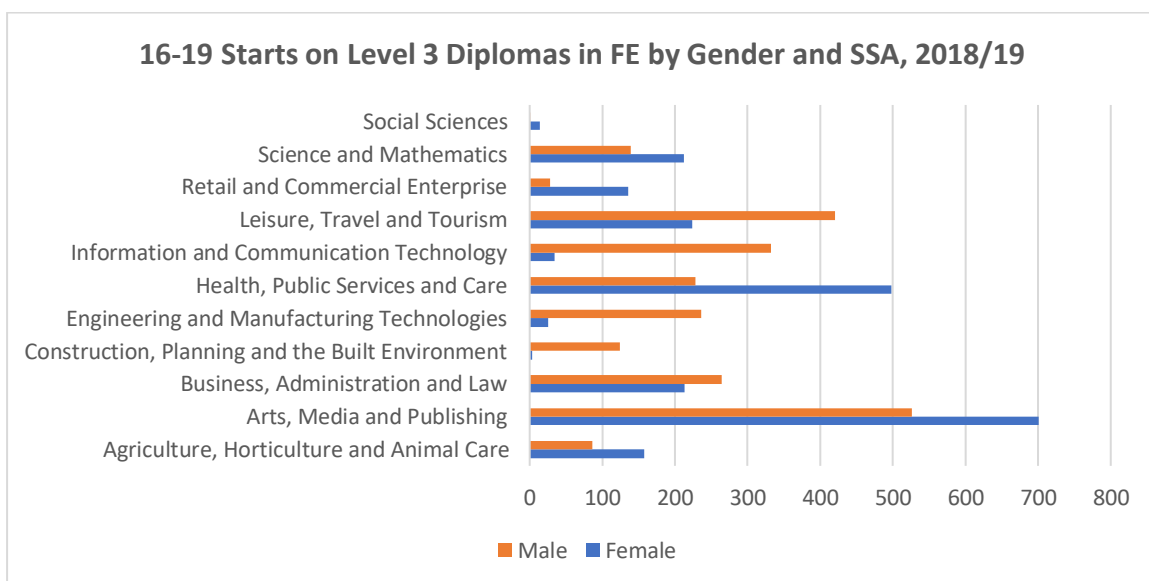
*Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)*

The table below provides information on the number of learners aged 16-18 starting Level 3 Diplomas between 2016/17 and 2018/19 in Cheshire and Warrington, by parliamentary constituency. Overall, there was a 9% decrease in the number of learners on Diplomas. This decrease was not uniform across Cheshire and Warrington, with 3 Constituencies experiencing an increase and 7 experiencing a decrease in this period.

Participation of 16-18 yr olds in L3 Diplomas in FE, by Parliamentary Constituency, 2016-2019			
Constituency	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
City of Chester	361	329	300
Congleton	444	424	378
Crewe and Nantwich	692	690	611
Eddisbury	494	473	466
Ellesmere Port and Neston	448	384	321
Macclesfield	518	456	442
Tatton	340	340	349
Warrington North	666	682	699
Warrington South	721	694	727
Weaver Vale	323	295	278
Total	5007	4767	4571

*Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)*

The chart below provides information by gender and SSA on the Diplomas started by learners aged 16-19 in 2018/19. Overall, males accounted for 52% of such starts in this year. However, there were significant variations in the gender split for starts on individual SSAs. Males accounted for 65% of starts in Leisure, Travel and Tourism; 91% of starts in Information and Communications Technologies; 90% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; and 98% of starts in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment. By contrast, females accounted for 83% of the starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprise; 69% of the starts in Health, Public Services and Care; and 60% of the starts in Science and Mathematics.



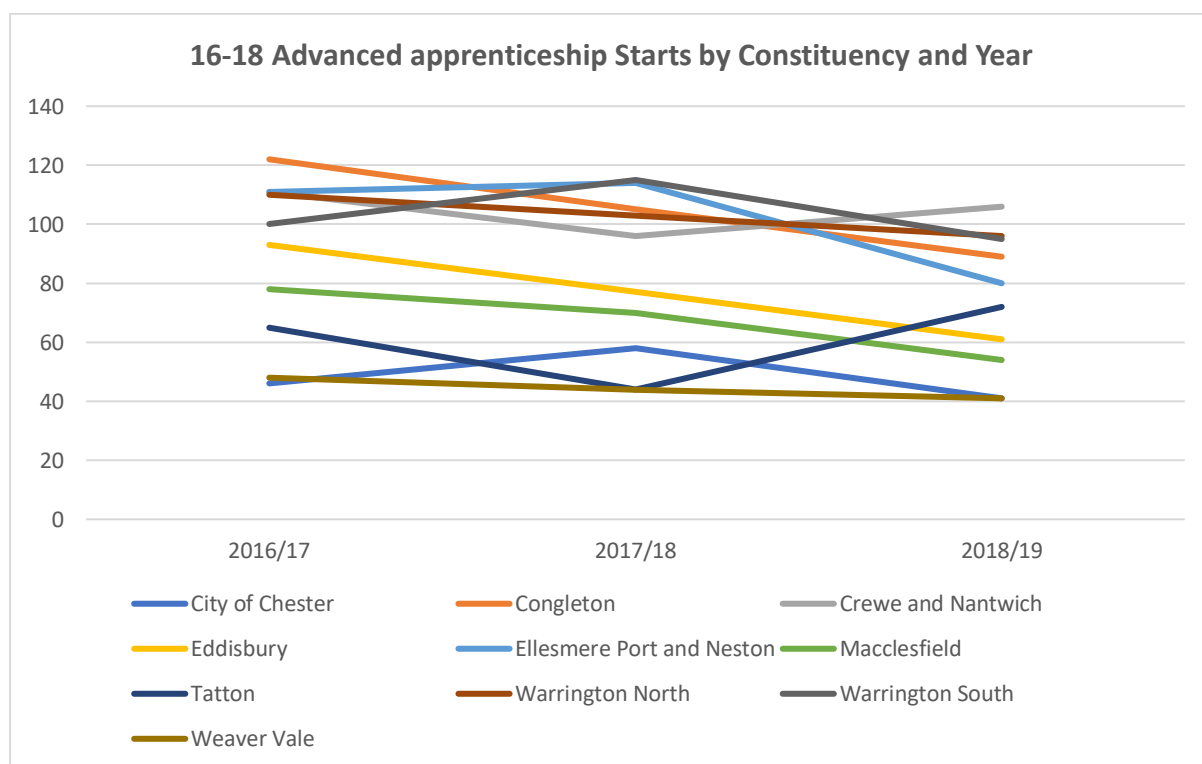
## 9.2 Apprenticeships at Level 3

The table below provides information on the starts of Advanced (Level 3) Apprenticeships by young people aged 16-18 for each of the Local Authorities for the three academic years 2016/17 to 2018/19. Overall, starts on Level 3 Apprenticeships by young people aged 16-18 declined 17% from 884 in 2016/17 to 735 in 2018/19. Starts in every local authority declined – 17% in Cheshire East, 23% in Cheshire West and Chester and 9% in Warrington.

Advanced Apprenticeship Starts by year and Local Authority, 2016-2019			
Local Authority	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Cheshire East	370	310	308
Cheshire West and Chester	304	298	233
Warrington	210	218	191
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>735</b>

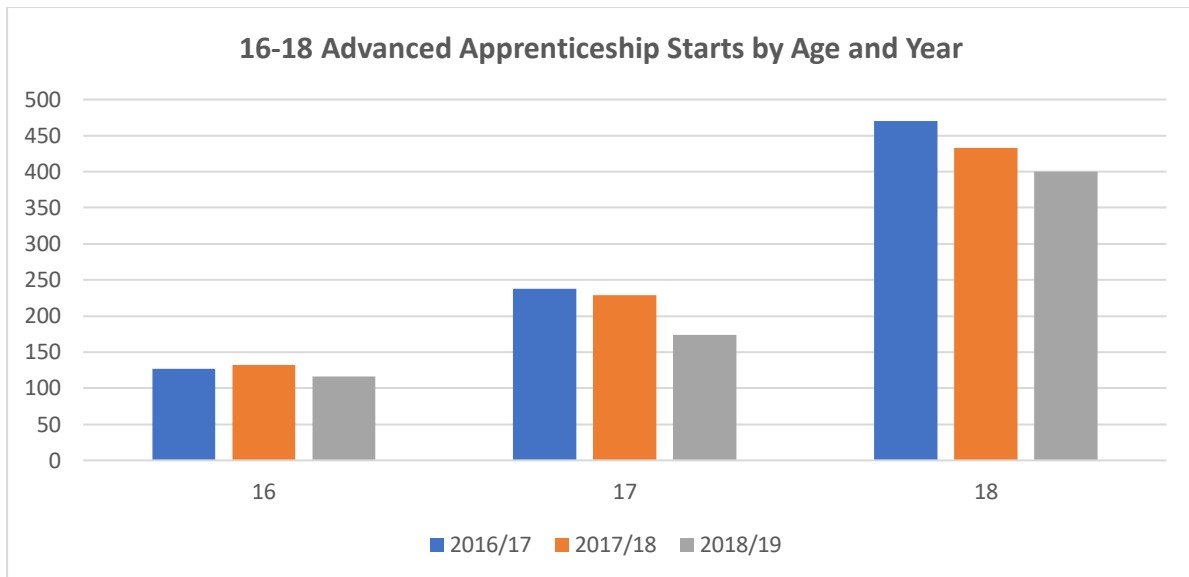
*Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)*

The graph below plots the starts on Advanced Apprenticeships by young people aged 16-18 between 2016/17 and 2018/19 for the parliamentary constituencies of Cheshire and Warrington. Every constituency experienced a decline in this time period except for Tatton where starts increased from 65 in 2016/17 to 72 in 2018/19.



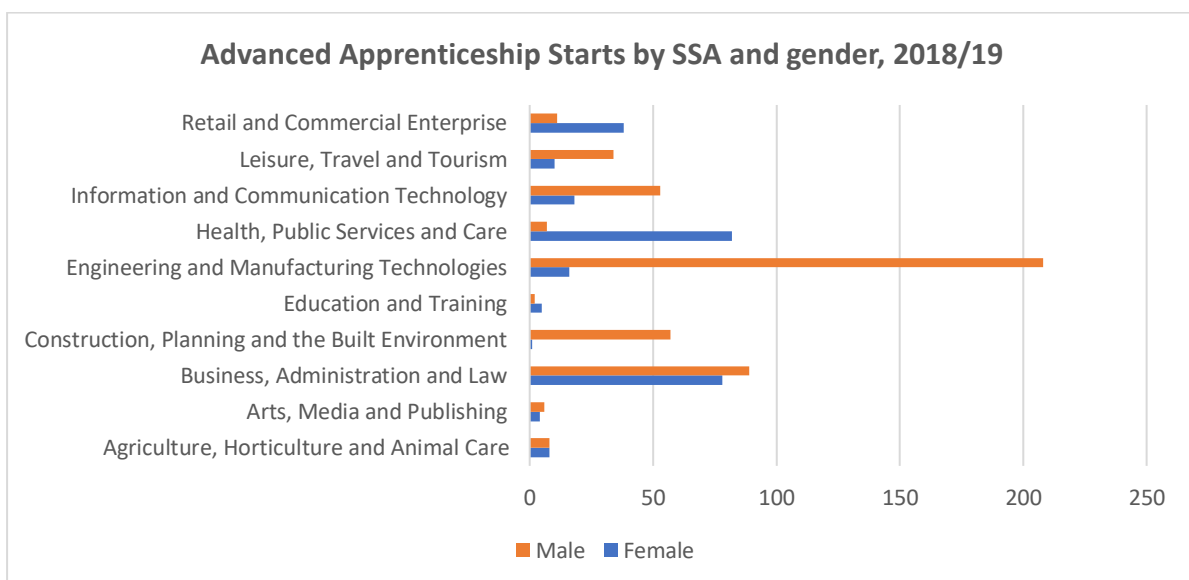
*Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)*

The chart below plots the age of young people starting Advanced Apprenticeships. The age profile of apprenticeship starters is quite different from the age profile of starters on Level 3 FE programmes. In 2018/19, 58% of starters were aged 18, 25% of starters were aged 17, and 17% of starters were aged 16. What is also evident from the chart is that starts on Advanced Apprenticeships declined for every age band between 2016/17 and 2018/19 – 9% for 16 year olds, 27% for 17 year olds and 15% for 18 year olds.



Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)

There are significant gender disparities as evidenced by the proportion of males and females starting Advanced Apprenticeships overall and in different SSAs. The chart below provides information on the gender of apprenticeship starters aged 16-18, by SSA, in 2018/19. Overall, 65% of starts were by males, with males starting 75% of apprenticeships in Information and Communication Technologies, 98% in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment, 93% in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies. Conversely 92% of Advanced Apprenticeships in Health, Public Services and Care were started by females.



Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)

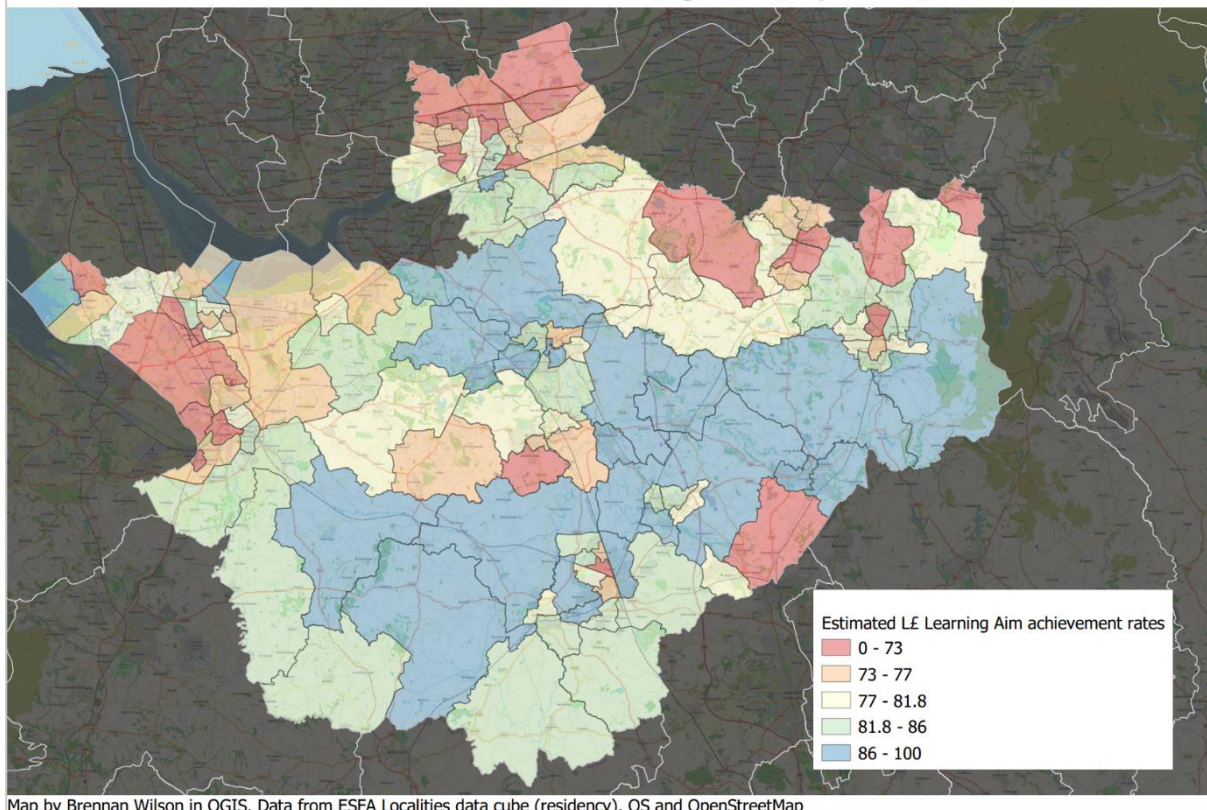
### 9.3 Level 3 Attainment in FE

As noted previously, the achievement rate is an important measure of quality in Further Education. It is instructive to consider the achievement rate for learning aims at Level 3 for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence. This may help to pick up cross-cutting issues associated with where a learner lives such as deprivation, or poor public transport links, or poor youth services.

The map below presents the achievement rate for all learning aims in FE at Level 3 for 16-18 year olds by ward of residence for 2018/19. Where there are fewer than 10 learning aim starts for a ward, these areas have been classified as having insufficient data and have been left unshaded on the map. The wards with an estimated 16-18 Level 3 FE achievement rate below 70% are:

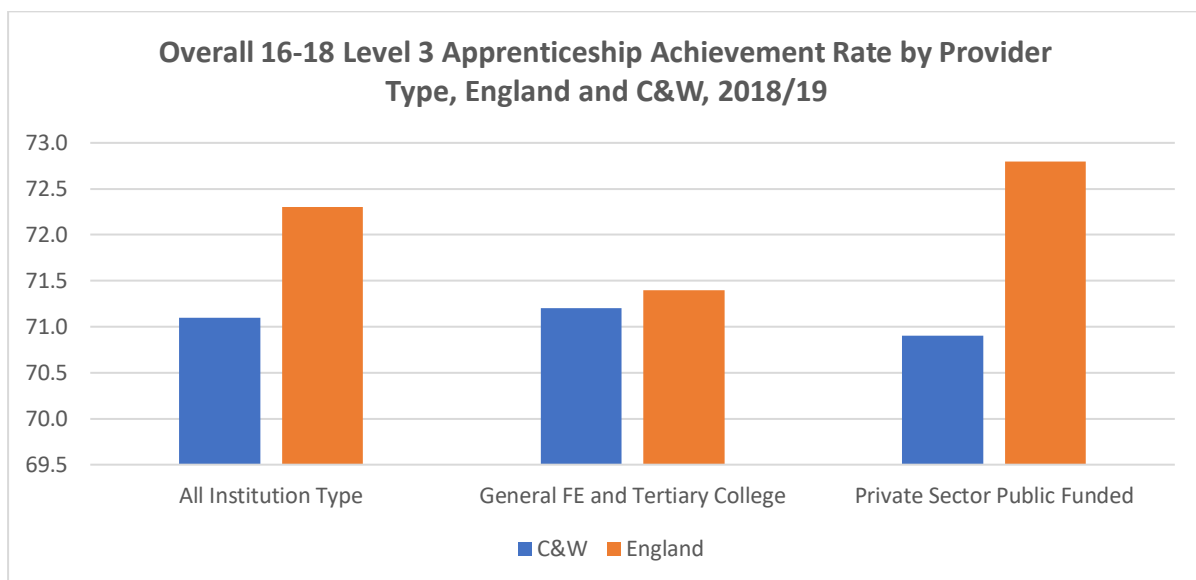
- Wilmslow Dean Row
- Lache
- Strawberry
- Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft
- Wilmslow East
- Poynton West and Adlington
- Burtonwood and Winwick
- Disley
- Ledsham & Manor
- Macclesfield Tytherington
- Odd Rode
- Westbrook
- Winsford Swanlow
- Blacon
- Crewe Central

Estimated Achievement Rate for FE L3 Learning Aims, by Ward, 2018/19



### 9.4 Apprenticeship Attainment at Level 3

The Department for Education publish annually the National Achievement Rate Tables (NARTs) for Education and Skills activity in England. The overall achievement rate for Level 3 apprentices aged 16-18 in England across all provider types is 72.3%. The chart below illustrates the NARTs data for the overall achievement rate for Level 3 apprenticeships with different types of provider, by residents of Cheshire and Warrington, and for England aged 16-18. The achievement rate for residents of Cheshire and Warrington, at 71.1%, is 1.2% lower than for England. The achievement rate at Level 3 for Cheshire and Warrington residents is lower with both Independent Training Providers and Colleges.



Source: ESFA Localities data cube (residency)