

## **LSC South West Performance**

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## **Background and introduction**

This ad-hoc paper is the second from the SW LSC, the previous provided in January 2008, and touches on similar themes in terms of content.

It covers two aspects of LSC performance: the South West's position against key Public Service Agreement (PSA) Targets measures for which it is responsible, and which were felt to be of interest to the monitoring group, as well as highlighting some of our current priorities[ it should be noted it is not an exhaustive examination of these].

## **Current priorities**

As you will be aware last autumn the LSC published its annual statement of priorities setting out budgets and deliverables. For 2008/09, our priorities have been:

- Creating demand for learning and skills;
- Transforming the FE system to meet demand; and
- Delivering better skills, better jobs and better lives.

Based on a review of national and regional priorities and latest performance measurements, the following emerge as priorities for the LSC in the South West for 2008/09.

- Continuing to improve participation and achievement for young people, especially: implementing the extended September Guarantee; reducing NEET; widening the learning offer, increasing participation in apprenticeships; and improving FE success rates
- Providing skills for sustainable employment and progression for adults, with particular attention to: pre-level 2 learning comprising the foundation learning tier; delivering the new Skills for Life targets; supporting adults achieve first full level 2 and level 3 qualifications

### **South West Region**

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[www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

- Working in partnership to improve the integration of employment and skills, in particular with Jobcentre Plus, Sector Skills Councils, SW RDA and through local area agreements / multi area agreements

These priorities permeate, and are at the heart of, all aspects of our work. Our current actions running alongside these are noted below:

### **Managing Demand:**

Growth in demand has continued to increase for Train to Gain (TTG) and 25+ Apprenticeships; encouraging messages during an economic downturn. The introduction of the SME flexibilities for TTG is having a significant impact on employer demand which is being managed within the regional funding envelope for 2009/10.

### **Young People funding:**

As a result of the £655 million funding announcement in the recent Budget, nationally, we are able to fund learning for 54,500 additional young people [compared to the numbers indicated in the statement of priorities] who will now be able to take up a funded place in schools, colleges and independent providers. This is on top of the funding to support 17,500 additional 16-18 Apprenticeship places announced by the Prime Minister in January and allows us to support one of the key 14-19 reforms: the September Guarantee.

The first monitoring report on the September Guarantee from last month indicates that the South West, with 92.2% of intended destinations recorded is in the middle of the Regional "league table".

### **Adult and Employer funding:**

Last autumn we announced £3.3bn of planned investment in learner participation for 2009-10. This represents an increase in expenditure over the expected outturn for 2008-09, even with the strong performance on Train to Gain and apprenticeships over the last 12 months. In addition, since the LSC Grant Letter, we have announced additional training places for apprentices, those unemployed for six months or more and pre-employment training for young adults. This represents over £100m of new investment in adult learner participation in 2009-10 alone.

Budget 09 announced £122m of new money for extra pre-employment training places, to help young adults (aged 18-24) who have been unemployed for 12 months. This is part of a wider guaranteed offer for unemployed young adults and will ensure that they gain the skills and experience they will need to find work and progress into work.

### **Training for 6 months unemployed:**

The Prime Minister announced in January a package of measures to help people who have been unemployed for six months obtain employment. DIUS [as it was then known] provided £83 million to fund an extra 75,000 places in FE colleges in England from April 2009 to provide the training element of this support. Close working between JobCentre Plus and colleges will help people identify training that will help them to get a job and lead towards a qualification.

### **Capital Projects:**

The Sir Andrew Foster review of LSC Capital was published at the end of March. The Budget confirmed the availability of around £750 million of new projects to be agreed.

Projects receiving the go ahead for this year were, following consultation, nationally prioritised and announced 29 June. None of these are in the South West.

### **2009/10 allocations [all funding streams]:**

We are now coming to the end of the allocations process for 2009/10 funding with all providers having been informed of their allocation or Maximum Contract Values over the past few months and weeks depending on funding stream.

### **Machinery of Government update:**

The proposed new structures of the YPLA and SFA have been published and the matching of staff to the new roles has begun. The plan remains to move to shadow structures in September ahead of their formal creation in April 2010.

## **South West Performance**

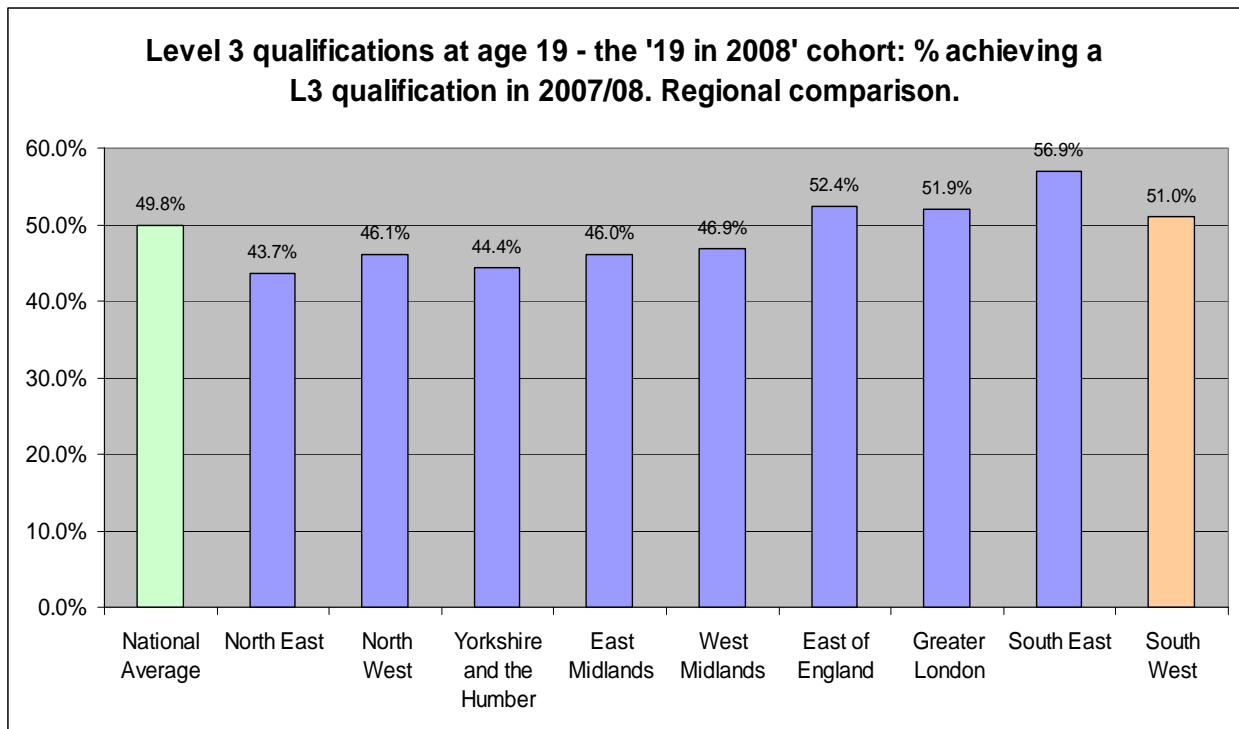
The following graphs show LSC performance against certain PSA targets felt to be of interest to the group. Some Local Authority level breakdown is provided where available. Reasons for LA performance variability are not discussed.

**PSA Goal: Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people so that by 2010/11: 54% of young people achieve level 3<sup>1</sup> by the age of 19**

### **Chart 1: Percentage achieving a L3 qualification by age 19 in 2007/08 – regional comparison**

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<sup>1</sup> A learner is defined as having reached the level 3 threshold if they have achieved the equivalent of 4 AS / 2 A-levels. Only full NVQs count towards the target.

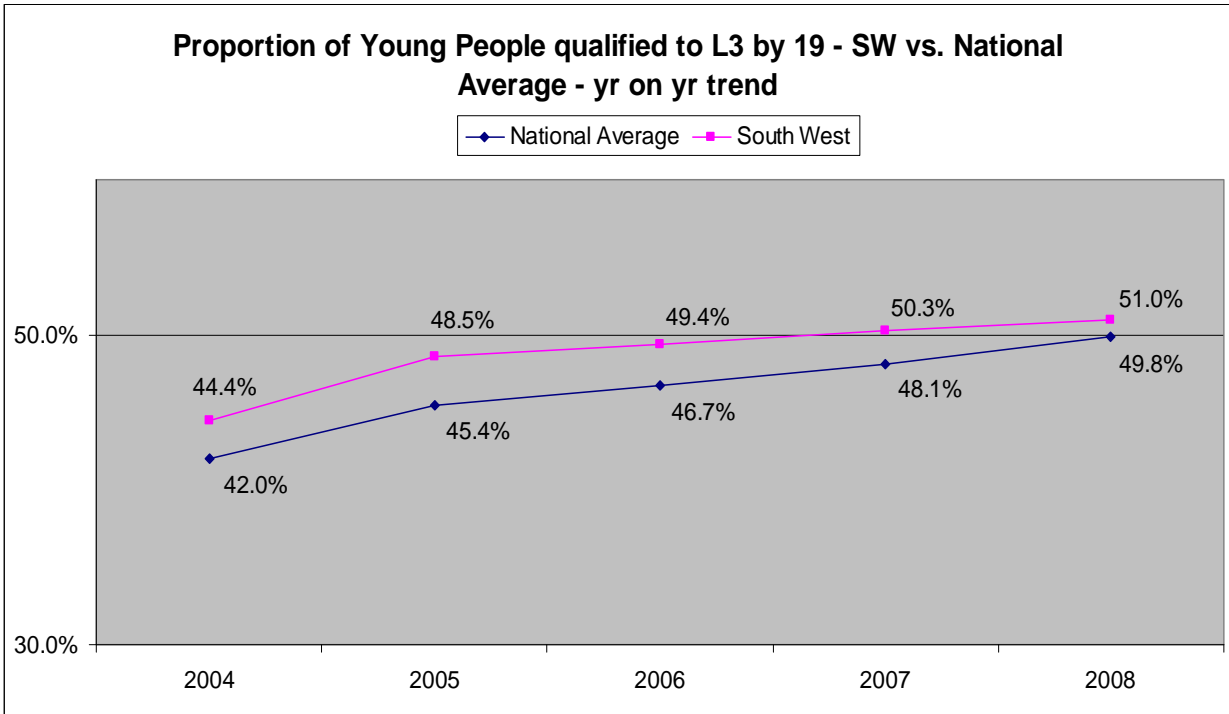


*(Source: FFT Matched Administrative Data 2007/08 – 30 April 2009 DCSF)*

**Commentary:**

51% in the SW achieving a L3 by 19 puts the region just above the national average and the fourth placed region. There is large variation between regions. Nationally, A-Levels remain by far the most common qualification type for 19 year olds to reach level 3.

**Chart 2: Proportion of Young People achieving a Level 3 by 19 – trend analysis**

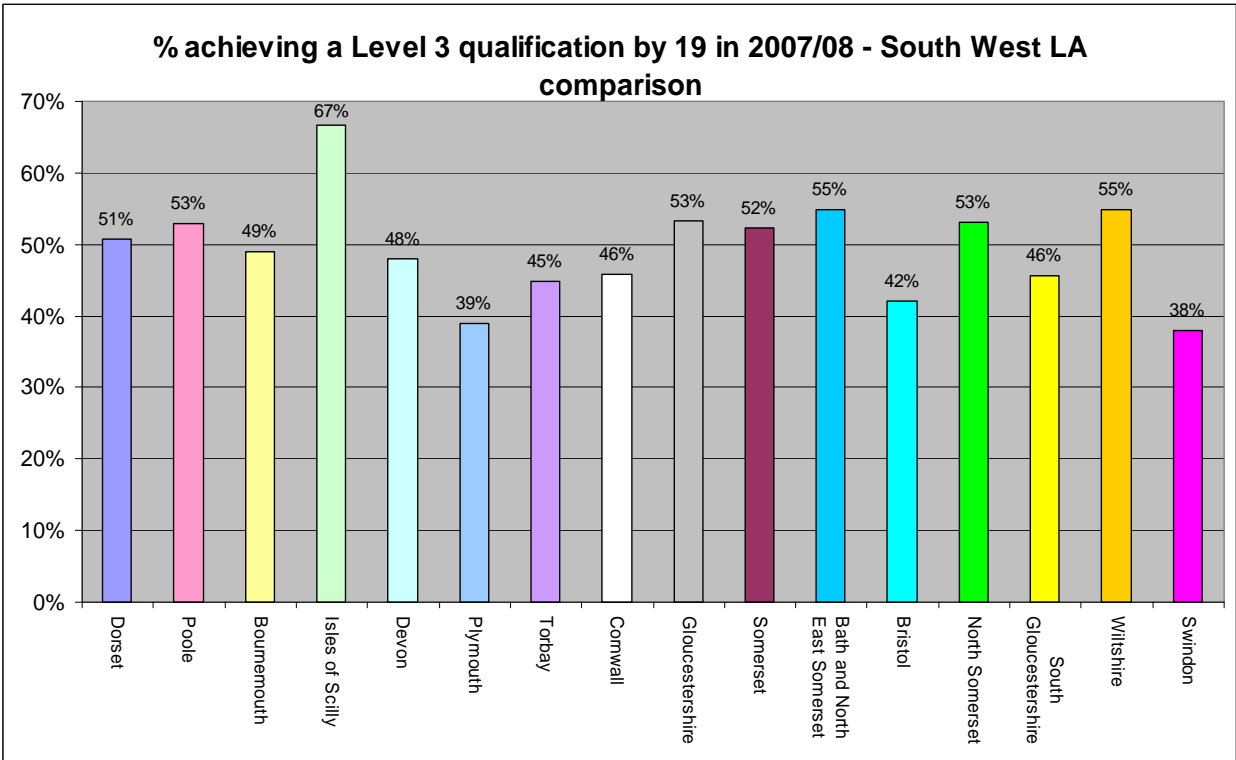


*(Source: FFT Matched Administrative Data 2007/08 – 30 April 2009 DCSF)*

**Commentary:**

The proportion of 19 year olds achieving level 3 continues to increase in the South West. The rate of improvement is roughly the same as nationally. If the current improvements [approx 1% point per year] continue until 2010/11, then the region should be close to hitting the target of 54%.

**Chart 3: Percentage achieving a Level 3 qualification by 19 – LA comparison**



(Source: FFT Matched Administrative Data 2007/08 – 30 April 2009 DCSF)

**Commentary:**

The Isles of Scilly are markedly higher than others due to the smaller numbers of learners in this LA. As at 'L2 at 19' the region exhibits great variability between LAs, but with BANES and Wiltshire the highest performing.

**PSA Goal: By 2010/11 79 % of working age adults (men and women aged 19-state pension age, including both economically active and inactive) qualified to at least full Level 2**

**Table 4: Full Level 2 in the working age population (19-59/64) in 2007 - regions**

Adult L2 19-59/64 qualified to at least level 2	2007 Total Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	2007 Number (000s)	2007%	2006%	2005%	% change from 2005-2007
England	29,519	20,341	68.9%	68.2%	67.3%	1.6%
North East	1,476	1,022	69.3%	68.0%	66.5%	2.8%
North West	3,932	2,662	67.7%	67.0%	65.8%	1.9%
Yorkshire & Humberside	2,993	1,969	65.8%	65.5%	65.1%	0.6%
East Midlands	2,534	1,703	67.2%	66.8%	65.2%	2.0%
West Midlands	3,043	1,989	65.4%	64.9%	63.8%	1.5%
East of England	3,200	2,145	67.0%	66.3%	67.0%	0.1%
London	4,776	3,356	70.3%	68.8%	67.7%	2.5%
South East	4,706	3,419	72.6%	72.2%	71.5%	1.1%
South West	2,862	2,075	72.5%	71.8%	70.6%	1.9%

(Source: Labour Force/Annual Population Survey Jan-Dec 2007)

**Commentary:**

A strong position for the SW: 3.6% above national average [72.5% vs. 68.9%]; the second highest performing region; and with solid growth from 2005 [1.9% increase – higher than national].

**Table 5: Full Level 2 in the working age population (19-59/64) in 2007 - LA**

	Adult L2 19-59/64 qualified to at least level 2 - LA breakdown	2007 Total Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	2007 Number (000s)	2007%	2006%	2005%
<b>South West</b>	BANES	102	80	78.8%	79.1%	77.2%
	Bristol	264	193	73.2%	70.8%	68.7%
	North Somerset	113	83	73.3%	76.1%	75.2%
	South Glos	147	103	70.4%	71.6%	72.9%

Dorset	201	148	73.8%	70.7%	72.0%
Poole	74	50	67.8%	70.6%	67.0%
Bournemouth	93	67	71.8%	74.4%	71.7%
Wiltshire	246	177	71.9%	71.9%	70.9%
Swindon	112	75	67.1%	67.2%	65.6%
Devon	403	298	74.0%	73.5%	71.9%
Plymouth	147	101	69.2%	65.4%	66.2%
Torbay	69	47	68.0%	69.6%	66.1%
Cornwall	285	206	72.2%	72.4%	71.6%
Gloucestershire	328	250	76.2%	71.6%	70.0%
Somerset	278	196	70.4%	71.1%	69.6%

**Commentary:**

The distance to go to the '79% qualified to at least L2 by 2010/11' target is more marked for some LAs than others. The position of BANES [78.8%] and Gloucestershire [76.2%] contrasts markedly with Poole [67.8%] and Swindon [67.1%] who have the greatest distance to travel and whose increases in the past few years have not been as significant as others.

**PSA Goal: By 2010/11 56% of working age adults (men and women aged 19 to state pension age, including both economically active and inactive) qualified to at least full Level 3**

**Table 6: Full L3 in the working age population (19-59/64) in 2007 - regions**

Adult L3 19-59/64 qualified to at least level 3	2007 Total Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	2007 Number (000s)	2007 %	2006%	2005%	% change from 2005-2007
England	29,519	14,472	49.0%	47.9%	47.0%	2.0%
North East	1,476	695	47.1%	45.6%	43.3%	3.9%
North West	3,932	1,842	46.8%	46.7%	45.5%	1.3%
Yorkshire & Humberside	2,993	1,347	45.0%	44.4%	44.1%	0.9%
East Midlands	2,534	1,192	47.0%	46.5%	45.1%	2.0%
West Midlands	3,043	1,365	44.8%	44.0%	42.7%	2.1%
East of England	3,200	1,478	46.2%	44.6%	45.2%	0.9%
London	4,776	2,584	54.1%	51.8%	50.5%	3.6%

South East	4,706	2,478	52.7%	52.3%	51.5%	1.2%
South West	2,862	1,493	52.2%	50.3%	49.3%	2.9%

(Source: Labour Force/Annual Population Survey Jan-Dec 2007)

**Commentary:**

Our strong position at L3 echoes that at L2 noted above: 3.2% above the national position; third placed region; and showing a 2.9% improvement since 2005 [higher than national]. The region is 3.8% short of the 2010/11 target but current trajectory would indicate we are on course to reach this.

**Table 7: Full L3 in the working age population (19-59/64) in 2007 – LA**

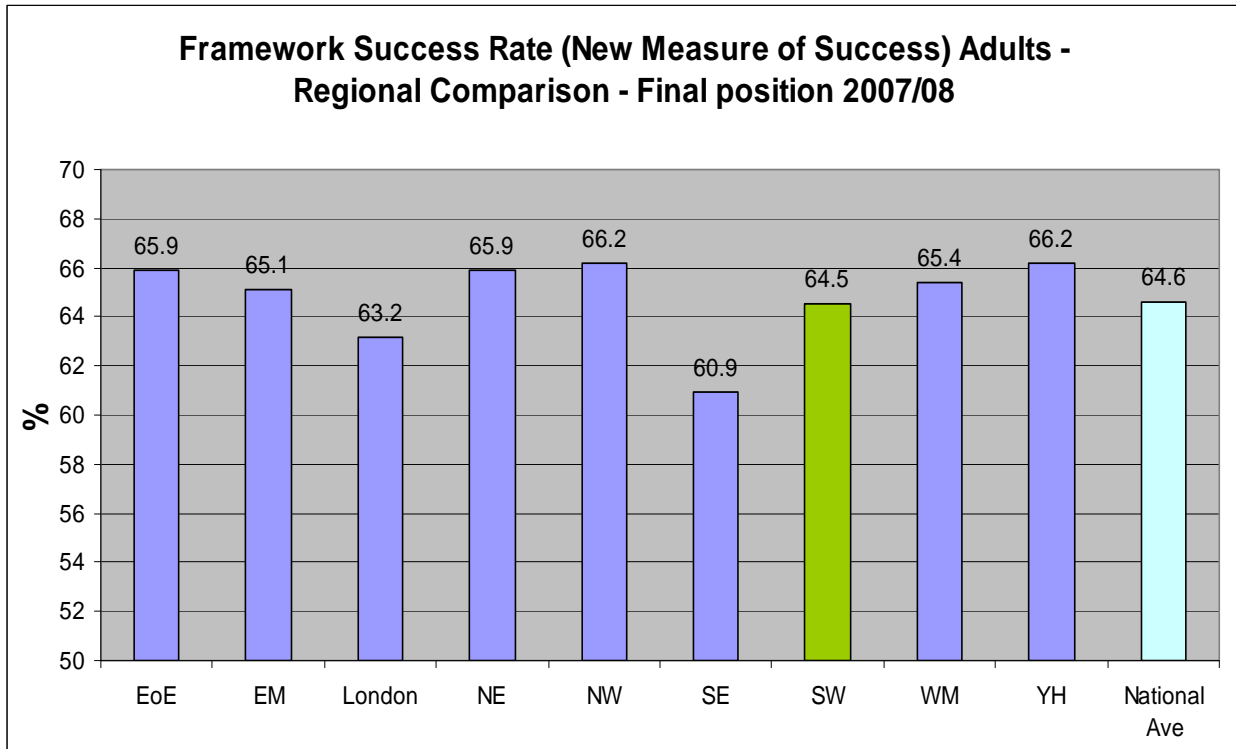
South West	Adult L3 19-59/64 qualified to at least level 3 - LA comparison	2007 Total Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	2007 Number (000s)	2007%	2006%	2005%
	BANES	102	60	59.1%	60.6%	59.9%
	Bristol	264	147	55.6%	53.1%	50.5%
	North Somerset	113	61	54.2%	51.9%	53.3%
	South Glos	147	70	47.9%	48.4%	51.9%
	Dorset	201	109	54.0%	50.0%	51.3%
	Poole	74	36	49.0%	49.0%	43.8%
	Bournemouth	93	48	51.2%	50.8%	48.5%
	Wiltshire	246	126	51.1%	51.3%	49.9%
	Swindon	112	50	44.9%	44.9%	44.2%
	Devon	403	219	54.3%	50.9%	49.6%
	Plymouth	147	69	47.4%	42.7%	43.9%
	Torbay	69	31	45.0%	46.0%	43.7%
	Cornwall	285	146	51.2%	50.1%	45.9%
	Gloucestershire	328	185	56.4%	51.3%	50.3%
	Somerset	278	136	48.8%	48.6%	49.2%

**Commentary:**

As at Adult L2 above, there is considerable variety in LA performance. BANES and Gloucestershire are closest to target, the latter showing marked improvement since 2005. Swindon has shown little growth from 2005 and is the lowest performing LA [44.9%].

**PSA Goal: An apprenticeship completion success rate target for 2008/9 of 65%**

**Graph 8: 'New Measure' Success Rate – Regional comparison - Adults**

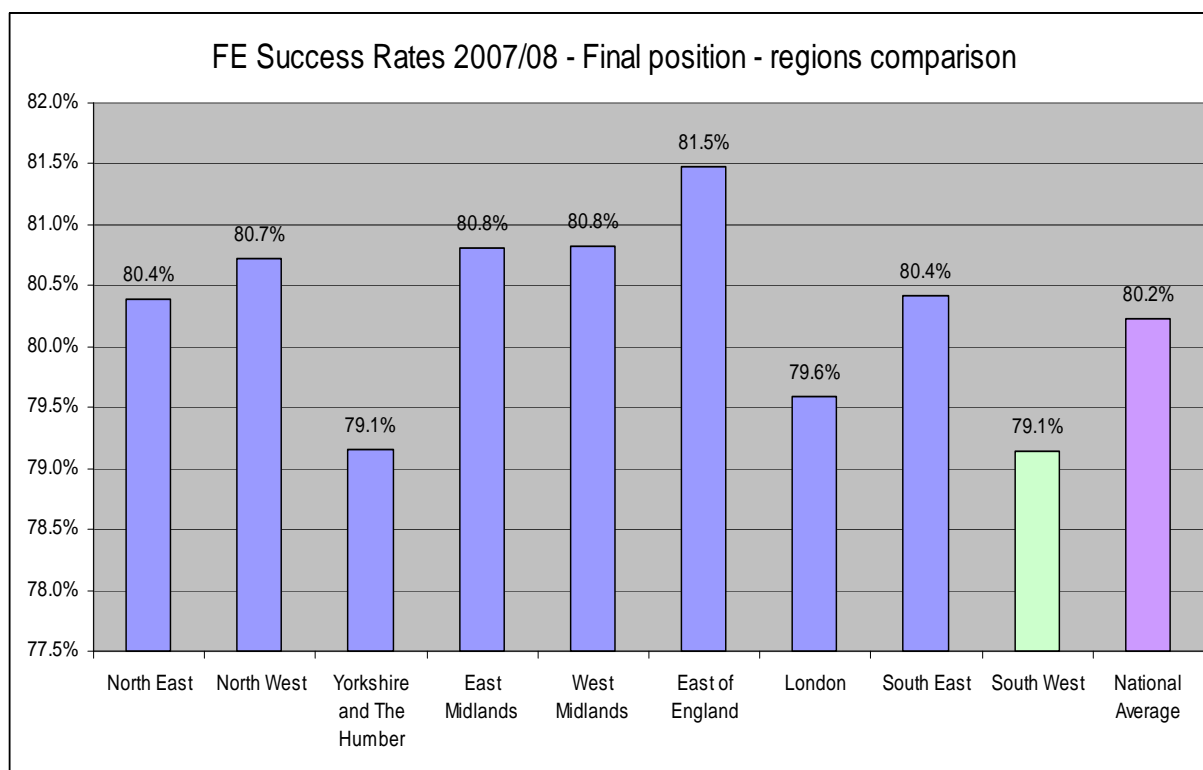


**Commentary:**

For adults the region ranks 7/9, 0.1% below the national average. The majority of the regions are clustering around 65%. The last three years has seen an increase in rate from 49.8% to 64.5%.

**PSA Goal: An FE learner success rate exceeding 80% in 2010/11, while also continuing to drive improvements in success rates of key priority areas, including functional literacy and numeracy, full Level 2 and full Level 3 qualifications.**

### Chart 9: Overall FE Success Rates - Regions

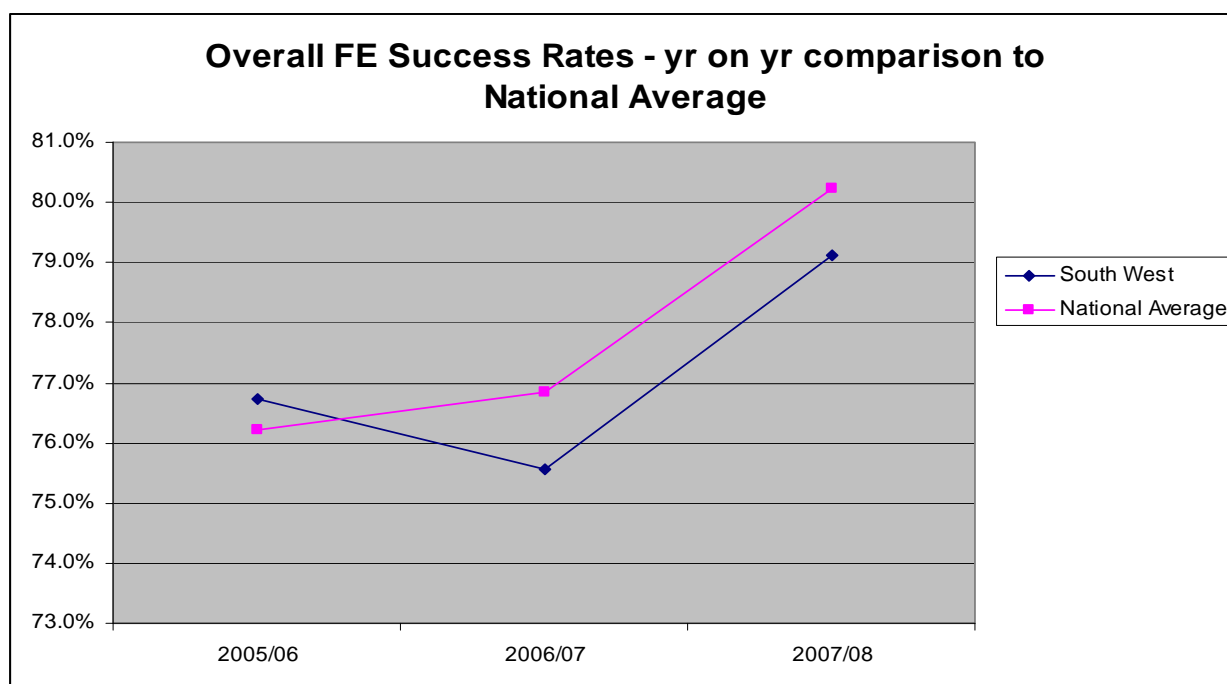


(Source: Corporate Reports F05 2007/08 final position)

#### Commentary

Overall FE Success Rates have shown an upward turn from 2006/07 to stand at 79.1%. The 'old' PSA target was met (79.1% vs. target of 76%) and we are 0.9% short of 2010/11 goal of 80%. Whilst the region success rate is one of the poorest, the extent of the increase from 2006/07 was 3<sup>rd</sup> highest – 3.6% (when compared to the other regions).

**Chart 10: Overall FE Success Rates – SW vs. National Average**



(Source: Regional Reports - final F05 position 2007/08)

**Commentary**

A sharp increase from 06/07 in both regional and national averages from 2006/07. The SW 'dip' in 2006/07 has required significant attention – mainly FE colleges – to tackle factors associated with success rates including: initial guidance, curriculum and qualification offers; and focus on improving retention.

**Table 11: FE 19+ success rates percentages by age and region – trend data**

Age	OVERALL		2005/06	2006/07 F05	2007/08 final F05	% increase from last year
	Region Name	Area Name	Success Rate (%)	Success Rate (%) F05	Success Rate (%) F05	
19+	<b>South West Average</b>		<b>77.9%</b>	<b>74.6%</b>	<b>78.9%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
	South West	Devon and Cornwall	78.6%	74.4%	80.2%	5.8%
		Dorset and Somerset	77.5%	77.0%	78.8%	1.8%
		West of England	77.2%	73.7%	77.9%	4.3%
		Wiltshire and Glos	78.4%	75.0%	77.6%	2.6%

**Commentary:**

National 19+ 2007/08 FE success rates = 80.5% (up from 76.5% in 06/07); SW region = 78.9% (up from 74.6%) - increase of 4.2%. Rates have either returned to or exceeded 05/06 positions. Extent of increase biggest in D&C (5.8%)

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