

**Progress Monitoring Report
on the delivery of
SW Regional Skills Partnership Priorities**

Report to

South West RSP

Produced by Crews Associates on behalf of SLIM

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1 Introduction

1.1 Context

At the request of the RSP Board, SLIM has developed a Performance Monitoring Framework, containing a range of indicators that can be used to assess progress in the delivery of RSP's priorities.

This report provides information on the region's progress against these indicators, presenting data for the selected indicators that has been released in the last three months.

This report has been developed for the consideration of the SW RSP Performance Monitoring Group (PMG) in the first instance. The PMG is invited to interpret the data and to consider whether there are any important messages arise from the data that should be communicated to Regional Skills Partnership Board.

2 Leadership & Management Skills

2.4 Proportion of Managers & those with Supervisory Responsibilities who have undertaken work-related training in the last 13 weeks

The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) in recent years has provided evidence of the need for managers in the South West (and across England as a whole) to improve their skills. It is therefore important to monitor the extent to which managers are undertaking training to improve skill levels.

Table 4 shows that employees with managerial responsibility in all regions are more likely to have received training in the last 13 weeks compared to all employees. The South West has the fourth lowest proportion of managers (34.4%) who have received training, equal to the national average.

Table 4: Percentage of employees who have received job-related training in the last 13 weeks, by region, 2007

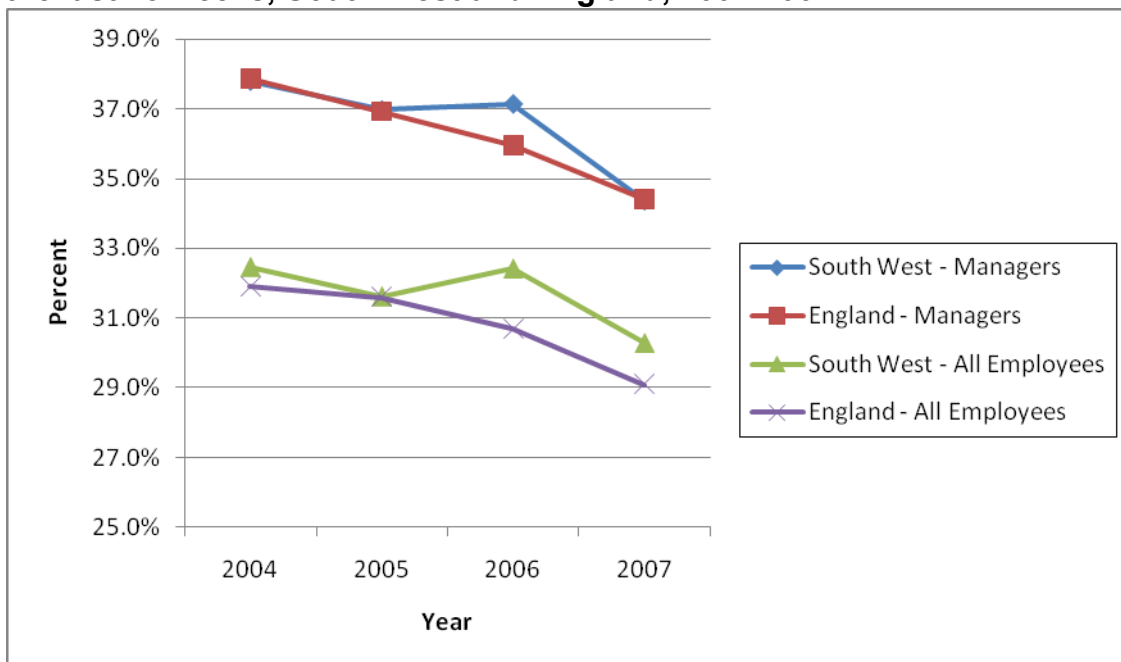
Region	Employees with management responsibility (%)	All employees (%)
North East	40.8	33.7
North West	34.6	28.1
Merseyside	37.3	30.0
Yorkshire & Humberside	35.0	28.3
East Midlands	35.3	28.8
West Midlands	36.3	29.5
Eastern	31.7	26.6
London	32.7	29.3
South East	33.8	29.3
South West	34.4	30.3

England	34.4	29.1
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Source: Annual Population Survey

Over recent years, Figure 2 suggests that the proportion of managers who have received training in the last 13 weeks has been consistently falling, albeit at a slow rate.

Figure 2: Percentage of employees who have received job-related training in the last 13 weeks, South West and England, 2004-2007



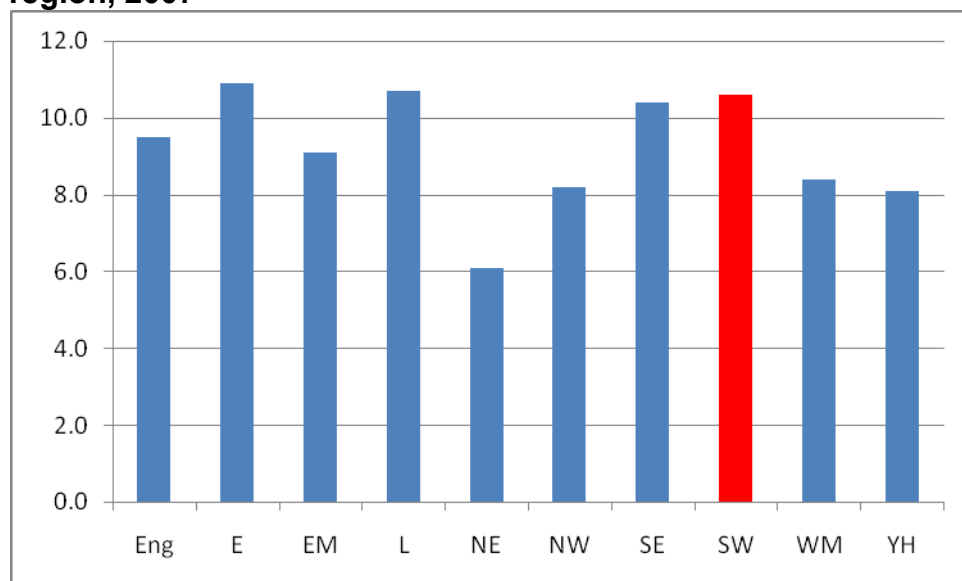
Source: Annual Population Survey

3 Enterprise Skills

3.3 Levels of self-employment

The best measure of overall levels of self-employment is from the Annual Population Survey. In 2007, there were an estimated 336,300 self-employed people in the South West, accounting for 11% of the working age population. This is higher than the national average of 9.5%, and is (albeit marginally) the highest percentage of any English region.

Figure 4: Percentage of the working age population who are self-employed, by region, 2007



Source: Annual Population Survey

In recent years, the level of self-employment has not shifted significantly, either regionally or nationally.

3.5 Creativity and Innovation

One key requirement of successful enterprise is the need to be creative and innovative. The annual Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey (HE-BCI) provides data on the so-called 'third stream' of HEI activity i.e. enhancing the contribution of HE to the economy and society. The most useful aspects of the survey for this report focus on the two following topics:

- Number of patent applications made
- Number of spin-off companies from HEIs

Disclosures and patents are simple indicators for much of the exploitation of intellectual property activity carried out by HEIs. The disclosure is the point at which an HEI recognises that research may require protection, licensing is the moment that protected IP is exploited, although there are other options such as the creation of a new company (referred to as a spin-off). Table 8 shows that the number of disclosures has risen significantly in the South West in recent years, from 146 in 2004/05 to 259 in 2006/07. Although the number of patent applications has also increased, the number of patents granted in the most recent survey is much lower than in the previous year. Despite this fall in new patents granted, the size of the portfolio of active patents of South West HEIs has increased slightly.

Table 9 shows the number of spin offs with some HEI ownership. It can be seen that the number of spin-offs established in the South West was the same in 2006/07 as in 2004/05, with a 'spike' of higher activity in 2005/06, resulting in a declining number of active firms. The portfolio of 41 active firms in the region employ an estimated 550 people (full-time equivalents), and have a combined turnover of £36.4 million.

Table 8: Disclosures and patents from HEIs by region, 2004/05 to 2006/07

Area	No. disclosures			No. new patent applications filed in year			No. patents granted in year			Cumulative portfolio of active patents		
	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
NE	174	163	132	58	44	56	7	6	4	238	171	153
NW	524	445	388	75	43	55	41	41	90	327	305	311
YH	293	254	189	139	136	90	38	24	22	597	562	543
EM	163	174	128	107	68	62	12	34	13	380	302	275
WM	255	351	456	84	123	94	28	20	17	450	381	309
E	191	229	220	158	129	132	43	31	31	539	455	133
L	856	561	539	381	316	480	175	123	207	4,036	3,285	2,861
SE	380	350	355	386	319	305	162	79	113	1,167	976	842
SW	259	210	146	146	93	120	28	84	43	328	295	220
England	3,095	2,737	2,553	1,534	1,271	1,394	534	442	540	8,062	6,732	5,647

Source: HEBCI, 2006/07

Table 9: Spin-offs with some HEI ownership by region, 2004/05 to 2006/07

Area	Number established			Number still active which have survived at least 3 years			Number of active firms		
	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
NE	3	3	4	23	19	18	30	30	29
NW	25	21	22	70	43	42	111	118	114
YH	19	14	9	88	78	67	114	106	98
EM	20	3	5	46	39	31	61	52	51
WM	5	22	16	37	42	37	71	75	57
E	3	6	5	46	44	41	61	60	57
L	40	23	19	129	132	118	184	176	163
SE	22	20	15	82	72	54	120	103	93
SW	3	8	3	32	42	38	41	55	54
England	140	120	98	553	511	446	793	775	716

Source: HEBCI, 2006/07

4. Creativity and Innovation Skills

4.1 Key Stage 2 Maths and Science Results at Level 4

At Key Stage 2 in Maths, the South West's performance has exactly mirrored that for England as a whole. Provisional data for 2008 shows that 78% of pupils achieved level 4 or above, up from 74% in 2007 – all English regions experienced a similar level of increase between 2007 and 2008. This is some way below the old PSA target, which had set a target of 85% of pupils to achieve level 4 by 2006. The current PSA target is for 78% of young people to achieve level 4 in both English AND Maths by 2011.

Within the region, in recent years Bristol has stood out as the local authority that is lagging way behind the rest of the region. However, in 2008, the proportion achieving level 4 had risen significantly to 73% (up from 66% in 2007), the same level as Poole (see Table 10).

Table 10: Percentage of Pupils achieving Level 4 or above in Maths and Science at Key Stage 2, South West, 2008

Local Authority	Maths	Science
Bath and North East Somerset	82	90
Bournemouth	76	86
Bristol, City of	73	82
Cornwall	78	89
Devon	79	89
Dorset	80	91
Gloucestershire	81	90
Isles of Scilly	91	96
North Somerset	81	91
Plymouth	79	89
Poole	73	86
Somerset	77	88
South Gloucestershire	81	88
Swindon	80	84
Torbay	76	85
Wiltshire	78	88
South West	78	88
ENGLAND (LEA maintained only)	78	88

Source: DCSF (Note: 2008 data is provisional)

In Science, achievement of level 4 is significantly higher than in Maths, with 88% of pupils reaching this level in 2007 (down slightly from 89% the previous year), the same as nationally.

Unfortunately, Bristol stands out as performing significantly below the regional average, with 82% of pupils achieving level 4 in 2008, up slightly from 81% in 2007.

5 Higher Level Skills

5.1 Participation in higher education

Increasing participation in HE is one of the Government's PSA targets. Unfortunately, data from the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is only available at the national level, so in order to measure participation in the South West we can use two measures. On the one hand participation of the region's population in HE (regardless of where they actually study) is important as it reflects the efforts of public sector bodies to encourage individuals (particularly young people) to remain in education progress to higher skills levels. On the other hand, it is also helpful to measure participation at the region's HEIs, which can reflect their attractiveness to students and the quality of the provision they offer.

South West domiciled students

Table 21 shows that there were over 153,000 students from the South West in HE in 2006/07, around 4% higher than in 2002/03. Growth has been stronger at Postgraduate level rather than undergraduate, and also in full-time study rather than part-time. However, there has been a slight fall in overall participation in the last year, caused by lower numbers of part-time undergraduates.

Table 21: Participation in HE by South West domiciled students, by mode and level of study, 2002/03 – 2006/07

Year	Full-time	Part-time	Postgraduate	Undergraduate	Total
2002/03	85,620	61,320	27,855	119,085	146,940
2003/04	86,655	63,830	29,385	121,100	150,485
2004/05	88,250	63,380	30,585	121,045	151,630
2005/06	90,485	63,650	30,475	123,660	154,135
2006/07	91,125	62,090	30,925	122,290	153,215
Change	5,505	770	3,070	3,205	6,275
% change	6.4%	1.3%	11.0%	2.7%	4.3%

Source: HESA

By region of study

Table 22 shows that there were nearly 137,000 students at South West HEIs in 2006/07, nearly 9% higher than in 2002/03 and with consistent year on year growth in this time. Growth has been slightly stronger at Postgraduate level rather than undergraduate, and also in full-time study rather than part-time.

Table 22: Participation at South West HEIs (total UK students), by mode and level of study, 2002/03 – 2006/07

Year	Full-time	Part-time	Postgraduate	Undergraduate	Total
2002/03	82,715	43,140	24,965	100,890	125,855
2003/04	86,465	45,425	26,105	105,785	131,890
2004/05	87,180	45,110	27,520	104,770	132,290
2005/06	90,500	45,205	27,260	108,445	135,705
2006/07	91,595	45,345	28,170	108,770	136,940
Change	8,880	2,205	3,205	7,880	11,085
% change	10.7%	5.1%	12.8%	7.8%	8.8%

Source: HESA

These two tables show that the expansion of HE provision in the region is growing faster than participation by students from within the South West, suggesting that an increasing proportion of those studying in the South West are originally from outside the region.

However, this strong growth has not been across all institutions. Table 23 shows that while there has been strong growth at Bath Spa and the arts institutions, three universities have seen a recent dip in their student numbers, namely:

- College of St Mark and St John (student numbers down by 28%)
- University of Gloucestershire (down by 10%)
- University of Bath (down by 7%)

Table 23: Student Numbers by South West HEIs, 2002/03 – 2006/07

HEI	2002/03	2006/07	Change	% change
Bath Spa University	4,510	6,895	2,385	52.9%
The University of Bath	11,200	10,385	-815	-7.3%
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	1,105	1,665	560	50.7%
Bournemouth University	13,360	15,785	2,425	18.2%
The University of Bristol	19,030	18,870	-160	-0.8%
Dartington College of Arts	425	615	190	44.7%
The University of Exeter	11,595	12,935	1,340	11.6%
University College Falmouth	1,550	2,100	550	35.5%
University of Gloucestershire	8,815	7,915	-900	-10.2%
The University of Plymouth	25,320	28,565	3,245	12.8%
Royal Agricultural College	595	760	165	27.7%
College of St Mark and St John	4,625	3,310	-1,315	-28.4%
University of the West of England, Bristol	23,725	27,140	3,415	14.4%
Total	125,855	136,940	11,085	8.8%

Source: HESA

5.2 Foundation Degrees - Participation

Since their introduction, there has been massive growth in the take-up of foundation degrees. There were nearly 5,700 student starting foundation degrees in the South West 2007/08, nearly 20 times as many as in 2001/02 (Table 23). However, 2007/08

was the first year which shows signs of this strong growth slowing down, although there was still strong growth in the number of full-time foundation degree starters.

Table 23: Foundation Degree Entrants, South West, 2001/02 – 2007/08

Year	Full-time	Part-time	Total
2001-02	300	15	315
2002-03	865	255	1,120
2003-04	1,745	720	2,460
2004-05	2,370	750	3,120
2005-06	3,125	795	3,925
2006-07	3,705	1,905	5,615
2007-08	4,535	1,145	5,680

Source: HEFCE

Note: FD figures are drawn from two different data sources, one is based on an aggregate return provided half way through the academic year (the figures above) and one is based on the return of individualised records after the academic year has ended.

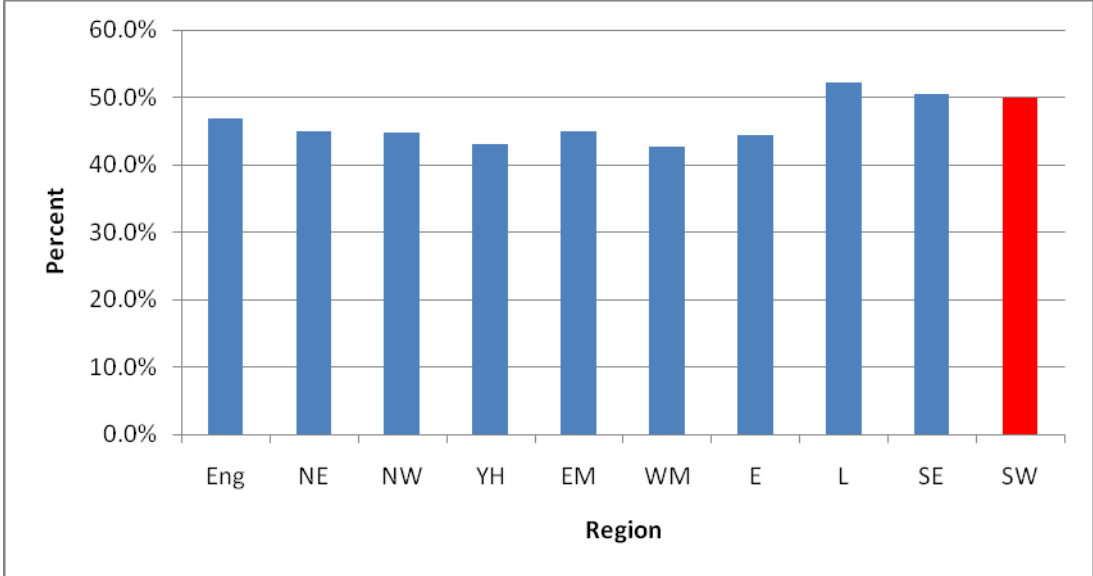
The main government target relating to foundation degrees is to have 100,000 students on foundation degrees by 2010/11. The total number of foundation degree students in 2006/07 in England was just over 59,000, of which 9,000 were in the South West. There has been strong growth both regionally and nationally over the last year, with the number of students increasing by 42% and 35% respectively.

Following conversations with Foundation Degree Forward, it has become clear that the number of foundation degree achievements isn't a particularly accurate measure of positive outcomes, as many foundation degree students progress onto Honours degrees. Although this a positive outcome, this is not picked up in achievement data, as the students progressing do not actually finish with a foundation degree qualification but an Honours degree.

5.3 Proportion of working age population qualified to Level 3 and Level 4

The proportion of the workforce qualified to levels 3, 4 and above is perhaps the best indicator of the availability of higher level skills in the region (see note below). Looking first at level 3, Figure 12 shows that 50% of the working age population were qualified to level 3 or above in 2007, the third highest scoring English region behind London and the South East.

Figure 12: Percentage of the working age population qualified to level 3 or above, by region, 2007



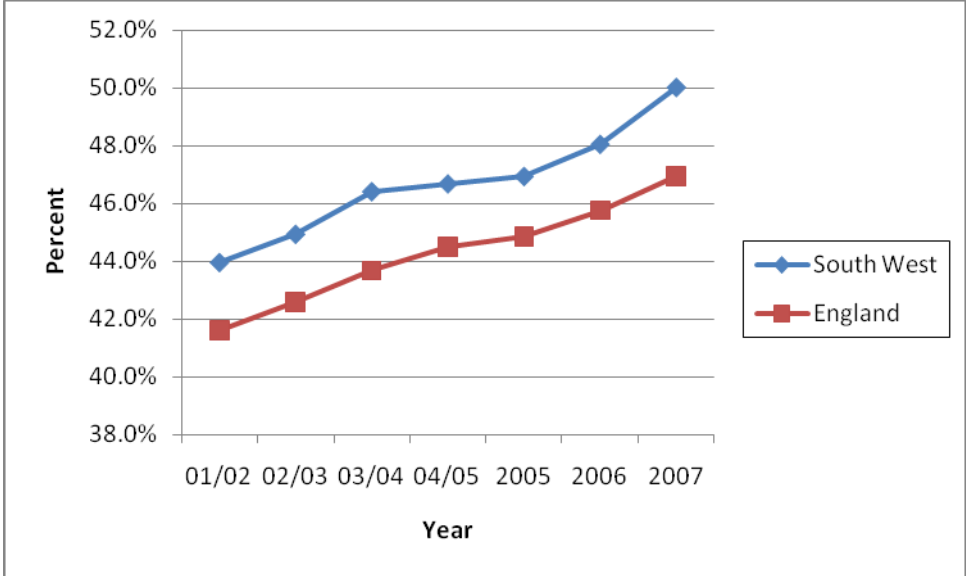
Source: Annual Population Survey

Over time, Figure 13 shows that the proportion qualified to level 3 and above has increased (from 44% in 2001/02), and that the South West has maintained its position approximately two percentage points higher than the national average.

Note:
 Although qualification levels are the best proxy for workforce skills, the majority of people qualified to level 3 will have reached that level via the academic route i.e. A Levels. These academic qualifications may be of less value to employers than vocational qualifications at the same level, which may lead to a slight distortion of the true picture of skills in the workforce.

SLIM is currently in discussions with the LSC to look at options for presenting data on the achievement of vocational qualifications.

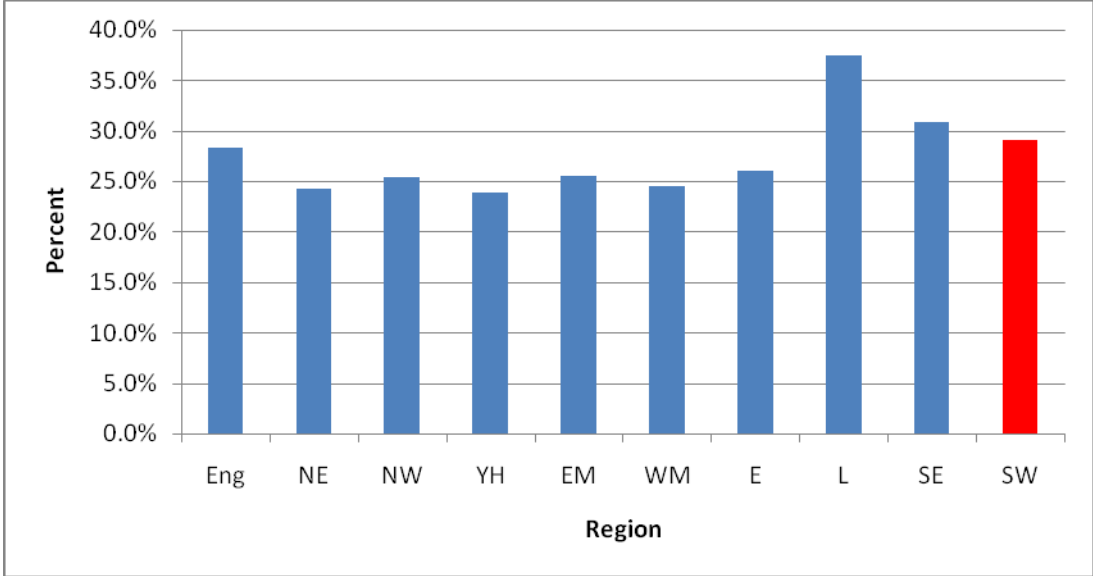
Figure 13: Percentage of the working age population qualified to level 3 or above, SW and England, 2001/02 - 2007



Source: Annual Population Survey

Moving on to level 4, Figure 14 shows that – as with level 3 - the South West has the third highest proportion of the working age population were qualified to level 4 or above in 2007 (29.1%). However, because of the concentration of people qualified at level 4 or above that live in the South East and particularly London, the South West figure is only marginally above the national average.

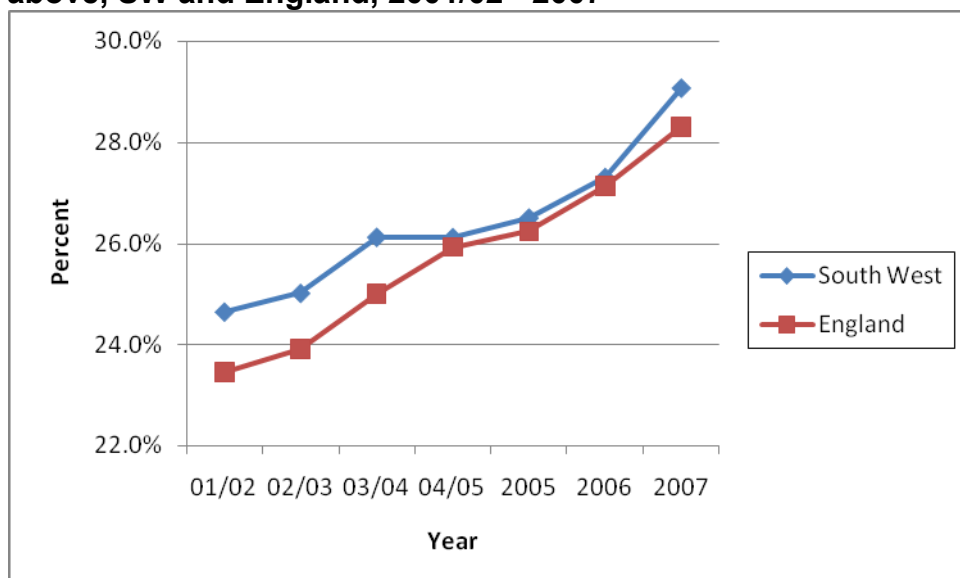
Figure 14: Percentage of the working age population qualified to level 4 or above, by region, 2007



Source: Annual Population Survey

Since 2001/02 Figure 15 shows that the proportion qualified to level 4 and above in the South West has risen from 24.6% to 29.1% in 2007. However, the gap between the region and the national average has closed as other regions have increased their ‘stock’ of level 4 qualifications at a faster rate than in the South West.

Figure 15: Percentage of the working age population qualified to level 4 or above, SW and England, 2001/02 - 2007



Source: Annual Population Survey

It is also at level 4 that some interesting variations appear across different areas of the region. Table 25 shows that qualifications at level 4 and above are more heavily concentrated in the northern and eastern areas of the region, and are significantly lower in the south and west. This trend is most clearly seen when considering the 36.5% in Bristol, compared against just 22% in Plymouth.

Table 25: Percentage of the working age population qualified to level 4 or above, by local authority, 2007

LEA	Number (000s)	%
Bath And North East Somerset	37	33.8%
Bournemouth	27	27.7%
Bristol	102	36.5%
Cornwall	84	27.2%
Devon	124	29.1%
Dorset	67	30.5%
Gloucestershire	118	33.8%
North Somerset	38	32.1%
Plymouth	35	22.0%
Poole	19	24.6%
Somerset	78	26.1%
South Gloucestershire	40	25.4%
Swindon	28	23.5%
Torbay	17	22.1%
Wiltshire	75	28.7%
South West	889	29.1%
England	8,914	28.3%

Source: Annual Population Survey

6 Sub-Priorities

6.4 Young people's participation in education

Table 32 shows that the participation of young people aged 16 and 17 in education and work-based learning (WBL) is – at 81% - comparable to most other English regions, which all lag some way behind London (89%). The proportion of young people in full-time education is relatively high compared to the midlands and northern regions, while participation in WBL is lower than northern regions but higher than in London and the South East.

Table 32: Participation in education and WBL of 16 & 17 year olds by region, 2006 (%)

Region	Full-time education	WBL	Part-time education	Total Education and WBL
North East	66	11	5	82
North West	69	9	4	81
Yorkshire and the Humber	65	9	5	79
East Midlands	67	7	4	79
West Midlands	70	7	5	82
East of England	72	5	4	82
Greater London	82	3	4	89
South East	75	5	3	83
South West	71	7	4	81
England	72	7	4	82

Source: DfES

The South West's recent lack of progress on this measure should be of some concern. Table 33 shows that the South West's levels of overall participation and in full-time education has barely moved at all between 2002 and 2006, which has seen the gap between regional and national performance diminish in this time. However, full-time participation in the region has increased slightly in 2005 and 2006.

Table 33: Participation in education and WBL of 16 & 17 year olds, SW and England, 2002-2005 (%)

Region	Participation in...	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
South West	Full-time education	68	68	68	70	71
	Total	81	81	81	82	81
England	Full-time education	65	66	67	69	72
	Total	79	79	80	81	82

Source: DfES