Department for Education

Social Mobility

West Somerset

Opportunity Area 2017-20

A local plan to deliver opportunities for children and young people in West Somerset

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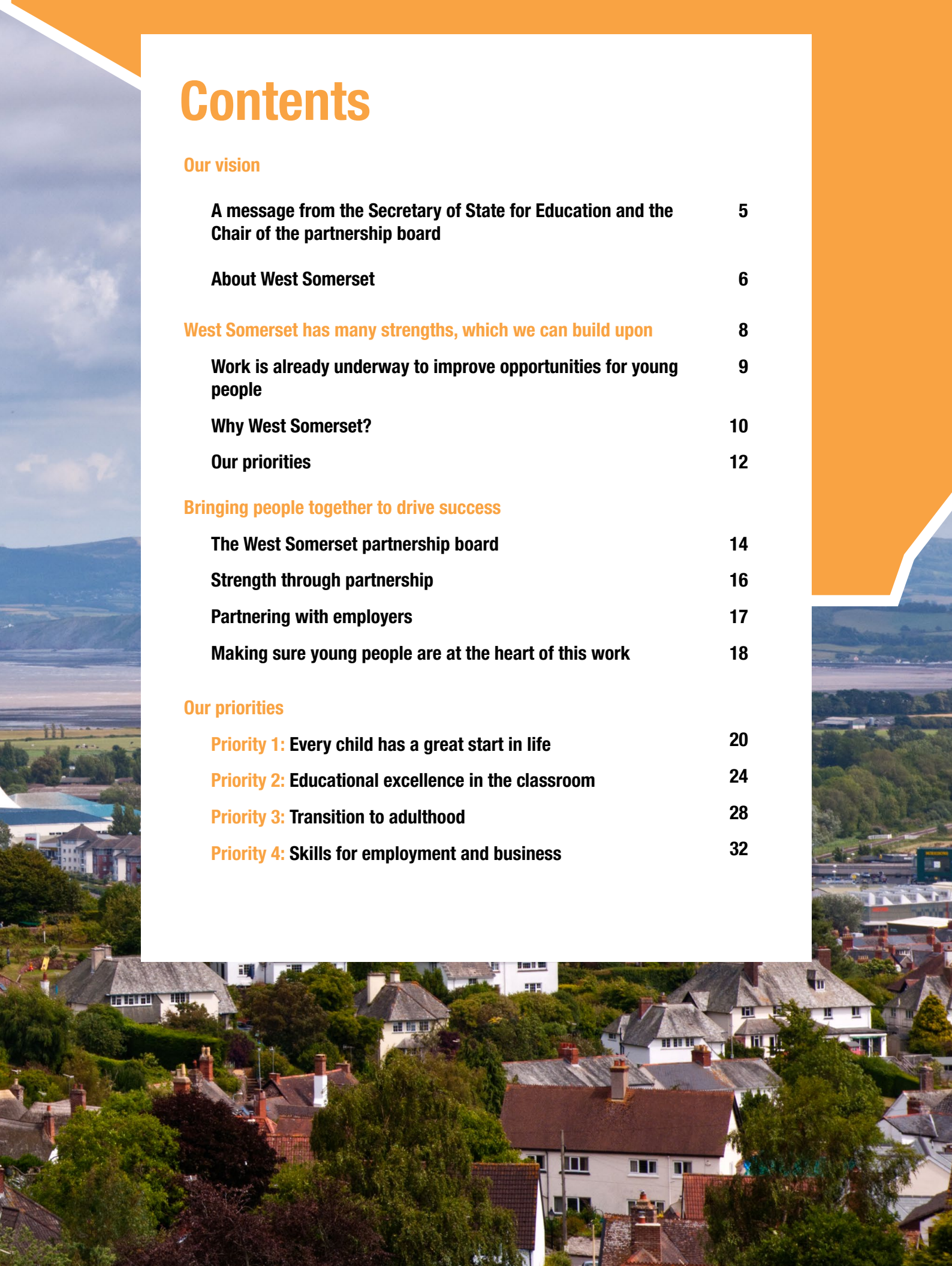

OUR VISION

A message from the Secretary of State for Education and the Chair of the partnership board

I am determined to level up opportunity across this country so that all young people get every chance to go as far as their talents and drive will take them. Education, at every stage of life, is at the heart of that ambition, and is central to breaking down the barriers to social mobility that face too many young people in West Somerset.

I want to see more disadvantaged young people attending the very best universities, winning places on apprenticeships, entering top professions, and progressing through the most rewarding careers.

When I visited West Somerset, I witnessed first-hand the passion and commitment of its leaders. I was also very struck by the ambitions and determination of the young people I met at West Somerset College. I am delighted that we are working with those leaders to help local children get the best start in life, no matter what their background. We will focus not just on what we can do to help inside schools, but also to create the opportunities outside school that will raise sights and broaden horizons for young people. I look forward to seeing this work progress and make a real difference for children and young people in West Somerset.

Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities

I am delighted to have been asked to chair the West Somerset Opportunity Area partnership board. Our vision is to create a culture where all children in West Somerset have the best opportunities to learn, achieve and gain worthwhile and progressive employment. We want to change attitudes to learning within families, achieve a shift in how education is viewed in the area and to create enduring bonds between business, enterprise and education.

We know that by truly working together with local and national stakeholders who share our vision, we can make a difference over the next three years. This plan, endorsed by the Secretary of State, will deliver a significant and lasting impact across four priorities between now and 2021.

Whether you are a young person, parent or education professional in West Somerset, please do get in touch and tell us your thoughts about this plan, and ideas about how we can increase opportunity through education, for young people in West Somerset.

Dr. Fiona McMillan OBE.
Independent Chair of West Somerset Opportunity Area partnership board

GET IN TOUCH

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@WestSomersetOA

About West Somerset

- West Somerset is quite different from the other Opportunity Areas. It is a very small, rural and coastal area in south west England, with the lowest population density of all local authority districts in England. Fewer than 35,000 people live in West Somerset, with an average age of 54 and a very small school age population.
- The local authority district covers three areas of natural beauty. Exmoor National Park, the Quantock Hills and the Brendon Hills are situated in West Somerset. The area is popular with tourists.
- Many children and young people enjoy life in West Somerset; the countryside and coast, low levels of crime and close-knit communities. West Somerset is expected to benefit from the current development of the Hinkley Point C power station which is expected to create around 25,000 job opportunities for the local and wider regional area during its ten years of construction and around 900 jobs throughout 60 years of operation.
- The predominant employment sectors in West Somerset are accommodation and food services, agriculture, health and care services, retail and leisure. 92% of businesses are very small, employing up to nine employees. The employment rate is higher in West Somerset than the national average but wages are low. Part-time and seasonal working are common and whilst they provide entry level opportunities for many young people, they often offer less in the way of career opportunities. Nonetheless there are hi-tech businesses in West Somerset that are providing new opportunities in the economy but often have difficulty recruiting skilled staff.
- Across the district, only eighteen schools deliver education for children and young people aged five to eighteen years in a three tier education system. Primary and middle schools feed into the one upper school within the district, which also has a sixth form. The rural location of schools and the dispersed population create challenges for young people when accessing education and opportunities. Many young people leave the area after full-time education to access further education and then take up employment opportunities elsewhere.
- The small population also means hard working professionals in the area often have to wear “many hats”. Whilst this is a strength, it affects the capacity of the area to improve outcomes for children and young people. In addition, transport links across the area are limited. This affects the mobility of both young people and professionals and makes it harder for professionals in the district to access expertise from outside the area.

WEST SOMERSET HAS MANY STRENGTHS, WHICH WE CAN BUILD UPON

West Somerset has many strengths, which we can build upon

Work already underway

- **All West Somerset schools are rated as good or outstanding**, with the exception of only one school, which is now making good progress under new leadership.
- **At secondary level, pupils achieve GCSE results which are very close to the Somerset and the national averages.** This shows significant improvement at the district's single upper secondary school and this much stronger foundation will help the school to achieve more with young people.
- **Young people have access to an Ofsted rated good sixth form at West Somerset College** in Minehead and two outstanding colleges outside of the district and some distance from the area.
- **Several hundred young people and adults already participate in the apprenticeship programme (there were 330 apprenticeship starts in 2015 to 2016),** which provides them with vocational qualifications achieved in the workplace and part of a skills and learning pathway.
- **Many employers, including many small enterprises, are providing valuable support: EDF Energy, one of the country's big six energy firms, deliver educational programmes in the area to support West Somerset's young people.** They have pledged to support children and young people to improve their skills and access to high quality work experiences. Employer engagement will involve the many well established businesses that are important to West Somerset in a strong and well-networked community.
- **Employment Hubs** are already providing opportunities for people to benefit from jobs in the area, including support with job applications and interview preparation. This is complemented by 'Positive People', a programme that is helping adults to overcome different forms of challenges including debt management and health problems.

Work is already underway to improve opportunities for young people

Strengths and opportunities

Over the past year, we have built a strong partnership and started working to improve opportunities in West Somerset. Given the rurality and the small number of schools, it is vital that we do not overwhelm a small number of thinly stretched professionals. Instead we have been identifying how best to build capacity in the very specific context of West Somerset. Actions taken so far include:

- We are using the West Somerset Early Years Quality Hub and the Getset Network as our foundation for developing early years practice and engaging parents from an early stage in children's lives. The hub supports staff who work in nurseries or as childminders, and encourages closer working between midwifery and health visiting. The Getset Network provides services for children and families, working to improve support for our communities.
- A new head and leadership team are taking robust action to raise standards from Ofsted category requires improvement in Danesfield School, aligning it with standards in other schools in the region. Now we need to ensure more children and young people make great progress and achieve their potential by providing outstanding education for all.
- EDF Energy, one of the 'big six' energy companies, has pledged support to children and young people in West Somerset. £1.6 million has been invested in West Somerset Community College in the Hinkley Ready and Enterprise projects enabling local people to fully benefit from the opportunities that the Hinkley Point C project can provide.
- There are Enterprise Advisers for all the middle and upper schools in West Somerset, to help all young people secure at least four high quality encounters with the world of work.
- A phonics roadshow is taking place this term – giving all first schools in West Somerset the chance to access expert advice on improving phonics practice.
- Funding has been secured for a Hospitality and Tourism Academy, West Coast 360, that will nurture talent and skills in the workforce working with primary age children through to adults already in the workforce.

Why West Somerset?

324th out of 324 – West Somerset's ranking in the Social Mobility Index*. The Index compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job in areas across the country.

Despite West Somerset's many assets, it has challenges that must be addressed. West Somerset is the lowest ranking district in the whole country in the Social Mobility Index (January 2016), a measure that compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job.

Not enough children achieve the same level of attainment at school as in Somerset or nationally, as illustrated in the graphs on page 11. There are signs, however, that West Somerset is starting to narrow the gap for the next generation. Achievement of all pupils and of disadvantaged pupils at the end of key stage 4 is in line with the national average but too few young people then progress to higher education and good careers.

West Somerset's position at the bottom of the index is largely due to economic factors. Median gross weekly pay is less than in Somerset or England whilst house prices are relatively expensive. The new generator at Hinkley Point, however, will bring significant new jobs to the area, many of them high skilled.

A core purpose of the Opportunity Area programme is to develop young people who have the skills and aspiration to access more highly skilled jobs in the area. This starts by getting children ready when they start school and providing learning experiences that give them the right skills to succeed in education.

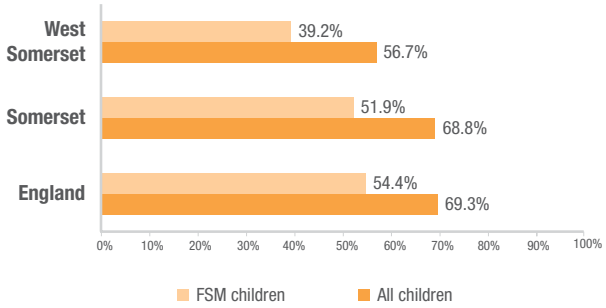
Our ambition is to enable children and young people to be perfectly placed to take advantage of the growing employment opportunities. The characteristics of the area means we will need to take a tailored approach – but the level of ambition is clear and we will work with local partners to deliver an approach that works for West Somerset.

*Within this plan, the 'disadvantaged' group varies depending on the DfE data source. However, they all include the number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals at any point in the previous six years. For further details about the specific definition of 'disadvantage' for each DfE data source, see the "Education statistics by local authority, district and pupil disadvantage" release found on the DfE Statistics page."

*https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-mobility-index

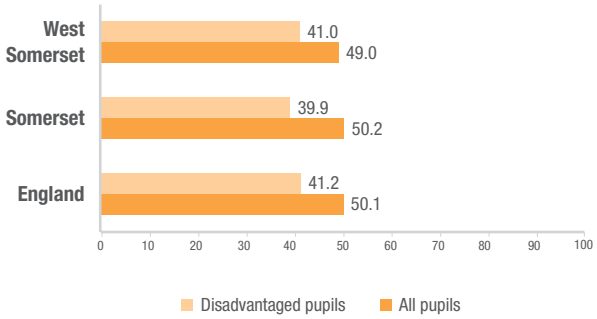
Why West Somerset?

Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (2016)



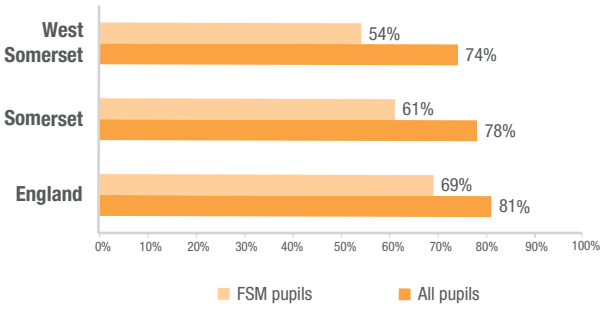
Source: National Pupil Database

Average Attainment 8 scores of pupils at the end of key stage 4 (2016)



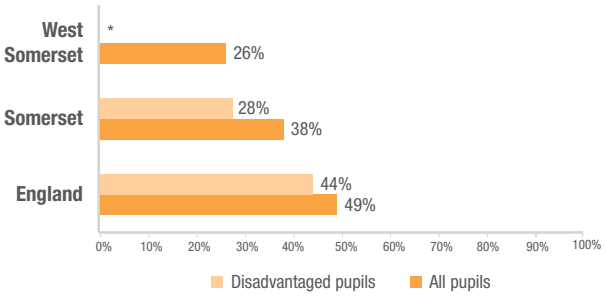
Source: Revised KS4 attainment data

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in phonics at the end of year one (2016)



Source: National Pupil Database

Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 5 in 2014 who went to a UK Higher Education institution in 2015

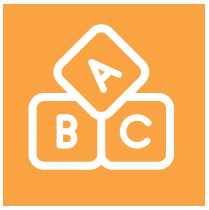


Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset

*Note: the figure for Disadvantaged pupils in West Somerset has been suppressed due to small numbers.

Our priorities

Working with the partnership board, we have established four initial priorities for the West Somerset Opportunity Area. We will review these priorities for 2018/19.



Priority 1: Every child has a great start in life

Children in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start, with the proportion achieving a good level of development rising to above the current national average.

Priority 2: Educational excellence in the classroom

Every pupil in West Somerset will make strong progress in school and ensure that attainment of disadvantaged pupils in particular is in the top half of performance in England.

Priority 3: Transition to adulthood

Every young person in West Somerset will be inspired to achieve the best possible education outcomes after the age of sixteen. We will prioritise the access of disadvantaged young people into higher education and high level technical routes at the same rate as in the top half of England.

Priority 4: Skills for employment and business

Every young person in West Somerset should be equipped to succeed in the world of work. This is why we will ensure that every school pupil in West Somerset gets four excellent experiences of work and will invest in adult skills.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO DRIVE SUCCESS

The West Somerset partnership board – Driving success in West Somerset

The West Somerset partnership board is formed on one premise: to improve the lives of West Somerset's young people. We have brought together dedicated and inspirational senior leaders from local schools including senior leadership at West Somerset Academy Trust, Bridgwater Academy Trust and the Moorland Federation, businesses such as EDF Energy and Channel Group, and local public sector leads at Somerset County Council and West Somerset District Council, all of whom have extensive experience, local insight and above all passion for the area to make this plan a success. Through careful collaboration, we have formed a partnership, drawing together the information and insight needed to identify barriers to opportunity and shape this plan for action. Partners are now driving progress through individual working groups, proposing activity which will make a difference in West Somerset.

The board will meet monthly to oversee progress, working alongside the Department for Education and other national organisations to ensure that the programme is a success.

West Somerset Opportunity Area partnership board membership

Dr Fiona McMillan OBE – Independent Chair

Dr Fiona McMillan is a former English teacher and has taught in schools across London and Dorset. Between 1995 and 2012, she was the principal of Bridgwater College. Under her leadership, the college was judged as outstanding by Ofsted in both 2003 and 2007 and has won numerous awards. Fiona was awarded an OBE in 2003 for her service to further education.

Fiona retired in 2012 and since then, has been appointed a non-executive director of EDF Energy's New Build Generating Company. More recently, (since 2016), she has been chairing Somerset County Council's Employment and Skills Steering Group, and is a member of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership board (LEP). She brings extensive experience as an educational leader and played a critical role in the early West Somerset Opportunity Areas stakeholder events.

Partnership board members

- **Alison Bell:** Public Health Somerset
- **Andy Berry:** Bridgwater and Taunton College
- **Chris Garcia:** Heart of the South West LEP
- **Corinne Matthews:** West Somerset Economic Development
- **Frances Nicholson:** Somerset County Council
- **Jim Whittaker:** Channel Group
- **Julian Wooster:** Somerset County Council
- **Mandy Chilcott:** West Somerset District Council
- **Marcus Capel:** Cutcombe and Timberscombe first schools
- **Mel Roberts:** Somerset County Council
- **Naomi Griffith:** Onion Collective Community Development
- **Paul Rushforth:** West Somerset Academy Trust
- **Peter Elliott:** Bridgwater College Academy Trust
- **Tom Thayer:** EDF Energy

The meetings are also attended by the Regional Schools Commissioner and by the Department for Education's Head of Delivery for the West Somerset Opportunity Area. The Head of Delivery supports and challenges the partnership board to ensure successful delivery.

"I welcome the plan very much indeed and look forward to the difference that we all hope it will make to the young people of West Somerset, and in consequence to the social mobility and sustainability of the whole community of the area."

Frances Nicholson

Strength through partnership

We believe that working together with local partners and drawing on support from national organisations will help ensure this plan is a success in West Somerset, complementing the essential role of local schools.

We are working with **three national partner** organisations who are delivering a comprehensive offer to the area for the benefit of children and young people.

The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) – is a national company which encourages collaboration between employers and schools, helping schools access a wealth of experiences to inspire young people for the world of work. The CEC is developing a network of local and national 'cornerstone' employers who will ensure employers of all sizes and sectors work with schools in West Somerset. This commitment will provide a step change in the ambition and depth of support for young people in West Somerset. We will ensure that all pupils aged eleven to eighteen will experience at least four high impact career encounters with employers enabling them to develop the critical soft skills, attitude and motivation necessary to gain employment, education or training. In West Somerset, we're aiming for nearly 7,000 encounters for more than 1,300 young people which will help them get a much better understanding of the workplace and help their planning for the future.

The National Citizen Service – is a UK Government voluntary personal and social development programme for fifteen to seventeen year olds in England and Northern Ireland. We will work to ensure that more of West Somerset's young people can experience and benefit from this four week programme of development and volunteering, helping young people to develop resilience, self-belief and aspirations for the future. Participation will increase significantly from the current level which is a third of that experienced in other areas. In West Somerset, the National Citizen Service will provide additional co-ordination to increase engagement with pupils and appoint a champion who is an inspirational role model with local links and will encourage others. They are also working with local voluntary organisations, universities and businesses to encourage young people to take part.

Where young people find it harder to engage, the National Citizen Service are developing ways help build confidence to attend more of the programme. Take up to date has been around 5% in West Somerset, which we want to significantly increase and our aim is to ensure every young person who seeks a place on the programme can access one.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) – is an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement. They will support the partnership board and local schools to make the best use of evidence of what is known to work successfully in schools and other education providers. They have designated a Research School*. The Blue School in Wells, and will work with them to help share the most effective practice and to accelerate improvement in teaching and learning for West Somerset's children and young people.

Partnering with employers

Recognising the key role that business leaders play in creating opportunities for young people, the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), supported by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), have developed a network of national and local 'cornerstone employers' who will support young people in West Somerset. The cornerstone employers will form part of a much wider network of businesses who will support the area by strengthening links with schools and providing a range of valuable, evidence based experiences and activities to help young people make the transition from school to work. This matters in West Somerset because it will bring local business and young people in the community together in a way that provides valuable experiences to both and provides a systematic approach to education business partnership.

The CEC is making a **Business Commitment** to young people in West Somerset. All secondary school pupils in West Somerset will have access to at least four high impact career encounters. We will provide business mentors to support those young people most at risk of dropping out from education, employment or training.

In West Somerset, the cornerstone employers include:

- **Butlins** – a significant employer in West Somerset delivering in the important hospitality and tourism sector.
- **EDF Energy** – an international energy company building Hinkley Point C power station in West Somerset.
- **National Health Service** – the largest public sector employer in the UK and biggest provider of health and care services.
- **NatWest Bank** – a national retail bank committed to helping young people in West Somerset.

*The Research Schools Network is a collaboration between the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Institute for Effective Education (IEE) to fund a network of schools which will support the use of evidence to improve teaching practice. www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/our-work/research-schools.

Making sure young people are at the heart of this work

Listening	• We will consult with young people across West Somerset about what we are doing and collect their views on how to make the programme a success, ensuring their voices are central to the programme. We will build on earlier research, commissioned by the Somerset Rural Youth Project, which examined the experiences and expectations of young people living in rural parts of West Somerset. Surveys and focus groups were used to find out the views of young people. We will make sure that feedback represents those children and young people who experience disadvantage.
Representation	• We will seek feedback from young people by working closely with local groups that provide extra-curricular activities outside of education including the Somerset Youth Parliament. In 2016, one the highest priority issues for young voters in the 'make your mark' ballot was 'a curriculum to prepare us for life', which we will take action on as part of the Opportunity Area programme.
Action	• By the end of this year, we will have established a young people's reference group to test their views of opportunities to succeed and impact of specific activities supported by the programme. This will also provide opportunities to input into the design of new interventions.
Ambassadors	• Young people will be ambassadors for the programme. These ambassadors will be 10 to 20 years-old and will be passionate about improving social mobility in their community. They will be selected because they demonstrate a strong commitment and have inspirational stories to tell – stories which bring alive the programme's aims. They will consult with and represent their peers, telling success stories and delivering a communication strategy to engage the wider community.
Research	• We will provide regular information for young people about what the programme is providing for them locally through media that works for young people in West Somerset. We will use on-line 'pulse' surveys to collect information, working closely with schools to ensure we receive maximum participation from local young people. Our national Opportunity Area programme evaluation will also allow us to understand changes in outcomes for young people in West Somerset.

OUR PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Every child has a great start in life

Children in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start, with the proportion achieving a good level of development rising to above the current national average.

Why this is an issue

Just over half the children in West Somerset, compared to almost 70% nationally, achieved a good level of development at the end of reception in 2015/16. Of the approximately 50 children who were eligible for free school meals (FSM), fewer than two in five children achieved this level, compared with over half nationally. Too many children do not achieve the Early Learning Goals in speaking, reading, writing and numbers. This means that when they start school these children need to make a lot more progress to catch up with other pupils and their learning may continue to be delayed later on in their school life.

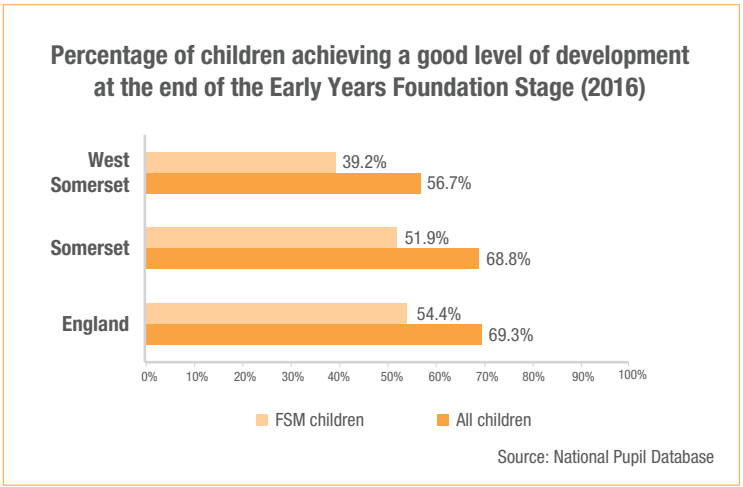
We need to ensure that early years staff can access quality professional development, so they can support the progress of young children and encourage parents to get their children off to a great start in life. Evidence shows that the development of early speech, language and communication skills has a positive impact on learning in later childhood.

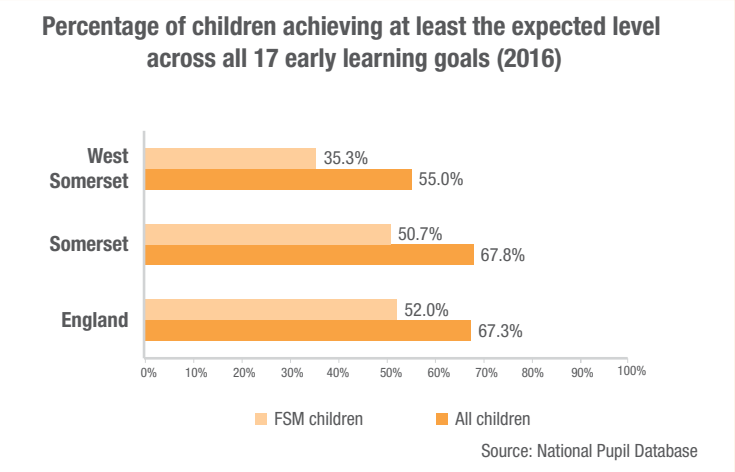
In West Somerset, some children lack access to services such as play facilities that provide engagement with other children and support development more generally. Additionally, a lower percentage of two year olds take up funded nursery places than elsewhere, especially when compared to the rest of Somerset.

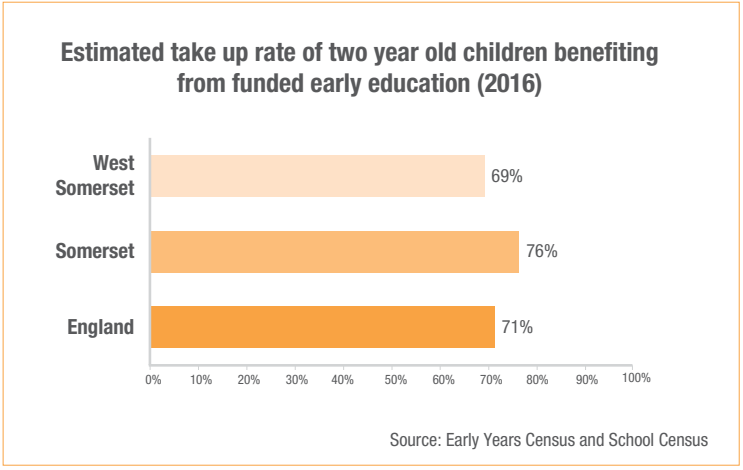
Priority 1: Every child has a great start in life

Children in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start, with the proportion achieving a good level of development rising to above the current national average.

2016 position







What we will do

We will work with local partners to take the following actions:

1. Support the early years workforce to deliver high quality education starting with providing a consistent approach to speech, language and communication development, taking advice from The Communication Trust (TCT) to ensure high expectations in all early years settings. We will use evidence based interventions such as the Talkboost programme – which helps to promote speech and language development. Activity will build on the Early Years Quality Hub in West Somerset.

2. Partners, including early years and health workers, will take part in a trial of evidence-based approaches to improve the home learning environment, by working with parents to improve child cognitive outcomes and expand the existing evidence base. To do this we will use programmes such as Peers Early Educational Partnership (PEEP), which helps parents develop skills to support their children's early learning and social and emotional development.

3. Improve the assessment of children's development in the early years, by education and health professionals. This will enable professionals to put into place swift and effective support when needed.

4. Improve access to, and co-ordination of, children's services for parents of children from birth through to when they start school, by providing opportunities such as Bump Start, a programme which works with disadvantaged young parents and families living in rural areas, and Full of Beans, which promotes physical activity for pre-school children and their families. We will improve the join up between health and education services.

in 2017/18 our activities will include:

- Using TCT expertise to identify speech, language and communication (SLC) needs in more detail, run an evidence seminar for up to 40 professionals and develop an area wide strategy for SLC that is adopted by early years providers and schools.
- Engaging at least 25 early years professionals in relevant continuing professional development such as speech, language and communication programmes for children that need more help.
- Engaging at least 50 parents in a programme of activities that encourage them to help their children using PEEP level three and Talking Tots.
- Enhancing co-ordination of professionals in West Somerset to provide more effective approaches to early childhood development by sharing data such as the twelve month and two year old check to increase uptake by parents at both stages. We will identify where more collaborative action is necessary and signpost to relevant services.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- **Increase the proportion of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the early years foundation stage to at least 70%, so it is above the current national average. This will mean around 40 more children in West Somerset will achieve a good level of development.**
- **Increase take up, so that at least 80% of disadvantaged two year olds access early education, which is well above the current national rate of take up.**

Priority 2: Educational excellence in the classroom

Every child in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start having achieved a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Why this is an issue

As described in priority one, schools tell us that too many children in West Somerset start first school with a limited vocabulary. Too many children do not meet the expected standard at the phonics screening check (a test to identify children's ability to use the phonics skills they have learned up to the end of year one). Less than 75% of children meet the expected standard at the end of year one, compared to 81% nationally.

The picture is similar for maths. West Somerset performs below the Somerset and national averages for the percentage of pupils who reach the expected standard in maths at the end of key stage 1. Only 67% of pupils meet the standard compared with 73% nationally.

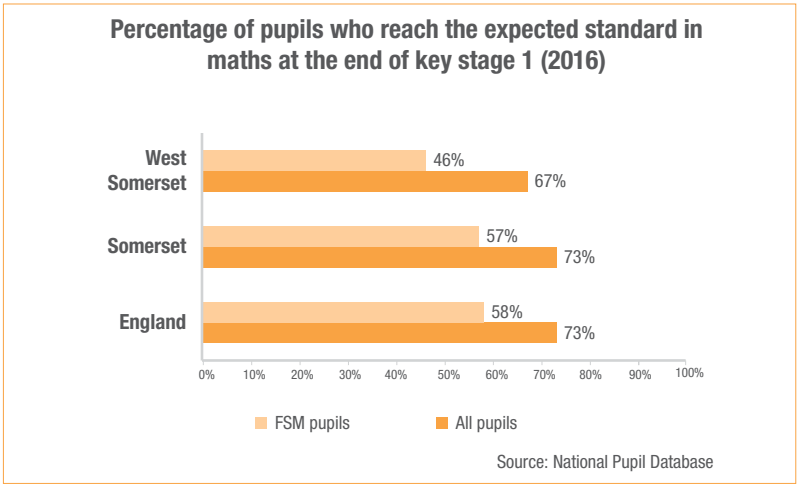
This pattern continues in key stage 2, as West Somerset is below the national average for key stage 2 attainment, for all pupils and for disadvantaged pupils. Nearly half (47%) of all children, compared to 54% nationally, meet the "expected" standard in reading, writing and maths.

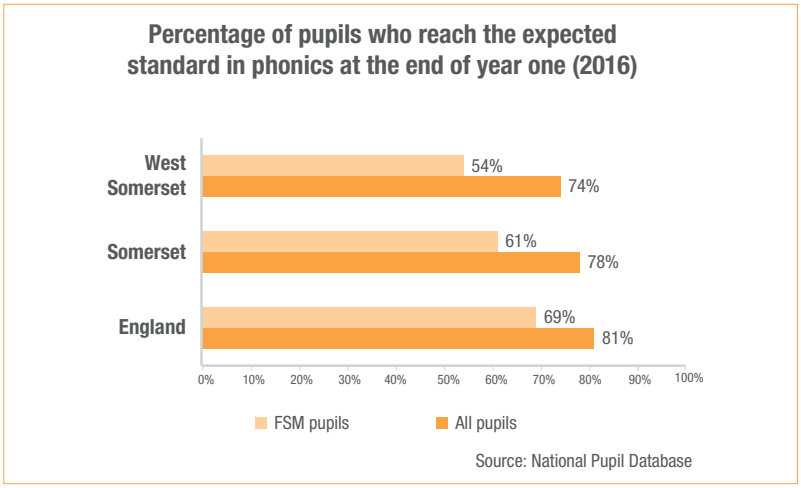
That said, attainment at key stage 4 is improving, and results are much closer to the national average for both English and maths. There is evidence of significant improvement at the area's only secondary school and EBacc entry rates are above average across the region. This is a positive picture but there is more to do to keep this trend on track. At all stages, pupils who have special educational needs, or experience other forms of disadvantage, such as children in care, often do not make the same progress as other students or achieve the same level of attainment and we must make a difference to this group.

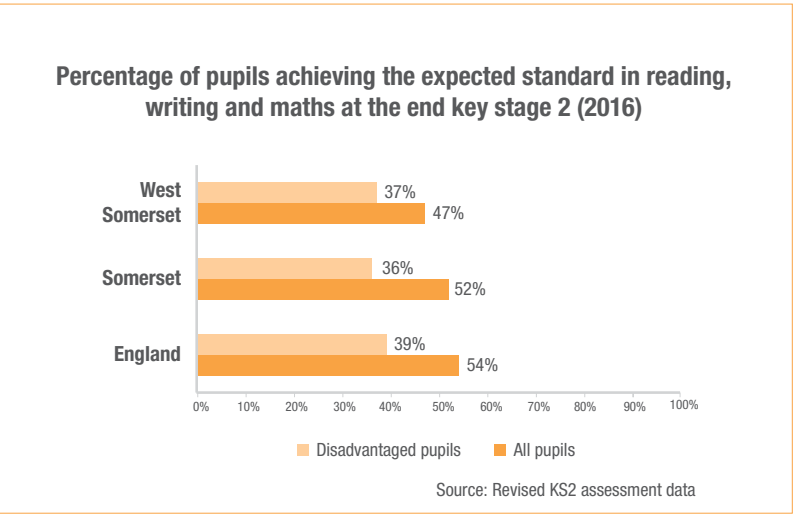
Priority 2: Educational excellence in the classroom

Every child in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start having achieved a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

2016 position







What we will do

The Department for Education, Somerset County Council and the eighteen schools in West Somerset will collaborate to raise standards.

We will improve standards in maths by:

- Introducing a West Somerset maths intervention which will improve maths attainment at key stages 1, 2 and 4, drawing on the Boolean Maths Hub resource and developing a mastery approach that helps schools achieve excellence in maths education.

We will improve standards in literacy by:

- Providing specialist phonics expertise to improve phonics outcomes and provide continued support for speech, language and communication. This will link to the development of practice in the early years phase and will include additional delivery of Talkboost up to key stage 2. We will prioritise access for schools that need most support.

We will create programmes to ensure that students are suitably supported and prepared for learning in the classroom by:

- Boosting the effectiveness of the transition for children and young people moving between schools by providing additional support for children and parents and facilitating co-ordination between schools, initially led by Somerset County Council, that helps pupils transfer to their next school successfully.
- Use the SEND consortium to help schools improve support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by supporting them to review their own practice, develop learning with and from others, and shape provision using the evidence base. We will facilitate more school-to-school support to review and improve SEND provision. We will provide training for up to six experienced practitioners to become SEND reviewers, who will have the skills to help schools within the area develop their SEND practice and establish a SEND regional leader for West Somerset.

We will develop and implement a programme of school improvement, targeting schools across the whole area by:

- Funding scholarships for the reformed National Professional Qualifications: we will fund at least eight middle, senior and executive school leaders to achieve these qualifications, so as to build leadership capacity in West Somerset schools.
- Implementing a continuing professional development (CPD) offer provided through the Teaching and Leadership innovation Fund (TLIF) for phonics and science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning.
- Funding a Research School for West Somerset; the Blue School in Wells, backed by the Education Endowment Foundation, will support schools in West Somerset to use evidence based practice to improve teaching.
- Support a high quality bid to the Strategic School Improvement Fund, aiming at improving maths practice across at least six schools.
- Teach First has pledged to prioritise West Somerset in its future rounds of recruitment to increase the number of placements in West Somerset schools.

- Identify headteachers, governors and schools who have the potential to become National Leaders of Education, National Leaders of Governance and Teaching Schools and support them to achieve these accreditations – therefore building the capacity of schools to support other schools.

Our activities in 2017/18 will include:

- Working through the Somerset Literacy Network, we will deliver a phonics review in schools in at least five first schools and provide a phonics roadshow.
- Using the Talkboost speech and language programme to improve attainment at key stages 1 and 2 by children who experience language delay.
- Conducting a review of special needs education capacity in schools and developing school staff by training at least one SEND reviewer who will offer expertise to schools in West Somerset.
- Ensuring that the Boolean Maths Hub prioritise West Somerset's schools to adopt maths mastery in at least five schools, with an area wide programme embedded by September 2018.
- Using the Research School expertise to improve evidence based practice in West Somerset as well as encouraging evaluation of teaching and learning. The Research School will also facilitate and support a classroom based approach focusing on improving teaching and leadership at all levels.
- Supporting at least one bid to the Strategic School Improvement Fund, with areas for focus likely to include early years and maths.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- **At least 85% of children will meet the expected standards in phonics in all schools in West Somerset. Based on current numbers this would mean up to 30 more children reaching the standard.**
- **The proportion of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths outcomes at key stage 1 will put West Somerset in the top half of the country, and the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils will be half what it was in September 2017.**
- **Outcomes at key stage 2 will be in the top half of the country and we will close the gap in West Somerset between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils as for key stage 1.**

Priority 3: Transition to adulthood

Every young person in West Somerset will be inspired to achieve the best possible education outcomes after the age of sixteen. We will prioritise the access of disadvantaged young people into higher education and high level technical routes at the same rate as in the top half of England.

Why this is an issue

Although results at the end of key stage 4 have improved significantly, this success is not sustained as young people in West Somerset do not achieve the same level of qualifications at age nineteen as elsewhere. A smaller proportion of nineteen year olds attain a level three or equivalent qualification compared to the Somerset and national averages. Just over a third of disadvantaged pupils attain a level three qualification compared to nearly 40% nationally. Amongst all pupils, nearly half (49.8%), attain a level three qualification compared to 57.1% nationally. This is important because level three qualifications widen opportunities by providing access to degree level education and are often required in technical and professional jobs. This means that young people in West Somerset are not well set up to benefit from the growing employment opportunities in the area.

Young people in West Somerset are more likely than young people elsewhere in the country to achieve a level two qualification by the age of nineteen. However, they are less likely than young people elsewhere to achieve those level two qualifications in English and maths. So we must improve attainment in English and maths at age nineteen and also encourage young people to continue learning after achieving level two.

West Somerset College (a school) provides a sixth form which is rated by Ofsted as good. Otherwise young people have to travel out of West Somerset to attend other post-16 provision, including colleges that can provide vocational options. Local stakeholders know that some young people find it difficult to attend this distant post-16 education due to travel limitations. Long travel times are often the main reason why some pupils drop out of post-16 education, despite the fact that out-of-area college provision is rated as outstanding and helps young people to do well. There is local information that indicates that West Somerset students are less likely to take part in post-16 learning than in Somerset as a whole. Limited aspirations and lack of choice of learning opportunities in West Somerset means that some young people find it difficult to reach their full potential.

This plan provides an opportunity to develop the resilience of young people, give them a positive expectation of success and a better understanding of opportunities beyond the ages of sixteen and nineteen. Widening the offer available in West Somerset, including access to more extra-curricular activities, improved careers education and guidance, plus better quality engagement with the world of work will have a positive impact on overall educational success.

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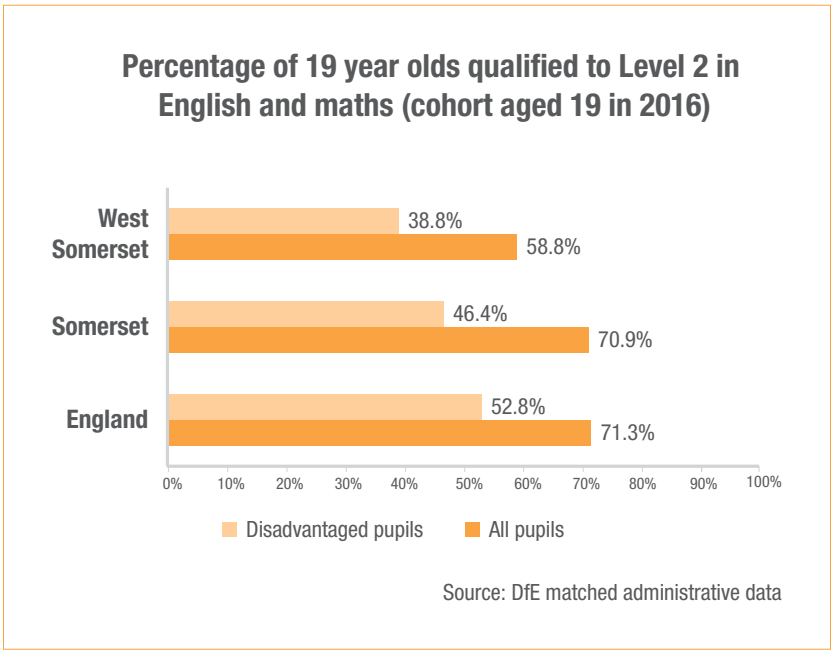
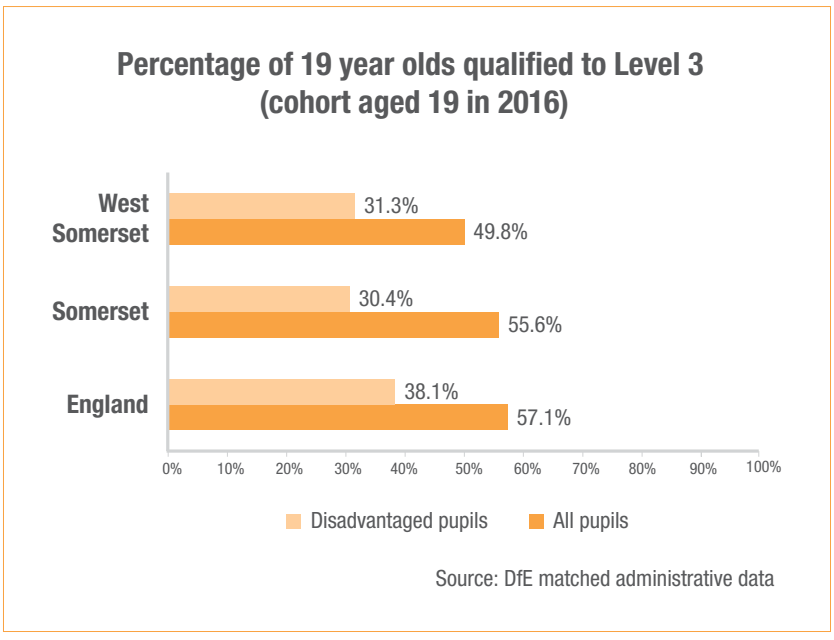
2016 position





What we will do

1. We will widen the offer at West Somerset College by adding vocational study programmes, using the college's industrial training facilities. This will give more young people access to high quality vocational education.
2. National Citizen Service will increase participation in their programmes, that provide a wide range of activities for eligible young people to develop life skills and raise aspirations. We will do this by raising the profile of the programme amongst West Somerset's young people, agreeing a recruitment plan with West Somerset College and promoting the benefits of the National Citizen Service using local graduates from the programme.
3. The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) are providing a menu of activities that provide an understanding of the world of work, including high quality work experience, and increasing expectations of young people in collaboration with cornerstone employers such as Butlins, that are based in the area.
4. Ensure every young person at key stage 4 has a personal action plan, setting out a pathway for how they will achieve their education and career goals.
5. The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi), a not for profit organisation, will bring together partners such as schools, parents, employers and community organisations to help young people with special needs plan for employment after they have finished education.

In 2017/18 our activities will include:

- Enabling more young people to experience at least four inspiring experiences with the world of work by delivering over 2,000 high impact impact career encounters with employers, such as work experience, and reduce number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), or at risk of dropping out of post-16 education.
- Engaging eligible young people in a diverse programme of enrichment activities, including doubling the numbers of sixteen and seventeen year olds participating in the National Citizen Service.
- From September 2018 every young person in West Somerset in post-16 education having an individual plan to make sure they are on the right track to achieve their learning potential.
- Agreeing and finalising an action plan by December 2017 that will ensure that young people with special needs in West Somerset will have access to employment and education.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- We will increase the percentage of young people achieving level three qualifications, such as A levels, at age nineteen and close the gap between West Somerset and Somerset in both academic and vocational qualifications. By 2020/21 we want achievement in West Somerset to equal the strong results already being achieved in the best performing parts of Somerset.
- All young people leaving West Somerset College will go onto further education, employment or training.

Priority 4: Skills for employment and business

Every young person in West Somerset should be equipped to succeed in the world of work, which is why we will ensure that every school pupil in West Somerset gets four excellent experiences of work and will invest in adult skills.

Why this is an issue

We must ensure that young people growing up within West Somerset have high aspirations, acquire the skills that enable them to access the growing number of local professional jobs and are supported by their parents and carers to do this.

A significantly lower percentage of pupils from West Somerset go on to attend higher education compared to elsewhere in Somerset. Only 26% of sixteen to eighteen year olds who took A-levels or other level three qualifications in the 2013/14 academic year attended university the following year, compared to 38% in Somerset, and 49% nationally.

A higher than national number of residents living within West Somerset are qualified to NVQ4 and above (which includes qualifications such as a degree or equivalent). However, this is largely due to the significant inward migration of a retired elderly population, which is unlikely to have much of an impact on the local labour market.

A higher than average proportion of the working age population is without a level two qualification. This relates to the profile of job opportunities locally, many of which require low skill levels. There has been a small increase in participation in apprenticeships in West Somerset but more can be done to provide opportunities that benefit individuals and local businesses. Amongst young people and adults that take part in apprenticeships, the proportion who finish the qualification and move to employment or other learning programmes is behind other areas.

Adults participating in all forms of education tend not to achieve the level of sustained outcomes as in other parts of Somerset. More can be done to help adults develop skill levels that are required in the West Somerset economy.

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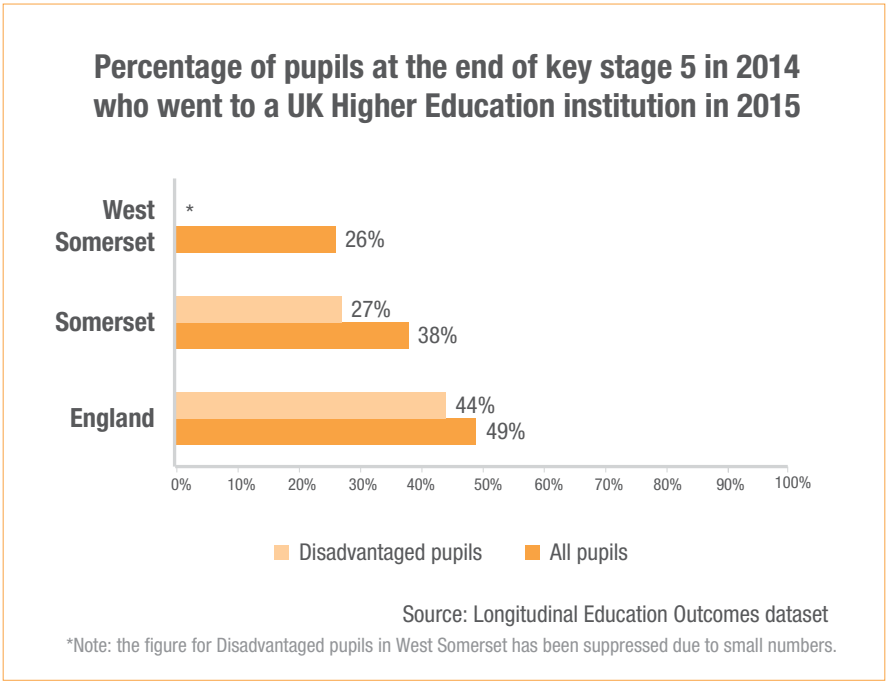
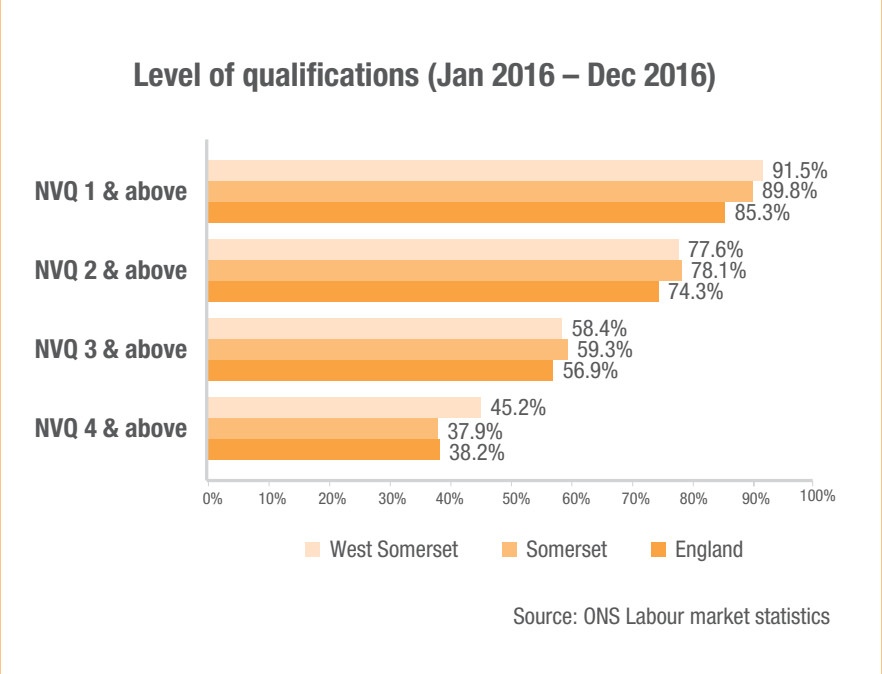




What we will do

1. Building on the CEC commitment, we will develop a campaign to ensure that local businesses increase employment opportunities for local people by prioritising apprenticeship and training programmes in West Somerset.

2. Establish an apprenticeship hub in West Somerset by September 2018 that will act as an information service for employers, providers and young people about the availability of apprenticeships, and to encourage take-up and completions.

3. The Higher Education Office of Fair Access has written to all universities asking them to prioritise, in their widening participation activities, helping to increase the progression of young people from West Somerset into higher education. This will be supported by the National Collaborative Outreach Project, led by Plymouth University to target support to young people from the area.

4. Deliver an adult skills learning offer, particularly focused on enabling women in West Somerset to make more of the local employment opportunities. We will also work with the Employment Hubs, that already provide access to job related services and advice, to deliver more English and maths learning opportunities for adults, which will help to enable them to participate and progress in the local labour market, including benefiting from the employment opportunities created by Hinkley Point C power station.

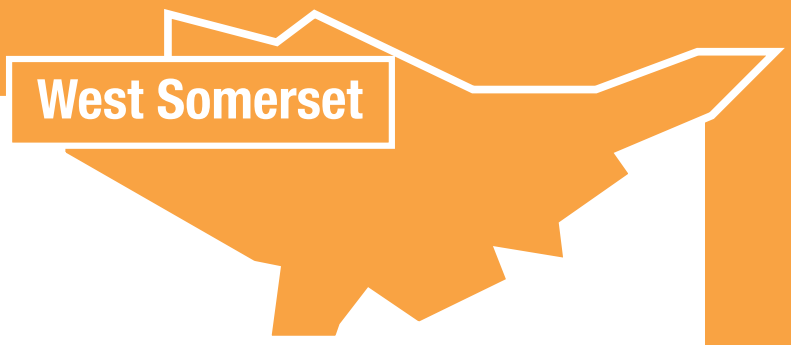
5. We will create a culture of lifelong learning by connecting employers, training providers and education institutions and by September 2018 we will have a clear plan for increasing the amount of and quality of work related training in West Somerset.

In 2017/18 our activities will include:

- Building on the Careers and Enterprise Company network – engaging local business and education providers to work together and explore broadening the scope of this work to include additional education and business engagement.
- Engaging with a minimum of 40 employers in key sectors to support growth through skills training for local people, promoting the benefits of skills training and providing appropriate advice and guidance.
- Establishing an apprenticeship hub to promote apprenticeship training and support apprentices.
- Designing a learning programme for women that engages at least 30 people in year one, that is aligned to the Employment Hubs and complements a refreshed basic skills offer for other adults.

Our targets for 2020/21 are:

- **The proportion of young people progressing to higher education, will put West Somerset in the top half of the country.**
- **We will increase apprenticeship starts so start rates are as high, or better than, the rest of Somerset and so completion rates are as high, or better than, the rest of Somerset.**



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