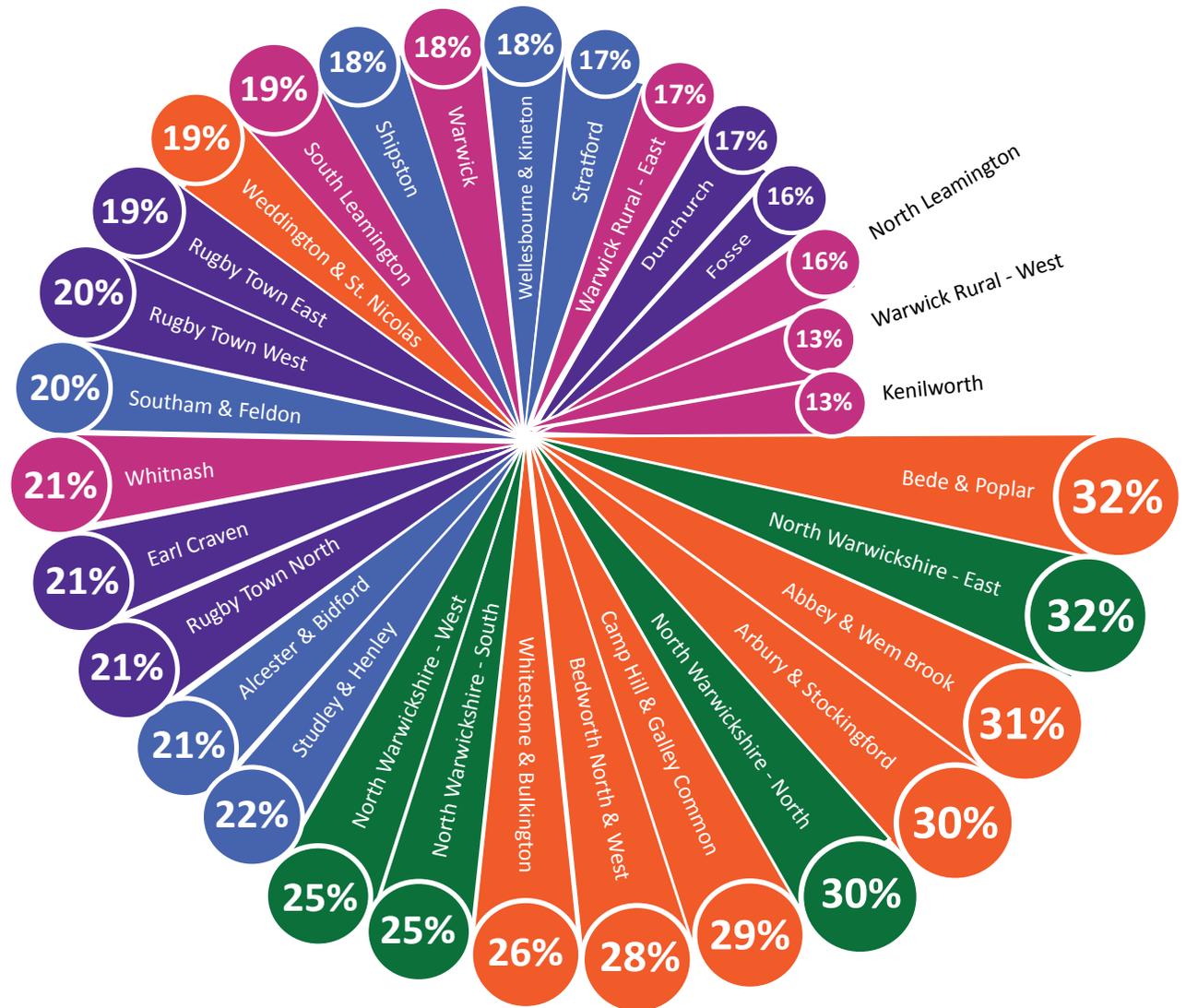
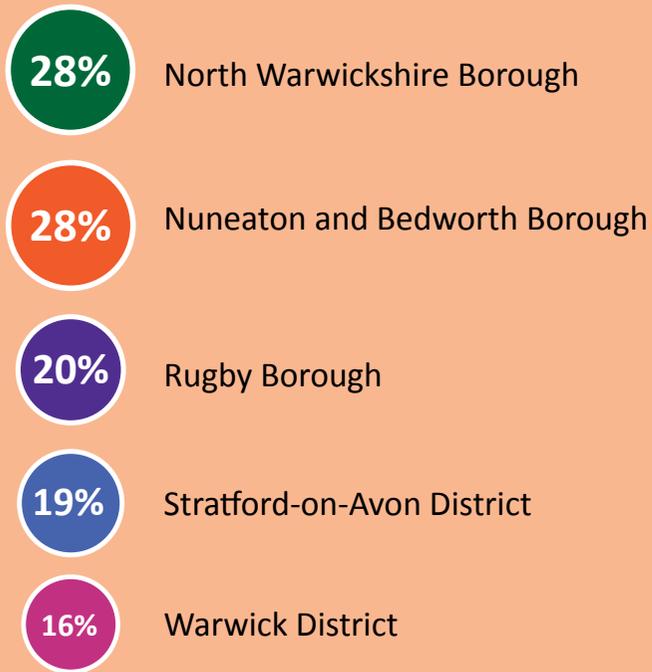


Education & Skills

Percentage of residents (aged 16 and over), by Locality area, with no qualifications

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Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

Educational Attainment

Description

A good education is widely seen as key to achieving better outcomes in life, both economically and socially. Two measures of this for young people are attainment in GCSEs at Key Stage 4 and achievement at Key Stage 2 at the end of primary school.

Warwickshire County Council monitors achievement levels amongst pupils taking GCSEs and in particular monitors the percentage of pupils who gained five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent including English and Maths**. The percentage of pupils achieving expected levels of progress and attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 are also monitored. These measures can be used to assess the position of Warwickshire and its five districts and consider how they compare over time and with national trends. All of the data included in this indicator refers to pupils attending a state primary or secondary school in Warwickshire.

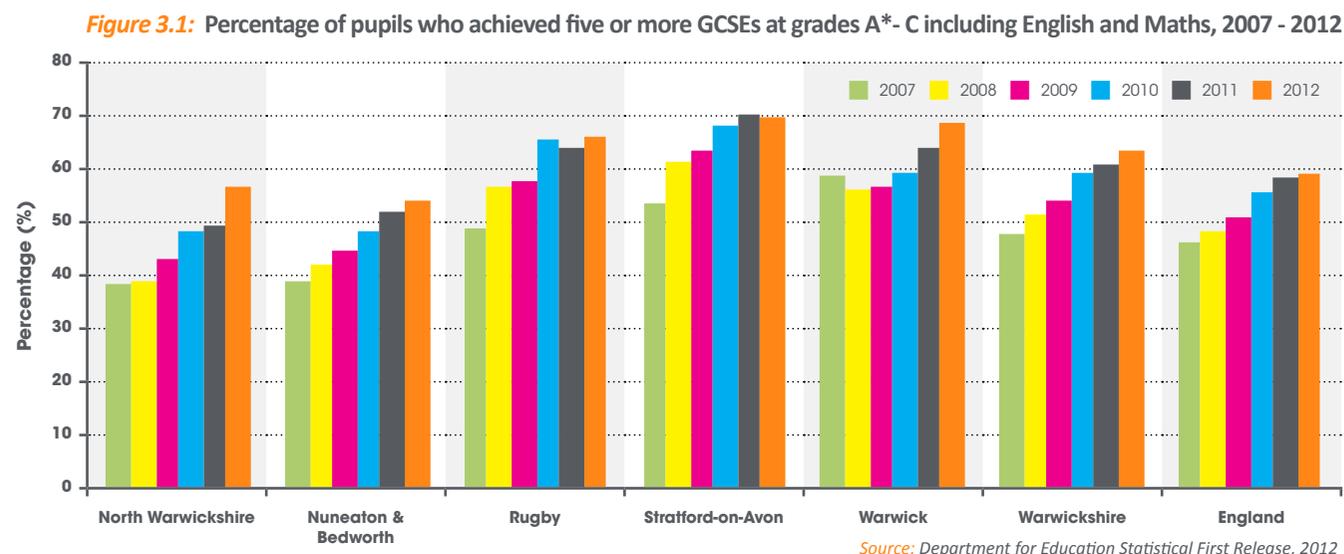
**Reference to GCSE attainment in this document refers to five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*- C including English and Maths.

Performance

Key Stage 4 Attainment

Over the past few years, Warwickshire has consistently performed above the national average in terms of GCSE attainment. This has continued in 2012 when 63.1% of pupils obtained five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths. This compares with 58.8% nationally. This 4.3 percentage point gap in attainment between Warwickshire and the national GCSE attainment levels is the widest in recent years.

Reflecting national trends, Figure 3.1 highlights a general pattern of improved performance in GCSE attainment across the county since 2007.

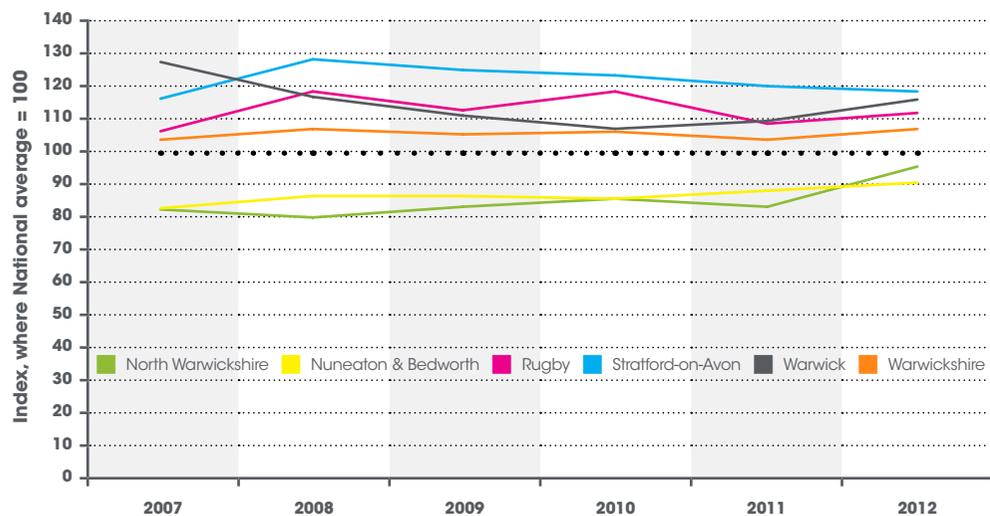


In 2012, Warwickshire saw an increasing proportion of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths compared to the previous year. This 2.4 percentage point increase between 2011 and 2012 exceeds the equivalent 0.4 percentage point improvement seen nationally. This is further reflected in the improvement of Warwickshire's ranking when compared to other English Local Authorities. Between 2006 and 2011, Warwickshire's average rank was 42nd out of 151 local authorities for the proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. In 2012, Warwickshire has moved up the rankings to 24th out of 151 local authorities.

Performance at GCSE level does, however, vary around the county, as do levels of improvement year on year.

Educational Attainment

Figure 3.2: Percentage of pupils who attained five or more GCSEs grades A*-C or equivalent including English and Maths, compared to the national average (where national average =100), 2007-2012



Source: Department for Education Statistical First Release, 2012

Figure 3.2 shows the degree to which the county and its five districts differ from the national average in terms of GCSE attainment levels. Using index values where the national average is 100 each year, individual districts are presented in relative terms. North Warwickshire Borough and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough have consistently performed below the national average for the past six years. In contrast the three districts of Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick have performed above the national average.

In 2012, North Warwickshire Borough and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough have, however, improved GCSE attainment levels compared with previous years. Indeed, North Warwickshire was the most improved district in the county, increasing its proportion of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs A* - C, including English and Maths by 7.5 percentage points in 2012. In contrast, while Stratford-on-Avon District records the highest proportion of pupils gaining five GCSEs A* - C, including English and Maths at 69.4%, its level of attainment has declined relative to the national average. This indicates that while performance had improved year on year in Stratford-on-Avon District up until 2011, it had not improved at the same pace as national levels hence its relative decline when compared to the national average.

Figure 3.3: Improvement in GCSE attainment between 2011-2012 and 2007- 2012

AREA	PROPORTION OF PUPILS ACHIEVING 5+ GCSEs A*-C INCL. ENGLISH AND MATHS (2007)	PROPORTION OF PUPILS ACHIEVING 5+ GCSEs A*-C INCL. ENGLISH AND MATHS (2011)	PROPORTION OF PUPILS ACHIEVING 5+ GCSEs A*-C INCL. ENGLISH AND MATHS (2012)	PERCENTAGE POINT CHANGE (2011-2012)	PERCENTAGE POINT CHANGE (2007-2012)
North Warwickshire	38.3	49.1	56.6	7.5	18.3
Nuneaton & Bedworth	38.5	51.9	53.8	1.9	15.3
Rugby	48.9	63.6	65.7	2.1	16.8
Stratford-on-Avon	53.3	70	69.4	-0.6	16.1
Warwick	58.4	64	68.3	4.3	9.9
Warwickshire	47.8	60.7	63.1	2.4	15.3
National	45.9	58.4	58.8	0.4	12.9

Source: Department for Education Statistical First Release, 2012



CLICK ON THE INTERACTIVE MAP
to view percentage of pupils achieving five A* – C grades including Maths and English, in Warwickshire

As well as geographical variations in performance, there are variations between different groups of children. Differences between the GCSE attainment levels for boys and girls have been evident for a number of years. In 2012 this continued to be the case with girls out performing boys in all Warwickshire districts.

Educational Attainment

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Figure 3.4: Percentage of boys and girls achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths, 2012

AREA	PERCENTAGE 5+ A*-C INC GCSE ENG & MATH A*-C			
	BOYS	GIRLS	PERCENTAGE POINT DIFFERENCE	ALL
North Warwickshire	52	63	9	57
Nuneaton & Bedworth	52	55	3	54
Rugby	64	67	3	66
Stratford-on-Avon	64	75	11	69
Warwick	62	69	7	68
Warwickshire	60	66	6	63
National	54	64	10	59

Source: Warwickshire gender split from Department for Education SFR. District gender split from NCER EPAS using DCSF datafeed

Figure 3.4 illustrates that the county as a whole has a slightly smaller gender difference compared to the national picture. However, differences vary across the county. Stratford-on-Avon District records the biggest gender difference with an 11 percentage point difference in the proportion of boys and girls achieving five or more GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths while the smallest differences were recorded in Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby Boroughs.

The Department for Education (DfE) also shows the differences in educational attainment between pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those who are not. FSM eligibility acts as a proxy indicator for those pupils likely to be from poorer families and most likely to be educationally disadvantaged.

Figure 3.5: Free School Meal and Non Free School Meal Attainment Gap for Key Stage 4 Pupils, 2012

AREA	ELIGIBLE FOR FSM	NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FSM	GAP (PERCENTAGE POINTS) 2009	GAP (PERCENTAGE POINTS) 2010	GAP (PERCENTAGE POINTS) 2011	GAP (PERCENTAGE POINTS) 2012
North Warwickshire	32	60	30	26	24	28
Nuneaton & Bedworth	26	57	22	21	30	32
Rugby	35	68	34	44	28	33
Stratford-on-Avon	31	72	47	46	25	41
Warwick	34	71	32	31	40	37
Warwickshire	31	66	33	33	32	36
National	36	63	28	28	28	26

Source: District figures from NCER EPAS using DCSF datafeed NB. Smaller figures at district level may lead to greater levels of fluctuation

Essentially, pupils eligible for FSM are around half as likely as other pupils to gain the expected five or more GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. There is variation around the county; the narrowest gap is in North Warwickshire Borough while Stratford-on-Avon District has seen its attainment gap widen this year to 41 percentage points. Some caution, however, needs to be exercised in relation to district level figures. The small numbers means a higher propensity for figures to fluctuate year on year making an assessment about performance on an annual basis problematic. However, the data makes evident a pattern of persistent poorer performance at GCSE level by those pupils most likely to be disadvantaged.

A further measure of performance relating to disadvantage is the attainment of looked after children who achieve five or more GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. 'Looked after' is defined as those children who had been in care for at least a year on 31st March 2012. In 2012 Warwickshire had an attainment rate of 16.3% for GCSE attainment for eligible looked after children. Again, while the numbers of pupils eligible is small (50 pupils) and therefore proportions are subject to fluctuations, the current performance is fairly consistent with previous years. As with pupils eligible for free school meals, a persistent pattern of under performance is evident in terms of GCSE attainment by looked after children.

Educational Attainment

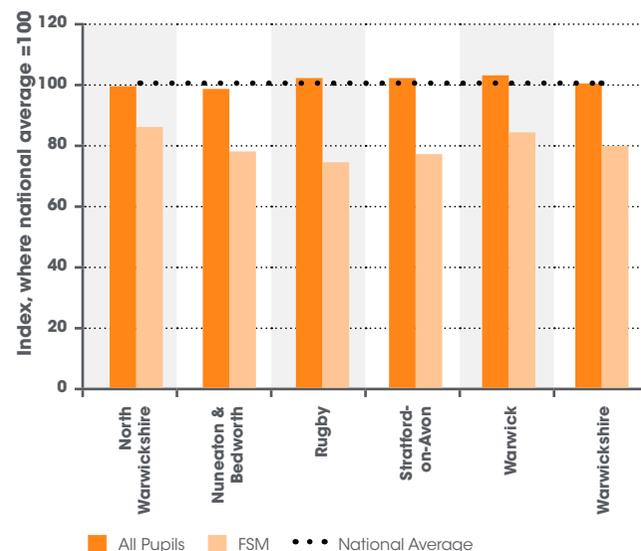
Educational Achievement in Primary Schools

Data is also available on the achievement of pupils in primary school. Data on both attainment and progress provide information on the achievements of pupils as measured against National Curriculum standards. Generally, it is Key Stage 2 assessments taken by pupils in Year 6 which are used as a measure of educational performance for Government and Local Authority monitoring purposes. Data from Key Stage 1 (tests at the end of Year 2) provide the reference point for measuring the progress of pupils.

Attainment refers to the national curriculum level (for example Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) pupils have attained in tests in Year 6. National expectations are that pupils will reach level four in both English and Maths. Local results, therefore, are expressed as the proportion of pupils achieving level four in their end of Year 6 tests.

In 2012, 80% of pupils attending Warwickshire schools reached Level 4 in English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 2. This falls in line with the national figure. While there is slightly more variation at district level, all areas are roughly in line with the national average. Figure 3.6 illustrates the position of the county and districts compared to the national average for Key Stage 2 attainment using a national index value of 100. In 2012 Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick were very slightly above the national average while North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth were slightly below. Figure 3.6 also shows the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSMs) compared to the national average of all pupils and demonstrates the clear attainment gap experienced by this group of pupils; a pattern that continues to be evident at Key Stage 4. Similarly, girls in general outperform boys by a few percentage points at Key Stage 2 which is then repeated at Key Stage 4.

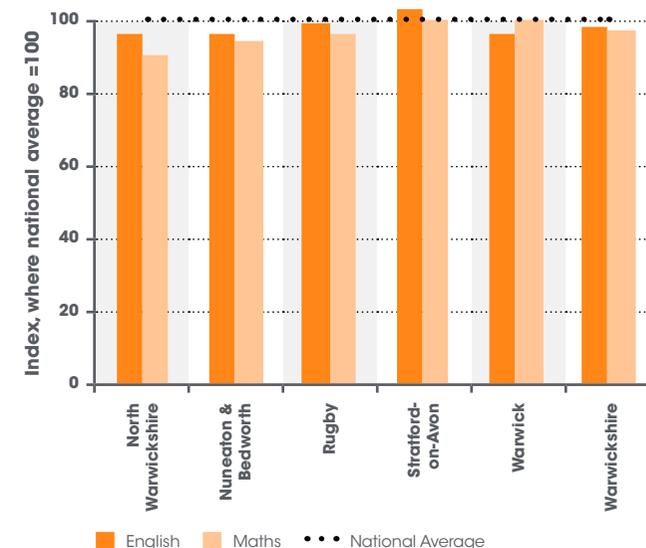
Figure 3.6: Proportion of pupils who attained Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Assessments compared to national average (where national average=100), 2012



Source: Department for Education SFR, 2012

Warwickshire performs slightly less well compared to the national average when progress data is considered. During Key Stage 2, the national expectation is that pupils will make two national curriculum levels of progress in English and Maths. Local results, therefore, are expressed as the proportion of pupils making expected levels of progress at Key Stage 2.

Figure 3.7: Proportion of pupils who made expected levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 compared to the national average (where national average =100), 2012



Source: Department for Education SFR, 2012

Overall, in 2012 the proportion of pupils in Warwickshire who made expected levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is very slightly below the national average in both English and Maths. Only Stratford-on-Avon District records levels of progress in both English and Maths above the national average. Progress data is a valuable addition to attainment data in that it gives an indication of the distance travelled by pupils at primary school taking into account prior attainment achieved by pupils.

Educational Attainment

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Outlook

Overall, Warwickshire performs at or above the national average in terms of educational achievement both at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. However, a consistent pattern of variation in performance by geography and pupil characteristics is evident. Moreover, these variations are experienced both in primary and secondary school. These differences reflect trends experienced nationally but nevertheless still represent evident gaps in performance between some areas and groups of pupils.

Various changes made to Key Stage 2 assessments in 2012 and 2013 mean that there is not yet a consistent set of comparable data, making comparisons over time more difficult. Although time series data is currently available for Key Stage 4 through GCSE attainment, much debate and consultation has been in progress to reform elements of these qualifications with changes anticipated in the next few years. As referred to in the Skills indicator, the participation age will be raised so that young people must stay in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from the summer of 2013 and until their 18th birthday from summer 2015 onwards. At some point in the future there is likely to be additional educational attainment data for all young people aged 18 years albeit across a wider range of qualifications.

Raising levels of educational achievement for children in Warwickshire is a priority in Warwickshire County Council's Corporate Business Plan. There is currently a range of targeted activity co-ordinated by the County Council's Learning and Achievement service which aims to improve educational attainment among groups which have been identified as requiring additional support. Nationally, the 'pupil premium' has been introduced and this provides money directly to schools to help them improve outcomes for pupils eligible for free school meals or who are 'looked after'. It is also worth noting that there are considerable structural changes taking place which are likely to have an impact and change the relationship between local authority and schools in future years.

Further Information

- **Business Intelligence (Children's) within the People Group can provide further information on educational performance in the county. Telephone 01926 742068 or email CSS@warwickshire.gov.uk.**
- **The Learning Improvement Team within People Group can be contacted about specific initiatives aimed at improving educational attainment, contact 01926 742098 for further information.**
- **Data at a regional and national level can be obtained from the DCSF website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/index.shtml>**
- **Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 data at school level is publically available. Individual school data is available for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 from the Ofsted data dashboard.**

Description

Higher skill levels allow workers to generate new ideas and adapt to a changing, often challenging economic environment. Higher skill levels also bring benefits to the individual, unlocking talent and aspiration and therefore positively influencing their quality of life. There is forecast to be a continued trend of employment growth in higher skilled occupations and demand for skills as measured by formal qualifications. Without access to a skilled workforce, UK businesses will find it increasingly difficult to compete and innovate and employment opportunities for the lowest skilled will continue to decline. Achieving a world class skills base has been identified as essential for future economic prosperity.

The most common measure of skills is qualifications. This year, we have used qualifications data from the 2011 Census which enables us not only to look at district level qualifications (in previous years the Annual Population Survey has been used) but look at skill levels at lower level geographies such as wards and Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA).

The Data Service (www.thedataservice.org.uk) publishes information on participation in work-based learning, specifically information on apprenticeships.

Performance

According to the 2011 Census, over one in five (21.6%) Warwickshire residents have no formal qualifications. This varies at a district level with Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough having the highest percentage of people with no qualification (28%) and Warwick District with the lowest proportion of its residents with no qualification (16.4%). Conversely, Warwick District has the highest proportion of people qualified to degree level (NVQ4) or higher (28%), whilst Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough has the lowest proportion of residents qualified to degree level or higher (9.3%).

When comparing Warwickshire to the national average (England & Wales), the county positively outperforms the equivalent national figures across all three measures (residents with no qualifications, those who have a degree or higher and those who have qualified as part of an apprenticeship).

Figure 3.8: Highest level of Qualification held by Resident Population (aged 16+), 2011

AREA	ALL USUAL RESIDENTS AGED 16 AND OVER	NO QUALIFICATIONS (%)	DEGREE LEVEL OR HIGHER (NVQ4+)	APPRENTICESHIP
North Warwickshire	51,049	27.9	19.8	4.1
Nuneaton & Bedworth	101,244	28.0	18.6	4.8
Rugby	80,689	19.6	28.2	5.3
Stratford-on-Avon	100,042	19.3	33.4	3.6
Warwick	114,051	16.4	38.4	3.3
Warwickshire	447,075	21.6	28.8	4.1
West Midlands	2,158,382	29.1	23.3	3.3
England & Wales	45,496,780	22.7	27.2	3.6

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

The 2001 and 2011 Censuses are broadly comparable in terms of the definition of qualifications although they use slightly different age breakdowns which should be taken into consideration when comparing the two. All respondents aged 16 or over were directed to answer the qualifications and labour market questions in 2011, replacing the age parameter of 16-74 years in 2001. According to the 2001 Census, 27.8% of Warwickshire residents aged 16 to 74 had no qualifications. The county has seen a reduction in the resident population without qualifications over the ten year period from 2001 to 2011, reducing to 21.6% in 2011. In contrast, the proportion of residents educated to degree level or higher has seen an eight percentage point increase in the county over the past ten years, from 20.7% in 2001 to 28.8% in 2011.

Qualifications data have also been released at lower-level geographies, allowing analysis at ward level within each district. Across the county in 2011, the ward with the highest proportion of residents aged 16 and over with no qualifications was Camp Hill ward (38.0%) in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough and in comparison; Stoneleigh ward in Warwick District totalled the lowest level of residents having no qualifications (7.5%). Interestingly, Milverton ward in Warwick District totalled the highest proportion of residents with degree level qualifications (39.1%) and Bede ward in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough accounted for the lowest level of residents holding a degree level qualification (4.6%).

The 2011 Census enables us to look at Lower Super Output Areas and this shows further variation at this more local level. For example, in Milverton Heath LSOA in Milverton ward, nearly one in two residents (48.8%) aged over 16 years is educated to degree level or higher. Conversely, although Camp Hill ward in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough has the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications, the LSOA of Atherstone North, St George and Carlyon in Atherstone North ward in North Warwickshire Borough has the highest proportion of residents achieving no qualifications at 47.6%.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are work-based training programmes designed around the needs of employers that lead to nationally recognised qualifications. They can be used to train both new and existing employees and can take anything between one and four years to complete.

There are three levels of Apprenticeship available:

- Intermediate Level Apprenticeships for a level 2 qualification
(equivalent to five GCSE's grade A*-C)
- Advanced Level Apprenticeships for a level 3 qualification
(equivalent to an A Level education)
- Higher Level Apprenticeships for a level 4, 5, 6 & 7 qualifications
(equivalent to a degree education)

According to the latest 2012/13 apprenticeship data (February to April 2013, quarter three of the academic year), 3,801 apprenticeships were started by Warwickshire residents. This is a 9% increase on the corresponding period of 2011/12 and based on these figures we would expect the year-end total for 2012/13 to exceed the preceding year. The increase in the number of apprenticeships started over the past year has not been reflected at a regional or national level, both seeing falls of 0.7% and 6% respectively.

Breaking this down by age shows some variation in the data. Apprenticeship starts by those aged 16 to 18 years has seen nearly a 2% fall in Warwickshire when comparing the 2011/12 figure (979 starts) to the equivalent 2012/13 figure (963 starts). Although this should be set in context of much larger falls in 16 to 18 apprenticeship starts, at both a regional (19.4% fall) and national (13% fall) level.

Looking at the final year figures for 2011/12, the number of apprenticeships started by Warwickshire residents has increased over recent years from 2,473 in 2009/10 to 4,095 in 2010/11 to 4,686 in 2011/12, an increase of nearly two thirds over the two full academic years. As well as those who have started apprenticeships in that year, there are those who are already participating in an apprenticeship programme. There were 7,608 people enrolled in an apprenticeship programme in 2011/12, this has risen from 4,954 in 2009/10, a 54% increase over the two year period. Based on the quarter 3 results for 2012/13, with 7,508 people participating in an apprenticeship, it looks likely that the year end 2012/13 participation figure will be higher than the previous year.

Figure 3.9: Apprenticeship Starts and Participation of Warwickshire residents, 2009/10 to 2012/13 to date

	APPRENTICESHIPS IN WARWICKSHIRE		
	STARTS	PARTICIPATION (STARTS + THOSE ALREADY IN LEARNING)	DEGREE LEVEL OR HIGHER (NVQ4+)
2009/10	2,473	4,954	-
2010/11	4,095	6,420	66%
2011/12	4,686	7,608	14%
2012/13 (year to date*)	3,801	7,508	-

* Academic Year to Date, Quarter 3 February to April

Source: The Data Service, 2013 (www.thedataservice.org.uk)



The top five employer sectors (where known) that took on apprentices in 2011/12 in Warwickshire are listed in Figure 3.10. The largest employer sector represented in terms of apprenticeships starts was adult social care which took on 594 apprentices in 2011/12, representing 13% of the total starts. It is worth highlighting that a quarter (25%) of the apprenticeship starts are not coded in terms of the employer sector so the figures in the table below as well as other sectors may be higher.

Figure 3.10: Sector of Employer and number of apprentices' starts, 2011/12

EMPLOYER SECTOR	TOTAL NUMBER OF APPRENTICESHIP STARTS (2011/12)
Adult Social Care	594
Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism	485
Freight, Logistics & Wholesale	364
Retail	332
Healthcare	241

Source: The Data Service, 2013 (www.thedataservice.org.uk)

Outlook

The Government is increasing the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015. The latest quarterly data on participation published from the Department for Education for June 2013 shows that 92% of 16 and 17 year olds in Warwickshire already choose to continue in education or training, compared to 89% nationally. Raising the participation age (RPA) does not mean young people must stay in school; they will be able to choose one of the following options post-16:

- Full-time education, such as school, college or home education
- An apprenticeship
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week).

Developing the skills of Warwickshire's residents is set out as a target for both the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (who are currently working on developing a skills strategy for the sub-region) and Warwickshire County Council. The 2013/14 Corporate Business Plan for Warwickshire County Council, 'Achieving Our Ambitions' aims to increase the opportunities for people to improve their work related skills to support a thriving business community in Warwickshire. The Apprenticeship Hub was set up as part of Warwickshire's Going for Growth agenda. The hub is designed to help Warwickshire's small and medium sized enterprises (SME) with free and impartial business advice supporting them in recruiting apprentices. The Government's National Apprenticeship service primarily focuses on businesses with over 250 employees, Warwickshire County Council are targeting those smaller businesses that do not meet that criteria.

Warwickshire County Council is working with business forums including the Federation of Small Businesses and Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce to promote the 'Get an Apprentice' initiative to Warwickshire businesses.

Further Information

- Raising the Participation Age – Children and Young People: <http://bit.ly/GPYA4P>
- More information on participation in education and training by local authority is available from the Department for Education: <http://bit.ly/171fVj6>
- Higher Education at Work: <http://bit.ly/IOjtJN>
- More information on the service provided by the Apprenticeship Hub can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/getanapprentice, or by contacting **01926 412649** or emailing apprentice@warwickshire.gov.uk
- For more information on the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, please visit www.cwlep.com
- Further data on Apprenticeships can be found on the Data Service website: <http://bit.ly/OmlgaO>
- Alternatively, contact the Observatory on **01926 412775** or email research@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Description

This indicator refers to the number and proportion of young people aged 16-19 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Young people who are NEET are generally regarded to be at a greater risk of social exclusion and unemployment through the loss of economic and social opportunities. These individuals can range from the most disadvantaged and disengaged to those who become NEET through dropping out of a course or by losing their job.

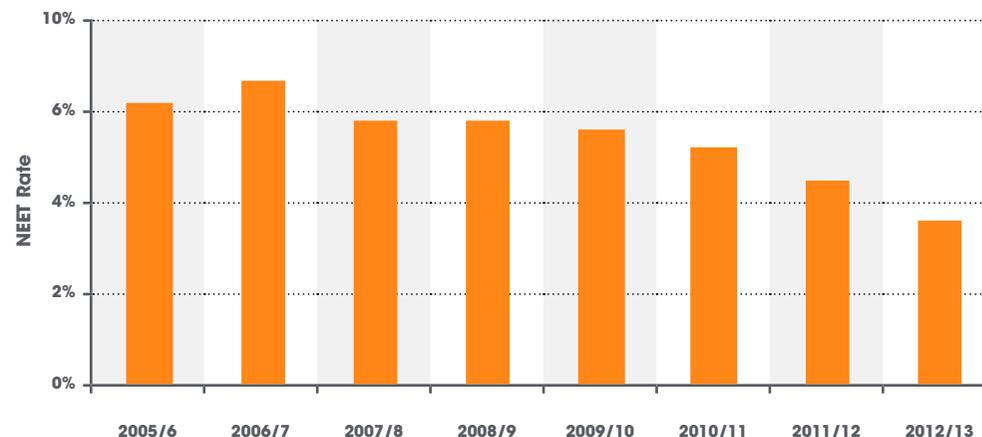
Research conducted by the Institute of Education, University of London has highlighted a range of issues associated with young people in the NEET category, comprising of:

- Low educational attainment
- Homelessness
- Early criminalisation
- Drug culture and dependency
- Teenage pregnancy
- Gang membership
- Care needs

Performance

Warwickshire has seen a steady decline in the number of young people that are NEET, from 6.7% in 2006 to 3.6% in 2012. The proportion has halved over the last six years. In 2012 the Department for Education reported a figure of 660 NEET young people in Warwickshire, which is the lowest number recorded to date. In 2012 the Department for Education introduced a new national counting methodology which measures young people's NEET status by residency up to the end of the academic year in which a young person becomes 19. Prior to 2012 the measure counted 16-18 year olds in Warwickshire institutions.

Figure 3.11: Warwickshire NEET (16 to 19 year olds), 2005-2012



Source: Department for Education (DfE)

Note: Up to 2010/11 figures include 16 to 18 year olds in Warwickshire institutions, from early 2011/12 figures include young people resident in Warwickshire up to the end of the academic year in which they become 19.

Focusing down at district level, Figure 3.12 shows improvements when comparing January 2013 to January 2012 in all areas except Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough. The rate in the borough remains unchanged and stands the highest at 4.6%.

Figure 3.12: NEET rates and volumes by district, 2012-2013

DISTRICT	ACTUAL AGE 16 – 18 JANUARY 2010		ACTUAL AGE 16 – 18 JANUARY 2011		ACADEMIC AGE 16 – 19 JANUARY 2012		ACADEMIC AGE 16 – 19 JANUARY 2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
North Warwickshire	127	8.4%	106	7.5%	97	5.2%	82	4.1%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	260	6.2%	275	6.8%	212	4.6%	224	4.6%
Rugby	214	7.2%	132	4.7%	119	3.9%	76	2.2%
Stratford-on-Avon	97	3.1%	87	2.9%	118	3.3%	103	2.7%
Warwick	171	4.6%	162	4.6%	152	4.0%	115	2.8%

Source: The Careers Guidance Company (CSWP) 2013

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

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Participation of young people in education and training

In March 2013, the Department for Education reported that 91.6% of 16 to 17 year olds in Warwickshire were in either full-time education and training, apprenticeships, employment with training or an 'other' category. This is higher than the West Midlands figure of 88.4% and similar to the national equivalent of 91.6%.

Another measure used in Warwickshire is the percentage of Year 11 pupils that secure a positive destination. The Year 11 Activity Survey reports the educational/employment statistics of young people educated in Warwickshire who completed statutory education at the end of June. In Warwickshire 96.6% (6,157) young people in Year 11 entered a positive destination in 2012, an increase of almost 1% on 2011.

The breakdown by district shows that for Rugby Borough, the overall percentage of young people entering a positive destination has fallen below the other districts for the first time and stands at 95.8% (1,041 young people) in 2012. North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough and Warwick District have all seen improvements when comparing 2012 to 2011.

Figure 3.13: NEET by Priority Group, January 2013

PRIORITY GROUP	NUMBER OF NEET	PRIORITY GROUP COHORT	PROPORTION OF PRIORITY GROUP WHO ARE NEET
Clients with Special Educational Needs (SEN)	166	2,448	6.8%
Teenage Mothers /Pregnant	86	232	37.1%
Young Offenders	17	93	18.3%
Homeless	1	6	16.7%
Travellers	2	8	25.0%
Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS)	6	27	22.2%
Black & Minority Ethnic	39	1,582	2.5%
In care/Care leavers/Asylum seekers	31	199	15.6%

Source: The Careers Guidance Company (CSWP) 2013
Note: Young people can be in more than one category.

Vulnerable Groups

Figure 3.13 shows 16 to 19 year old NEETs by priority group. It shows those who are teenage mothers, are pregnant, are part of a travelling family or have mental health issues are more likely than average to be NEET. However, those from black and ethnic minority families are less likely than average to become NEET (2.5%).

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The numbers of young people who are NEET in Warwickshire has halved over the past six years and significant reductions have resulted from targeting these vulnerable groups. The following programmes have impacted on the number of NEETs:

- **European Social Fund (ESF) Programme** – this was a programme delivered countywide to 270 14 to 16 year olds at risk of becoming NEET by North Warwickshire and Hinckley College. At January 2013, 224 young people (83%) had started on the programme with 158 young people finishing their programme (59%).
- **European Social Fund (ESF) Programme delivered by CSWP (The Careers Guidance Company)** – this was a programme delivered countywide to 383 16 to 19 year olds who are NEET. At January 2013, 313 young people had started on the programme (82%) with 198 young people finishing their programme (52%).
- **Summer 2012 Provision** – delivered countywide aiming at re-engaging young people at risk of becoming NEET or who were in the NEET category. Of the 108 young people that took part, 59 progressed into positive outcomes in the autumn of 2012.

Outlook

The Government's Raising the Participation Age (RPA) strategy raises the age that young people remain in education or training to age 17 by 2013 and up to their 18th birthday from 2015. This could be in full-time education, an apprenticeship or in part-time education if they are working or volunteering full-time. However it is recognised that achieving 100% is an aspirational target as there will always be a cohort of young

people who require a temporary break in education and training (known as having a reasonable excuse) for example, young mothers, young offenders or young carers. Therefore, the 2015 target is set at 2% (388 young people), which is a challenging yet realistic target.

In Warwickshire there is a risk of NEET indicator (RONI) which has been developed to support this strategy. It focuses on young people in Year 10 and identifies the characteristics that evidence has shown puts the young person at risk of becoming NEET by age 16. A pilot began in 2011/12 with five secondary schools which led to working with 18 schools in September 2012. In 2013 this was rolled out to all secondary schools.

There has been a large reduction in the number of NEET young people in Warwickshire over the past six years, however there are challenges ahead. Some of these result from the current economic climate as well as the potential impact caused by the transfer of responsibility to schools for impartial information, advice and guidance to young people from September 2012. These challenges need to be considered in line with work that is continuing on the Priority Families programme in Warwickshire (an initiative introduced by the Department for Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government in 2011). Also, in Warwickshire County Council's Corporate Business Plan there is an ambition to 'raise the educational aspirations of children and young people and families'. The aim is to encourage schools to increase employer engagement in order to provide greater employment opportunities for young people and work with local businesses to stimulate the growth of apprenticeship placements. Reducing the number of NEET young people in Warwickshire remains a high priority for the future.

Further Information

- **Raising the Participation Age:** <http://bit.ly/GPYA4P>
- **Data relating to NEET young people:** <http://bit.ly/138FoTY>
- **Previous research conducted by the Institute of Education, University of London:** <http://bit.ly/zgggKM>
- **The Careers Guidance Company (CSWP):** <http://www.cswp.org.uk/>
- **For further information please contact the Warwickshire Observatory on 01926 418645.**