

# Young people, learning and skills in Cheshire and Warrington

March 2023

Brennan Wilson Ltd

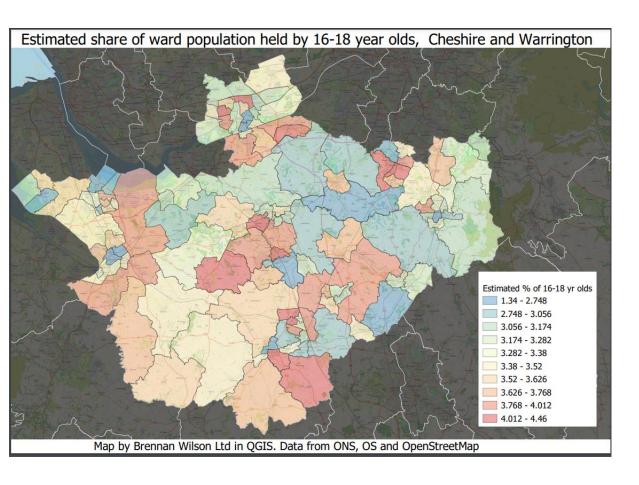
Please Note: This presentation has been commissioned for the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership by the Cheshire and Warrington Data and Labour Market Steering Group on behalf of the Employers' Skills and Education Board with support from the Department for Education.

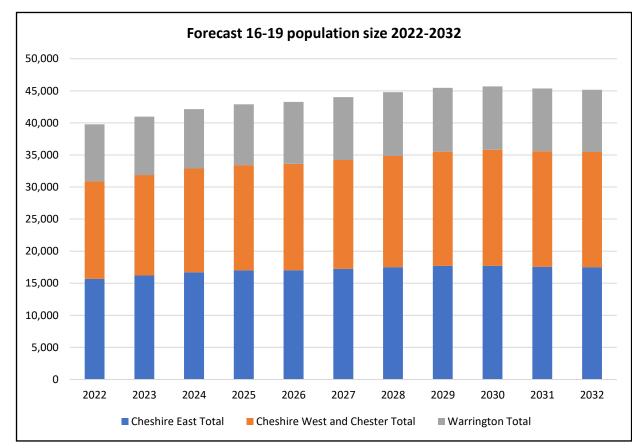
#### YOUNG PEOPLE -POPULATION & PARTICIPATION

- Population
- Deprivation and Unemployment
- 16/17 Participation in education and training
- NEET at age 16/17

### **POPULATION**

In 2022 there were approximately 32,000 people aged 16,17 and 18 resident in Cheshire and Warrington. The map below shows the percentage of the population aged 16-18 by ward. Red is high, blue is low. The 16-19 population is forecast to grow between 2022 and 2032 from 39,767 in 2022 to 45,170 in 2032, peaking at 45,700 in 2030. This is a growth of 14% in Cheshire and Warrington. All local authorities will see a forecast growth of this population segment with a growth of 18% in Cheshire West and Chester, 12% in Cheshire East and 9% in Warrington.

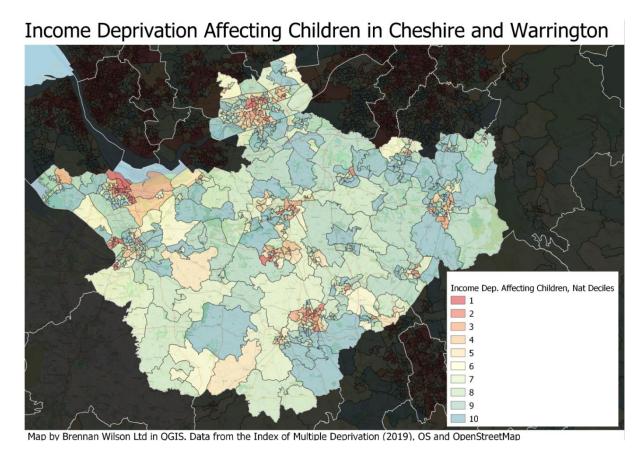


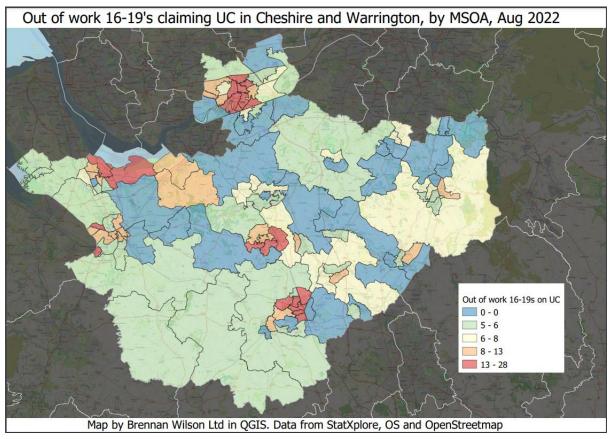


Source: ONS

#### **DEPRIVATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

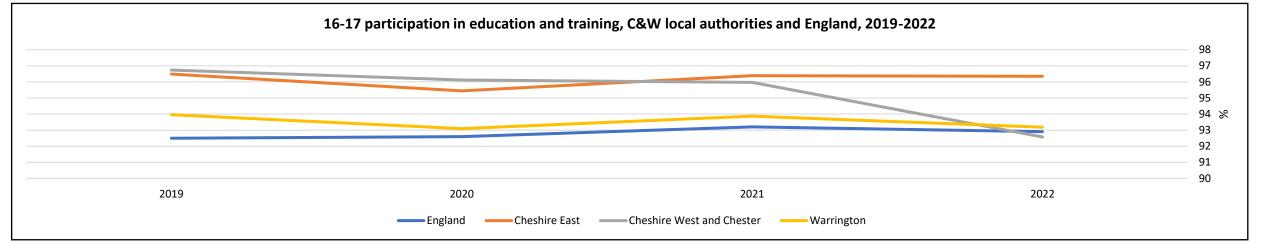
Many of the places with the highest levels of income deprivation affecting children in Cheshire and Warrington are also the places with the highest numbers of out of work 16–19-year-olds claiming benefit.

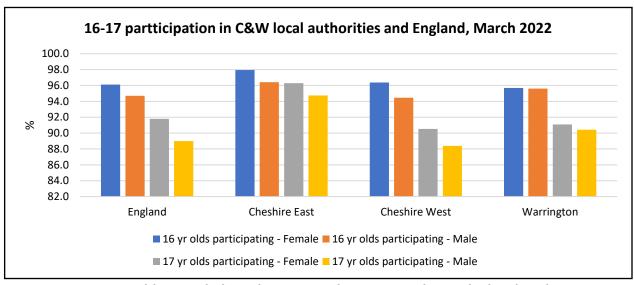


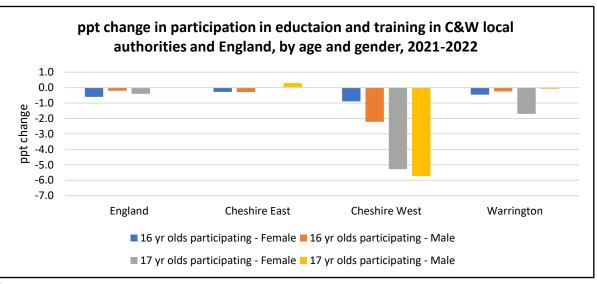




Recently, participation by 16- and 17-year-olds has tracked above English levels for all 3 LAs in C&W. However, participation declined by over 3% between 2021 and 2022 in Cheshire West and Chester to fall below the English level. This was the eighth sharpest LA decline in the country. Nationally and in Cheshire and Warrington participation was lower for 17-year-olds than they were for 16-year-olds and lowest for 17-year-old males. Participation rates for females and males aged 16 and 17 were similar in 2022 and 2021 in England, Cheshire East, and Warrington (excepting the participation of females aged 17 there). In this time, all categories declined in Cheshire West and Chester with declines exceeding 5% for both males and females aged 17.

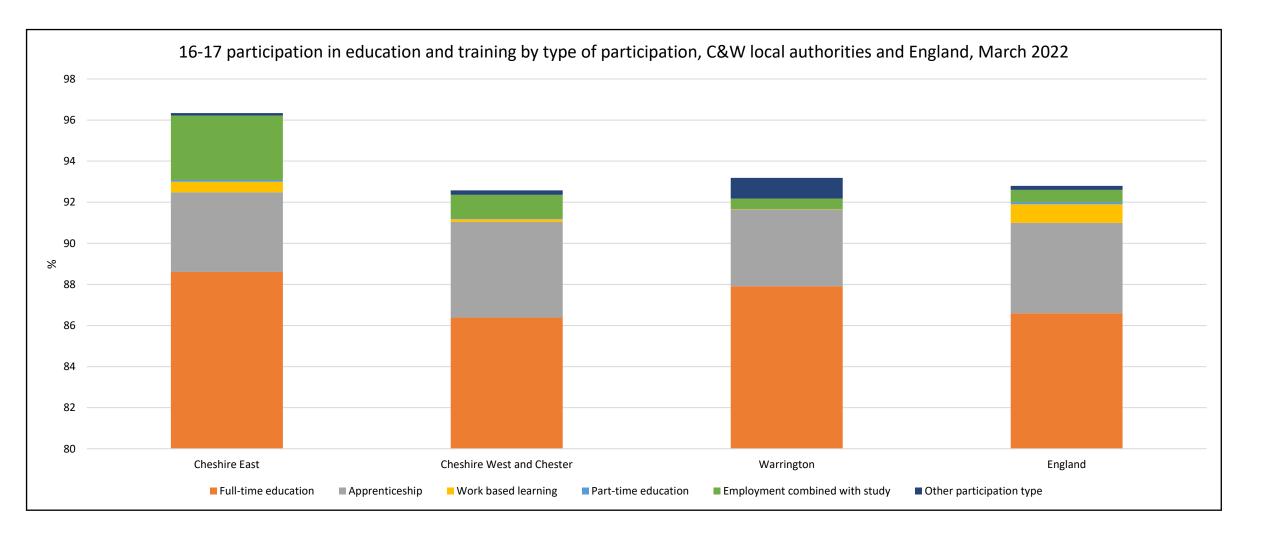






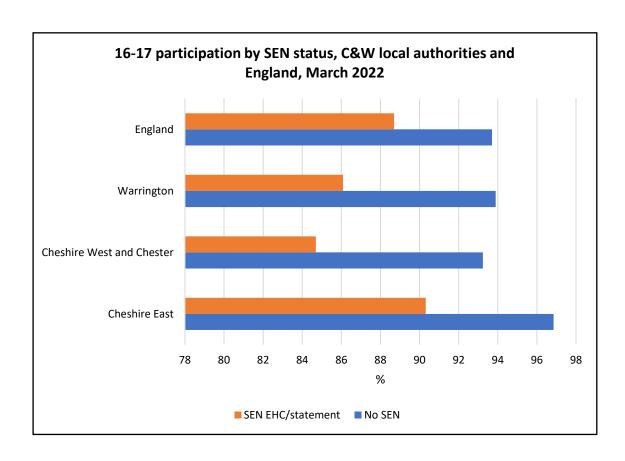
Source: 16-17-year-olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2022, DfE

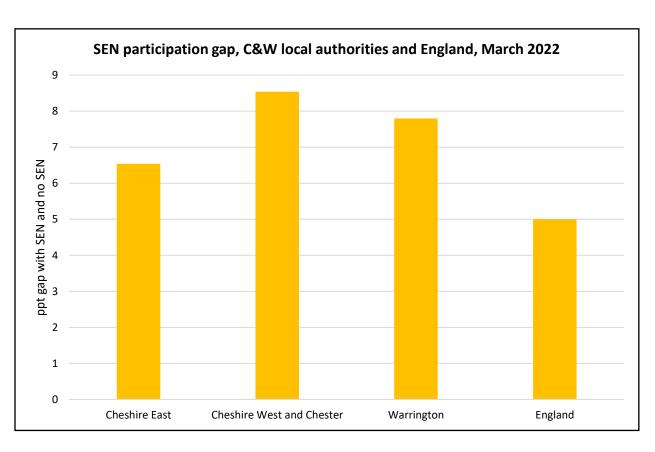
Participation in full time education was at higher levels than England in both Cheshire East and Warrington, but lower in Cheshire West and Chester. Conversely participation rates in Apprenticeships were lower than England for Cheshire East and Warrington, but higher in Cheshire West and Chester. It is not clear why those classified as being in employment participating with study is five times the level of England in Cheshire East or double the England level in Cheshire West and Chester. At 3.1%, the proportion of 16–17-year-olds participating in this way in Cheshire East is the fourth highest in England.



Source: 16–17-year-olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2022, DfE

The participation of 16–17-year-olds with an SEN Education Health and Care plan (EHC) was lower than for England in Warrington and Cheshire West and Chester, but higher in Cheshire East. The participation of 16–17-year-olds with no SEN was higher than England in Cheshire East and marginally higher in Warrington, it was marginally lower than England in Cheshire West and Chester. In 2022, the SEN participation gap was higher than for England in all three local authorities with the highest gap being for Cheshire West and Chester.





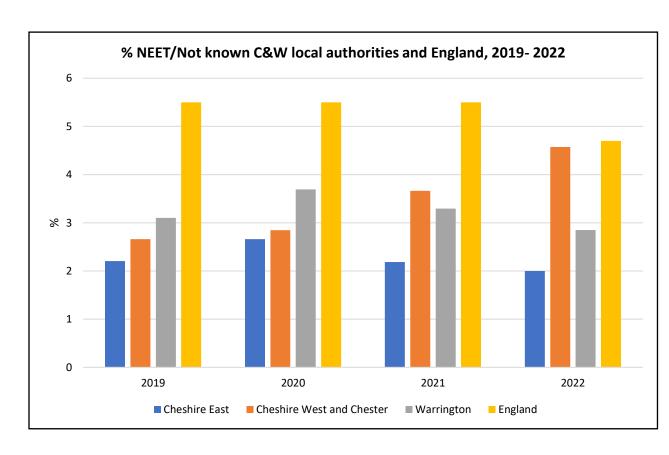
Source: 16–17-year-olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2022, DfE

### **NEET AT AGE 16-17**

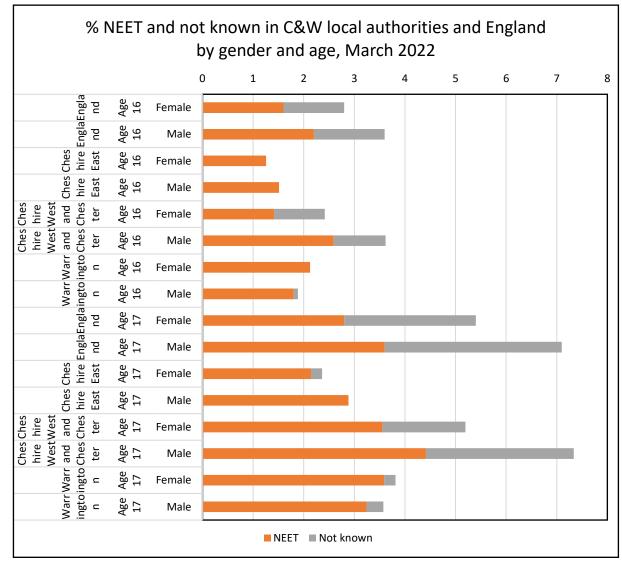
The key indicator of NEET/not known at ages 16-17 is lower than England for every local authority in Cheshire and Warrington. However, compared to 2021 the gap between England and every local authority has narrowed, most markedly in Cheshire West and Chester. The three-year NEET/Not known trend (2020-2022) has been decreasing year on year in both Cheshire East and Warrington. By contrast, the three-year trend in NEET/not known in Cheshire West and Chester has seen year-on-year increases.

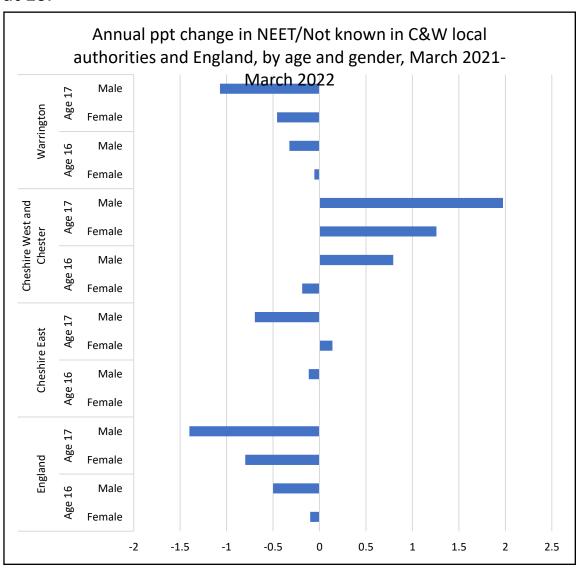
NEET/Not kn	own in C&W l	ocal autho	orities and Engla	nd, March 2022
	NEET/Not	NEET	Not known	Annual Change
	known			in NEET/Not
				known
England	4.7	2.6	2.2	-0.8
Cheshire	2.0	1.9	0.1	-0.2
East				
Cheshire	4.6	3.0	1.6	0.9
West and				
Chester				
Warrington	2.8	2.7	0.2	-0.4

Source: DfE, 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2022



At 16 the NEET/not known rate in every LA is at or below the level for England. At 17 the NEET/not known rate for females is below that of England for all three LAs. For males aged 17 it is lower than for England in Cheshire East and Warrington but is slightly higher in Cheshire West and Chester. Between 2021 and 2022, the NEET/not known rate declined for males and females aged 16 and 17 in both England and Warrington. In Cheshire West and Chester there was a marginal decrease in the NEET/not known for females aged 16 but increases for 17-year-olds of both genders (a 2% increase for males aged 17), and for males at 16.





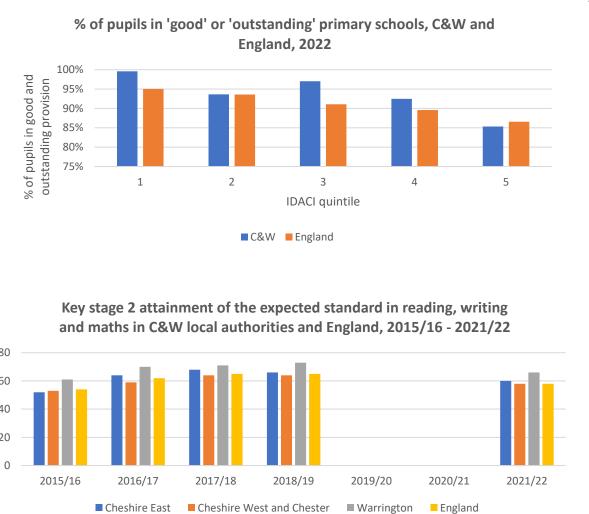
Source: 16-17-year-olds recorded in education and training and NEET by local authority, 2022, DfE

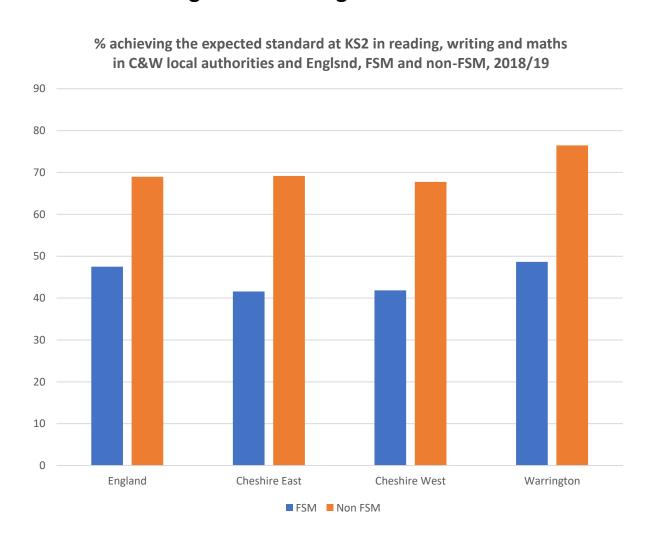
#### YOUNG PEOPLE - EDUCATION & PROGRESSION

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertairy

### **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

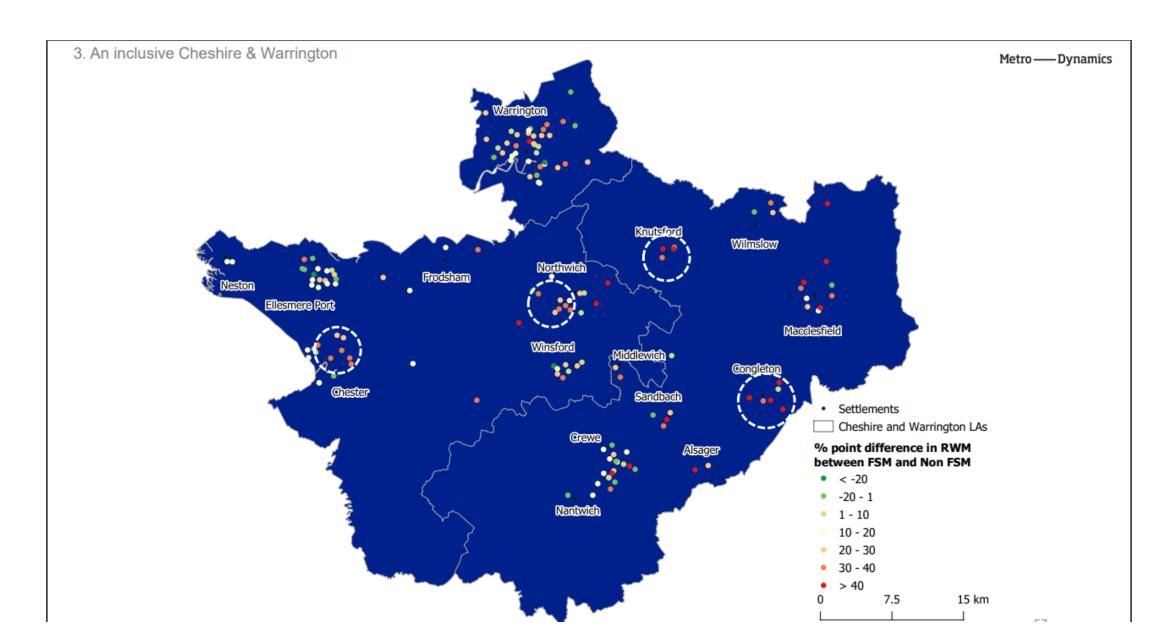
The quality of primary education in Cheshire and Warrington closely mirrors that for England, with a higher or equal percentage of children in schools graded good or outstanding for IDACI deciles 1-4. A slightly lower percentage of children are in schools so graded for IDACI 5. The pandemic engendered a decline in Key Stage 2 attainment in C&W and England, although all Cheshire and Warrington local authorities were at or above the English level in 2020/21. There was a gap in the attainment of children on FSM and not on FSM in all three local authority areas which was larger than for England.





Sources: Ofsted Management Information, September 2022; Key stage 2 attainment, DfE

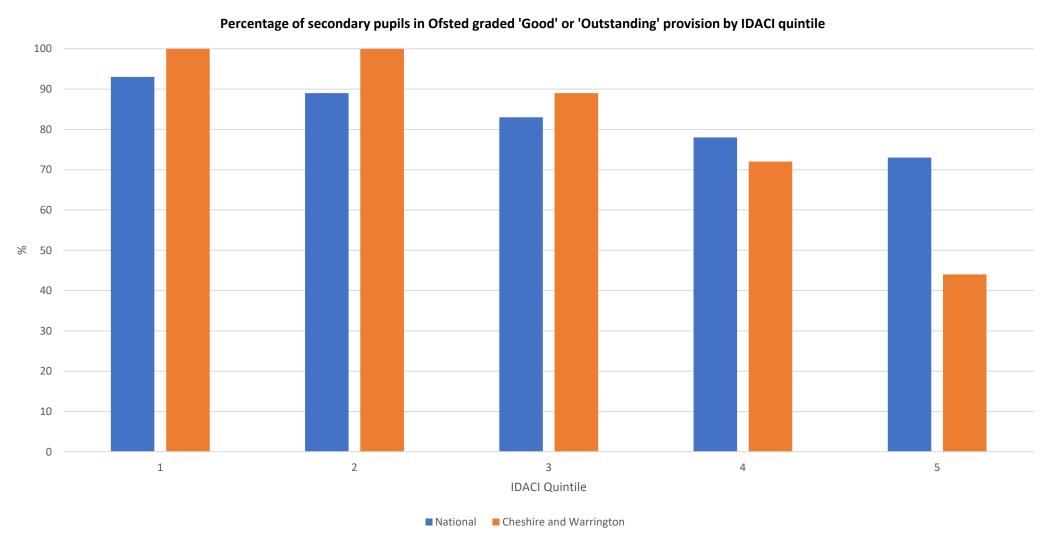
Analysis undertaken by Metro-dynamics for Cheshire and Warrington LEP suggests that the attainment of children in Cheshire and Warrington on Free School Meals tends to be most problematic in schools with low numbers on FSM. Conversely, there are some primary schools with larger FSM cohorts where FSM children do better. The former schools might be able to identify good practice from the latter.



## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

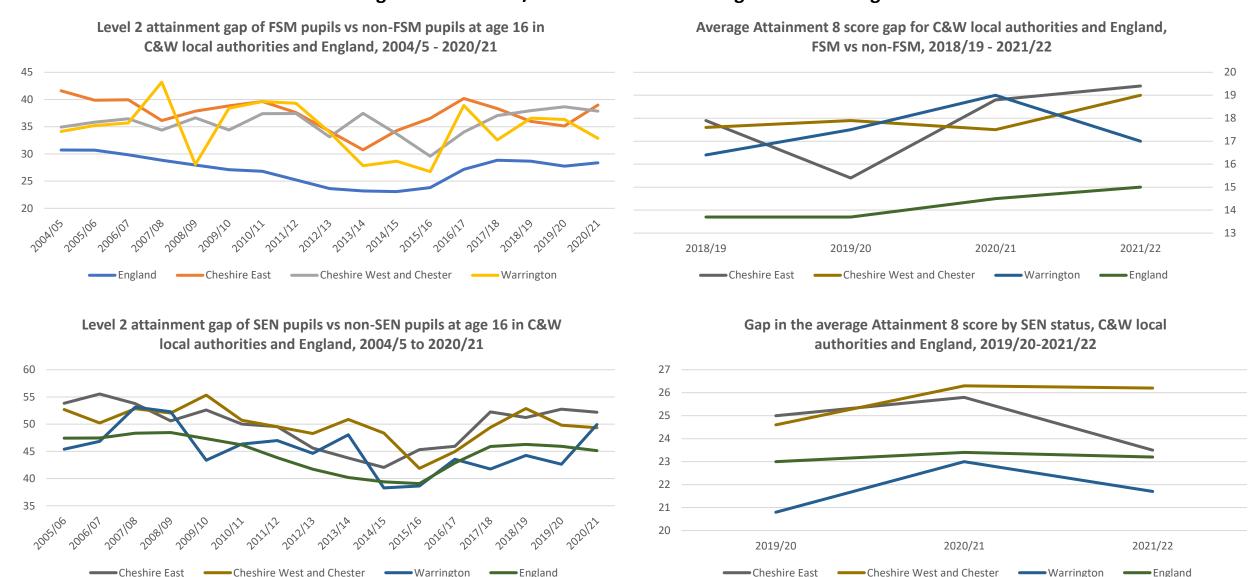
# **Secondary - Quality**

A higher proportion of secondary school places in IDACI quintiles 1-3 in Cheshire and Warrington are rated as good or outstanding when compared with England. The proportion in IDACI 4 schools graded as 'good' or 'outstanding' in Cheshire and Warrington is slightly below England (72% compared with 78%). However, at IDACI 5 (the highest levels of deprivation) only 44% of places are graded as good or outstanding in Cheshire and Warrington, compared with 73% for England.



# **Secondary - Attainment**

The FSM L2 attainment gap at 16 has been larger than England in all three local authorities since this data series started in 2004/5. This is also reflected in the average Attainment 8 cohort scores. The SEN L2 attainment gap at 16 has been larger than England in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester since 2004/5. Warrington's profile is closer to England, with the gap being lower than England in most recent years, albeit the 2020/21 gap was lower in England than Warrington. On the average Attainment 8 measure, the gap has been larger in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester than in England since 2019/20 and smaller than England in Warrington.



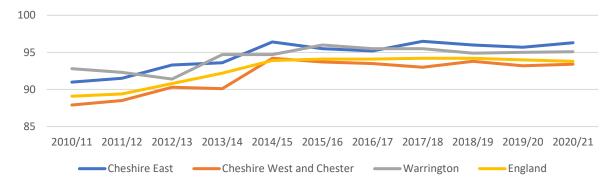
# **Secondary - Destinations**

Generally higher proportions of FSM pupils secure a sustained destination in FE than non-FSM pupils and, conversely lower proportions of FSM pupils secure a destination in a school sixth form than non-FSM pupils. The number of school sixth form students eligible for FSM in C&W falls from 18% in Years 7-11 to 7% in Years 12-14.

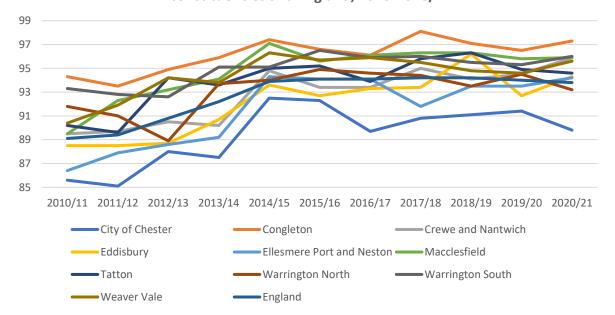
Destinations at Key Stage 4 in C&W local authorities and England, by FSM status and type of destination, 2021/22									
	FE School	School 6th	th 6th Form	Other	Apprenticeship	Work	Not sustained	Unknown	
		Form	Col	edu					
Cheshire East FSM	56	23	2.6	0.5	1.6	6.3	8.9	1	
Cheshire East non-	36.4	49.3	5.2	0.7	3	2.4	2.4	0.6	
FSM									
Cheshire West and	50.3	22.1	5.8	1	0.8	3.5	11.8	4.8	
Chester FSM									
Cheshire West and	29.9	41.2	16.8	0.8	3.1	2.9	3.7	1.7	
Chester non-FSM									
Warrington FSM	42.4	8.4	28.2	1.1	1.5	5.7	12.2	0.4	
Warrington non-	29.2	20.3	42.2	0.1	1.8	2.4	3.4	0.5	
FSM									
England non-FSM	34.2	41.7	13.8	0.5	2.6	2.3	3.8	2.3	
England FSM	46.6	25	10.4	0.6	1.4	3	10.9	5.2	
Source: Key Stage 4	destinatio	on measures, D	fE						

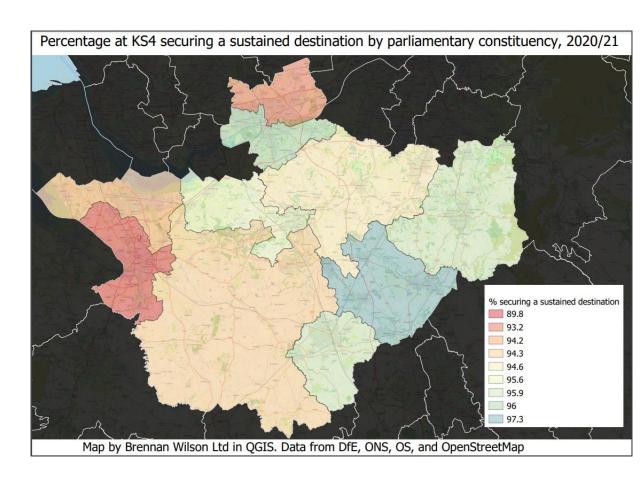
The % of KS4 securing a sustained destination in Cheshire East and Warrington has been above that of England. Conversely, it has generally been below the English level in Cheshire West and Chester. The City of Chester has, for the past decade, had lower rates than all other parliamentary constituencies in Cheshire and Warrington and consistently lower rates than for England. In 2020/21 the City of Chester and Warrington North both had lower rates than England.

% securing a sustained destination at Key Stage 4, C&W local authorities and England, 2010/11-2020/21

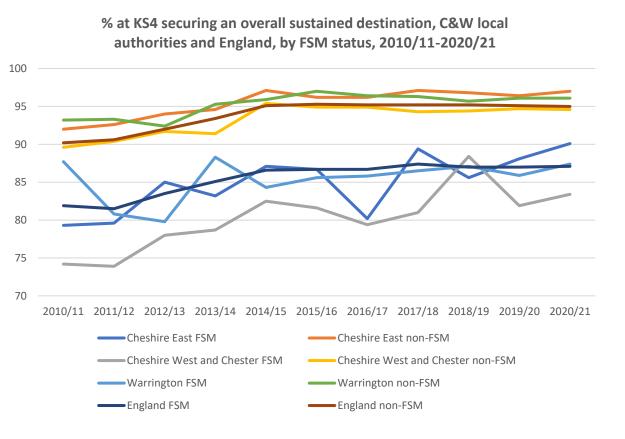


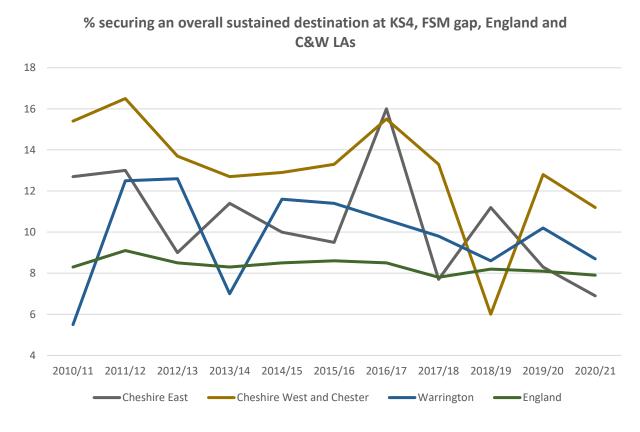
% securing a sustained destination at Key Stage 4, C&W parliamentary constituencies and England, 2010-2020/21



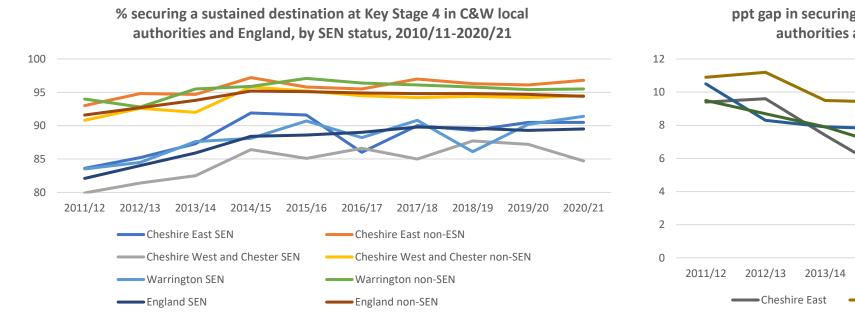


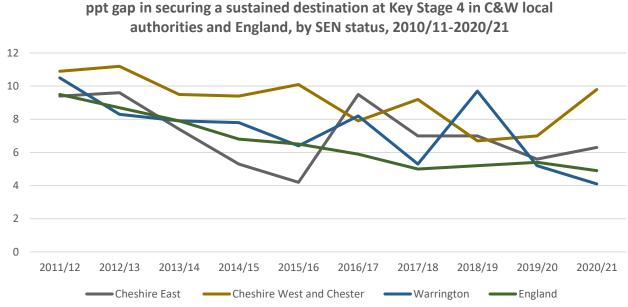
Non-FSM pupils in Cheshire East and Warrington have had a higher rate of securing a sustained destination in the last decade than has been the case for England. In the last 5 years, non-FSM pupils in Cheshire West and Chester have had a lower rate of securing a sustained destination than has been the case for England. For FSM pupils in Cheshire East and Warrington rates have exceeded those for England on a handful of years for each authority over the past decade. Cheshire West and Chester have had lower rates of sustained destinations for FSM pupils than England for every year bar one in the last decade. When the gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils is considered, in the last three years the gap has been lower than England once in Cheshire West and Chester (2018/19) and once in Cheshire East (2020/21)



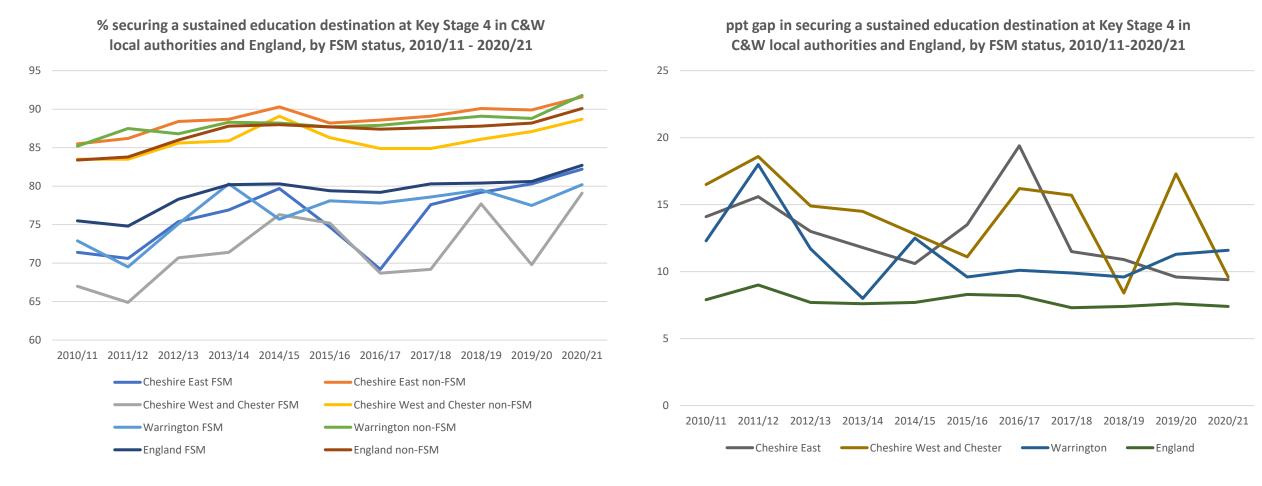


Pupils with no SEN in Cheshire East and Warrington have had a higher rate of securing a sustained destination at KS4 in the last decade than has been the case for England. In four of the last five years, pupils with no SEN in Cheshire West and Chester have had a lower rate of securing a sustained destination than has been the case for England. In the most recent data this position has been reversed for 2020/21 with the Cheshire West and Cheshire rate exceeding the English rate by 0.1%. For SEN pupils there has been variable performance compared with England in Cheshire East and Warrington with rates often exceeding those for England for each authority over the past decade, including most recently for both authorities in 2020/21. Cheshire West and Chester have had lower rates of sustained destinations for SEN pupils than England for every year in the last decade. For the past five years the SEN KS4 destinations gap in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester has been higher than for England. This was also the case for Warrington 'till 2020/21 when Warrington's performance bettered England.



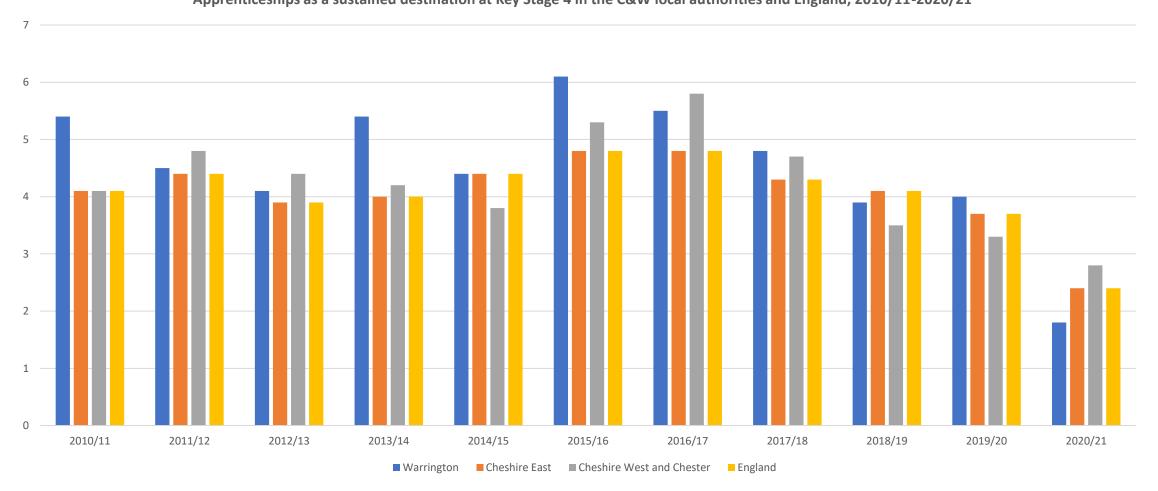


For the past five years the proportion of non-FSM pupils that have secured a sustained education destination has been higher than for England in Warrington and Cheshire East. Conversely, the proportion has been lower in Cheshire West and Chester. The proportion of FSM pupils securing a sustained destination in education following KS4 has been lower in C&W than in England for the last decade. For the last decade, the gap between the proportion of non-FSM KS4 pupils sustaining a destination in education and the proportion of FSM pupils doing so has been larger than England for all three Cheshire and Warrington local authorities.



Since the introduction by national Government of reforms to apprenticeships in the middle of the last decade, the proportion of Key Stage 4 leavers able to secure a destination as an apprentice has shown a declining trend in both England and the three local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington. That decline has been most pronounced in Warrington. Between 2015/16 and 2020/21 the rate of progression to a sustained apprenticeship in Warrington has declined by over two thirds from 6.1% to 1.8%.

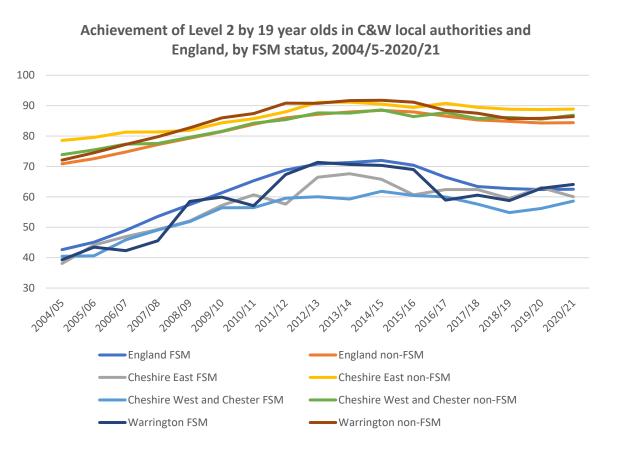
Apprenticeships as a sustained destination at Key Stage 4 in the C&W local authorities and England, 2010/11-2020/21

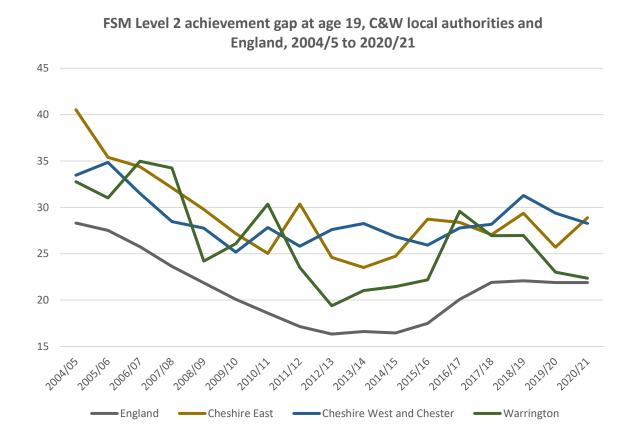


## **TERTIARY EDUCATION**

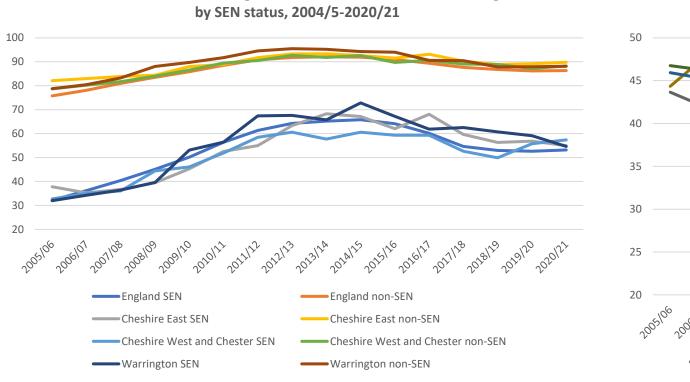
# **Tertiary - Attainment**

Generally, 19-year-olds in C&W who were not FSM eligible have achieved better @L2 than their counterparts in England over the past one and a half decades. By contrast, those eligible for FSM generally had lower levels of attainment than their English counterparts in this time period, although FSM 19-year-olds in Warrington had a slightly higher achievement rate than their English counterparts in 2020/21. All three C&W LAs have had a bigger L2@age 19 FSM gap than England since this data started to be collected (2004/5). Recent years have seen an encouraging convergence towards the English level in Warrington.

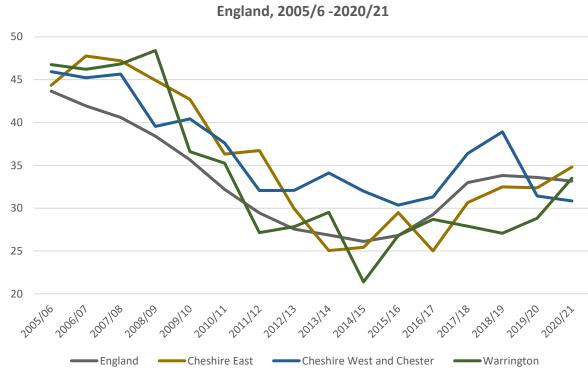




Generally, 19-year-olds in Cheshire and Warrington with no SEN have achieved as well or better than their counterparts in England since 2005/6. Furthermore, in the last couple of years, those with SEN have had higher levels of attainment in C&W than their English counterparts. All three Cheshire and Warrington LAs have generally tracked the English L2 SEN attainment gap. For the last couple of years, the gap in Cheshire West and Chester has been slightly smaller than that for England.

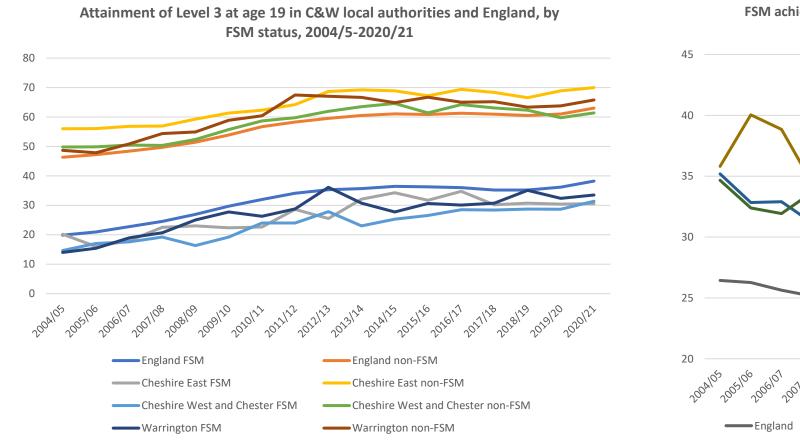


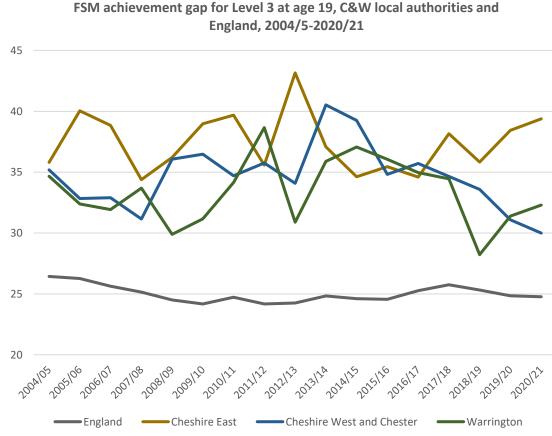
Achievement of Level 2 at age 19 in C&W local authorities and England,



SEN Level 2 achievement gap at age 19, C&W local authorities and

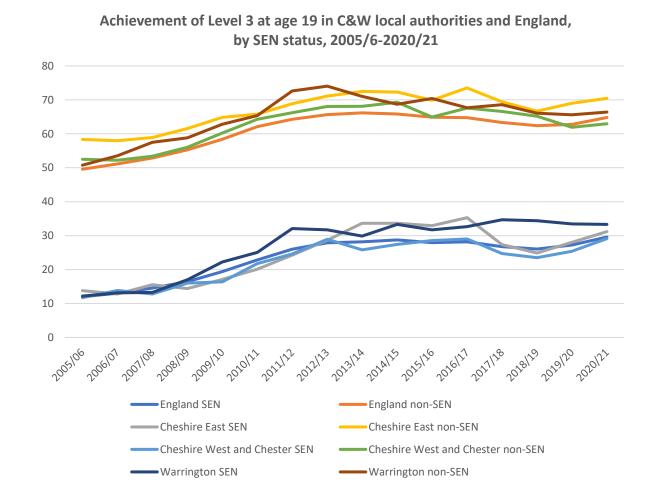
Generally, 19-year-olds in C&W who were not FSM eligible have achieved better than their counterparts in England since 2004/5, although achievement for this cohort has dipped below that of England in Cheshire West and Chester in the last couple of years. By contrast, those eligible for FSM generally had lower levels of attainment than their English counterparts in this time period. All three C&W LAs have had a bigger gap than England since this data started to be collected (2004/5).

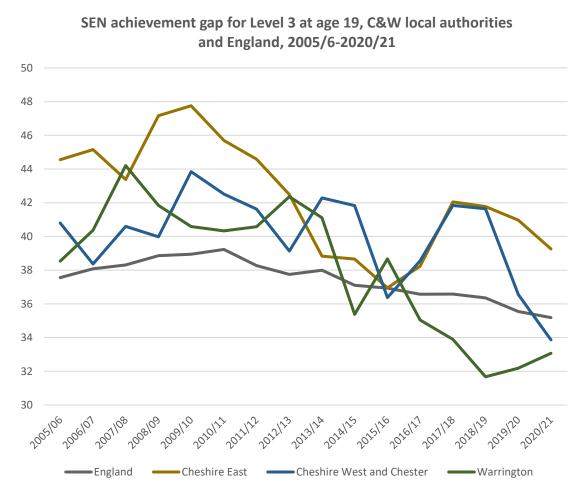




Source: DfE Attainment SFR

Generally, 19-year-olds in C&W with no SEN have achieved at L3 as well or better than their counterparts in England since 2005/6, although Cheshire West and Chester has dropped below England in the last couple of years. In the last few of years, those with SEN have generally had higher levels of attainment than their English counterparts in Cheshire East and Warrington, but lower in Cheshire West and Chester. The gap in Warrington has generally been at or below the English level, whereas the gap in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester has generally been at or above the English level, although the gap for Cheshire West and Chester is now below that for England.

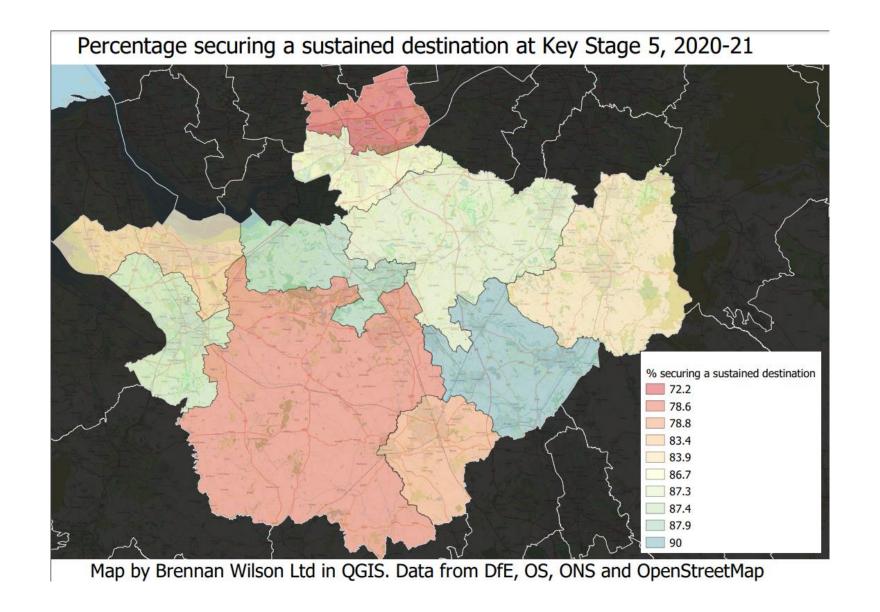




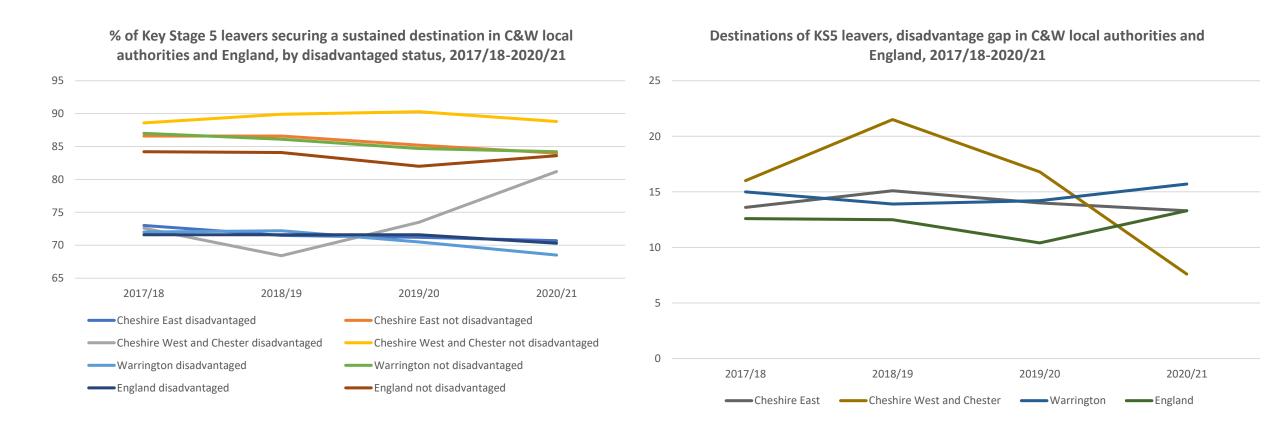
Source: DfE Attainment SFR

# **Tertiary - Destinations**

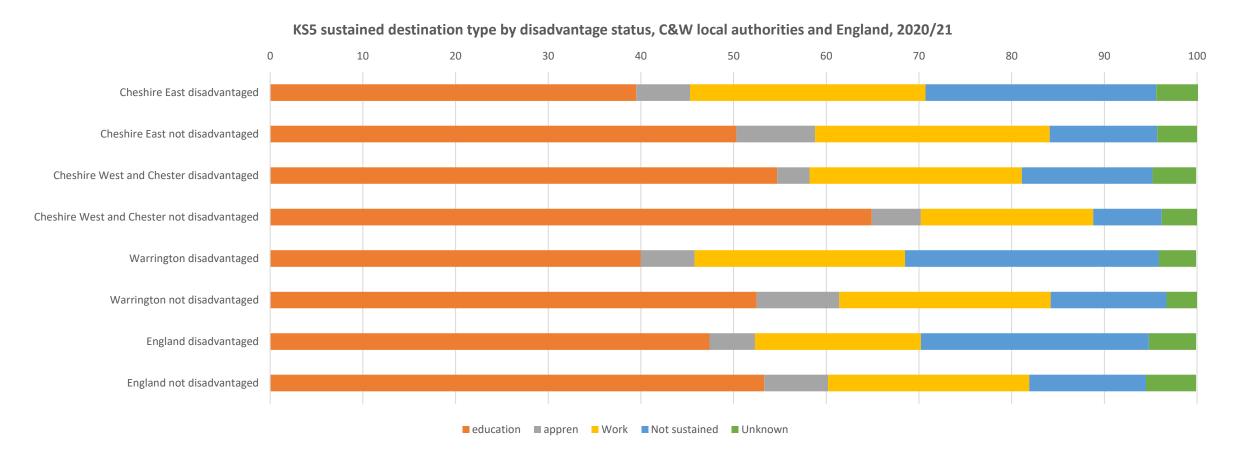
Three C&W constituencies had sustained destination rates at Key Stage 5 lower than England in 2020/21 - Warrington North; Eddisbury; and Crewe and Nantwich



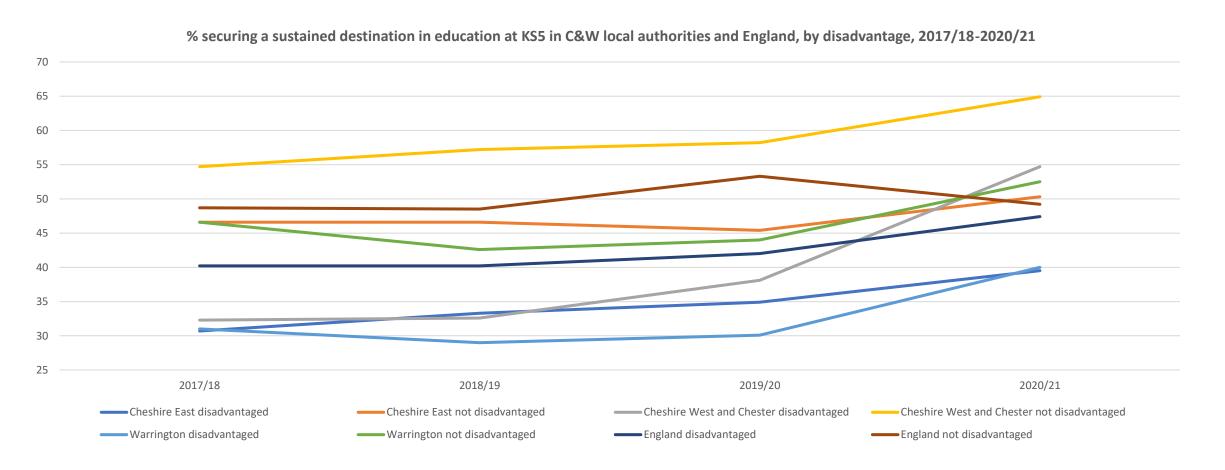
Generally, the 3 C&W LAs have tracked above the English level for the percentage of non-disadvantaged 19 yr olds securing a sustained destination, Cheshire East and Warrington have also tracked England for disadvantaged young people securing a destination. However, in the last two years, the percentage of disadvantaged young people able to secure a destination in Cheshire West and Chester has increased significantly by over 15 percentage points from 68.4% in 2018/19 to 83.6% in 2020/21. The disadvantaged gap in Cheshire East and Warrington been at or above that for England. Data for the most recent year shows that the gap for Cheshire West and Chester has fallen to almost half of that for of England



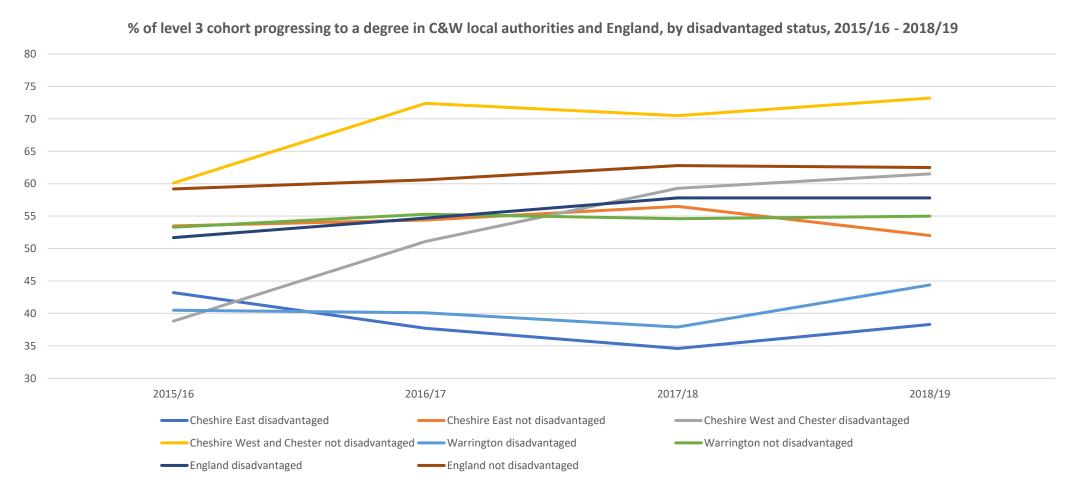
Within each local authority and within England, progression after KS5 to a sustained education destination is lower for disadvantaged students than for those classed as not disadvantaged. Disadvantaged sustained progression to an education destination in Cheshire East and Warrington was lower than England. By contrast, the rate of progression for Cheshire West and Chester disadvantaged Key Stage 5 leavers is relatively high, being higher than for disadvantaged students in England and the other two Cheshire and Warrington local authorities. It is also higher than for those classed as not disadvantaged in England and the other two local authorities. Similarly, whilst about a quarter (25-27%) of disadvantaged Key Stage 5 leavers fail to secure any type of destination in England, Cheshire East and Warrington, that proportion falls to 14% in Cheshire West and Chester.



2017/18-2020/21, a higher proportion of KS5 leavers classed as not disadvantaged in Cheshire West and Chester successfully secured a destination in education than was the case for this type of learner in England. In 2020/21, the proportion securing a sustained destination in education exceeded that for England for the following categories of KS5 leavers: Cheshire West and Chester (not disadvantaged); Cheshire West and Chester (disadvantaged); Warrington (not disadvantaged); and Cheshire East (not disadvantaged). The proportion of disadvantaged KS5 leavers able to secure a sustained destination fell below England in Cheshire East and Warrington in the four years for which data are available.



A higher proportion of L3 learners not classified as disadvantaged have progressed to a degree in Cheshire West and Chester than is the case for their counterparts in England for every year the data is available. By contrast, the proportions for this cohort have been lower than for England for every year in Cheshire East and Warrington. The proportions of disadvantaged L3 learners that progress to a degree have been lower for every year in Cheshire East and Warrington than in England. However, in Cheshire West and Chester the proportion of this cohort that progressed to a degree has shown a marked increase of 23.7ppt from 38.8% in 2015/16 to 62.5% in 2018/19, 4.7% higher than the English level for this cohort was in this year.



## PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING

- Participation in 16-18 Learning
- 16-18 learning below Level 2
- 16-18 learning at Level 2
- 16-18 learning at Level 3

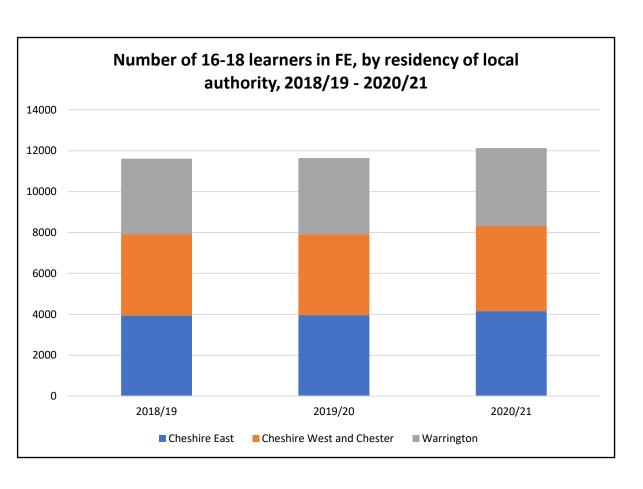


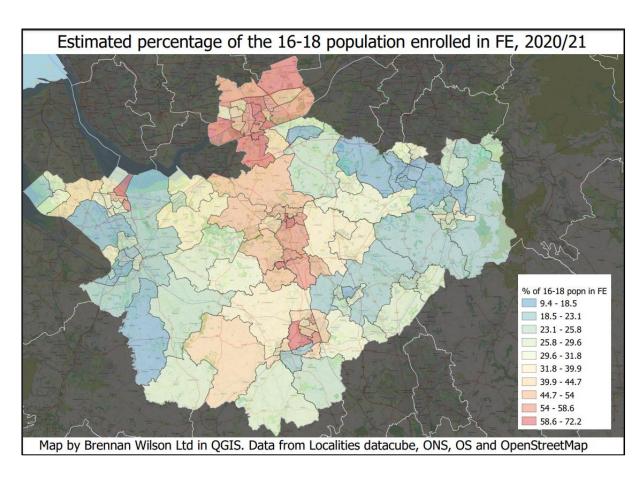
In 2020/21, it is estimated that 54% of those aged 16-18 in learning attended a College or Sixth Form College, 33% attended a School Sixth Form and 13% were apprentices. The percentage eligible for FSM in a school sixth form setting dropped to 7%, compared with 18% known to be eligible for FSM in Years 7-11.

Estimated participation of 16-18 year olds in post-16 learning by route, 2020/21			
Schools	7,370		
Apprenticeships	3,080		
FE	12,133		
Sources: ESFA Localities data cube, Schools Census underlying data, Jan 2021 count			

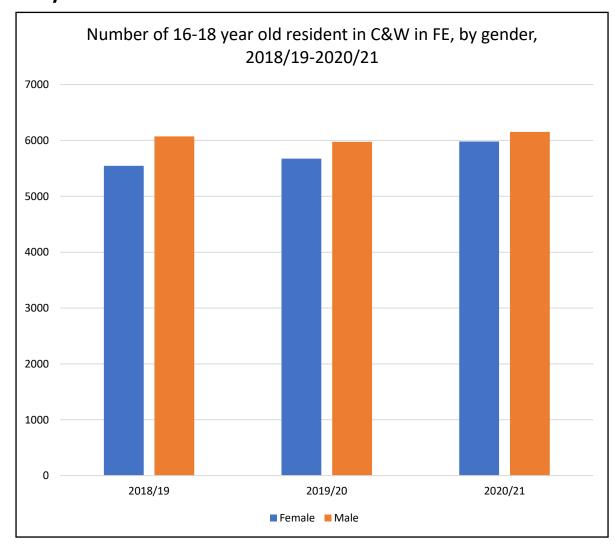
Participation in 16-18 Learning - FE

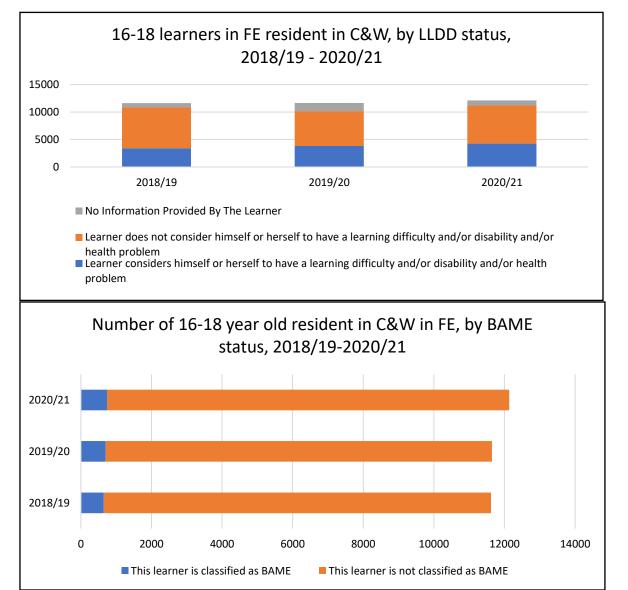
Between 2018/19 and 2020/21 the overall numbers of 16-18 learners in FE has hovered around the 12k mark. Numbers have remained stable at local authority level as well, with roughly 4k FE learners in each local authority in 2020/21. The areas with the highest proportions of participation in FE run in a band through the centre of Cheshire and Warrington going from Warrington in the north, through Winsford, to Crewe in the South.





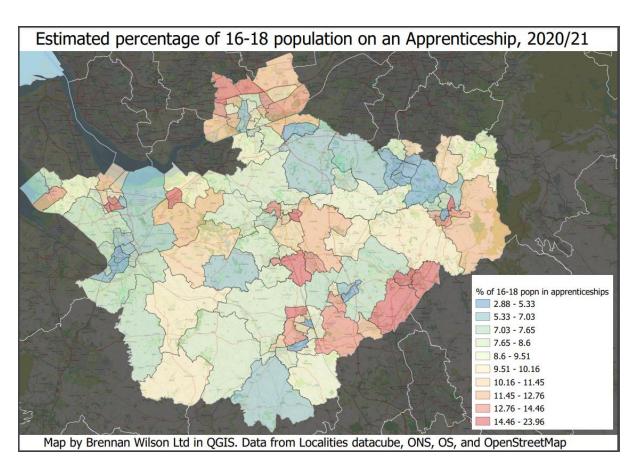
In 2020/21, the percentage of 16-18 learners in FE that were female was 49% - a slight increase from 48% in 2018/19. The percentage reporting as LLDD increased from 29% in 2018/19 to 35% in 2020/21. The cause of this rise is not clear. The number of 16-18 residents of Cheshire and Warrington in FE classified as BAME was stable at 6% between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

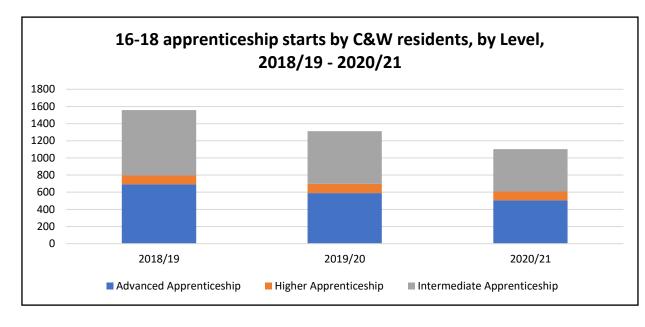


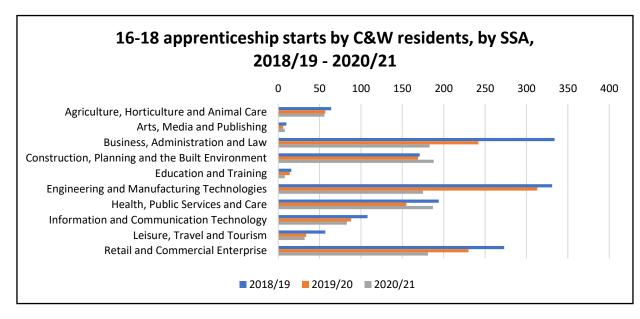


**Participation in 16-18 Learning - Apprenticeships** 

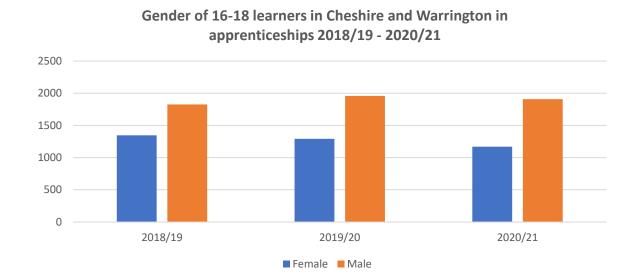
The wards with the highest proportions of 16-18 year olds on apprenticeships were: Burtonwood & Winwick; Whitby Park; Rudheath; Macclesfield Hurdsfield; Whitby Groves; Winsford Gravel; Congleton East; Strawberry; Odd Rode; and Congleton West. Between 2018/19 and 2020/21, the number of starts on Intermediate Apprenticeships declined by 35% and for Advanced apprenticeships by 27%. The sharpest decreases in starts were in Business, Administration and Law (-45.2%); Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (-47.1%); and Leisure, Travel and Tourism (-43.9%).

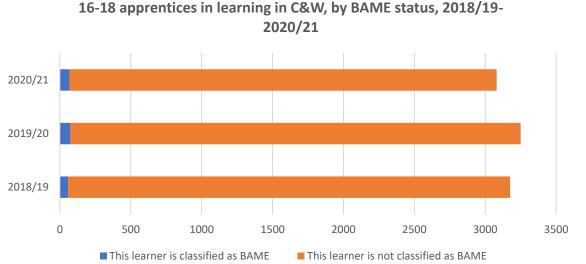






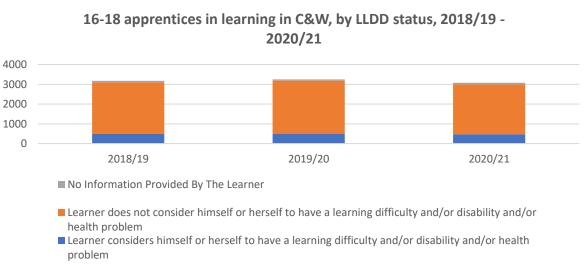
42% of apprentices in learning were female in 2018/19. This declined to 38% in 2020/21, with significant gender disparities across SSAs. The BAME proportion has remained at 2% between 2018/19 and 2020/21, and the proportion that consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem has been stable at 16% between 2018/19 and 2020/21.





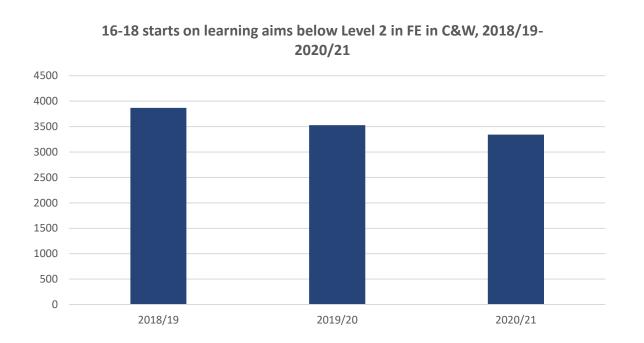
Retail and Commercial Enterprise
Leisure, Travel and Tourism
Information and Communication Technology
Health, Public Services and Care
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
Education and Training
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment
Business, Administration and Law
Arts, Media and Publishing
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care

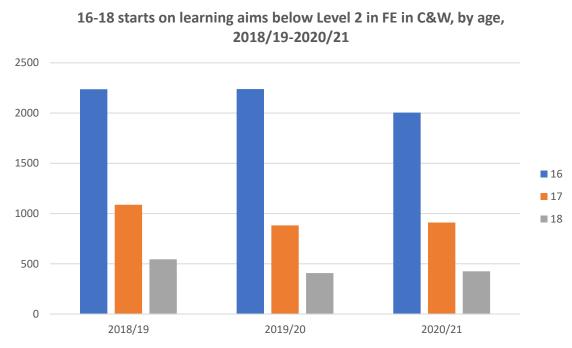
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200



Participation in 16-18 Learning below Level 2

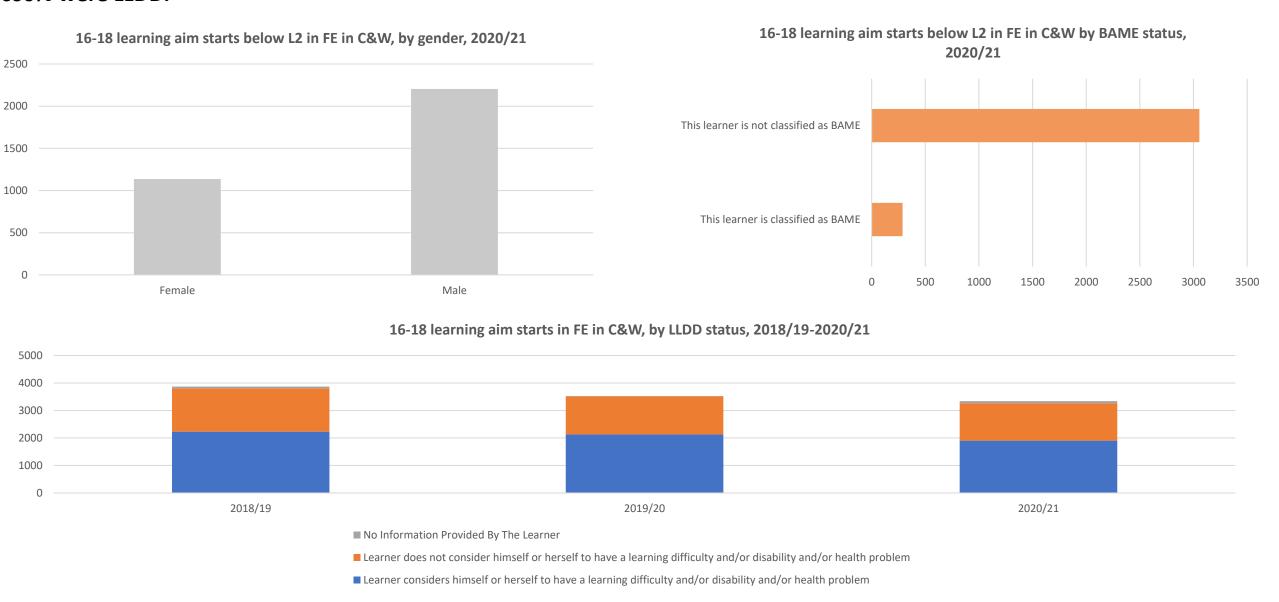
Whilst the overall number of 16-18 learners in FE remained relatively stable between 2018/19 and 2020/21, there was a decline of 14% in the number of learning aim starts below Level 2 - 10% for 16 year olds, 16% for 17 year olds and 22% for 18 year olds. This was driven by a decline in basic skills Maths and English qualifications of 37% (from 1,536 to 970).





Row Labels	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
Award	384	372	454	
Basic Skills Maths and English	1536	1360	970	
Certificate	548	451	565	
Diploma	1037	978	915	
ESOL	129	91	138	
Other Non-Regulated	235	275	300	
Other Regulated	1	2	0	
Total	3870	3529	3342	

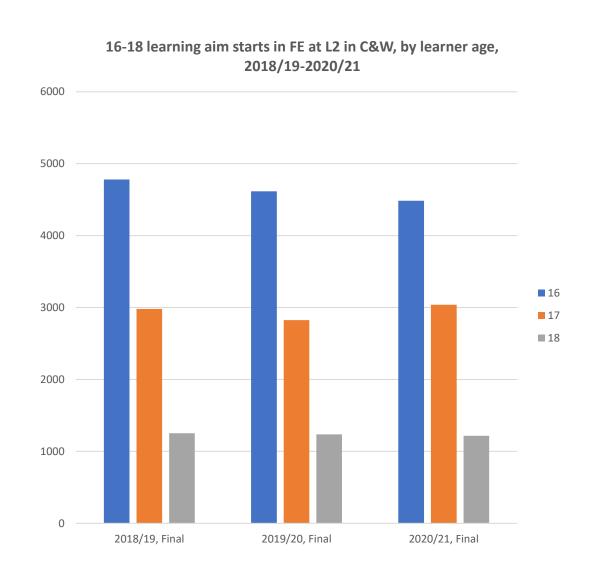
Two thirds of all learning aim starts in 2020/21 were by males, compared with 51% of all 16-18 learners. 97% of starts in Construction, and 94% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies were by males. 7% of learners were BAME, c60% were LLDD.



Participation in 16-18 Learning at Level 2

There was a decline of 3% (274) in starts at Level 2 in FE between 2018/19 and 2020/21, with that decline being driven by a decline in the number of starts on GCSE Maths and English of 13% (712) and a decline in the number of starts by 16 year olds of 6% (297). This is likely to reflect increases in the attainment of English and Maths at Key Stage 4.

2020/21



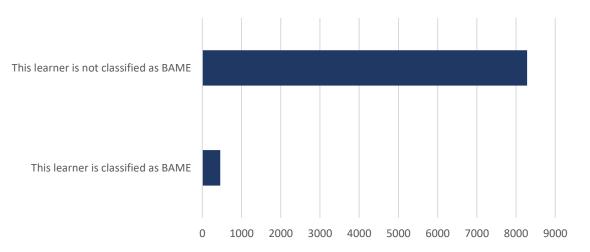
16-18 learning aims at L2 in FE in C&W, by qualification type,						
2018/19 – 2020/21						
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
Award	230	172	353			
Basic Skills	149	197	158			
Maths and						
English						
Certificate	907	652	660			
Diploma	1397	1549	1690			
ESOL	3	4	0			
GCSE Maths	5415	5213	4703			
and English						
GCSE Other	21	19	23			
Other Non-	857	840	1137			
Regulated						
Other	34	29	15			
Regulated						
Total	9013	8675	8739			
Source: starts analysis, ESFA localities datacube (residency),						

In FE at Level 2 there is a relatively even split between genders which disguises significant gender disparities, with males accounting for 97% of all learning aim starts in Construction, 90% in ICT, and 75% in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, and females 85% of starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprise. 5% of learners were BAME, 47% were LLDD.

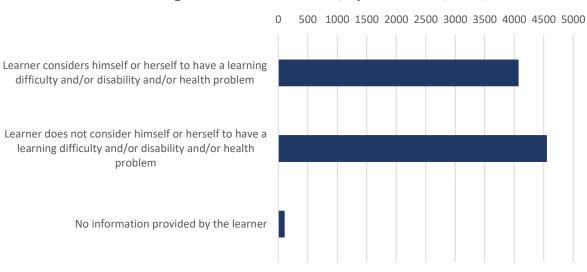
16-18 learning aim starts in FE in C&W at L2, by gender and SSA, 2020/21 1000 1200 1400 1600 Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care Arts, Media and Publishing Business, Administration and Law Construction, Planning and the Built Environment **Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies** Health, Public Services and Care Information and Communication Technology Languages, Literature and Culture Leisure, Travel and Tourism Preparation for Life and Work Retail and Commercial Enterprise Science and Mathematics

■ Female ■ Male

16-18 learning aims at L2 in FE in C&W, by BAME status, 2020/21

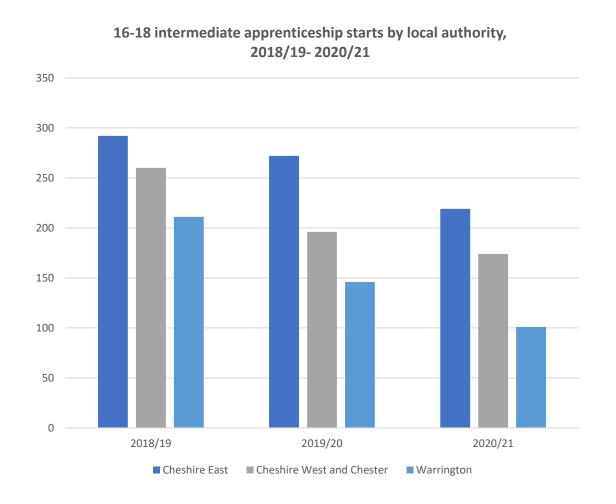


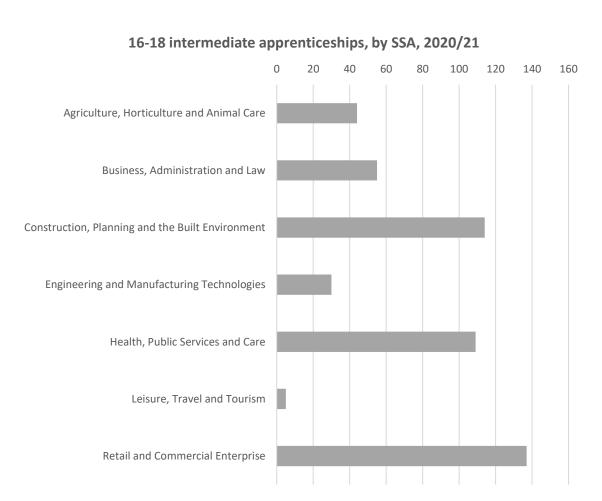
16-18 learning aims at L2 in FE in C&W, by LLDD status, 2020/21



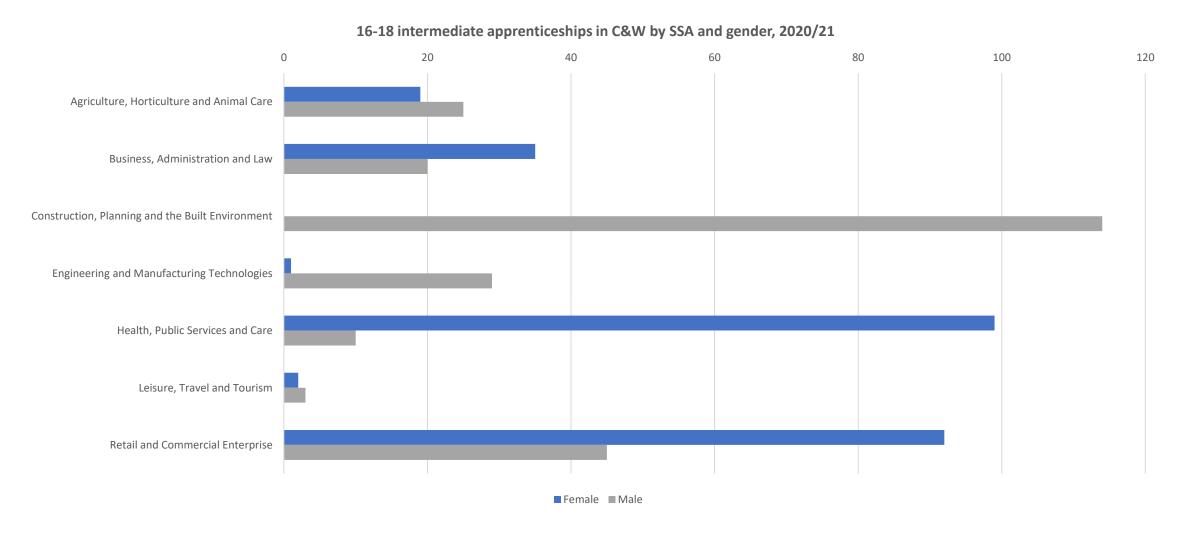
The number of 16-18 Level 2 apprenticeship starts declined by 35% between 2018/19 and 2020/21 - Cheshire East by 25%, Cheshire West and Chester 33%, and Warrington 52%.

Almost three quarters of starts on Intermediate apprenticeships by residents of Cheshire and Warrington aged 16-18 were in the three SSAs of Construction, Planning and the Built Environment; Health, Public Services and Care; and Retail and Commercial Enterprise.





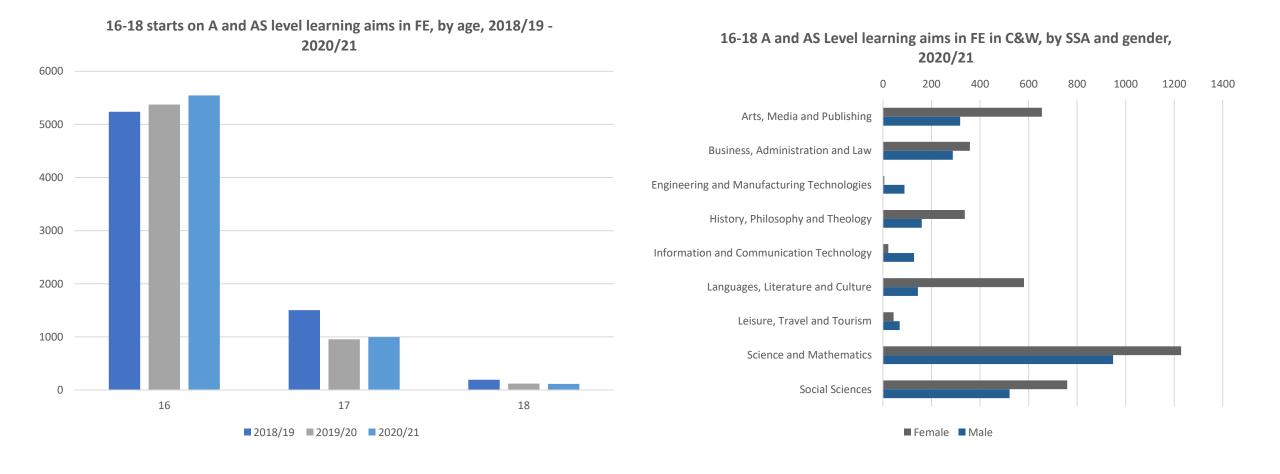
An overall male/female parity in Level 2 apprenticeship starts disguises significant gender disparity at the level of SSA. Every start in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment was by a male, as were 97% in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies. Conversely, 91% of starts in Health, Public Services and Care and two thirds of starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprise were by females.



Participation in 16-18 Learning at Level 3

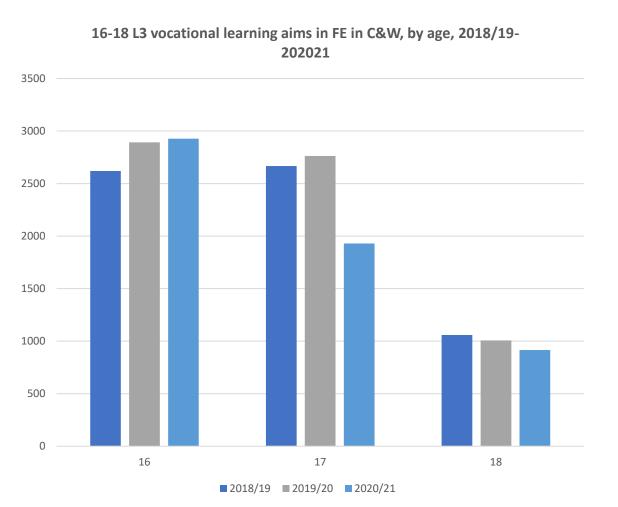
The volume of L3 academic learning aim starts in FE decreased slightly by 4% between 2018/19 and 2020/21. 16-year-olds accounted for 83% of starts in 2020/21. This was a 6% increase in 2020/21 compared with 2018/19. By contrast, the number of 17- and 18-year-olds starting academic aims fell quite sharply in this time (decreases of 34% and 40% respectively).

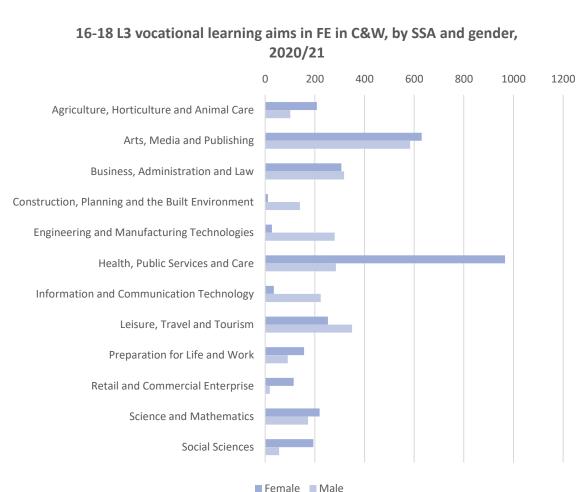
In 2020/21 60% of starts were by females, with 80% in Languages, Literature and Culture; 68% in History, Philosophy and Theology; and 67% in Arts, Media and Publishing being by females. Conversely, 94% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and 85% of starts in Information and Communication Technology were by males.



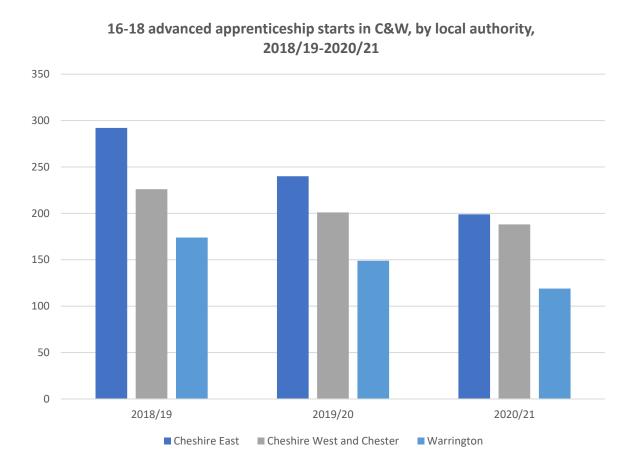
The volume of 16-18 vocational learning aim starts at Level 3 between 2018/19 and 2020/21 saw a decrease of 9% (600). In this time, the proportion of starts by those aged 16 increased from 41% to 51% (+309) whilst the proportion aged 17 decreased from 42% to 34% (-738).

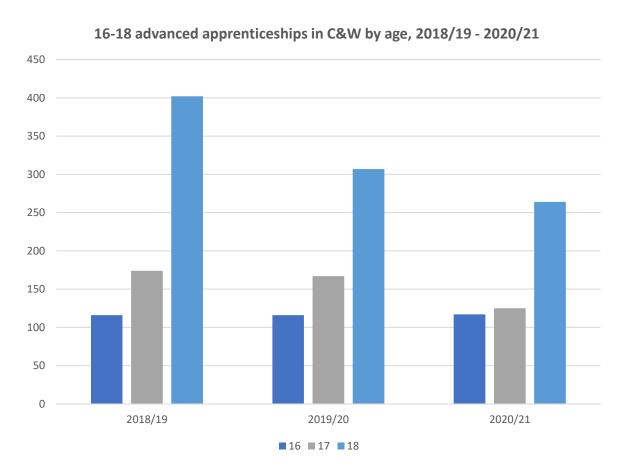
Gender disparities were evident, with 86% of starts in Retail and Commercial Enterprise, 78% of starts in Social Sciences and 67% of starts in Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care being by females. Conversely, 91% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; 93% of starts in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment; and 87% of starts in Information and Communication Technology were by males.





The number of 16-18 starts on Level 3 (Advanced) apprenticeships declined by 27% between 2018/19 and 2020/21 from 692 to 506. The decline in Cheshire East was 32%, Cheshire West and Chester 17%, and Warrington 32%. This decline was not experienced uniformly by age with the decline being 28% for those aged 17 and 34% for those aged 18 but starts at age 16 showing a very slight increase of 1%.





In 2020/21 there was a 39/61 female/male gender split in starts on advanced apprenticeships. 97% of advanced apprenticeship starts in Health, Public Services and Care, 87% of starts in Education and Training and 75% of starts in Arts, Media and Publishing being by females. Conversely, 96% of starts in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; 94% of starts in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment; 78% of starts in Leisure, Travel and Tourism; and 70% of starts in Information and Communication Technology were by males.

In 2020/21, there were no BAME 16-18 starts on advanced apprenticeships in Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care and Education and Training. Numbers of BAME starts were also very low in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and Health, Public Services and Care.

