

In this bulletin Dorset refers to the Dorset Council area coming into effect 1st April 2019 unless stated otherwise

## Dorset Skills

This bulletin is part of a series which makes up the 2018/19 local economic assessment of Dorset. Improving skills during your working life can give access to better paid work which has been identified as a key component in reducing poverty in the UK.<sup>1</sup> Gaining higher qualifications and skills is likely to improve your earnings power.

Big Numbers

**33%**

of Dorset's population is qualified to L4+ compared to 39% in the South West.

**5%**

of the working-age population in Purbeck started an apprenticeship in 2017/18, compared to 1.1% in England.

**43%**

of people with no qualifications are in employment compared to 82% of people qualified to L4+.

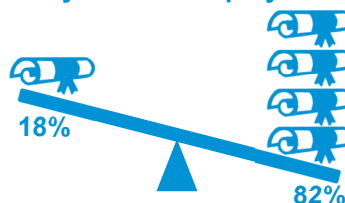
**£5.5k**

is the average increase in annual earnings of someone with a Master's degree compared to an undergraduate degree.

### Box 1: Skills Levels

- Dorset's workforce holds lower qualifications on average than nationally.<sup>2</sup>
- The proportion of the working age population in Dorset with Level 4+ qualifications (HNC or higher) was 33% in 2017. This represents an increase of over a third since 2004 but still leaves Dorset behind the South West with 39% and England with 38%.<sup>3</sup>
- At the current rate of increase in skills levels, it could be 10 years before the population meets the skills requirements of employers.
- The higher a person's qualification, the more likely they are to be employed. 82% of people aged 21-64 with the highest qualification of L4+ are in employment. Only 43% of people with no qualifications are in employment.<sup>4</sup>
- Higher-level qualifications lead to better-paid jobs. Around half of people qualified to L4+ are working in high-skilled occupations, compared to only 10% of people with lower qualifications.<sup>4</sup>
- A person's earnings power increases over time in line with their level of qualifications. Whilst those with a L3 qualification (A Levels and equivalent) will see their earnings peak in their mid-30s, those qualified to L4+ can expect their earnings to increase until their late 40s.<sup>4</sup>
- Over the last 6 years nationally, firms have reported that the proficiency of their staff has increased. At the same time, firms are struggling to recruit staff. The proportion of firms reporting that they have hard-to-fill vacancies, or vacancies due to a skills shortage has doubled in the same period.<sup>5</sup>

People with L4+ qualifications are more likely to be in employment



\*45% of skills required by employers over the next decade are for level 4 and above - Local Economic Forecasting Model.

**Sources:**

- 1 UK Poverty 2018, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Dec 2018
- 2 2011 Census & Annual Population Survey 2017, ONS
- 3 Annual Population Survey 2017, ONS
- 4 Graduates in the UK labour market: 2017, ONS

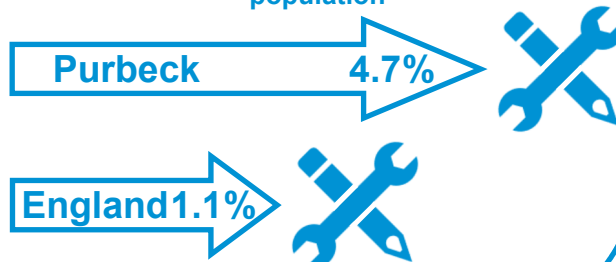
- 5 Employer Skills Survey 2017, p.11, Department for Education



## Box 2: Educational Achievement & Apprenticeships

- In 2018, 70.3% of children achieved a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage, an increase of 1.5 percentage points on 2017, but below the SW average of 71.3%<sup>6</sup>.  
57% of pupils reached the expected standard in
- Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths tests in 2017, a 12 percentage point improvement on 2016, but below the SW average of 60%<sup>6</sup>.
- Progress 8 measures pupil progress between KS2 and KS4. A score below zero shows that pupils made less progress than the national average (England=0). Dorset scored -0.12 in 2016/17, down from 2016 but broadly in line with other South West local authorities<sup>7</sup>.
- Dorset's Attainment 8 score was 45.2 in 2016/17<sup>^</sup>, 1 percentage point below the SW average<sup>6</sup>.
- Average Points Score (APS) per student for A-Levels was 31.5 in 2016/17, 0.5 better than last year but 1.1 below the SW average<sup>6</sup>.
- 88% of post-18 students remain in education, employment or training, similar to the regional and national averages<sup>8</sup>.
- Apprenticeship starts were down in 2017/18 both locally and nationally<sup>8</sup>.
- Apprenticeships are much more popular locally than nationally, with 2.1% of the working age population starting one in 2017/18 compared to only 1.1% in England<sup>8</sup>.
- Within Dorset, Purbeck had the highest rate of apprenticeship starts at 4.7%<sup>8</sup>.
- Advanced apprenticeships are more common in Dorset than nationally, although the 'higher' apprenticeships (L4), are less common. In 2017/18 5.3% of starts were at this level in Dorset compared to 12.8% in England<sup>8</sup>.

### Apprenticeship starts as a % of the 16-64 population



## Our plans include

- Establish a Dorset School Improvement Board, with a focus on Weymouth.
- Raise the aspirations of young people through the Careers Enterprise Company.
- Deliver an Apprenticeship strategy founded on good practice shown by Dorset Council.
- Enhance further education provision through investment in local colleges.

<sup>^</sup>The Attainment 8 scores were calculated using a different methodology in 2016/17 making comparisons to previous years difficult

### Sources:

<sup>6</sup> Dorset County Council, Children's Services (DCC area)

<sup>7</sup> Dorset Achievement Update Summary, February 2018, Dorset County Council

<sup>8</sup> Statistics: further education and skills, Department for Education, December 2018