



Post-16 Attainment of Level 2 and Level 3 by the age of 19

**Education, Learning and Skills Statement
Kingston upon Hull
2022 – 2023**

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TECHNICAL REPORT: Post-16 Attainment of Level 2 and Level 3 by the age of 19

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides Hull City Council and its internal and external stakeholders with an overview of the proportion of young people in Hull attaining Level 2 and 3 qualifications at the age of 19. The document also contains specific data sets for young people who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and those with special educational needs (with and without statements and Education & Health Care Plans).

It is one of a suite of documents that collectively make up Hull City Council's "Education, Learning and Skills Statement". This is one of a series of independent technical reports which are released at various points over the course of the year when the associated data sets¹ are available to analyse, allowing timely dissemination of intelligence relevant to stakeholders with an interest in the post-16 agenda.

Attainment at Level 3 is seen as the minimum requirement for entry into Higher Education and has demonstrable returns in the labour market. A Department for Education (DFE) Research Report in 2014² confirmed that "men with 2 or more 'A' levels as their highest qualification have lifetime productivity returns of around £90,000 compared to those with 5-7 good GCSEs; for women the figure is around £76,000." This report shows how young people in Hull are performing against those criteria.

The data on attainment at Level 2 or higher qualifications with English and maths also relates to the labour market. The achievement of Level 2 in English and maths is seen as the minimum level for employability and progression to further study at higher levels. The afore-mentioned DFE Research Report² concluded that: "Individuals achieving five or more good GCSEs (including English and maths) as their highest qualification are estimated to have lifetime productivity gains worth around £100,000 on average, compared to those with below level 2 or no qualifications. This is equivalent to around 3 additional years of work (based on the average output of an individual with five or more GCSEs as their highest qualification). Restricting the comparison group to just those with no qualifications boosts the returns to five or more good GCSEs (including English and maths) to £283,000 for men and £232,000 for women." As with the Level 3 indicator, this report shows how young people in Hull are performing against the criteria.

2. HULL YOUNG PEOPLE ATTAINING LEVEL 2

2.1 Percentage of all young people with a Level 2 qualification at the age of 19

In 2022, 75.6% of 19 year olds in Hull achieved a Level 2 qualification compared to 78.2% regionally and 81.7% nationally (Figure 1). This is a decrease of 2.3% on 2021 performance of 77.9%. Hull's performance in 2020 for this measure was considerably poorer than regional and national data sets but appears to have been related to that specific cohort of young people. Hull is lagging behind regional and national performance by 2.6% and 6.1% respectively but is in line with the performance of statistical neighbours.

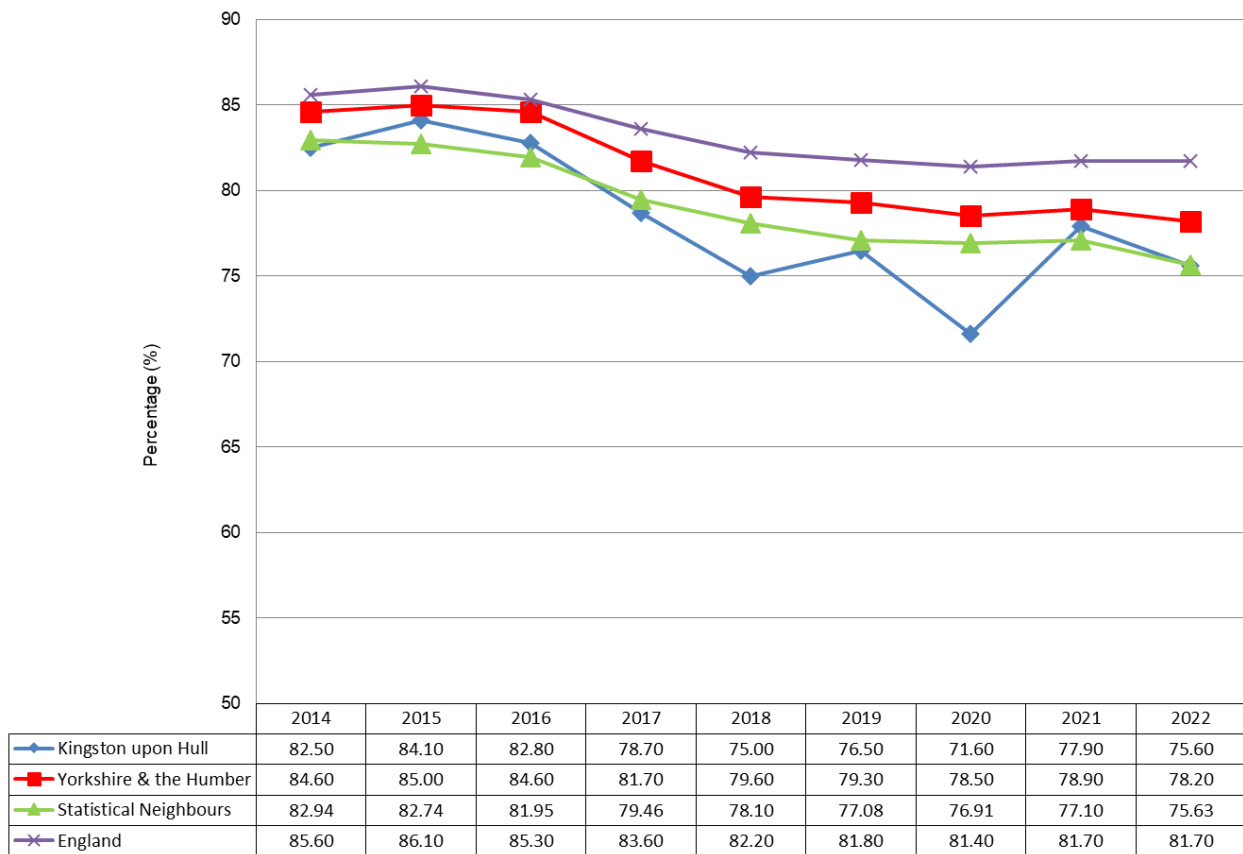


Figure 1: Percentage of all young people with a Level 2 qualification at the age of 19.

2.2 Percentage of those with a Level 2 qualification not eligible for a FSM at the age of 19

After a fall in 2020, followed by an increase in 2021, there has been a small fall again in 2022 with 79% of 19 year olds (who were not eligible for a FSM in Hull) achieving a Level 2 qualification compared to 82% regionally and 84.7% nationally (Figure 2). This was a decrease of 2.2% on 2021 performance of 81.2% although it still remains above 2020 performance of 77%. Hull is lagging behind regional, national and statistical neighbours performance by 3%, 5.7% and 1.59% respectively.

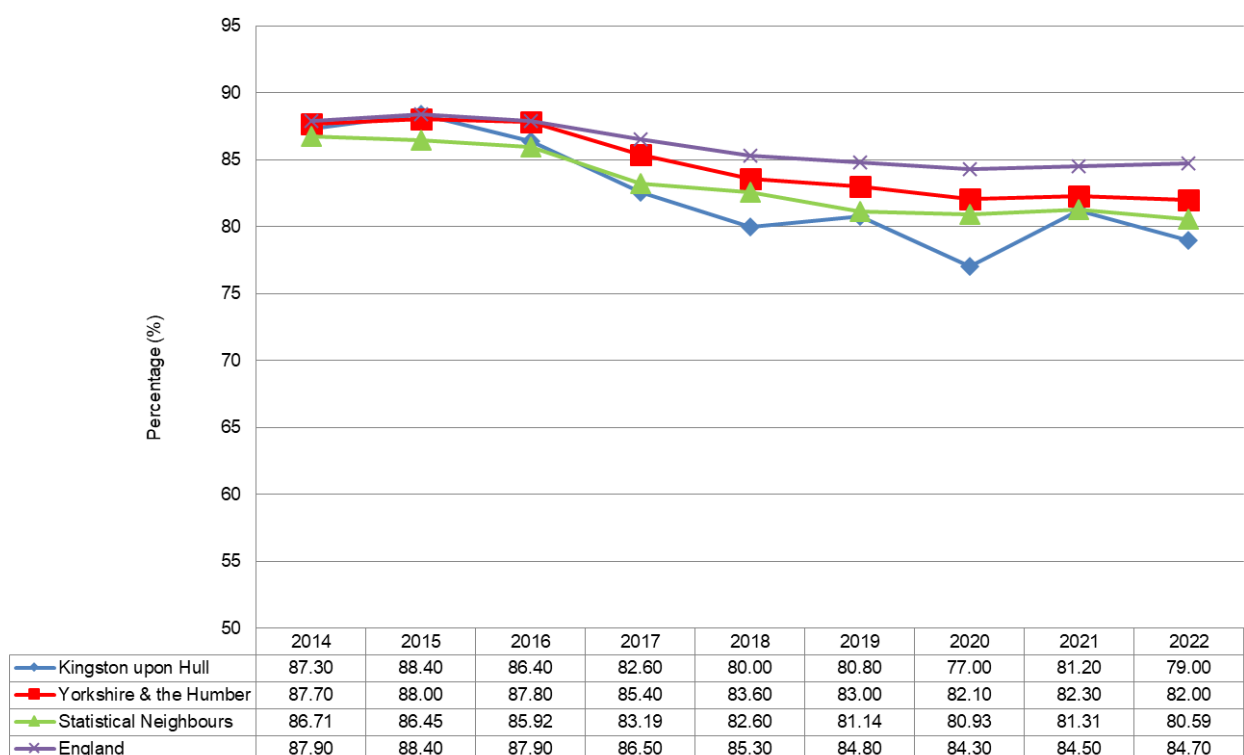


Figure 2: Percentage of those with a Level 2 qualification not eligible for a FSM at the age of 19.

2.3 Percentage of those with a Level 2 qualification eligible for a FSM at the age of 19

Following a similar trend, 2020 saw a big dip in performance in Hull followed by a substantial increase in 2021. There has been a small decrease of 1% in 2022 with 62.7% of 19 years olds eligible for a FSM achieving a Level 2 qualification, compared to 58% regionally, 63.4% nationally and 56.97% statistical neighbours (Figure 3). Hull continues to out-perform regional and statistical neighbours by 4.7% and 5.73% respectively and is now broadly in line with the national average.

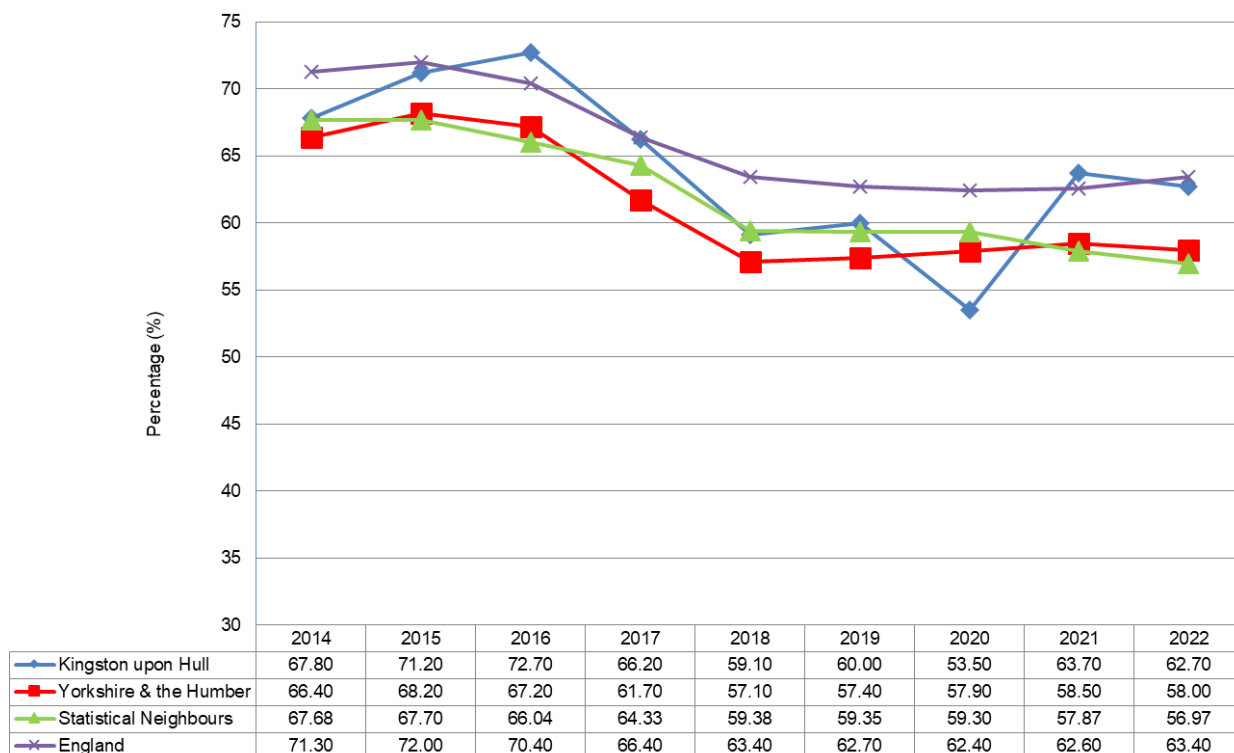


Figure 3: Percentage of those with a Level 2 qualification eligible for a FSM at the age of 19.

2.4 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 with a special educational need or disability (without statements or EHC plans)

2020 saw a big dip in performance followed by a significant improvement in 2021. This was followed by a decrease of 4.3% in 2022 with 55.4% of 19 year olds in Hull with a special educational need or disability (without statements/EHCP's) achieving a Level 2 qualification. This is broadly in line with the regional average but lower than statistical neighbours and the national average by 2.04% and 7.6% respectively.

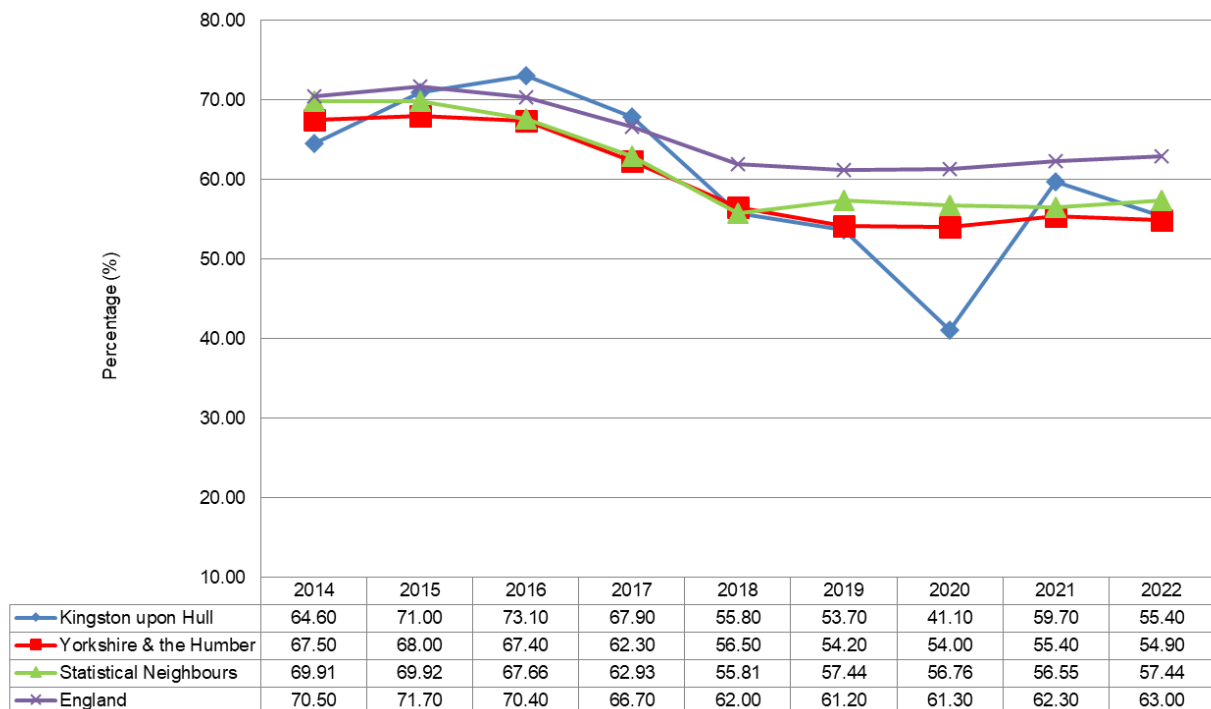


Figure 4: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2, by special educational need (SEN) status in Year 11 (SEN without statements or EHC plans).

2.5 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 with a special educational need or disability (with statements or EHC plans)

In 2022, 17.9% of Hull's 19 year olds with a special educational need or disability with statements / EHCP's achieved a Level 2 qualification compared to 25.4% regionally, 28.9% nationally and 24.42% statistical neighbours (Figure 5). This is a substantial decrease of 12.4% on 2021 performance of 30.3%. The data now indicates a significant gap with Hull lagging behind regional, national and statistical neighbours performance by 7.5%, 11% and 6.52% respectively.

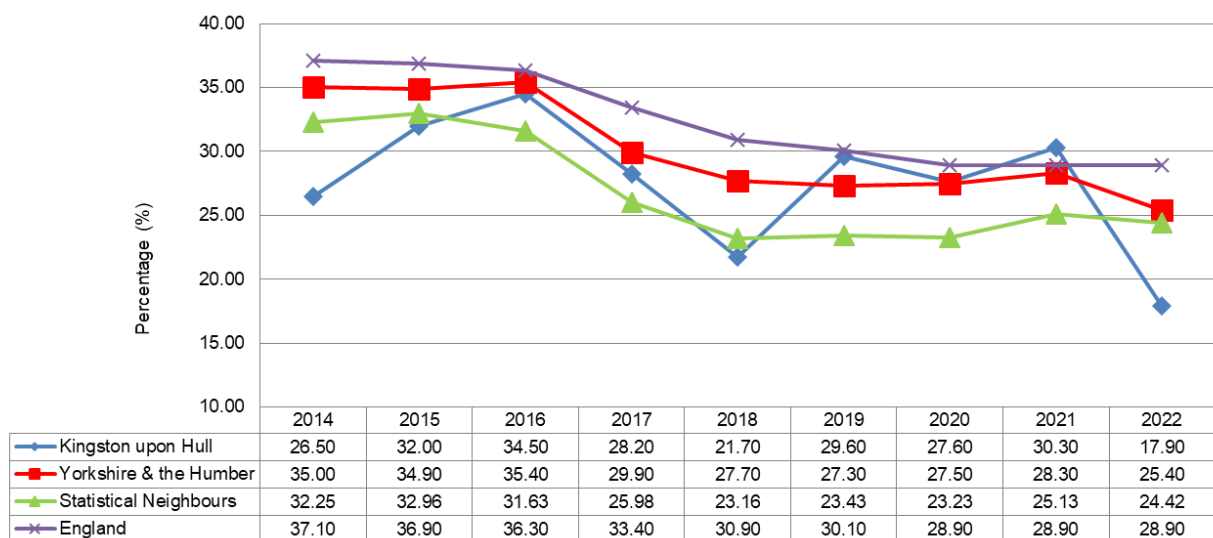


Figure 5: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2, by special educational need (SEN) status in Year 11 (SEN with statements or EHC plans).

3. HULL YOUNG PEOPLE ATTAINING LEVEL 3

3.1 Percentage of all young people with a Level 3 qualification at the age of 19

In 2022, 45.9% of Hull's 19 year olds achieved a Level 3 qualification compared to 55.6% regionally, 60.7% nationally and 49.85% statistical neighbours (Figure 6). This is a small increase on 2021 performance and is the highest level on record. Although Hull is still lagging well behind regional and national averages, the gap has closed between Hull and statistical neighbours (in 2021 the gap was 7.59% and this has now fallen to 3.95%).

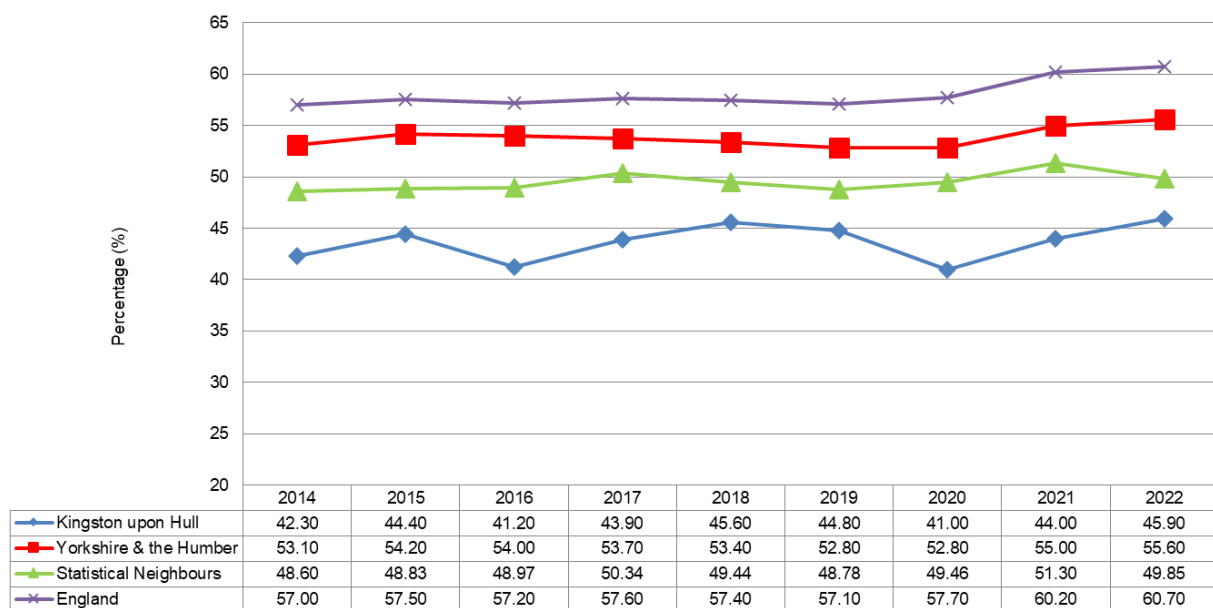


Figure 6: Percentage of all young people with a Level 3 qualification at the age of 19.

3.2 Percentage of those with a Level 3 qualification not eligible for a FSM at the age of 19

In 2022, 49.6% of Hull's 19 year olds who were not eligible for a FSM achieved a Level 3 qualification compared to 59.6% regionally, 64.2% nationally and 55.01% statistical neighbours (Figure 7). This is a 3.2% increase since 2021 although the data continues to indicate a significant gap with Hull lagging well behind regional and national performance by 10% and 14.6%. The gap has however closed between Hull and statistical neighbours (in 2021 the gap was 9.3% and this has now fallen to 5.41%).

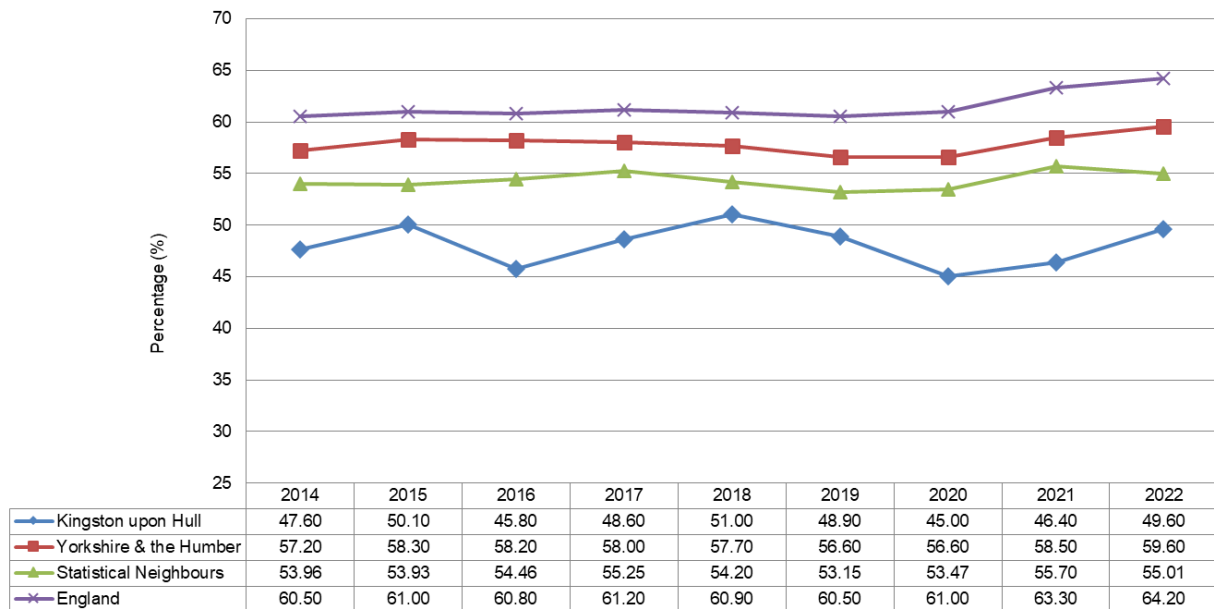


Figure 7: Percentage of those with a Level 3 qualification not eligible for a FSM at the age of 19.

3.3 Percentage of those with a Level 3 qualification eligible for FSM at the age of 19

2020 saw a dip in performance in Hull followed by a substantial increase in 2021. There has been a decrease of 2.4% in 2022 with 31.6% of 19 years olds eligible for a FSM achieving a Level 3 qualification, compared to 34.1% regionally, 39% nationally and 30.47% statistical neighbours (Figure 8). Hull continues to out-performing statistical neighbours by 1.13% but is lagging behind both the national and regional average by 7.4% and 2.5% respectively.

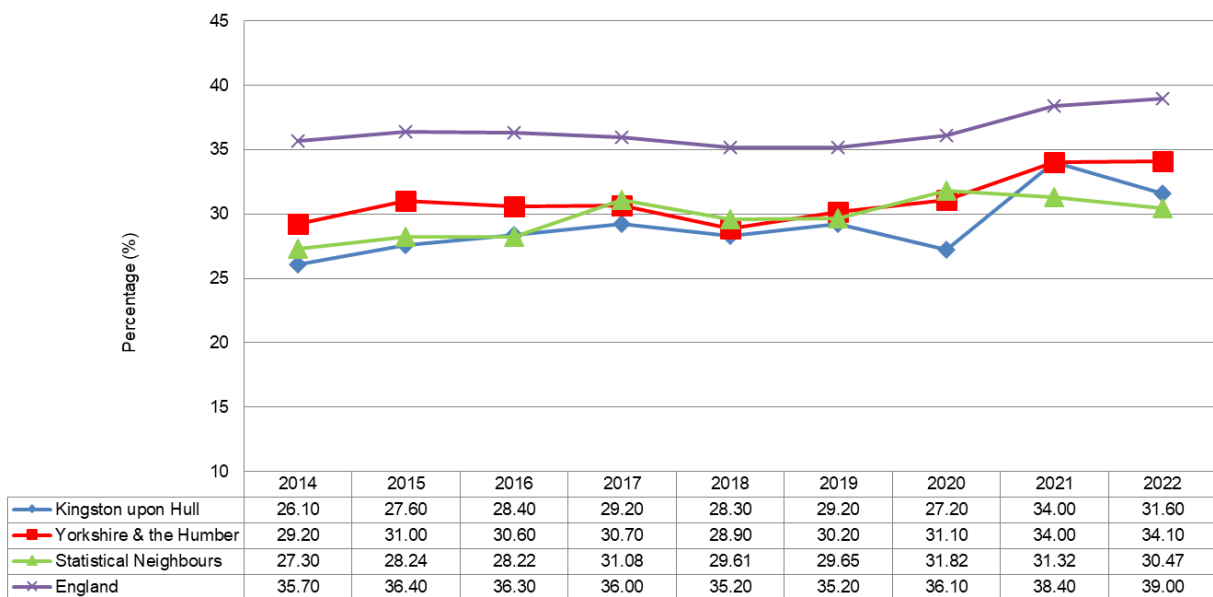


Figure 8: Percentage of those with a Level 3 qualification eligible for FSM at the age of 19.

3.4 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 with a special educational need or disability (without statements or EHC plans).

2020 saw a big dip in performance in Hull with only 14.7% of 19 years olds with a special educational need or disability (without statements or EHC plans) achieving a Level 3 qualification. This was followed by a significant increase in 2021 and then a small decrease in 2022 with 27.8% of 19 year olds in Hull with a special educational need or disability (without statements/EHCP's) achieving a Level 3 qualification. This is broadly in line with statistical neighbours but lower than the regional and the national average by 3.2% and 8.9% respectively.

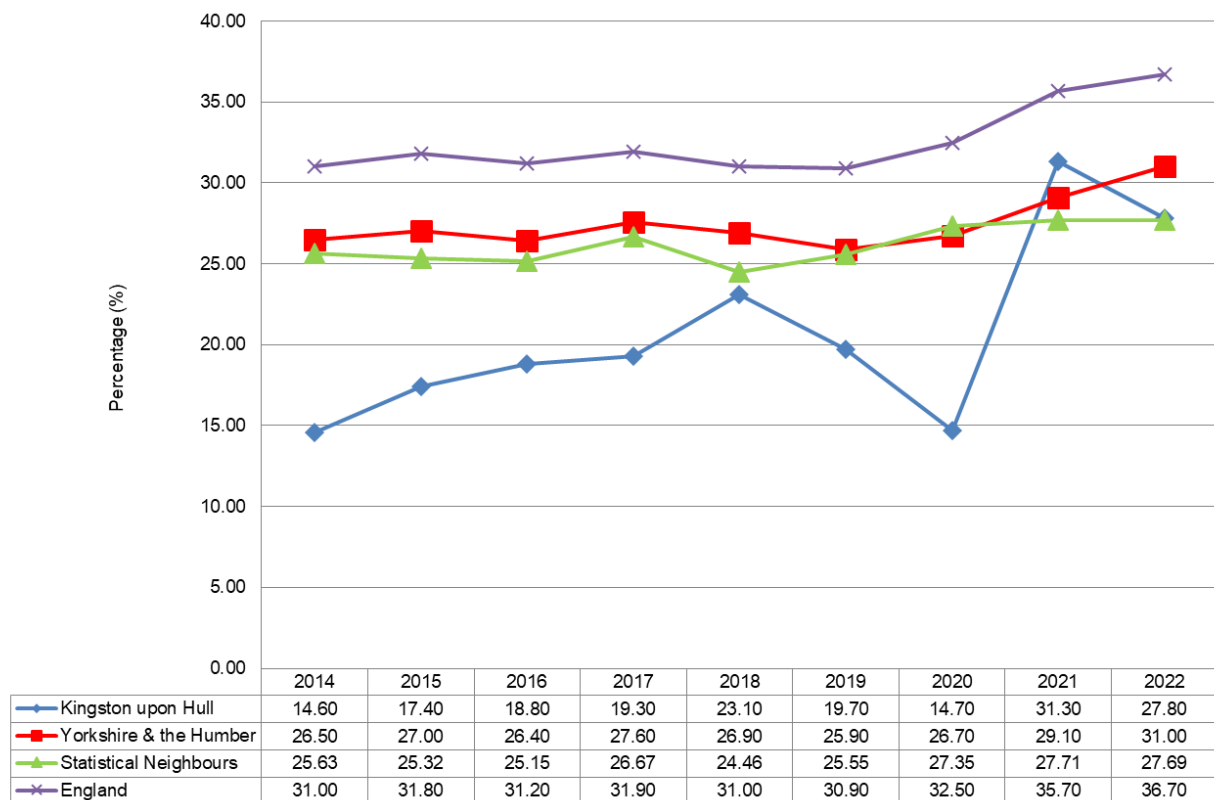


Figure 9: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3, with a special educational need or disability (without statements or EHC plans)

3.5 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 with a special educational need or disability (with statements or EHC plans).

After an upward trend between 2017 and 2020, there was a small decrease in 2021. However 2022 saw a further fall, with only 9.5% of Hull's 19 year olds with a special educational need or disability (with statements or EHC plans) achieving a Level 3 qualification compared to 12.9% regionally, 14% nationally and 11.82% statistical neighbours (Figure 10). The data indicates a widening gap with Hull lagging behind regional, national and statistical neighbours performance by 3.4%, 4.5% and 2.32% respectively.

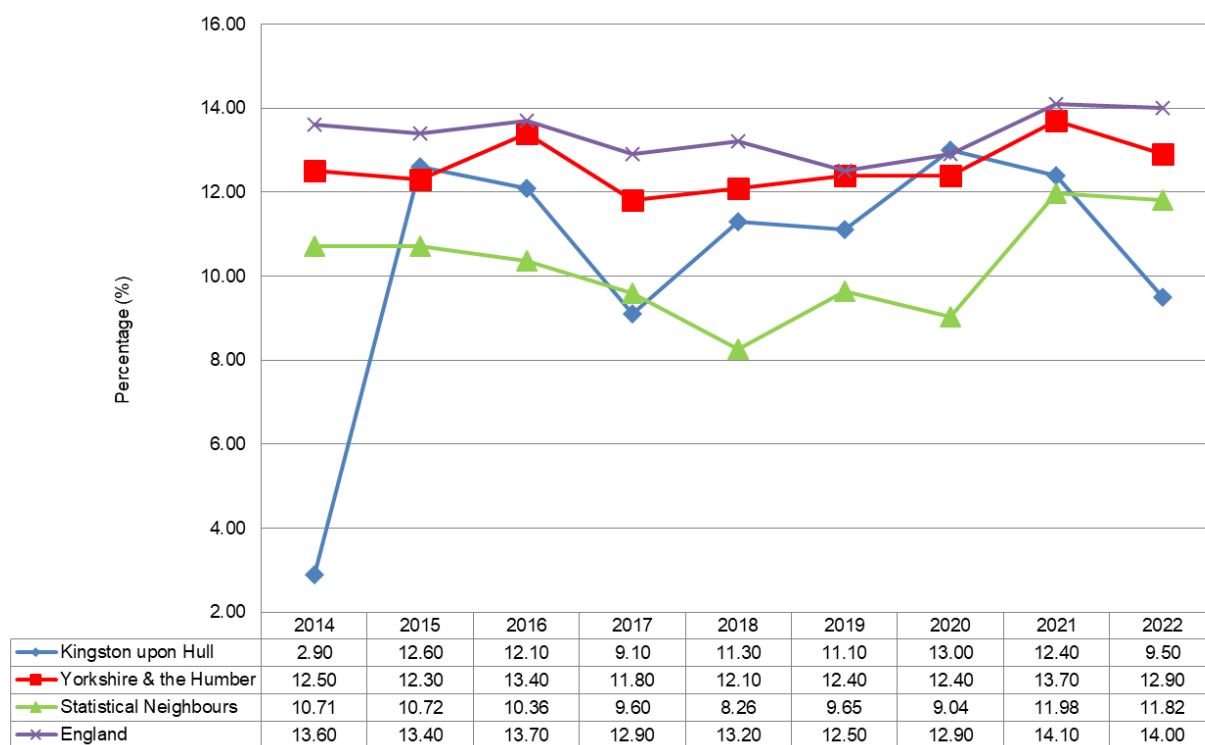


Figure 10: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3, by special educational need (SEN) status in Year 11 (SEN with statements or EHC plans).

4. SUMMARY

4.1 Level 2:

In relation to young people in Hull achieving a level 2 by the age of 19, Hull is still lagging behind regional and national performance by 2.6% and 6.1% respectively but remains in line with the performance of statistical neighbours. Young people in receipt of free school meals, continue to out-perform regional and statistical neighbours by 4.7% and 5.73% and are broadly in line with the national average. Young people not in receipt of free school meals continue to lag behind all comparators.

In 2020 young people in Hull achieving a level 2 by the age of 19 with a special educational need (without a statement or EHCP) were performing well below regional, statistical neighbour and national averages. This trend was significantly reversed in 2021 but then followed by a decrease in 2022 which now sees Hull broadly in line with the regional average but lower than statistical neighbours and the national average.

Since 2019 the performance of Hull young people with special educational needs (with statements or EHC plans) had been good compared with our comparators. However, 2022 observed a substantial fall from 30.3% to 17.9% and Hull's performance is now significantly lower than regional, national and statistical neighbour averages.

4.2 Level 3:

In 2022, 45.9% of Hull's 19 year olds achieved a Level 3 qualification which is a small increase on 2021 performance and is the highest level on record. Although Hull is still lagging well behind regional and national averages, the gap has closed between Hull and statistical neighbours.

After an increase last year and then a dip this year, young people in receipt of free school meals are now performing slightly better than statistical neighbours but lower than the regional and national average. For those young people not in receipt of free school meals, the gap here remains significant although performance has improved by 4.6% since 2020.

In 2020 young people in Hull achieving a level 3 by the age of 19 with a special educational need (without a statement or EHCP) were performing well below regional, statistical neighbour and national averages. In 2021, this trend was significantly reversed with Hull performing at its highest level since 2013 and better than both the regional and statistical neighbours comparators, although

still lower than the England average. There was a slight fall in 2022 but Hull remains broadly in line with statistical neighbours although lower than the regional and the national average.

The performance of young people with special educational needs (with statements or EHC plans) had been relatively consistent (and broadly in line with regional, national and statistical neighbour averages) until this year. In 2022, performance dipped and only 9.5% of Hull's 19 year olds with a special educational need or disability (with statements or EHC plans) achieved a Level 3 qualification which indicates a widening gap with Hull lagging behind regional, national and statistical neighbours performance.

5. IMPACT ON HULL YOUNG PEOPLE

For decades, Level 2 qualifications have provided people with essential workplace skills, as well as critical core skills such as literacy, numeracy and digital skills. They have in many cases formed a springboard to further education and progression, often into Higher Education. Level 2 qualifications have also provided many people with the foundations to specialise in crucial vocational sectors such as construction, transport, healthcare, hospitality and catering. In Hull, too many young people leave secondary education without a level 2 or equivalent (eg. 5 (or more) GCSEs at grades 9-4/A*-C). Currently Hull ranks only 142nd out of 151 Local Authorities for the percentage of young people achieving a full L2 qualification including English and Maths by the age of 19.

This low starting point means that Hull ranks 134th (was 120th in 2021) for the number of young people achieving a full level 2 or equivalent by the age of 19. The challenge is then exacerbated when we look at the widening gap at level 3. Hull currently ranks 148th (was 149th in 2021) for the number of young people achieving a full level 3 or equivalent by the age of 19.

As a result of relatively low levels of educational attainment at 19, Hull ranks 143rd for the number of 15 year old pupils from state funded schools entering higher education by the age of 19.

There may be many reasons why Hull's overall level 2 and 3 achievements by the age of 19 performance lags behind our comparators, these may include:

- Secondary school achievement rates
- Hull's relatively low skilled economy where the gap widens further at level 4 and above
- Low aspirations emerging from 2nd / 3rd generational benefit dependant families
- Multiple areas of deprivation
- Relatively high levels of young people who are NEET
- High percentage of children growing up within low-income families

- High levels of young people choosing the employment without training option when leaving secondary education
- Skills supply and demand mismatch
- Patchy careers education and information, advice and guidance
- Higher volumes of young people educated in Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Units

The data also seems to indicate a worsening picture for those young people with an EHCP with Hull ranking 135th at level 2 (compared to 62nd in 2021) and 112th at level 3 (compared to 87th in 2021).

There are however some positives, particularly the performance of those young people eligible for FSM. For those young people eligible for a FSM achieving a level 2 by the age of 19, Hull ranks 62nd (compared with 136th for those not eligible) and 104th for those eligible for a FSM achieving a level 3 (compared with 149th for those not eligible). Again, there may be many reasons why Hull young people perform well in these areas however it is felt that Hull's long-term experience / knowledge of supporting vulnerable client groups is at the foundation of our success. In addition, Hull's young people may also benefit from economies of scale and additional funding directed to support these groups.

Internal HCC GCSE data suggests increases in the city's attainment 8 scores have been observed since 2020. With this more positive starting point, we can expect to see an increase in 2023 performance at level 2 and potentially level 3 @ 19. As our comparators are also improving their performance at a similar pace, it is not expected we will see a closing of the gap.

Successive studies have shown the relationship between low levels of qualification and: the increased likelihood of being unemployed; increased duration of unemployment; reduced chances of recovering from unemployment; reduced access to certain kinds and levels of jobs; reduced levels of earnings; and a reduction in the likelihood of acquiring additional qualifications. To buck this trend, improvements in achievement needs to begin within Hull's secondary schools, supported by a strong and progressive post 16 provision offer which meets local / regional needs. This will then set a solid foundation for increased progression into Higher Education, leading to improvements in Hull's skills levels at level 4 and above.

In support of the above and working through the emerging 'Local Skills Improvement Plan' (LSIP), FE Providers will need to work even closer together with local employers. This work will see local provision better matched to local labour market needs. Better alignment of supply and demand has the potential to significantly drive-up skills levels locally.

6. QUALIFICATION LEVEL GUIDE

Below you will see a guide which highlights the range of qualification levels available in the UK and the respective qualifications which are currently available at each level. In relation to this report, the below highlights where Level 2 and Level 3 sits within the hierarchy of levels and qualifications. For the purposes of this report a Level 2 is equivalent to 5 (or more) GCSEs at grades 9-4/A*-C or equivalent (eg. Level 2 vocational qualification) and a Level 3 is equal to 2 (or more) A levels or equivalent (eg. Level 3 vocational qualification).

Level	Qualification / educational route				
8	Doctorate (PhD)			NVQ 8	
7	Masters degree (MA)			Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7	
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)		Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4	
4	Higher National Certificate (HNC)				
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4-9 (C, B, A or A*)		BTEC first diploma		Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1-3 (D,E,F or G)		Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications		Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route		Applied / work route

Figure 11: Qualification level guide.

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For more information about this publication please contact:

Post 16 Participation Manager

Kingston upon Hull City Council | Young People, Skills and Employability Team | 1st Floor,
Kenworthy House | 98-104, George Street | Kingston upon Hull | HU1 3DT

Telephone - 01482 615 210

Email - ypse@hullcc.gov.uk

Or visit – www.hull.gov.uk

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