



**Community  
Foundation**  
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

# Tees Valley's Vital Issues 2017

Learning

# 1. Learning

## 1.1 Overview

Educational standards across the NE region, and the Tees Valley in particular, have improved substantially over the past decades, and at pre-school, key stage 2 (7-11 yr olds) and GCSE (key stage 4) the area performs well compared to the national average. However, those eligible for free school meals still lag behind their peers, and post-16 and adult skills levels are not as advanced as elsewhere.

In terms of the Index of Multiple Deprivation's education domain, the Tees Valley area includes the country's most deprived authority (Middlesbrough) while Hartlepool, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees all fall into the 20% most deprived authorities, and Darlington is in the 30% most deprived.

**Table 46 – standings according to the IMD Education domain, 2015<sup>i</sup>**

Local Authority District name (2013)	Education, Skills and Training - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally	Education, Skills and Training - Rank of proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally
Darlington	14%	75
Hartlepool	21%	37
Middlesbrough	44%	1
Redcar and Cleveland	18%	54
Stockton-on-Tees	18%	59

## 1.2 Pre-school provision

Table 46 indicates that more pre-school children in the Tees Valley have access to early years provision than in England as a whole, and in most parts of the sub-region, the access is higher than the North East average too, with nearly 100% of 3-4 years olds taking part.

**Table 46 - Percentage of pre-school population attending funded early years provision<sup>ii</sup>**

	All providers - percentage of population								
	2-year-olds			3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	2015	2016	diff	2011	2016	diff	2011	2016	diff
Darlington	57	76	33%	100	96	-4%	100	97	-3%
Hartlepool	71	77	8%	97	99	2%	102	103	1%
Middlesbrough	69	82	19%	103	101	-2%	97	99	2%
Redcar and Cleveland	67	77	15%	106	98	-8%	99	105	6%
Stockton-on-Tees	58	78	34%	96	97	1%	102	99	-3%
North East	65	78	20%	96	97	1%	99	99	0%
England	58	68	17%	92	93	1%	96	97	1%

The quality of provision is also high. Table 47 shows that across England, 86% of provision for 3-4 year olds is rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted. In every part of the Tees Valley, this is true of at least 86% services, suggesting that pre-school children are well catered for across the Tees Valley. Only Redcar & Cleveland has a

higher proportion of services classed as satisfactory or requires improvement than the national average.

**Table 47 - Ofsted ratings of provision for 3-4 year olds, 2016<sup>iii</sup>**

	Ofsted inspection rating							
	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory / Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Darlington	533	21%	1,687	68%	227	9%	52	2%
Hartlepool	533	23%	1,548	67%	238	10%	0	0%
Middlesbrough	679	17%	2,847	71%	489	12%	0	0%
Redcar and Cleveland	613	19%	2,200	67%	494	15%	0	0%
Stockton-on-Tees	1,110	23%	3,385	70%	348	7%	26	1%
North East	<b>14,270</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>39,370</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1%</b>
England	<b>276,520</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>772,892</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>145,867</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>25,679</b>	<b>2%</b>

### 1.3 Key Stage 2

By key stage 2, differences begin to show between different parts of the Tees Valley. When the performance of all pupils is compared, the North East (57%) out-performs the England average (54%), and in the Tees Valley, performance ranges from 60% of pupils in Redcar & Cleveland achieving the expected standard, to 49% in Middlesbrough.

However, when the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals is compared to those who are not, there are big discrepancies between areas. Pupils in Redcar & Cleveland again perform best, with 44% of free school meal recipients achieving the expected standard (20% less than other pupils), while in Stockton-on-Tees the attainment gap is 26%. This is a national issue, with the attainment gap in other areas ranging from 7% (Rutland) to 37% (Richmond on Thames), with an average of 21% across England.

**Table 48 - Attainment of pupils at key stage 2 by free school meal eligibility, 2016<sup>iv</sup>**

	D'ton	H'pool	M'bro	R&C	S'ton-on-Tees	North East	England
<b>Pupils with free school meals</b>							
% eligible for free school meals	17%	25%	31%	21%	20%	20%	16%
Number of pupils	211	270	540	322	457	5,590	90,680
% at the expected standard	36%	39%	35%	44%	33%	39%	36%
<b>All other pupils</b>							
Number of pupils	1,018	824	1,201	1,219	1,796	22,280	490,378
% at the expected standard	61%	58%	56%	64%	59%	62%	57%
<b>Gap in attainment</b>	25%	19%	21%	20%	26%	23%	21%
<b>All pupils</b>							
Number of pupils	1,229	1,094	1,741	1,541	2,253	27,870	581,058
% at the expected standard	56%	53%	49%	60%	54%	57%	54%

Some schools in Middlesbrough and Stockton have issues with local pockets of migrant populations whose children do not speak English well. Generally, their parents have high aspirations for them and want them to perform well, but the lack of English ability in both parents and children impacts on the resources available in the

classroom and on the management of the school, as teachers struggle to interact effectively with pupils and parents.

#### 1.4 GCSE performance

At age 16, the differences in attainment between pupils in the Tees Valley are again quite marked – see chart 8.

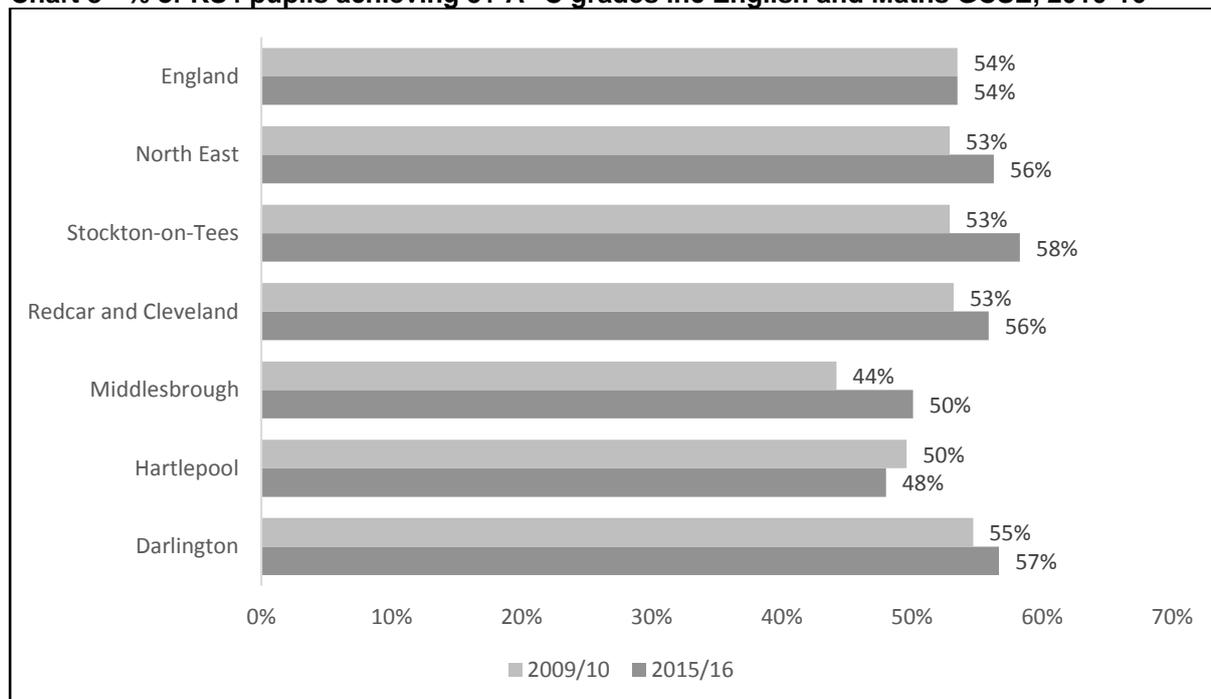
Again, the North East out-performs the English average, with the % of pupils achieving 5+ A\*-C grades at GCSE having grown from 52.9% in 2010 to 56.3%, while the English average remained steady at 53.5%.

Darlington, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees are all above average.

Middlesbrough's performance has improved markedly, from 44.2% to 50.1%.

However, the performance of pupils in Hartlepool has declined, with only 48% of pupils achieving 5+ A\*-C grades in 2016, compared to 49.6% in 2010.

**Chart 8 - % of KS4 pupils achieving 5+ A\*-C grades inc English and Maths GCSE, 2010-16<sup>v</sup>**



#### 1.5 Absence from school

At primary level, absence from school is slightly higher across the Tees Valley than the national average, with Darlington, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough all significantly above the England average.

Absence from secondary school is again an issue in Darlington and Middlesbrough, with both authorised and unauthorised absence higher than the England average. In Middlesbrough, it is notable that 12% of secondary school pupils are persistent absentees, more than double the national average. This means that almost one in 8 secondary pupils in Middlesbrough and one in 12 in Darlington is away from school for 28 days or more each academic year.

**Table 49 - Pupil absence from schools, 2014-15<sup>vi</sup>**

	D'ton	H'pool	M'bro	R&C	S'ton-on-Tees	North East	England
<b>Primary</b>							
Absence	4.3%	4.4%	4.6%	4.2%	4.0%	4.2%	4.0%
Authorised absence	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	3.1%
Unauthorised absence	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
% pupils persistent absentees	2.8%	2.0%	2.6%	2.0%	1.7%	2.2%	2.1%
<b>Secondary</b>							
Absence	6.2%	5.4%	7.4%	6.1%	5.5%	5.6%	5.3%
Authorised absence	4.6%	3.7%	4.3%	4.4%	3.7%	4.1%	4.0%
Unauthorised absence	1.6%	1.7%	3.1%	1.7%	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%
% pupils persistent absentees	8.7%	4.1%	12.0%	6.3%	4.8%	5.9%	5.4%

This is a concern, being disruptive to both the individual's education and that of their classmates, as the teachers are then obliged to spend more time helping the absentee to catch up.

The reasons for absence from school include illness (58% of absence) and family holidays (11%)<sup>vii</sup>, as well as truancy which may result from bullying, inability to cope with schoolwork, or undiagnosed emotional or behavioural disorders<sup>viii</sup>.

In 2011, the government reported that much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving them at a considerable disadvantage to their peers.

- Of pupils who miss more than 50% of school, only 3% manage to achieve five A\* to Cs, including English and maths
- Of pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school, only 35% manage to achieve five A\* to C GCSEs, including English and maths
- Of pupils who miss less than 5% of school, 73% achieve 5 A\* to Cs, including English and maths.

There is also a growing body of evidence that absenteeism from school is linked to poor educational achievement and an increased chance of ending up NEET (not in education, employment or training – see section 6 – Work)<sup>ix</sup>.

The rate of overall absence for those pupils eligible for free school meals (8.4%) remained significantly higher than that for all pupils (5.8%).<sup>x</sup> This may contribute to the worse overall performance of those eligible for free school meals.

## 1.6 Post-18 destinations

Table 50 shows that a higher proportion of post-18 students from the Tees Valley go into higher education than from England as a whole, with 66% of those from Hartlepool and 72% of those from Stockton-on-Tees going into higher education.

However, there are variations in which institutions they go on to attend. Only Stockton-on-Tees manages to get more than the national average of young people into the top third of Higher Education Institutions and Russell Group universities, while Redcar & Cleveland has the lowest proportion of students moving into these.

Students in Redcar & Cleveland were least likely to go straight to Higher Education, with 6% going into apprenticeship, 20% going into another sixth form or FE college and another 6% of them ending up not in employment, education or training.

**Table 50 - Destinations at 18<sup>xi</sup>**

	D'ton	H'pool	M'bro	R&C	S'ton-on-Tees	North East	England
Further education college or other provider	14%	11%	8%	11%	7%	12%	10%
Sixth form	3%	0%	7%	9%	5%	4%	3%
Apprenticeships	5%	4%	4%	6%	2%	7%	5%
UK higher education institution	58%	66%	62%	57%	72%	60%	58%
Top third of HEIs	20%	21%	17%	13%	30%	20%	26%
<i>Russell Group (incl. Ox. and Cam.)</i>	18%	18%	15%	12%	26%	17%	17%
Education / employment / training combination destination	x	x	x	0%	x	1%	1%
Destination not sustained	8%	8%	10%	9%	7%	8%	7%
Destination not sustained / recorded NEET	x	x	4%	6%	2%	2%	2%
Activity not captured in data	9%	9%	6%	4%	1%	7%	13%

Overall, fewer young people in this age-group go into apprenticeships than elsewhere in the region. This is surprising given that more Tees Valley employers offer apprenticeships than anywhere else in England.<sup>xii</sup>

It has been suggested that young people in the Tees Valley have lower aspirations than others, and this analysis supports that to some extent, with young people in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland in particular, not appearing to be as likely to go onto the better higher education establishments.

**Table 51 – Eligibility for free school meals and entry into higher education<sup>xiii</sup>**

	Pupils with Free School Meals			Pupils without Free School Meals			Gap	
	Top 33% HEIs	Other HE	Not in HE	Top 33% HEIs	Other HE	Not in HE	Top 33% HEIs	Other HE
<b>North East</b>								
Darlington	2%	11%	87%	9%	32%	59%	7%	21%
Hartlepool	2%	17%	81%	8%	34%	58%	6%	17%
Middlesbrough	2%	18%	80%	5%	30%	65%	3%	12%
Redcar and Cleveland	4%	11%	85%	8%	32%	60%	4%	21%
Stockton-on-Tees	2%	14%	84%	8%	34%	58%	6%	20%
<b>England</b>	4%	19%	77%	12%	28%	60%	8%	9%

The picture is even more stark for those young people who were eligible for free school meals. Table 51 shows that only around 1/3 as many of these young people make it into HE, compared to those without free school meals, and an even smaller proportion get into the best institutions. Only Redcar & Cleveland stands out, with

4% of pupils eligible for free school meals getting into the better higher education institutions.

This suggests action is needed to help those young people who are eligible for free school meals to develop the skills and desire to access high education and to aim for the best education.

### 1.7 Adults' skills

Across the North East region as a whole, rates of adult literacy and numeracy are low compared to other regions. The period 2003-11 saw an increase in people in the NE with the very lowest levels of both numeracy and literacy.

In terms of literacy, there was also a substantial increase in the number of people with the highest skills, but the region still remained 8<sup>th</sup> in the league of 9 regions (a slight improvement from 9<sup>th</sup> in 2003).

In terms of numeracy, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of the population with higher skills, in line with the English trend, and the NE retained its position as 8<sup>th</sup> out of 9 regions.

**Table 52 - Literacy and Numeracy by region, 2003 and 2011<sup>xiv</sup>**

	UK		North East		North East rank	
	2003	2011	2003	2011	2003	2011
<b>Literacy</b>						
Entry Level 1 or below	3%	5%	4%	9%	2	2
Entry Level 2	2%	2%	4%	1%	1	9
Entry Level 3	11%	8%	14%	7%	1	4
Level 1	40%	28%	41%	31%	4	1
Level 2 or above	44%	57%	37%	52%	9	8
<b>Numeracy</b>						
Entry Level 1 or below	5%	7%	6%	8%	1	2
Entry Level 2	16%	17%	22%	23%	1	1
Entry Level 3	25%	25%	27%	24%	3	7
Level 1	28%	29%	25%	27%	9	9
Level 2 or above	25%	22%	21%	18%	8	8

This is clearly an area where the NE region needs to improve, however, there is a dearth of statistics at any level below regional, making it difficult to identify sub-regional variations.

Table 53 gives the highest educational achievement by local authority area. This indicates that in every part of the Tees Valley there has been a drop in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.

The biggest drops were seen in Middlesbrough (down from 18% to 12%) and Redcar & Cleveland (from 14% to 8%), but Middlesbrough and Hartlepool both still have the highest rates of people with no qualifications in the NE region.

During the same period, there has been an increase in the proportion of people holding every level of NVQ, suggesting the working age population has a higher skills base than 5 years previously. This reflects the regional trend, and Darlington

and Stockton-on-Tees both have more people educated to NVQ level 4+ than the regional average (only Newcastle has more, with 39.1%).

**Table 53 – highest educational achievement, 2012 and 2016<sup>xv</sup>**

	% with NVQ4+ - aged 16-64		% with NVQ3+ - aged 16-64		% with NVQ2+ - aged 16-64		% with NVQ1+ - aged 16-64		% with no qualifications - aged 16-64	
	2012	2016	2012	2016	2012	2016	2012	2016	2012	2016
Darlington	27%	33%	47%	54%	69%	74%	82%	84%	11%	8%
Hartlepool	21%	24%	41%	47%	64%	69%	77%	81%	17%	12%
Middlesbrough	22%	29%	39%	51%	61%	71%	75%	81%	18%	12%
Redcar and Cleveland	23%	27%	44%	53%	66%	73%	80%	85%	14%	8%
Stockton-on-Tees	26%	37%	48%	55%	72%	77%	85%	86%	11%	8%
North East	26%	31%	46%	52%	69%	74%	82%	85%	12%	9%

The Tees Valley Combined Authority has identified an emergent issue with the number of older skilled workers predicted to leave the workforce over the coming years. This combines with the persistently higher levels of youth unemployment to create a potential skills shortage.

It is predicted that by 2022 the Tees Valley will have 127,000 jobs to be filled, including 13,000 new jobs and 114,000 replacement jobs. There is currently a skills shortage, particularly in professional and skilled trades, resulting in posts being hard to fill and this will widen. It is therefore important to continue to upskill the current and upcoming workforce and to attract and retain skilled workers in the sub-region.<sup>xvi</sup>

At the same time, budgets for adult education are being squeezed through austerity cuts and the need to provide English classes to migrant workers to ensure they can gain employment. It is the view of many people that these language classes are better received when delivered less formally by local organisations. If funding was made available for that, this would release adult education budgets for the broader range of skills needed to support wider skills development.

#### **Potential roles for philanthropy**

- As in other parts of the country, children who are eligible for free school meals do not perform as well as others in terms of formal educational measures.
- Engagement in education reduces throughout school years, with particularly high rates of absence from school, and persistent absenteeism in Middlesbrough (and to a lesser extent Darlington and Redcar & Cleveland).
- Young people leaving school at 18 from Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland appear less likely to go to better Higher Education Institutions.

- For young people who had free school meals, access to all higher education is lower, and especially access to the best institutions. Action is needed to raise these young people's aspirations.
- All areas have higher levels of NEETs than the England average, again this is higher in Redcar & Cleveland.
- Hartlepool and Middlesbrough have higher rates of working age people with no qualifications than other parts of the Tees Valley.
- The Combined Authority has recognised a longer term structural issue with the ageing population leading to a skills shortage, and there is a potential role in working together to ensure that all sections of the community are able to develop the skills to meet industry's needs.
- Supporting language skills for migrant and asylum seeker communities in community settings would release funds for wider skills development.

<sup>i</sup> **Dept of Communities and Local Government (2015)** *English Indices of multiple deprivation*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>, 31/5/17 07:20

<sup>ii</sup> **Dept for Education (2016)**, *Education Provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2016*, Office of National Statistics, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-provision-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2016> 20/6/17 07:42

<sup>iii</sup> **Dept for Education (2016)**, *Education Provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2016*, Office of National Statistics, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-provision-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2016> 20/6/17 07:42

<sup>iv</sup> **Dept for Education (2016)**, *National Curriculum Assessments: key stage 2, 2016 (revised)*, Office for National Statistics, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-2016-revised> 13/6/17 09:25

<sup>v</sup> **Dept for Education (2017)** *Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2015 to 2016*, Office for National Statistics, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2015-to-2016> 3/6/17 10:32

<sup>vi</sup> **Dept for Education (2016)** *Pupil absence in schools in England: 2014 to 2015, Local Authority Tables*, ONS, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-2014-to-2015> 28/6/17, 11:52

<sup>vii</sup> **Kershaw, A (2012)** *Truant pupils miss 3.7m school days*, Independent, downloaded from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/truant-pupils-miss-37m-school-days-7851065.html>, 30/6/17 13:16

<sup>viii</sup> **Morrissey, B (2015)** *What to do if your child is playing truant*, downloaded from: <http://www.safekids.co.uk/what-do-if-your-child-playing-truant.html> 30/6/17 13:21

<sup>ix</sup> **Dept for Education (2012)** *Improving attendance at school*, accessed from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-attendance-at-school>, 6/7/17 15:33

<sup>x</sup> **Dept for Education (2011)** *New data highlights true picture of school absence*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-data-highlights-true-picture-of-school-absence>, 30/6/17 13:12

<sup>xi</sup> **Dept for Education (2015)** *Destinations of key stage 4 and key stage 5 pupils: 2014, Key Stage 5 local authority tables*, ONS, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/destinations-of-ks4-and-ks5-pupils-2013-to-2014> 28/6/17 12:42

<sup>xii</sup> **Tees Valley Unlimited (2015)** *Tees Valley Economic Assessment*, downloaded from: [https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/tees\\_valley\\_economic\\_assessment\\_2015\\_full.pdf](https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/tees_valley_economic_assessment_2015_full.pdf), 1/6/17 10:02

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<sup>xiii</sup> **Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (2015)** *Free school meals by local authority: progression to higher education*, downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/free-school-meals-pupil-progression-to-higher-education> 11/7/17 12:28,

<sup>xiv</sup> **Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills (2012)** *2011 Skills for Life Survey: Appendix of Tables*, downloaded from:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/36074/12-p168an2-2011-skills-for-life-survey-appendix-of-tables.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/36074/12-p168an2-2011-skills-for-life-survey-appendix-of-tables.pdf) 28/6/17 11:21

<sup>xv</sup> **Office of National Statistics (2016)**, *Annual population survey*, from: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk> 26/6/17 16:56

<sup>xvi</sup> **Tees Valley Unlimited (2015)** *Tees Valley Economic Assessment*, downloaded from:

[https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/tees\\_valley\\_economic\\_assessment\\_2015\\_full.pdf](https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/tees_valley_economic_assessment_2015_full.pdf), 1/6/17 10:02