



Annual Report 2012/13

East Midlands regional report

The East Midlands is the smallest but the fastest growing of the eight Ofsted regions. It is a region with some areas of relative affluence but with pockets of serious deprivation, mainly in the three large cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, where population growth is concentrated. Long-term unemployment continues to blight the old coalfield areas of north Nottinghamshire, east Derbyshire and parts of Leicestershire. Average weekly earnings are below the UK average.





Director's summary



Louise Soden,
Regional Director,
East Midlands

The proportion of good and outstanding schools in the East Midlands has improved in 2012/13 but there is still too much provision that is mediocre. No local authority area in the East Midlands is in the top third of authorities nationally for the proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding primary schools. In two thirds of the local authorities, the number of good and outstanding secondary schools has risen or maintained high levels. However, the proportion of good and outstanding secondary schools overall in the region is below the national level. Provision in the further education (FE) and skills sector also continues to fall short, with four in every 10 learners in provision that is not yet good enough.

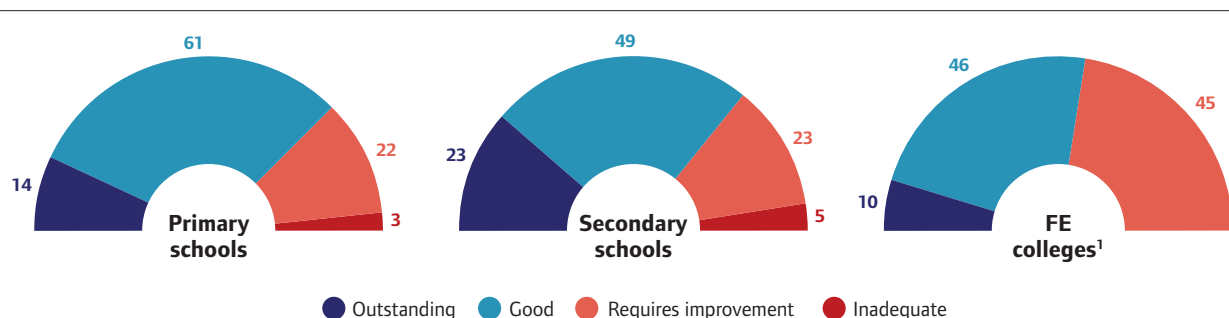
The proportion of good or outstanding primary schools has increased in 2012/13. Last year, less than two thirds of primary provision was good or outstanding in the East Midlands. This year, over three quarters of provision is good or better (an increase from 65% to 77%). In **Derby**, the chance of attending a good primary school has risen substantially, from 43% last year to 69% by the end of August 2013. However, there remains more to do. Despite this welcome improvement, **Derby** remains, alongside **Northamptonshire**, within the bottom 20% of all local authority areas when ranked according to the likelihood of attending a good primary school.

The proportion of good or outstanding secondary schools in the region has increased, but overall performance remains below the national level. Only two local authorities, Leicester and Rutland, are in the top third nationally of the proportion of students attending a good or outstanding secondary school. In terms of GCSE outcomes, the proportion of pupils in **Nottingham** gaining five GCSEs grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, is amongst the lowest in the country.

Provision in FE and skills is not yet good enough. A third of the provision in the East Midlands requires improvement or is satisfactory. Four out of 10 learners are in provision that is not yet good enough.

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Figure 1: Overall inspection judgements by proportion of pupils for the East Midlands, as at 31 August 2013



¹ FE colleges includes general further education/tertiary colleges, higher education institutions, independent specialist colleges, sixth form colleges and specialist FE colleges.

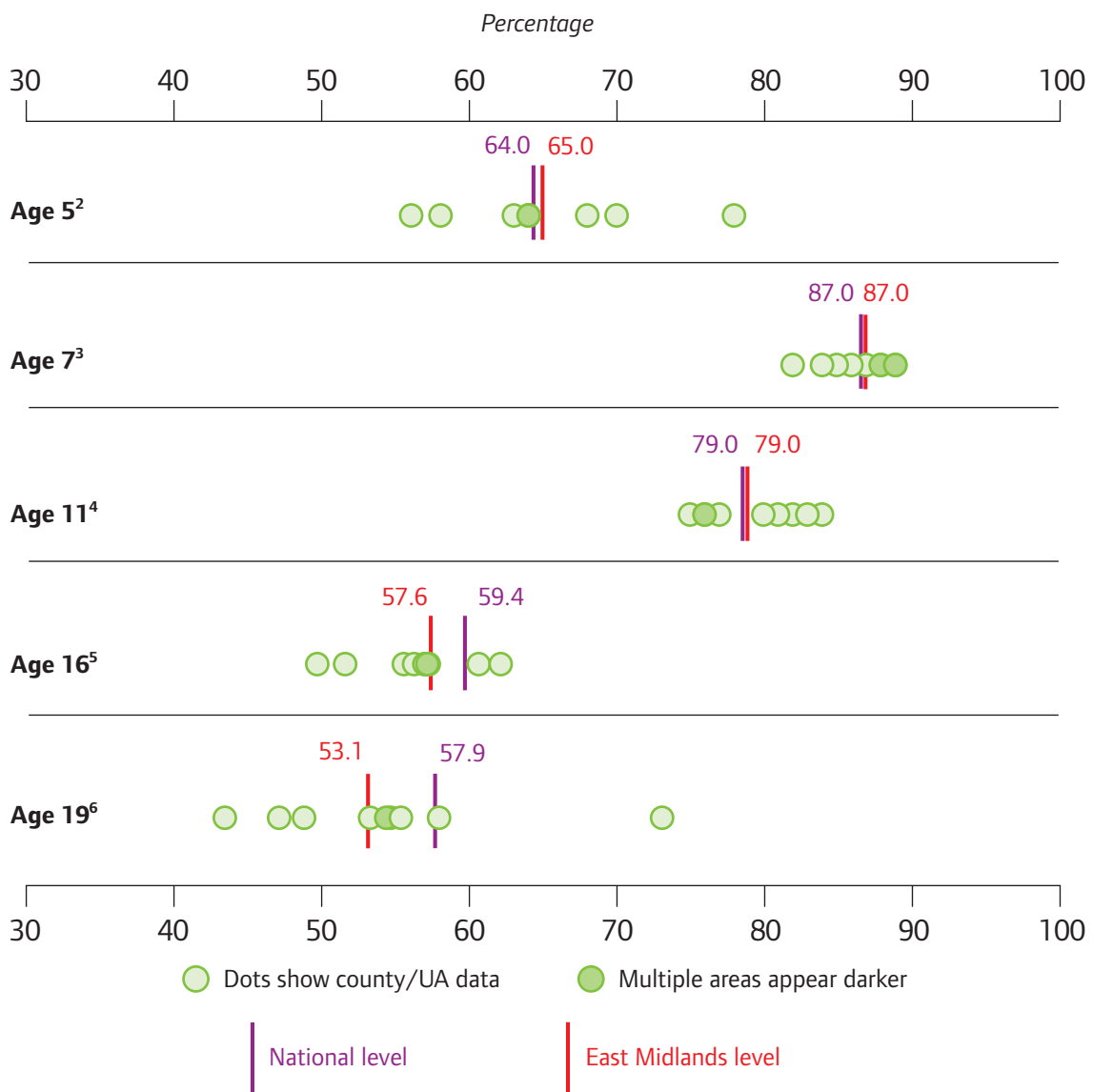
Pupil attainment in the East Midlands

Regional performance

Through early years into primary school, pupil outcomes in the East Midlands are broadly in line with national figures.¹

As pupils enter secondary school, performance declines and by 19 outcomes are well below national level.

Figure 2: Pupil attainment in the East Midlands at ages 5, 7, 11, 16 and 19 in 2012¹



1 Visit the regional performance interactive tool on our website to explore these data further and to look at regional comparisons, at: www.ofsted.gov.uk/annualreport1213/regional-performance-2012
 2 % of children achieving a good Level of development at Early Years Foundation Stage
 3 % of pupils attaining at least Level 2 in reading at Key Stage 1 assessments
 4 % of pupils attaining at least Level 4 in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 assessments
 5 % of pupils attaining at least five GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A*–C, including English and mathematics
 6 % of pupils attaining a level 3 qualification at age 19

¹ Local Area Interactive Tool, Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk.

Performance by local authority

Outcomes in the East Midlands are similar to those seen nationally during the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. There is little variation between local authorities in outcomes achieved by pupils at age seven.² Differences begin to emerge by the end of Key Stage 2: the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in English and mathematics is highest in **Rutland** and **Derbyshire**, but in **Nottingham** pupils have begun to fall behind.³

By the end of secondary school, GCSE outcomes are above the national level in **Lincolnshire** and **Nottinghamshire and Leicester** and are broadly in line with the national level in most other local authorities apart from **Nottingham**, where they are very low.⁴ The decline continues with Nottingham's colleges, where outcomes are particularly poor for the 16–18 age group, including apprentices. The city's general further education (GFE) college was judged as requires improvement this year.

Attainment of level 3 qualifications by 19-year-olds who were previously eligible for free school meals is below the national figure for every authority except Leicester.⁵

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2011/12 identified schools in Derby as causing particular concern.⁶

In 2012, only 44% of children attended a good or outstanding primary school. This shocking fact resulted in the country's first focused inspection event, bringing together simultaneous inspections of primary schools and a telephone survey of good and outstanding schools not inspected at the time.

We found that the support and challenge provided to schools by the local authority had recently improved. However, the relationships between schools and the local authority's improvement officers were inconsistent and there was not always a sharp enough focus on the performance of specific groups, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Since these inspections, improvements in **Derby** have gathered pace – the city saw the most dramatic rise in the proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding primary school of any area in the East Midlands.

We have engaged all the local authorities in the East Midlands in candid and challenging conversations, reviewing with them the performance of their schools and agreeing what the next steps should be to bring about improvement. Our focus has not been confined to the weakest performance: in **Rutland**, we agreed with authority officers that some GCSE performance in their three good or outstanding secondary academies was raising concern. We confirmed that decisive action was being

Table 1: Percentage of primary and secondary pupils attending good or outstanding schools by local authority in the East Midlands

Primary schools			Secondary schools		
2013 Rank	Local authority (education)	2013 %	2013 Rank	Local authority (education)	2013 %
60=	Lincolnshire	81	1=	Rutland	100
68=	Nottinghamshire	80	26=	Leicester	89
68=	Leicestershire	80	56=	Nottinghamshire	80
91=	Leicester	76	63=	Lincolnshire	78
97=	Nottingham	75	74=	Nottingham	75
108=	Rutland	73	84=	Derby	73
114=	Derbyshire	72	84=	Leicestershire	73
128=	Derby	69	111=	Northamptonshire	65
128=	Northamptonshire	69	129=	Derbyshire	55

2 Local Area Interactive Tool, Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk.

3 Local Area Interactive Tool, Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk.

4 Local Area Interactive Tool, Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk.

5 Local Area Interactive Tool, Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk.

6 The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2012; www.ofsted.gov.uk/about-us/annual-report.

taken. Elsewhere, we have brokered the sharing of good practice with Leicester, for example sharing their approach to promoting good attendance with Nottingham.

Secondary provision in Nottingham City

Nottingham’s secondary schools produce some of the lowest attendance and poorest GCSE examination results in the country.⁷ Of the secondary-age academies and schools for which data are available, six were below the government’s minimum expected floor standard in 2012.

This poor performance is not replicated in the region’s other cities, which face similar contexts and challenges. Improving performance in Nottingham is one of the region’s greatest and most urgent challenges.

The table below shows the secondary schools and academies in Nottingham City which had GCSE results in both 2011 and 2012. The arrows show whether attainment levels in the school improved or declined between 2011 and 2012. A red arrow shows that the school’s GCSE attainment is below the England level whilst a green arrow indicates schools with GCSE attainment above the England level.

Three quarters of secondary schools in Nottingham are below the England average for the proportion of pupils attaining five GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Moreover, only two of the 12 secondary schools and academies increased the proportion of pupils achieving this benchmark in the last year. Access to a good secondary school should be the expectation in all parts of the city. In addition, the gap between the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals and all other pupils is amongst the largest in the region.⁸

Improving provision in FE and skills

Too much FE and skills provision is not good enough, with only 11 of the 94 providers judged outstanding. While the picture is improving nationally, there has been no change in the quality of provision within the region. In 2012/13, only 14 out of 33 providers were graded good when they were inspected, with the remainder judged as requires improvement, which includes four out of eight GFE colleges inspected. In the cities of **Nottingham**, **Derby** and **Leicester**, learners in GFE colleges have too little access to good provision. In contrast, the quality of apprenticeships provided by employers is good, with five

Table 2: Proportion of young people achieving five good GCSEs including English and mathematics

	2012	2013	Change
Fernwood School	71	63	▲
Bluecoat Academy	71	65	▲
The Trinity Catholic School	70	79	▼
England level	59.4	59.0	
The Nottingham Emmanuel School	55	58	▼
Big Wood School	52	43	▲
Nottingham Academy	51	47	▲
Ellis Guilford School and Sports College	36	42	▼
Farnborough School Technology College	36	31	▲
Nottingham University Samworth Academy	35	44	▼
Djanogly City Academy	34	38	▼
Hadden Park High School	32	30	▲
The Bulwell Academy	31	25	▲

⁷ DfE 2012 School performance tables, <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

⁸ Local Area Interactive Tool, Department for Education: www.education.gov.uk

out of 11 employers providing outstanding apprenticeship training.

HMI are assigned to every provider judged less than good at their most recent inspection, to work with them to support improvement.

There has been excellent attendance at the 'Getting to good' seminars delivered by HMI, which have focused on improving teaching, learning and assessment, apprenticeships and individualised learning.

Some providers, as demonstrated in the case study below, show what is necessary to be highly effective with learners from deprived areas; they are successfully raising ambition and increasing learners' economic potential. We are determined to use the best practice in the region to galvanise weak and lacklustre providers. There is still some way to go before young people in the East Midlands have consistent access to provision that is good enough.

The Bassetlaw Training Agency Limited

This training provider has successfully improved provision from satisfactory to good at its recent inspection. It operates in one of the most deprived areas in the country, with high youth unemployment and low levels of qualification among the population, but it has created a culture of high expectation. The provider's focus on foundation learning successfully prepares learners for workplace learning through carefully tailored individual programmes. Qualifications are chosen to support employability. High-quality work experience is at the centre of the training programme.

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