

education



Education is a major contributor to quality of life, promoting active contribution to and integration with society, increasing confidence and self-esteem and ensuring an able workforce for the future benefit of the economy. Therefore we believe education and training is as important for adults as it is for children.

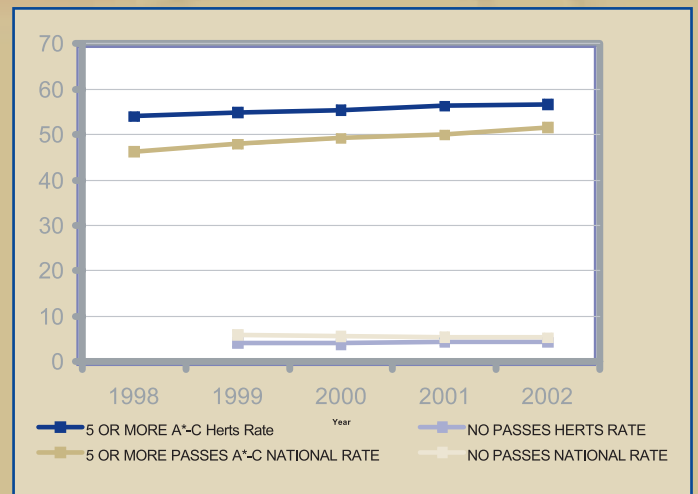
The Children, Schools and Families Service (CSF) was launched by Hertfordshire County Council in April 2001. By joining Education with the children's element of Social Services, the new service gives integrated and better support to Hertfordshire's children. CSF aims to help all children to achieve and is currently giving particular attention to behaviour and achievement in school.

Indicator ED1 - GCSE Performance

It can be seen from the graph opposite that, in recent years, Hertfordshire schools have achieved higher levels of passes than the national average. Although the gap between Hertfordshire schools and schools nationally is decreasing, an extra 1 in 20 students in Hertfordshire get 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C, and 20% less than the national average of students get no GCSE passes at all.



This has been recognised by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED). Hertfordshire is also one of six Local Education Authorities selected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to be a Diversity Pathfinder, which is an initiative for secondary school improvement.



The achievement of pupils on entry to primary schools is above average and they continue to attain standards which are higher than those achieved nationally from Key Stage 1 to GCSE. Attainment at GCE Advanced level, however, is in line with national norms. The recruitment and retention of teachers is a national problem, and Hertfordshire is no exception to the general trend. The creation of a specialist teacher recruitment team and an online service for applications for teaching posts has proved successful and schools in Hertfordshire have benefited from an improvement in recruitment.

Indicator ED2 - Adult Education Level 2

Level 2 equates to a GCSE standard of education. This indicator comprises students who have achieved Level 2 at the point of leaving school as well as others who have taken further qualifications at this level after the age of sixteen. The Local



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Education Authority works with colleges, private providers, Connexions, the Information, Advice and Guidance Partnership and other organisations in the county to encourage all young people. This may be through formal education and informal, leisure learning or basic skills programmes.

Indicator QoL9 - Young people with Level 2 qualifications

Part (a) - The proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or NVQ equivalent) (See table below).

*For 16-18 participation and Adult Basic Skills, this shows growth over 2 years (1999-2000 to 2001-02). For all other targets, the change between 2000-01 and 2001-02 is shown.

Target Area	Estimated Baseline Position	Local Target to 2004 (growth from baseline)	Growth* (actual)
Level 2 at 19	10,770	158	150
Level 3 (A-Level standard, which includes NVQ and GNVQ level 3) at 19	7,249	758	130
Level 3 Adult	268,000	38,000	12,530
Adult Basic Skills	650,000	15,173	4,920

Part (b) - Percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the local authority achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent 58.5% of students who were 15 in August 2001 and attending schools in the local authority received five or passes at GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent.

Indicator QoL20 - Childcare provision to the under 5s

There were three types of childcare provision monitored in the 2001 Childcare Audit. The results for Hertfordshire showed that:

a) There were 285 day-care places available per 1000 population of children not in early education.

b) The number of wrap-around childcare places (childcare that includes before and after school hours) available per 1000 population of children attending early education was 124.

c) And there were 220 out of school hours childcare places, per 1000 population of children aged up to 14 in full time education (up to 16 for SEN/disabled and not including places in summer holiday schemes of less than 3 weeks).

Hertfordshire has a target to create 9,145 additional childcare places for 4 - 14 year olds (16 with disabilities or SEN) by March 2004, and is on track to reach 7,943, which is 86% of the target.

