



INFORMED
STRATEGIC
DECISIONS



VECTOR

Getting started guide

Version 01



ABOUT VECTOR

Vector provides a detailed picture of all post-16 learning alongside local community and skills needs.



This insight provides evidence to inform planning within colleges and enables them to ensure the local curriculum offer meets the skills needs of the local community and employers.

Widely used across the sector by curriculum teams and senior leaders, Vector uses national ILR data, school sixth form data and HESA data alongside local demographic information and labour market intelligence to equip providers with greater insight and evidence to inform curriculum and recruitment plans.

Vector is endorsed by the Association of Colleges



ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES



DATA SOURCES AND UPDATES

Vector is updated during the year to ensure you benefit from the latest available data. The main updates are provisionally scheduled to take place in September, January, and April.

Vector pulls in data from a wide range of sources which are continually reviewed and updated to ensure they remain relevant and provide valuable insight. The core data reported on within Vector include:

- ✓ National Individualised Learner Records (ILR) – R10 ILR and R14 ILR data
- ✓ National Pupil Data (School Sixth Form data)
- ✓ HESA (Higher Education data)
- ✓ DfE Performance Tables
- ✓ Working Futures Employment Projections
- ✓ National Employer Skills Survey
- ✓ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
- ✓ ONS Annual Population Survey
- ✓ Indices of Multiple Deprivation



LOGGING IN TO VECTOR

Vector is an online platform which can be accessed at the following web address:

<https://insight.rcu.co.uk/>



To login you will need your **8 digit college Vector ID**, your registered college **email** and unique **password**.

If you are not yet registered, please contact your college super user or email RCU at vector@rcu.co.uk to request a new login.



HOME SCREEN

On the home screen you will see all the Vector modules assigned to your college in addition to a link to the online Knowledge Centre for access to FAQs and popular Hints and Tips.

You will also see a map identifying the core recruitment and analysis area designed for your college Vector. The recruitment areas shown in this map are used throughout Vector enabling you to identify the profile of learner participation and the college's market share within each area.

Home 16-19 16-19 Projections Adults Apprenticeships Higher Education Employment Community Documents Help Welcome, RCU 2019/20 R14 (R14) 2018/19 16005209

Welcome, RCU.

16-19 16-19 Projections Adults Apprenticeships Higher Education Employment Community Documents Bookmarks

About Your Vector

Vector provides insight into the local post-16 learner market with data on the Further Education, Higher Education and Apprenticeship learner markets. It offers a comparison of your college provision to other providers including other colleges, schools, private training providers and HEIs. The tool also includes labour market information such as employment forecasts to further support planning and curriculum development.

Vector uses the latest national ILR in addition to schools and HE data. Under the rules governing access to the national data sets, figures cannot be released in a format that could lead to the identification of individuals, therefore learner volumes in the tool are rounded to the nearest ten and volumes of less than five learners are suppressed.

Data Sources
ILR data - 2017/18 (R14), 2018/19 (R14) and 2019/20 (R14)
NPD data for school sixth forms, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20
HESA data for 2017/18 and 2018/19

Your Recruitment & Analysis Area

View Map

Map data ©2021 Google, Terms of Use Report a map error

- Preston
- South Ribble
- Fylde
- Chorley
- Ribble Valley
- Wyre
- Blackburn with Darwen

This map highlights the recruitment and analysis areas used in the 16-19 and adult learner sections of Vector. Each colour coded area represents a unique analysis area which will appear in the drop down analysis filters within the Vector dashboards, charts and tables.

The analysis areas used within the apprenticeships and higher education sections are based on local authority districts within your local LEP areas.



CORE VECTOR MODULES



16-19 Learners

Identify market share, trends and curriculum demand in the local 16-19 ESFA funded learner market.



Learner Projections

A forecast of 16-19 ESFA funded learner numbers enrolled at your college.



Adult Learners

Identify market share, trends and curriculum demand in the local adult learner market (AEB funded & Loans).



Apprenticeships

Identify market share, trends and curriculum demand in the local 16-18 and adult Apprenticeship market.



Higher Education

Identify market share, trends and curriculum demand in the local HE learner market (Level 4 and above).



Employment

Identify and compare employment demand to local skills supply to inform curriculum planning.



Community

Review local community and demographic data to inform planning and ensure local skills needs are met.



Documents

Access a range of useful background information and key files which can be easily downloaded and stored.



Bookmarks

Quickly retrieve and manage all your favourite, bookmarked pages for easy reference.





NAVIGATION

The screenshot shows the VECTOR dashboard interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, 16-19, 16-19 Projections, Adults, Apprenticeships, Higher Education, Employment, Community, Documents, and Help. A user profile section shows 'Welcome, Chris' and 'Demo Version - 10000001'. A 'Compare' button is visible next to the '16-19' link. The left sidebar contains a 'Dashboards' menu with options for 16-19 Summary, Subject Summary, and A-Level Summary. Below this are 'Maps', 'Charts', and 'Tables' sections. The main content area displays a horizontal bar chart titled 'Provider Type Analysis' for the year 2019/20. The chart shows the number of learners for various provider types: Our College (approx. 1,500), Other GFE Colleges (approx. 6,500), Sixth Form Colleges (approx. 5,200), School Sixth Forms (approx. 1,500), Private Training Providers (approx. 200), and Other Providers (approx. 100). The x-axis is labeled 'Number of Learners (rounded to nearest 10)' and ranges from 0 to 10,000. Below the chart, a note states: 'Data Sources: ILR data (2017/18 - 2019/20) and schools data (PLAMS/Autumn Learning Aims and Pupil Census 2017/18 - 2019/20)'. The dashboard also includes filters for 'All Subjects', 'All Levels', and 'All Areas', along with 'Export', 'Bookmark', and 'Share' options.

- 1. Core Module Selection
- 2. Compare screen mode
- 3. Account Management
- 4. Guide / Page Information
- 5. Analysis Filters
- 6. Export, Bookmark, Share
- 7. Dashboards
- 8. Maps
- 9. Charts
- 10. Tables
- 11. Data sources



NAVIGATION

1	Core Module Selection	Select and navigate to one of your core modules using options in the header bar or from the Home screen
2	Compare Screen Mode	Compare two screens side by side. E.g. compare data for one year or subject area against another, or compare two completely different outputs such as a market share map against school leaver projections.
3	Account Management Panel	Change your password, view your bookmarked or shared pages. Add and manage additional user logins (admin accounts only)
4	Guide / Page Information	Select the Guide button for more information about the charts, maps or data tables presented on the screen.
5	Analysis Filters	Every page has a number of pre-defined analysis filters above the charting tool. These enable you to change the data presented. Typical filters include academic year, geography, subject area and highest qualification level.
6	Export, Bookmark, Share	Many of the dashboards, charts, maps and tables presented in Vector will have options to export, bookmark and share. Export options will vary depending on the selected page. Bookmarked and Shared pages can be reviewed within the Account Management Panel.
7	Dashboards	Each core module contains a range of pre-defined summary dashboards. These show headline information about your selected module such as overall learner demand and your colleges market share.
8	Maps	Maps provide valuable insight into learner participation and your college's market share at a local level. In the 16-19 and adult learner modules the data is presented at local authority ward level and apprenticeships and HE data is typically displayed at local authority district level.
9	Charts	While dashboards provide a broader headline summary of the data, Vector charts enable you to drill down into more specific areas or interest such as a single subject area. Each core module presents a wide variety of chart types and options to explore.
10	Tables	The tables enable you to explore the data in more detail. In this area you will also find the course level curriculum tables and the geographical data containing the learner numbers and market share data behind the Vector maps.
11	Data sources	Data sources are typically shown below each of the Vector charts and / or within the page information guide buttons located above the filter options at the top of the chart.



DASHBOARDS

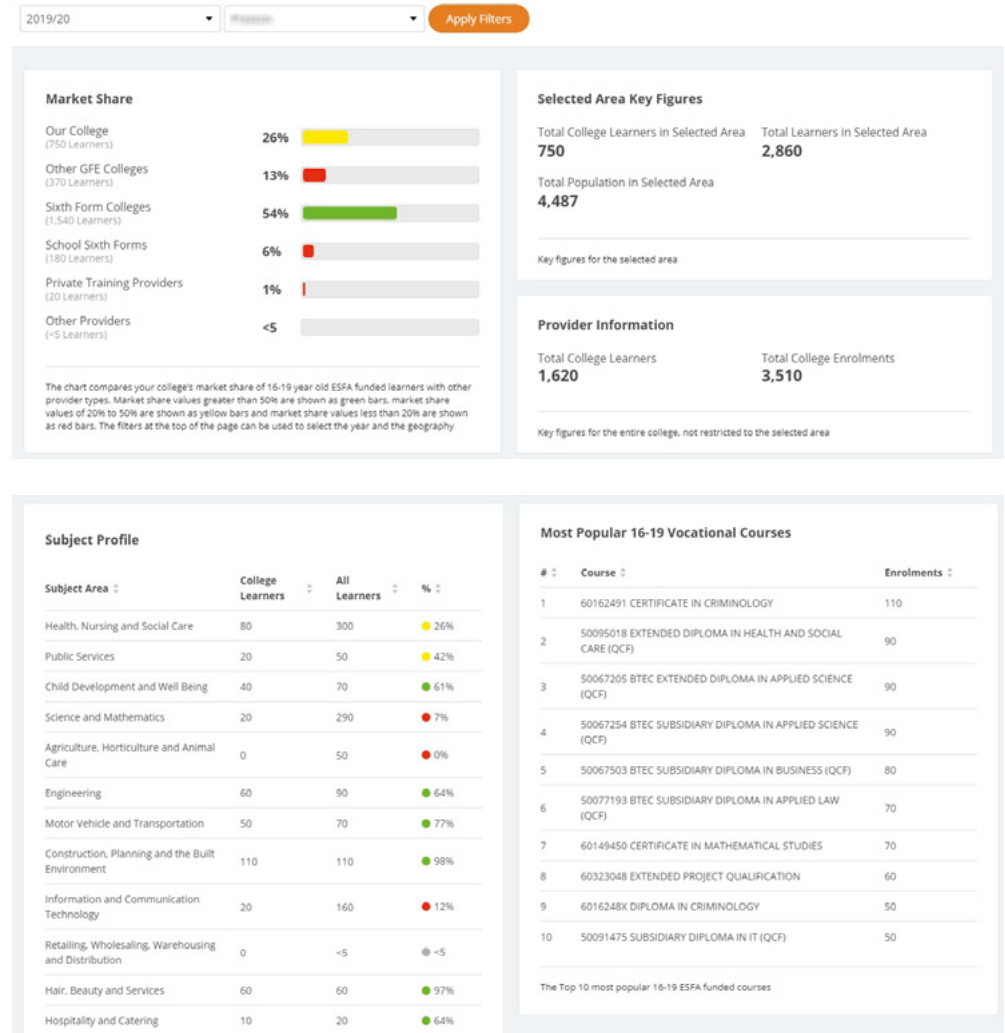
Headline summary of the local market

Using the Vector Summary dashboards, you can identify key data about your local learner market, including local population, learner numbers, market share and change over the last three academic years.

The Summary Dashboards show overall learner participation and your college's market share by subject area, enabling you to assess the overall size of the learner market and your unique position within each of your college's curriculum areas.

You can also identify the largest providers recruiting learners in your local area, how large a presence they have locally and how this has changed over the past three years.

The Subject Area Summary Dashboard, enables you to drill down into data for each curriculum area further. This dashboard provides more information on learner participation, trends and your college's market share with each curriculum area. You can review participation and market share in your chosen subject area by highest qualification level and you can also identify the largest providers recruiting learners in the selected subject area.





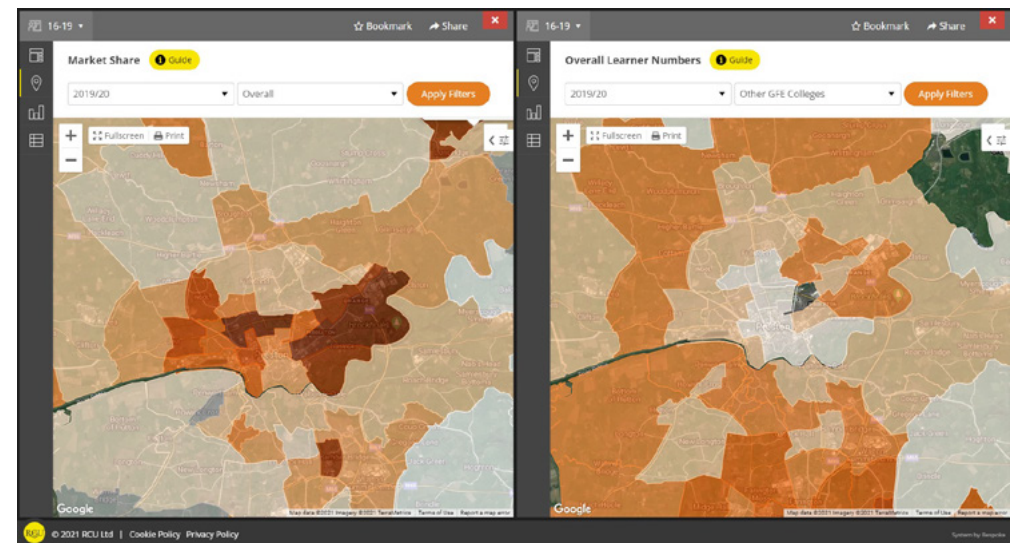
MAPS

Using Vector maps to identify local learner participation, recruitment trends and market share hot spots

Vector maps are built within a powerful Google maps interface. These enable you to identify overall learner participation plus your college's recruitment and market share within each of the local authority wards or districts presented in your catchment area.

The heat mapping colour scale makes it easy to spot any hot spots and cold spots locally so you can make informed decisions about where your college recruitment is strong or identify areas which may be underrepresented and offer more potential for growth.

All the maps have filters for further drill down, so you can choose to view your college's market share in each local area alongside overall learner participation by highest qualification level or curriculum area. Within the Vector maps you can also calculate distance and travel times (right click on a start and end point), toggle learner participation or market share layers on / off, and add provider location pins which show the location of other local providers recruiting learners in the area (including other FE colleges, sixth form colleges, and schools).



Map data can also be exported to an Excel table. This is a useful feature when looking to combine the geographical data with other information you may hold within the college. E.g. applications data.

To export the maps, follow the left hand menu and select Tables / Geographical Data tables, then select the export button in the top right corner.



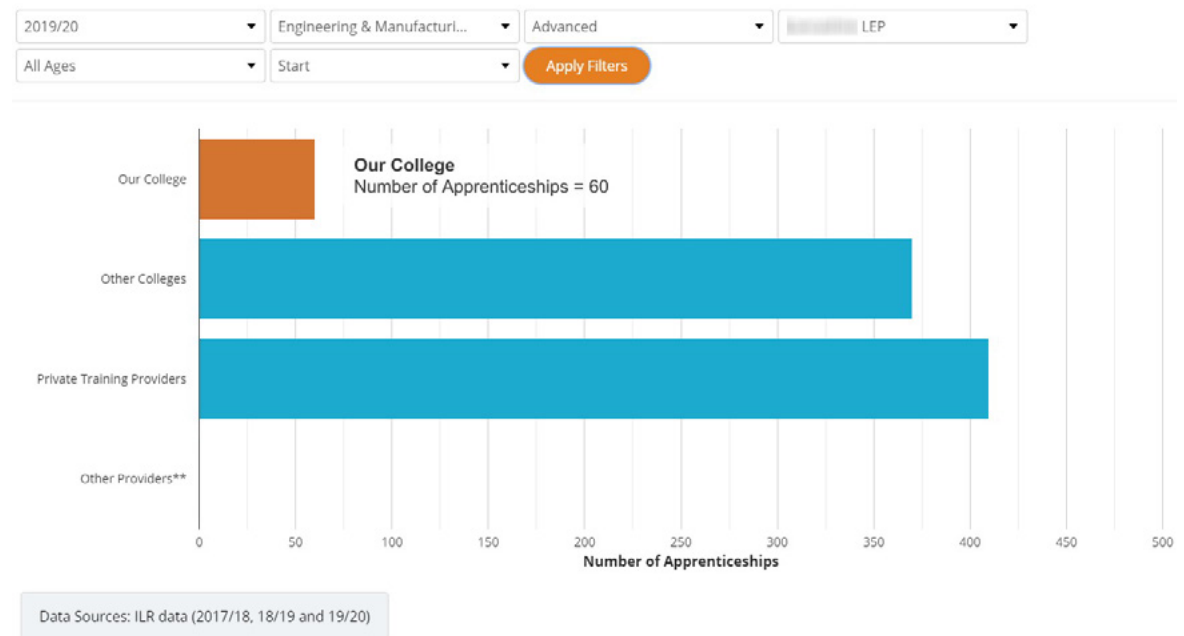
CHARTS

Interactive charting tools to compare your college's learner profile with other local providers

Vector contains a range of interactive charts enabling you to identify and compare learner numbers enrolled at your college with other local providers.

Within each learner module you can use the charting tools to explore learner participation by year, geography, subject area, qualification level and more.

You can also identify the background deprivation profile of learners and residents within each of your core recruitment areas.





TABLES

Detailed data tables including the popular curriculum tables

Vector tables provide a greater level of insight and access to learner and enrolment data within each of the core learner modules in Vector.

The Curriculum Tables enable you to compare your college's curriculum offer with other providers recruiting learners locally to identify strengths, gaps in the market and opportunities for further curriculum development or rationalisation.

Vector tables can be sorted by provider type (by clicking on the column heading of interest) enabling you to quickly identify the courses or areas attracting the most learner enrolments and spot any potential strengths or potential gaps within the local skills offer.

Subject Area Guide

2019/20 All Areas Engineering Level 3+

Course	College	Other GFE Colleges	Sixth Form Colleges	School Sixth Forms	Private Training Providers	Other Providers
Extended Diploma in Engineering Technologies - 60158025	0	50	0	0	0	0
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Engineering - 60145948	0	30	0	0	0	0
BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Engineering - 60175916	0	30	0	20	0	0
Advanced Diploma in Electrical Installation - 60145638	0	30	0	0	0	0
Extended Diploma in Engineering (QCF) - 50081652	0	30	0	0	0	0
BTEC National Extended Diploma in Engineering - 60175886	10	20	-5	80	0	-5



LEARNER NUMBER PROJECTIONS

Modelling learner projections and local school leaver numbers

The learner projections tool uses a combination of local population projections along with the college's market share at a local authority district level to model future 16-18 year old learner numbers enrolled at your college.

It includes a 10 year forecast of 16-18 year old learner numbers enrolled at the college plus an option to show recruitment forecast from individual local authority districts.

Vector also provides a separate forecast of year 11 school leavers by school and 16 year old population projections for each local authority district within your colleges local recruitment area.

Learner Projections

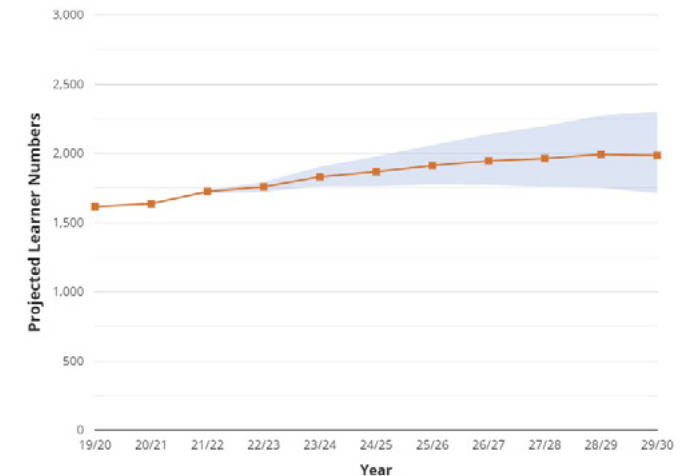
To change the learner projections model, click on the table below to update the proportion of 16 year olds which will attend your college in each year. Select export to PDF from the menu above to save the results of your analysis and view the table of results.

Overall Change 19/20 to 29/30:

[View our Advanced Guide](#)

[Reset All Values](#)

	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Blackburn with Darwen	1%	1%	1%	1%
Blackpool	1%	1%	1%	1%
Chorley	4%	4%	4%	4%
Fylde	6%	6%	6%	6%
Lancaster	1%	1%	1%	1%
Preston	22%	22%	22%	22%
South Ribble	10%	10%	10%	10%
Wyre	2%	2%	2%	2%



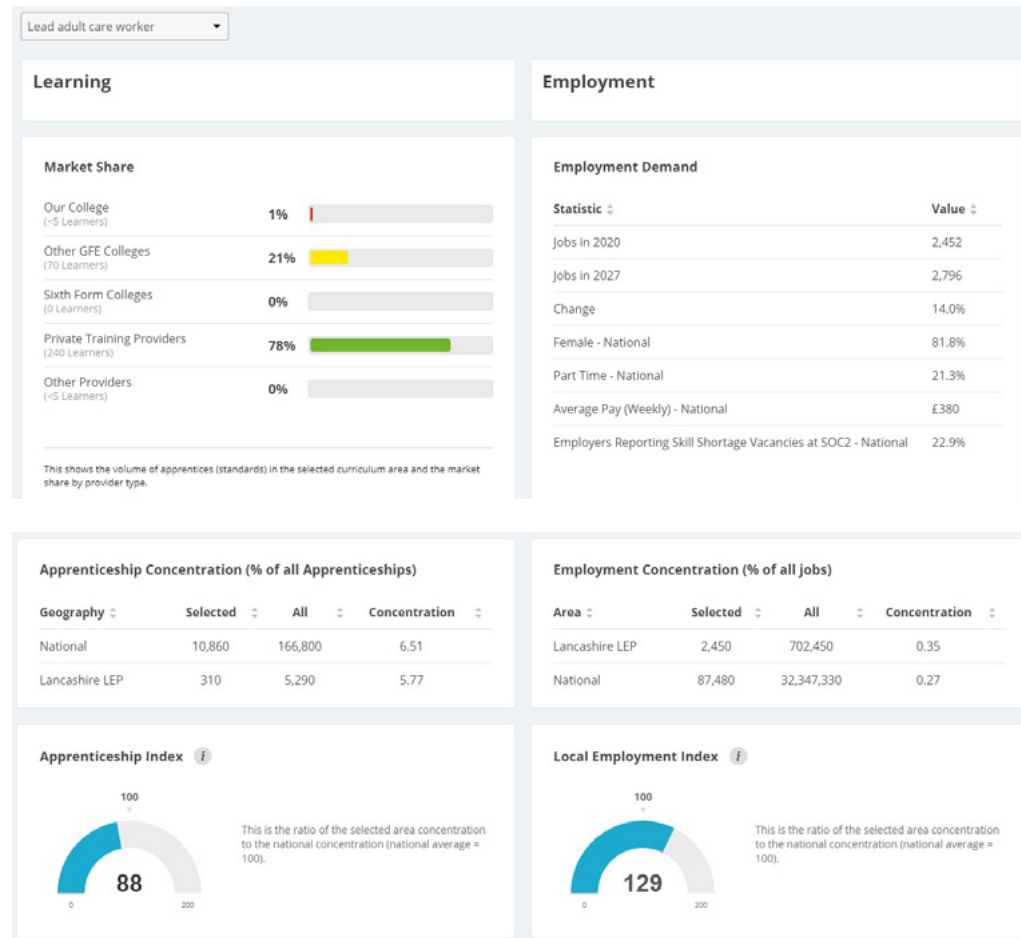


MEETING LOCAL SKILLS NEEDS

Comparing local skills supply and employment demand to inform your curriculum

The Employment dashboards provide a range of top-level statistics about occupations and industry sectors in your Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area or across England as a whole. These include data on number of jobs, forecast growth or decline, average earnings, demand for employment by qualification level and reported skills shortages.

The Skills vs Demand and Analysis sections include a range of charting tools which show the predicted volume of job openings and forecast growth or decline in occupations relevant to your chosen curriculum area. Within this range of charting tools you will also be able to find information on the current course offer, number of learners and your college's market share at LEP level for each of your chosen curriculum areas.





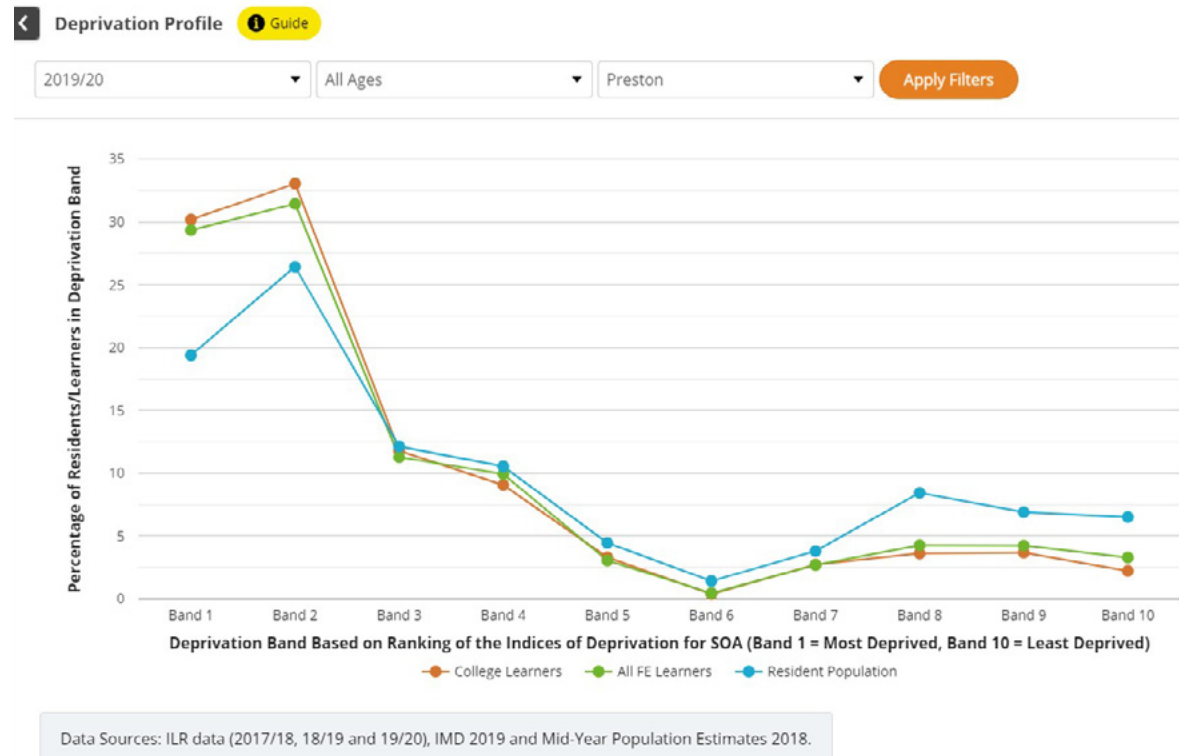
MEETING LOCAL SKILLS NEEDS

Using local community and demographic data

The Community module provides insight into the socio-demographic and economic background of residents living in the local area. The data used in this section is drawn from a range of publicly available, ONS datasets.

The data is presented at local authority district or LEP level and enables you to identify and compare the resident profile in local areas of interest.

The charting tools offer a range of key-statistics including information about economic activity, employment, unemployment, job-seekers, benefit claimants, qualifications, ethnicity, NEETs, deprivation, social mobility and local key stage 4 performance.





FIND OUT MORE

The online Vector help facility provides a suite of useful Hints and Tips and FAQs. This can be accessed from the Vector home screen or within the top navigation bar.

For any further support please contact the Vector support team at RCU on:

| **vector@rcu.co.uk**

| **01772 734855 / 07860 714102**



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