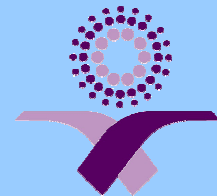


An Analysis of School Leavers in Oldham 2008

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**POSITIVE STEPS
OLDHAM**

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connexions

OLDHAM

MOVING ON 2008 - AN ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS IN OLDHAM - 2008

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following analyses of the destinations of 2008 Year 11 school pupils are based on information held by the Connexions Service in Oldham at 31st October 2008.

They have been compiled using information supplied by: Oldham's schools and colleges; the Learning & Skills Council; training providers; employers; neighbouring Connexions providers; schools and colleges outside Oldham; and not least, young people, their parents and relatives via telephone, text, mail and home visit follow-up activities carried out by Connexions staff. They are, to the best of our knowledge, accurate at the time of compilation. We are indebted to these organisations and individuals for their assistance. This year we have discovered the whereabouts of **99.6%** of the cohort, resulting in an 'unknown' total of only **14** young people.

NB. These analyses are produced in **two** sections:

- Section 1 analyses Year 11 leavers **from all Oldham's schools** (including independent schools, special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit), regardless of where they live as well as pupils educated at home or not on a school roll, but remaining in the Borough and contact with Connexions.
- Section 2 analyses Year 11 leavers **who are Oldham residents** and includes pupils living in Oldham who were educated in schools **outside** the Borough.

SECTION 1 – ANALYSIS OF YEAR 11 LEAVERS FROM OLDHAM SCHOOLS

2. KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ **Staying-on Rates increase by 4.9% from 79.8% to 83.7%;**
- ❖ **Entry to LSC-funded work-based learning falls slightly from 7.5% to 7.4%;**
- ❖ **Entry to Employment decreases by 45.6% from 5.7% to 3.1%;**
- ❖ **63% of students entering further education access Level 3 courses compared with 59% last year;**
- ❖ **Participation in funded learning and jobs with recognised training reaches all time high at 93.4% compared with 91.3%, last year; and**
- ❖ **The NEET rate for Year 11 leavers falls by 19.1% from 5.6% last year to 4.7% this year.**

3. MAIN DESTINATIONS

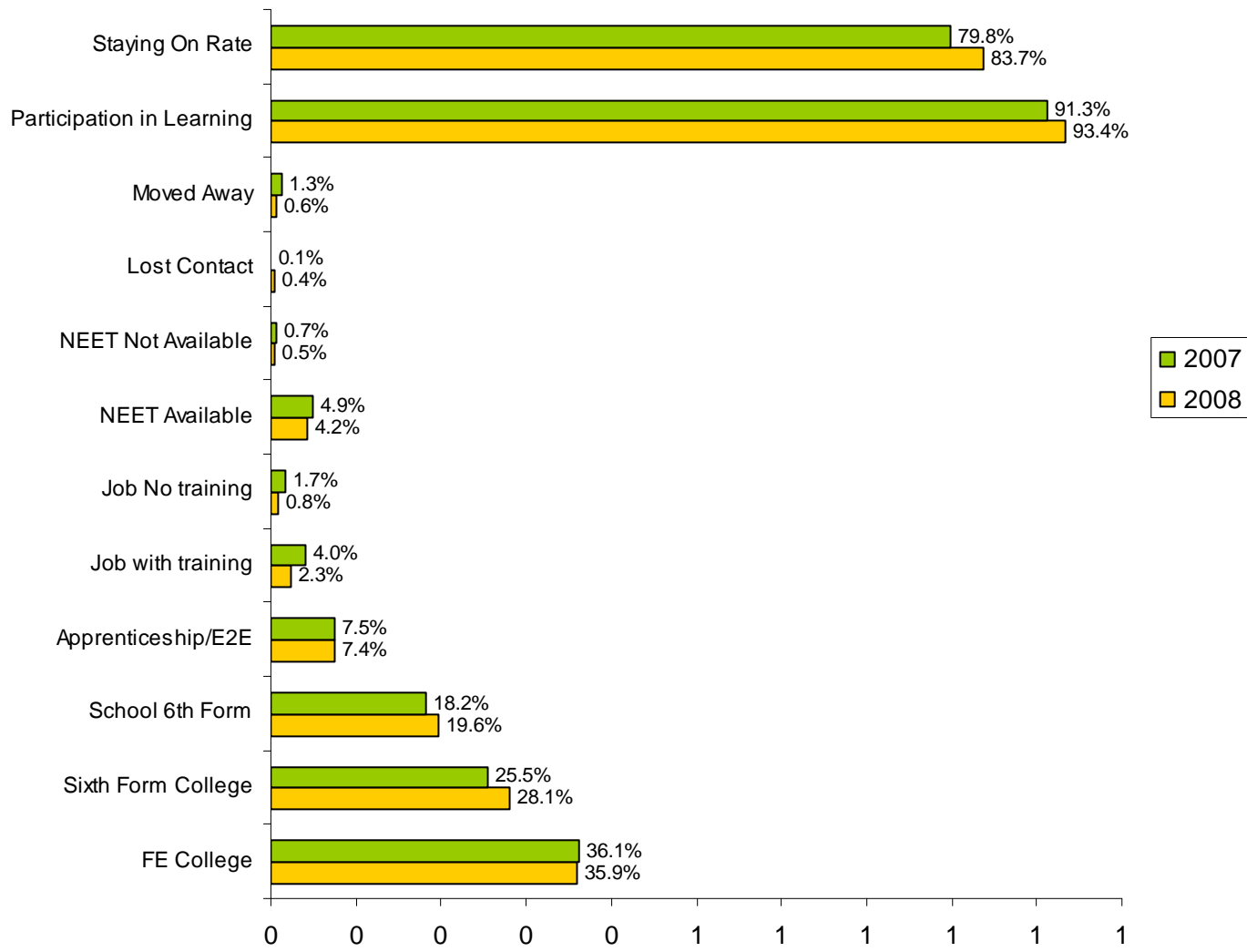
Over recent years, the national picture has been reflected locally with a steady decline in labour market entrants and a corresponding increase in pupils remaining in full-time education beyond the age of 16. The staying-on rate increased steadily over the last 10 years, though it remained at between 70% and 74% between 2001 and 2005. In 2006 there was a dramatic increase to 78.9%, in 2007 this was 79.8% and this year has seen another significant jump to 83.7%.

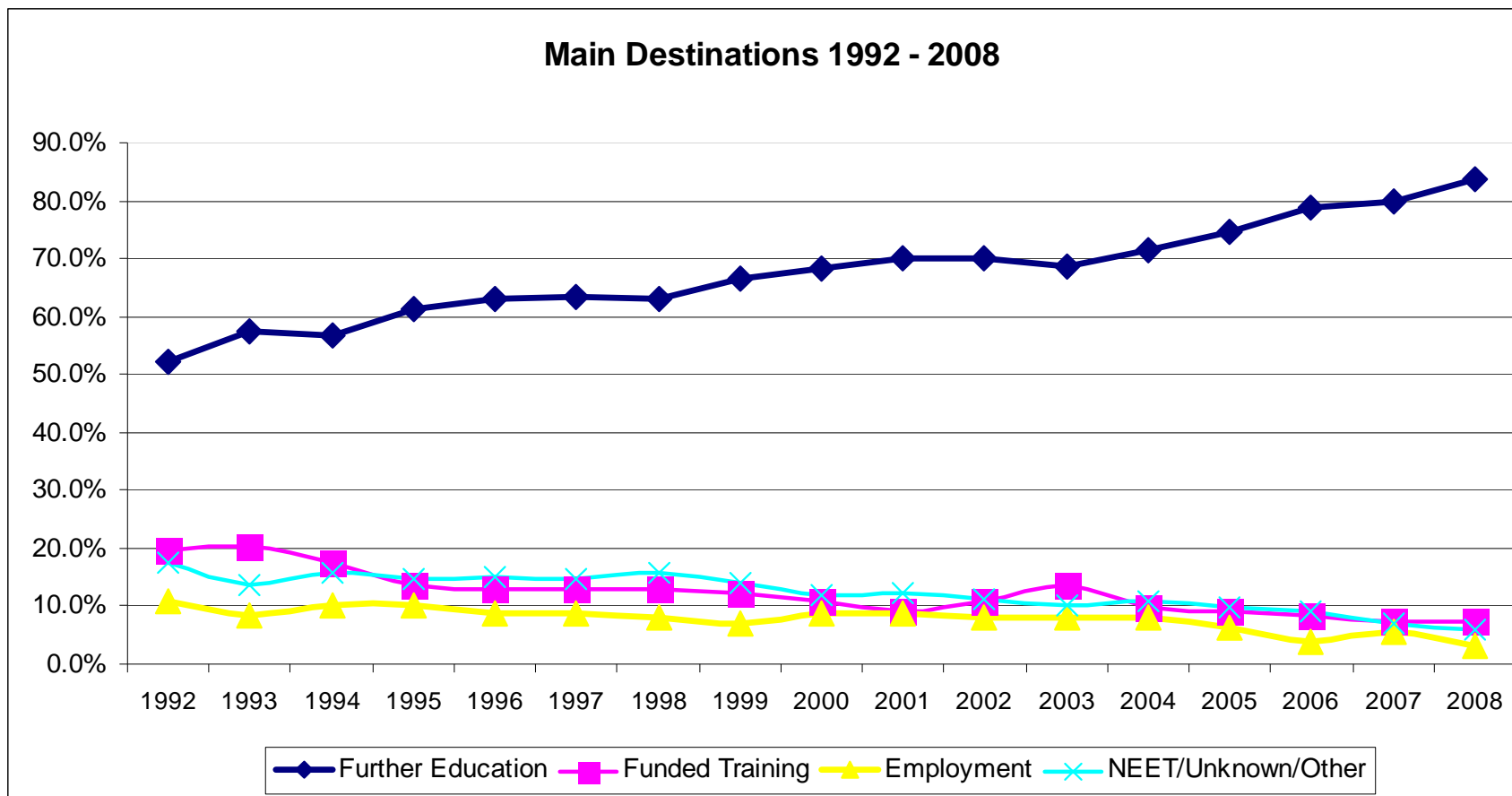
There has been a **corresponding decrease** in labour market entrants falling from 18.0% in 2007 to 14.8% this year. Entry to LSC-funded work-based training **has decreased** slightly from 7.5% to 7.4%.

The NEET Available (Unemployed) group has **fallen** from 4.9% to 4.2% and the NEET Unavailable group has also fallen slightly from 0.7% to 0.5%. The overall NEET rate has seen a **reduction** of 19.1%.

The analysis of all Year 11 destinations for the past two years and the main three pathways taken by 16 year olds for the last 17 years are shown on pages 3 and 4.

Year 11 Destinations 2007 & 2008





4. TRANSFERRING TO FURTHER EDUCATION

School Sixth Forms

The number of students entering school sixth forms (or repeating Year 11) was **675** compared with **639** last year. The percentage of the total cohort has increased (by 7.7%) from 18.2% in 2007 to 19.6% this year. Only 6 young people continued their studies at school sixth forms outside Oldham.

Sixth Form Colleges

Numbers entering Sixth Form Colleges were **969** compared with **896** in 2007. The percentage of the cohort choosing this option increased, by 9.8%, from 25.5% in 2007 to 28.1% this year. 85 young people or 8.8% continued their studies at sixth form colleges outside Oldham with Greenhead College in Huddersfield and Ashton Sixth Form College taking the majority. This compares with 97 young people, or 10.8%, last year).

The numbers entering School Sixth forms and Sixth Form Colleges, combined, for the last 11 years are shown in the table below:

Analysis of Entry to School Sixth Forms and Sixth Form Colleges – 1998 - 2008

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of Total Cohort	A Levels	Other Courses
1998	634	740	1374	41%	31%	10%
1999	678	707	1385	41%	32%	9%
2000	689	753	1442	42%	34%	8%
2001	693	702	1395	40%	32%	8%
2002	698	726	1424	41%	33%	8%
2003	652	742	1394	40%	29%	11%
2004	646	766	1412	41%	32%	9%
2005	683	765	1448	42%	35%	7%
2006	623	824	1447	42%	34%	8%
2007	740	795	1535	44%	36%	8%
2008	819	825	1644	48%	36%	12%

Further Education Colleges

The number of leavers transferring to full-time courses in colleges of further education in 2008 was **1,237** compared with **1,269** in 2007. Percentage-wise this represents a reduction in the cohort share of 0.6% at 35.9% compared with 36.1% in 2007 and 37.0% in 2006. The Oldham College's share of the general FE College market (not including sixth form colleges) has increased to 62.7% compared with 59.8% last year. This compares with 66.0% in 2006, 70.0% in 2005, 67.5% in 2004, 73.1% in 2003, 70.9% in 2002, 73.5% in 2001 and 70.2% in 2000. Hopwood Hall, Manchester and Tameside colleges recruited the majority of students who moved out of Oldham to study in an FE College. Figures for students entering colleges of further education in the last 11 years are shown in the table over the page:

Analysis of Entry to Further Education Colleges - 1998 - 2007

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1998	385	376	761	22%
1999	423	429	852	25%
2000	433	447	880	26%
2001	527	532	1059	30%
2002	528	479	1009	29%
2003	478	514	992	28%
2004	516	517	1033	30%
2005	583	537	1120	33%
2006	707	569	1276	37%
2007	651	618	1269	36%
2008	680	557	1237	36%

NVQ Equivalent Entry Levels

For the last 11 years we have analysed courses entered by National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) equivalent. This year's figures are shown in the table over the page, along with percentages for 1998-2007.

A significant shift in entry to courses below NVQ Level 2 had taken place over the previous seven years as the overall staying-on rate increased. This increase was largely due to those students achieving lower GCSE grades choosing to remain in full-time education. Now the increase in GCSE achievement is beginning again to redress the balance with Level 3 entry gaining ground again. Entry to Level 1 courses has been maintained and numbers accessing Level 2 courses have decreased.

This data is analysed later in terms of male/female and BME/white comparisons

Entry to FE by NVQ Level	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Below NVQ 2	16.7%	16.6%	18.4%	14.3%	13.5%	13.8%	15.8%	16.2%	14.1%	13.0%	9.5%
NVQ 2	17.2%	20.6%	22.4%	19.7%	22.9%	21.0%	20.8%	22.0%	21.5%	20.3%	24.5%
NVQ 3	66.1%	62.8%	59.2%	66.0%	63.6%	65.2%	63.4%	61.8%	64.4%	66.7%	66.0%

5. TRANSFERRING TO WORK-BASED LSC-FUNDED LEARNING

The percentage of Year 11 pupils entering Apprenticeships, Entry to Employment (E2E), Pre-E2E and other personal development opportunities has fallen (by 1.3%) from 7.5% in 2007 to 7.4% this year. The percentage of females **rose** from 4.2% to 5.4%. However, the percentage of males entering this option decreased from 10.6% to 9.2%. This year E2E, Pre-E2E and other personal development opportunities was readily available with 162 (63.3%) out of the total of work-based learning entrants accessing this provision compared with 162 (61.4%) in 2007, 132 (45.8%) in 2006 and 150 (48%) in 2005. Overall, the numbers gaining "employed" status from the start of training was 33.2% compared with 31.4% last year.

It is also anticipated that a number of young people who have entered direct will be "converted" to Apprenticeship status during the coming months via the Learning Agreement pilot.

6. ENTERING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (Outside Funded Learning)

The percentage of 2008 Year 11 pupils entering employment outside Government-funded training decreased dramatically from 5.7% to 3.1% compared with 3.7% in 2006, 6.2% in 2005 and 8.0% in 2004.

2.3% of the total cohort entered jobs which appeared to offer NVQ-based learning or equivalent (e.g. Armed Forces, jobs covered through a Learning Agreement and a few local traditional apprenticeships, leading to an NVQ or equivalent), or **some degree** of planned training. Of the 79 entering this category, 27 (or 34.2%) did so through the Learning Agreement Pilot.

This left only 26 young people (0.8% of the total cohort) entering employment with no degree of planned training. Much of this employment was through agencies or other temporary work. Again, it is hoped that a number of these can be converted into Learning Agreements.

7. PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING

The 'participation in learning rate' is defined as the percentage of the cohort, entering full-time further education, LSC- funded work-based training and jobs with NVQ or other planned training. This rate is a key headline target set by the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) for Connexions. We have seen a steady increase on previous years. To summarise the above analysis, the overall participation rate in learning for the last eight years is shown below:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
85.2%	86.2%	86.2%	86.3%	87.7%	89.7%	91.3%	93.4%

8. NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

The number of NEET young people was **162** compared with **196** last year.

This group is divided into two categories:

Those young people who are available and actively seeking a job, course or training programme and therefore **registered as unemployed** with Connexions; and

Those who for a variety of reasons – illness or disability, custodial sentence, pregnancy or parenthood, cultural restrictions or caring for other family members – are **unavailable**. Local authorities and their partners are measured on the total NEET group (discounting those in custody). Last year, the rate fell significantly and despite the downturn in the economy, locally a further decrease of 12.5% (5.6% to 5.2%) has been achieved. We believe this is the result of:

- An increase in GCSE achievement at 5 A*-C including English and Maths and an a concomitant increase in numbers staying-on in education;
- The continued use of a “handover” process of potential NEET young people between school and community-based personal advisers, well before they leave school;
- Excellent liaison between Connexions providers in the sub-region to ensure that young people leaving school are passed to their “home” Connexions service sooner to avoid them falling through the net; and
- A significant improvement of outcomes from key targeted groups **utilising the Fast Track to Success programme in Year 11** with reduced NEET rates as follows:

Target Group	No. of NEET 2007	No. of NEET 2008	% Reduction
Pupil Support Service	19	10	47.4%
Educated at Home	2	0	100.0%
Not on School Roll	11	7	36.4%
Total	32	18	43.8%

The percentage in each category is shown for the last nine years:

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
NEET Available	4.2%	4.9%	6.7%	6.0%	7.0%	6.9%	7.2%	6.9%	6.9%
NEET Not Available	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%
Total	4.7%	5.6%	7.3%	6.9%	8.2%	8.2%	8.5%	8.4%	8.6%

Of the 145 young people in the “NEET Available group”, 11 reside outside the Borough of Oldham and are registered with a neighbouring Connexions provider.

9. UNKNOWN

This year, a mere 0.4% (or **14** young people) remained unknown to Connexions. The figure has been dramatically reduced over recent years and compares to 1.4% in 1999 and 3.7% in 1998.

10. GENDER ISSUES

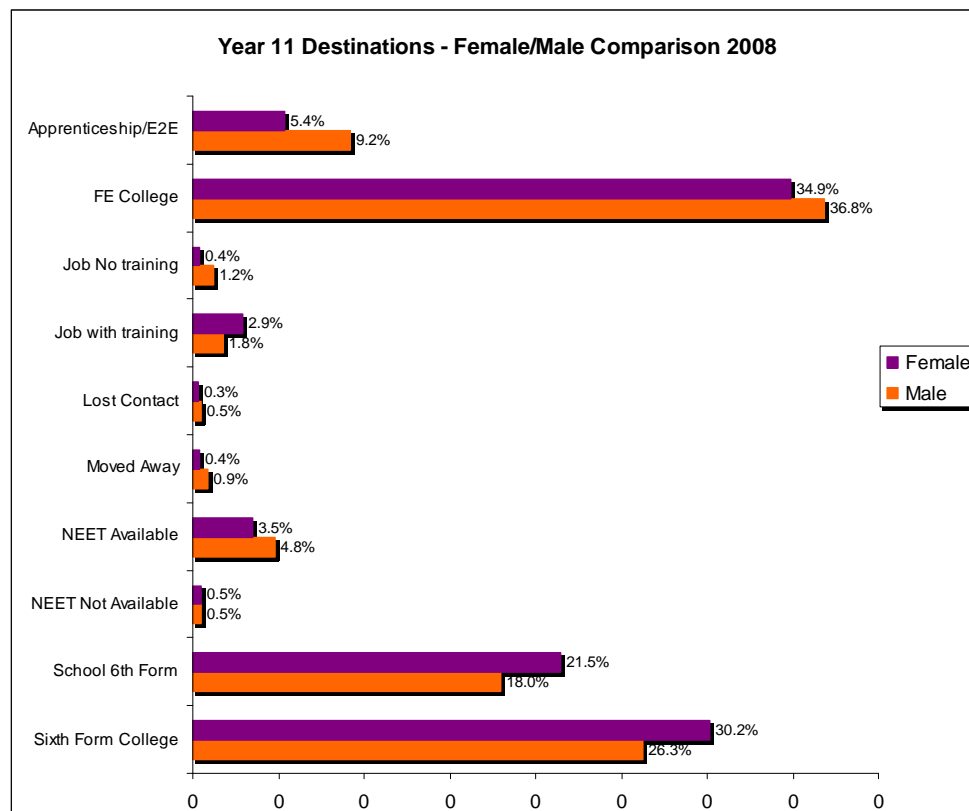
10.1 There was a 2.0% reduction in the total Year 11 cohort in 2008 from 2007. The total cohort was 3,443. This number was divided between 1849 males (53.7%) and 1594 females (46.3%).

- 2007 – 3,512
- 2006 – 3,452
- 2005 – 3,439
- 2004 – 3,424
- 2003 – 3,484
- 2002 – 3,475
- 2001 – 3,503

This difference in the gender split has been notable in the last few years and is attributable to a significant difference in the male/female split in the BME population. The male/female split in the white population is almost 50-50. We know that a number of females from minority ethnic groups, choose secondary education outside the Oldham Borough. The gender split for both groups is as follows and is becoming more marked, each year, in respect of BME young people:

	BME	White
Male	59.2%	50.1%
Female	40.8%	49.9%

There are increasingly marked differences in the pathways being followed by young men and women, with a definite trend established. Considerably more females entered further education – 86.7% compared with 81.1% of males. This is partly offset by the work-based learning data showing 5.4% of females entering compared with 9.2% of males. However, once employment and NEET Available data is added we see that only 12.2% of females accessed the labour market at 16, compared with 17.0% of males.



Entry into Further Education over the last 11 years

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Males	81.1%	75.7%	74.0%	69.5%	65.5%	62.6%	67.4%	66.4%	64.5%	63.3%	57.7%
Females	86.7%	84.4%	84.2%	80.5%	77.7%	74.2%	72.9%	74.0%	74.0%	70.1%	68.8%

10.4 Entry to Further Education by NVQ Level

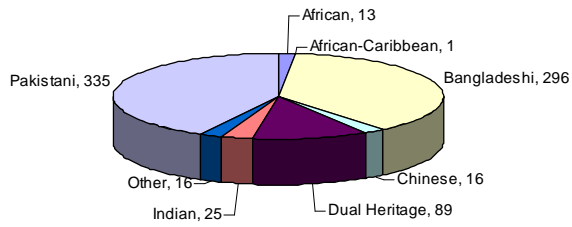
Although the difference in staying-on rate between females and males remains, the gap is beginning to narrow. Differences are also apparent in terms of the **level** of further education courses entered by males and females, in particular a higher percentage of males than females entering courses at below NVQ Level 2 and significantly more females enter courses at NVQ Level 3 or equivalent, **and the gap continues to widen.**

Level of FE entered	Female						Male					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Below NVQ 2	12.2%	10.7%	12.0%	14.7%	13.3%	12.8%	15.8%	16.5%	16.3%	22.3%	19.9%	20.5%
NVQ Level 2	19.5%	21.6%	17.7%	19.5%	21.0%	15.0%	23.3%	23.7%	21.8%	25.6%	20.3%	19.3%
NVQ Level 3	68.3%	67.7%	70.3%	65.8%	65.7%	72.2%	60.9%	59.8%	61.9%	52.1%	59.8%	60.2%

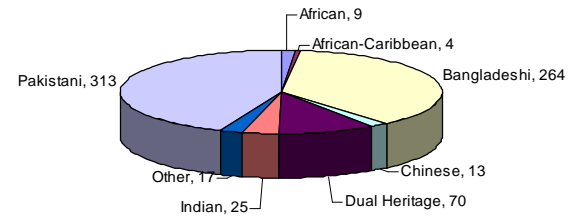
11. ETHNIC MINORITY ISSUES

A total of 791 (23.0%) of Year 11 leavers were from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups compared with 697 (20.2%) last year, 677 (19.7%) in 2005, 638 (18.6%) in 2004, 651 (18.7%) in 2003, and 639 (18.2%) in 2002. The size of most cohorts remained more or less the same, although the Pakistani cohort has reduced and the dual heritage cohort has increased. The breakdown along with last year's pie chart is illustrated below.

2008

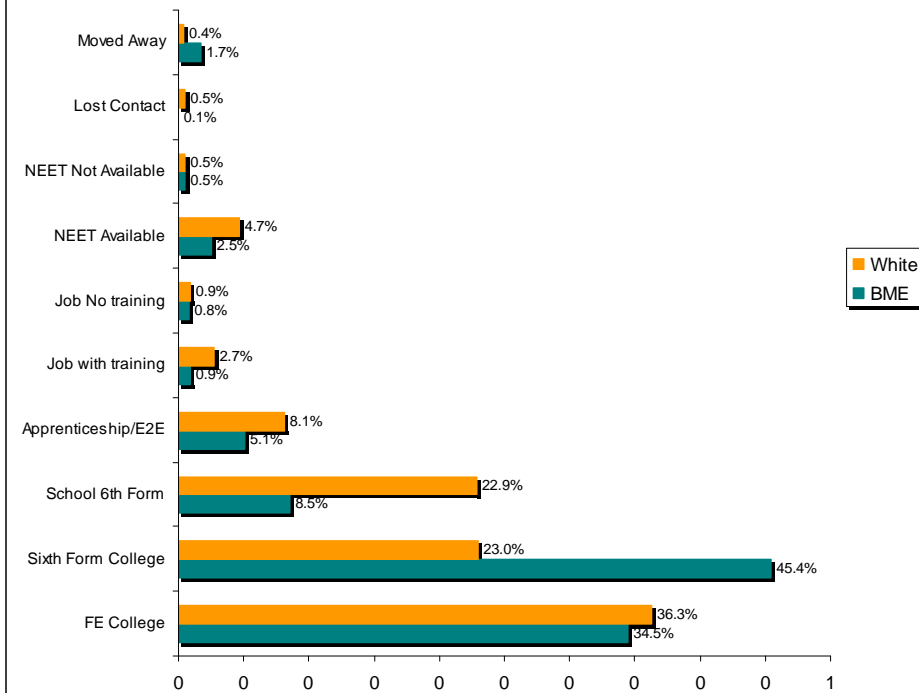


2007



11.2 The main destinations entered by BME groups compared with the White cohort are illustrated below. Differences occur across the range of categories:

Year 11 Destinations 2008 - White - BME Comparison



11.3 Further Education

The comparative staying-on rates for the last nine years is as follows:

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
BME	88.4%	82.0%	84.2%	80.6%	82.6%	77.9%	74.9%	79.7%	75.0%
White	82.3%	79.2%	77.5%	73.2%	68.9%	66.3%	68.8%	67.9%	67.0%

The difference between BME and white young people appeared to be gradually closing, however, this year it has **widened considerably**.

8.5% of BME students entered school sixth forms although there is some evidence that is increasing slightly, year on year. Last year the figure was 6.4%, in 2006 it was 5.3%, 2005 - 6.1% and 2004 - 6.9%.

The variance in entry levels to post-16 courses between BME and White students is widening again following last year when the gap was beginning to close.

Level of FE entered	BME						White					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Below NVQ Level 2	20.5%	20.3%	22.2%	26.1%	22.4%	20.7%	12.0%	11.7%	18.2%	16.4%	15.0%	15.4%
NVQ Level 2	23.5%	26.2%	18.7%	25.4%	19.4%	19.3%	20.4%	22.0%	20.0%	21.6%	21.0%	16.5%
NVQ Level 3	56.0%	53.5%	59.2%	48.6%	58.2%	59.9%	67.6%	66.3%	61.8%	62.0%	64.0%	68.1%

11.4 Apprenticeships, E2E and Personal Development Opportunities

This year, 5.1% of leavers from BME groups entered LSC-funded work-based learning (Apprenticeships and E2E) compared with 8.7% last year. The figures for the last six years are as follows:

2008	5.1%
2007	8.7%
2006	5.2%
2005	6.6%
2004	5.0%
2003	11.2%

In 2008 the percentage of white entrants rose from 7.1% to 8.1%.

11.5 Participation Rate

The participation rates of both groups have, over recent years, been very similar, with the BME group being slightly ahead again this year.

Rate	BME	White
2008	94.3%	93.1%
2007	92.0%	90.0%
2006	89.6%	89.7%
2005	88.0%	87.6%

11.6 Employment and NEET Comparisons

With considerably higher further education entry, not surprisingly, the number of BME Year 11 leavers entering employment is very low at just 1.7% (1.7% last year, 0.6% in 2006, 1.6% in 2005, 2.0% in 2004, 2.8% in 2003, 3.7% in 2002 and 2.8% in 2001) compared to 3.6% of white leavers (6.5% last year, 4.5% in 2006, 7.3% in 2005, 9.3% in 2004, 9.0 in 2003 8.9% in 2002 and 10.2% in 2001).

For **the sixth time** since these reports were produced (in 1987), the NEET comparison shows, a lower percentage of BME leavers in the 'NEET Available' group than in the white group. The overall NEET rate for BME school leavers is 30.3% lower than the white cohort.

	BME	White
NEET Available	2.5%	4.7%
NEET Not Available	0.5%	0.5%
Total	3.0%	5.2%

SECTION 2 – ANALYSIS OF YEAR 11 LEAVERS LIVING IN OLDHAM

12. BACKGROUND

Close co-operation between Connexions services in Greater Manchester resulted, last year, in the production of a Cross-Border protocol. The main outcome of this has been ensuring that young people who leave education in one Borough are successfully “handed over” to their “home” Connexions service, thus ensuring they receive a seamless support service.

The other bi-product of this has been the collation of a very accurate picture of young people who live in Oldham and who have been educated, up to Year 11, outside the Borough.

The following analyses have been produced by:

- Removing the non-Oldham residents attending Oldham schools; and
- Adding in the Oldham residents attending schools outside the Borough.

Our overall analysis shows that Oldham is a net importer of secondary school students with **427** Year 11s in Oldham schools residing outside the Borough and **351** Oldham residents attending school outside the Borough.

This section will cover key outcomes:

Overall comparison of destination pathways with 2007

Staying on rates by ward

Participation in Learning by ward

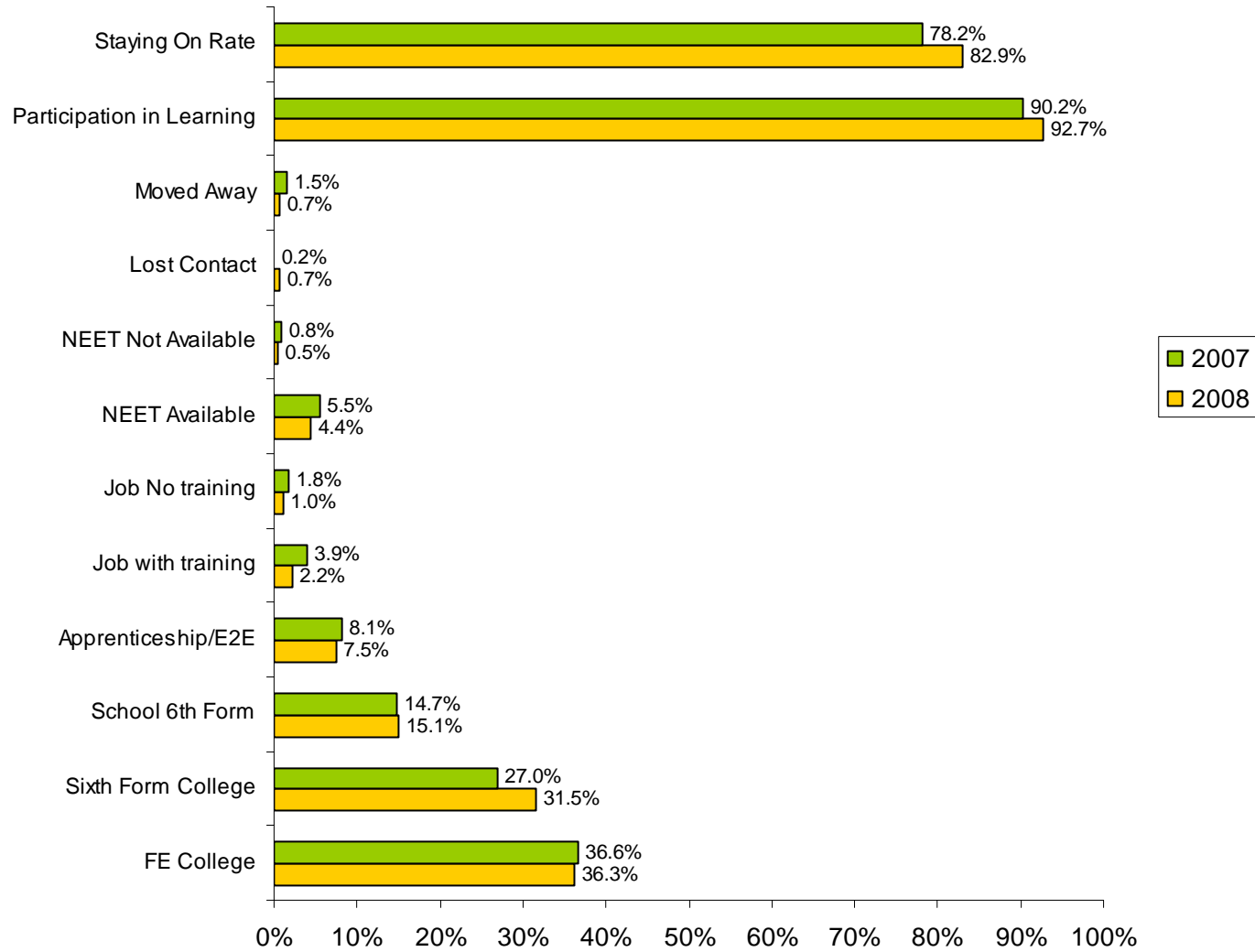
NEET by ward

Supplementary analysis will provide:

Out of Borough Schools attended

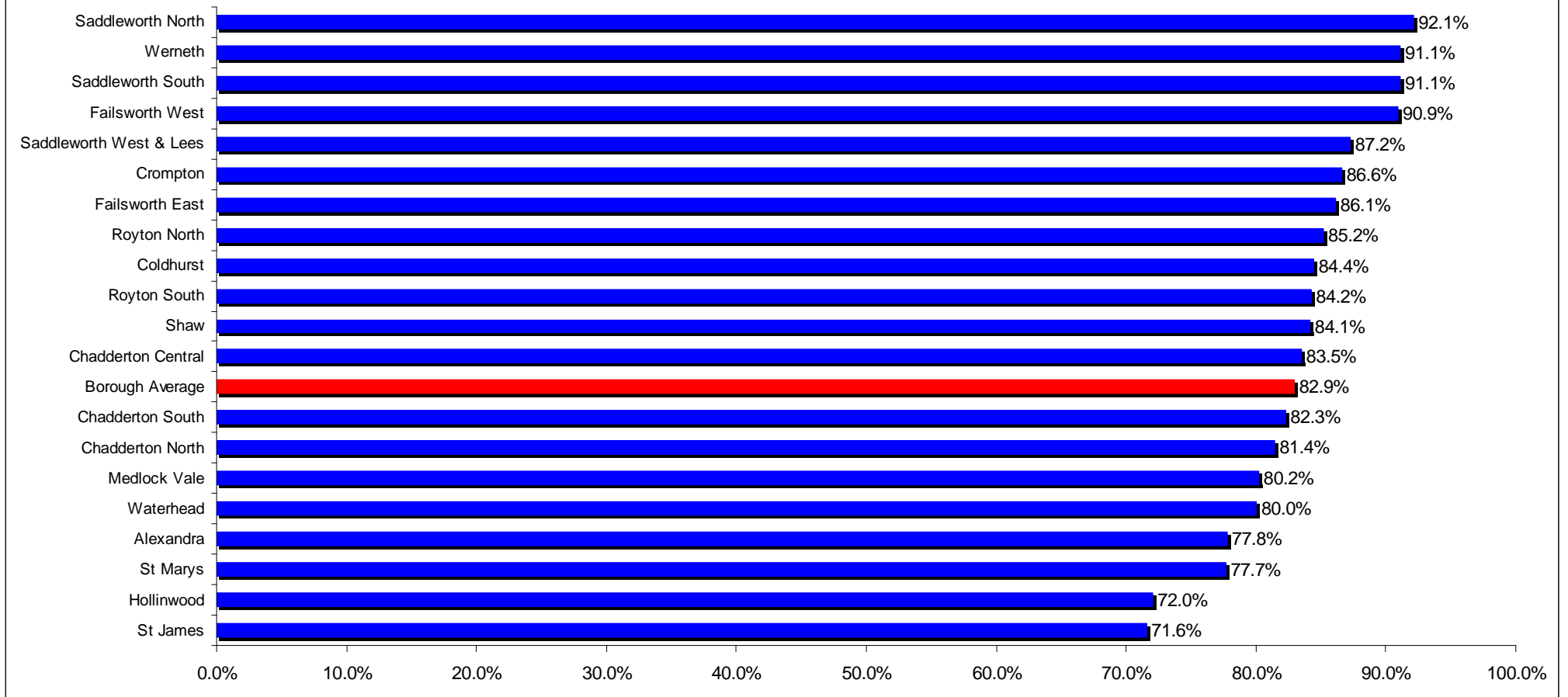
Ward Analyses

Year 11 Destinations 2007 & 2008 - Oldham Residents



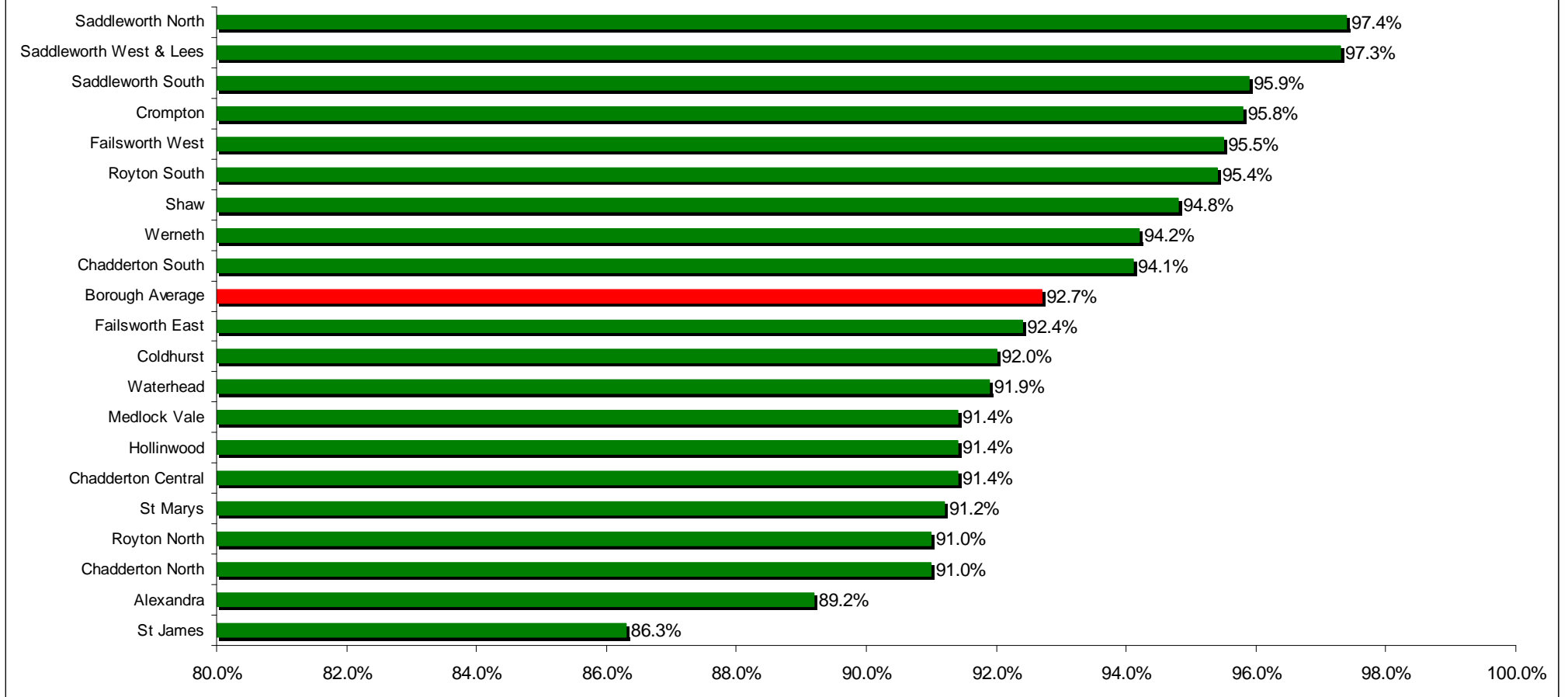
6.1 Further Education

Year 11 Destinations 2008 (Oldham Residents) - Staying On Rates by Ward



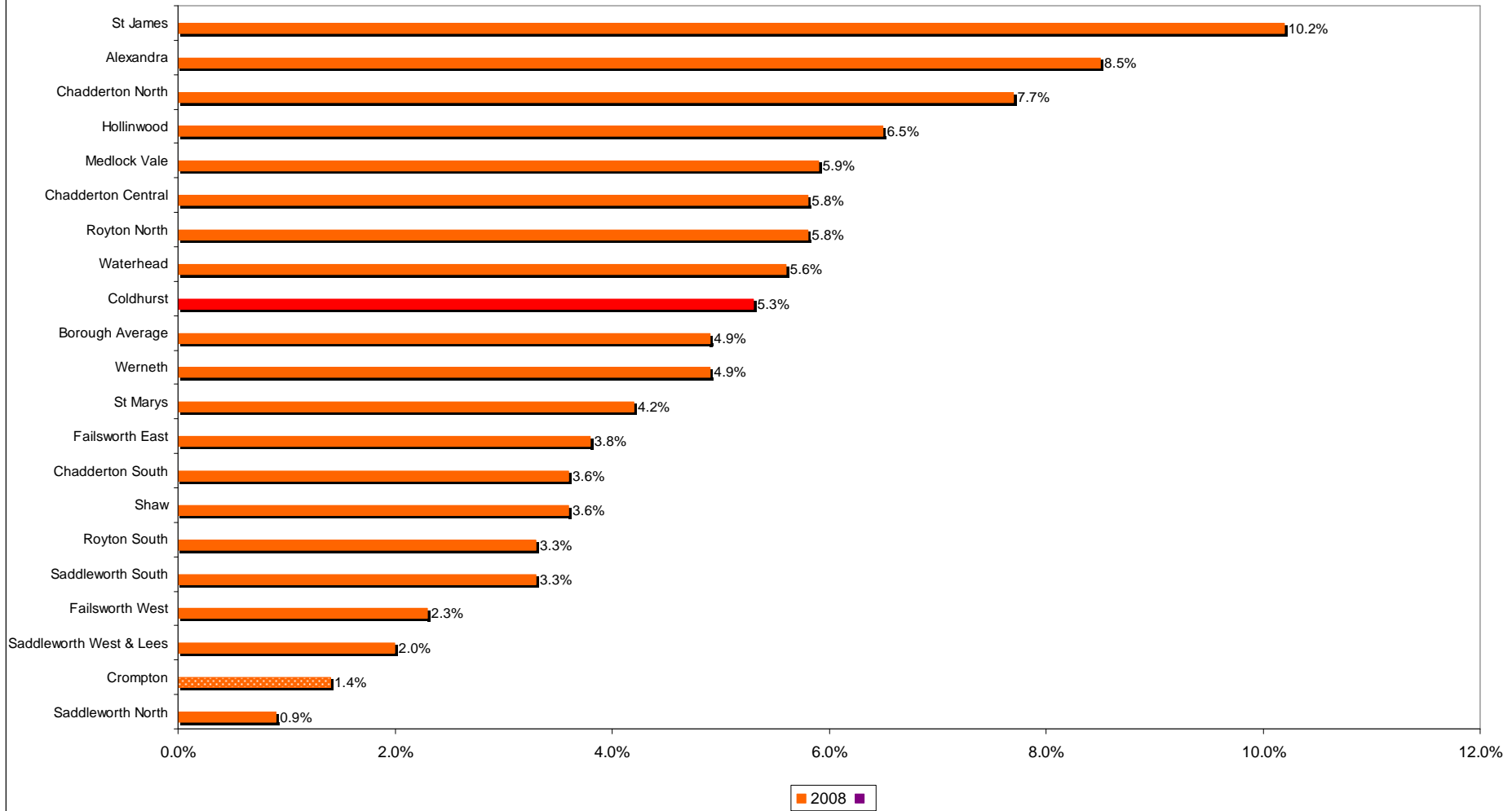
6.2 Participation in Funded Learning

Year 11 Destinations 2008 (Oldham Residents) - Participation in Learning Rates by Ward

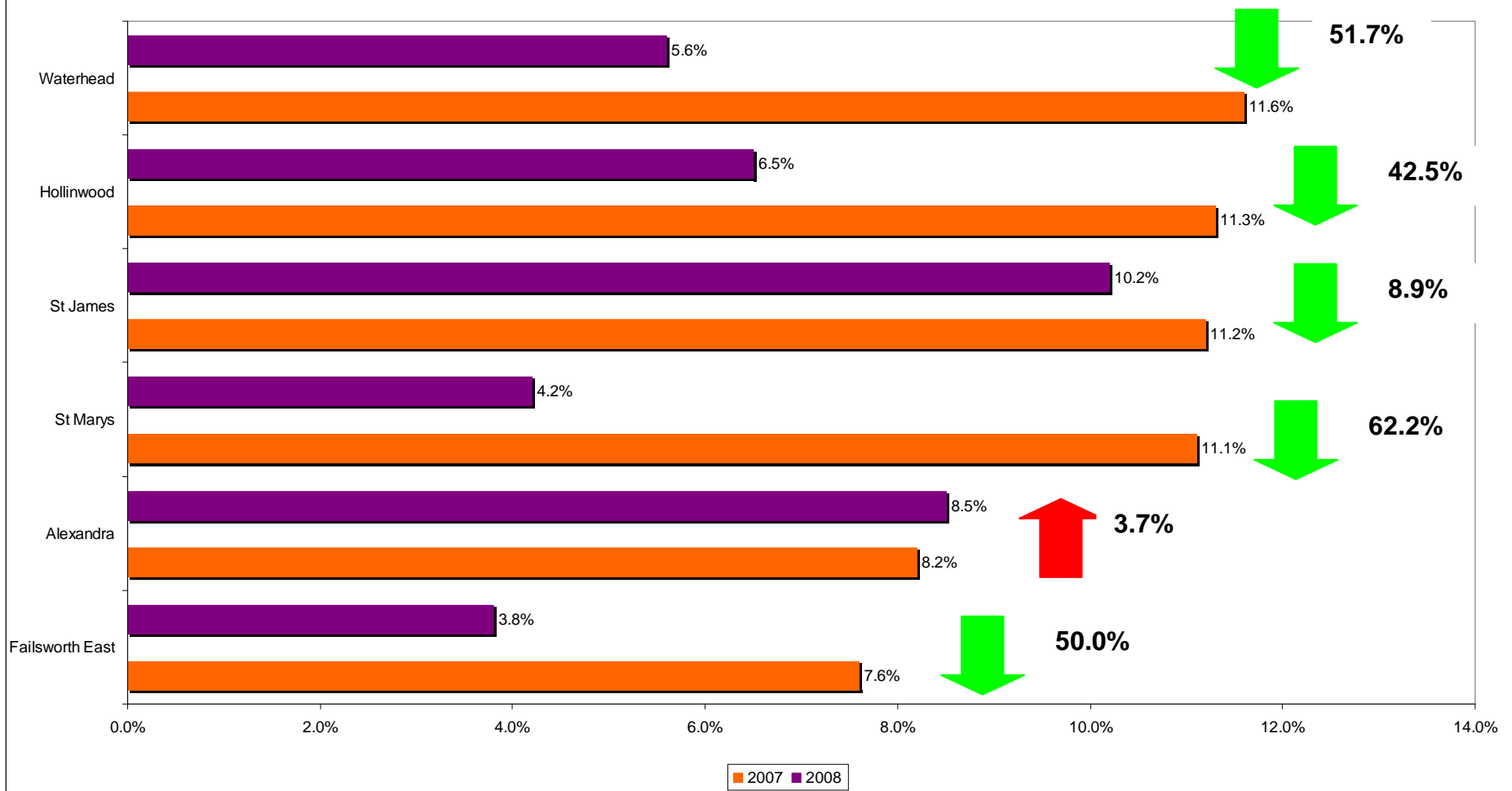


6.3 Not in Employment, Education & Training

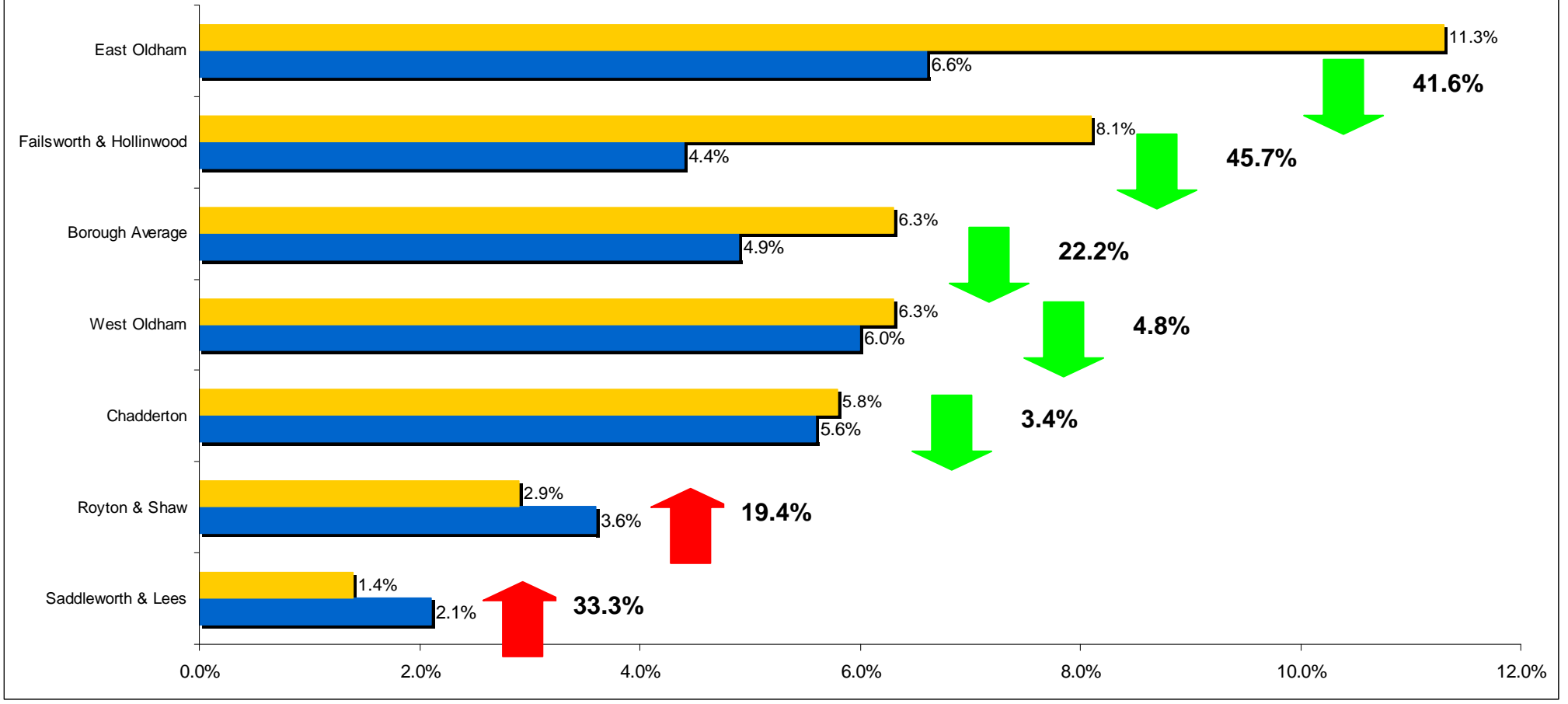
Year 11 Destinations - NEET Rate by Ward 2008



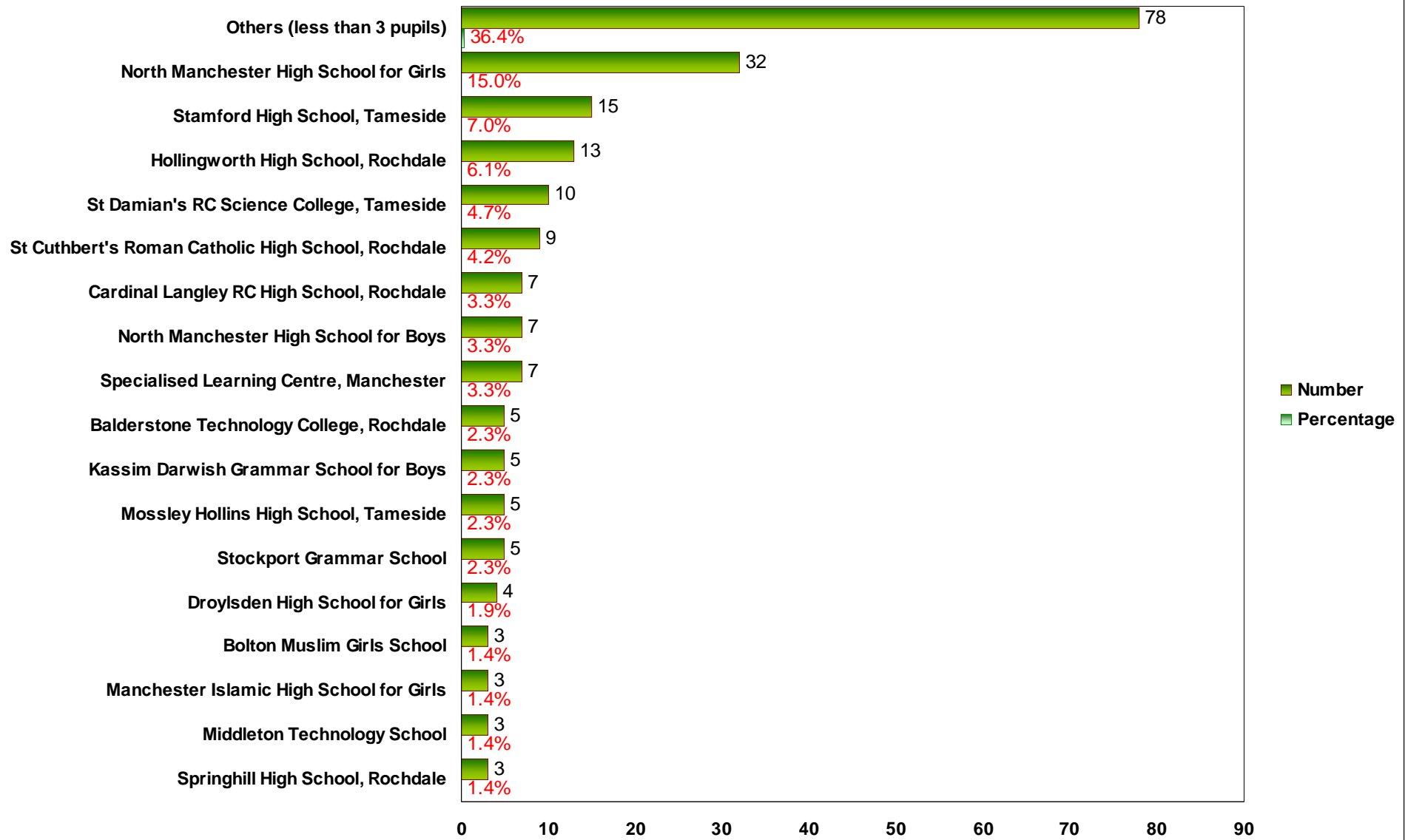
Year 11 Destinations - NEET Rate by Ward 2007 & 2008 - TOP SIX WARDS in 2007



Year 11 Destinations 2008 (Oldham Residents) - NEET Rates by Township compared with 2007



Oldham Year 11 Residents Leaving Out of Borough Schools 2008 (3 or more pupils)



7. Conclusion

This 'Moving On - 2008 Report' would be incomplete without acknowledging the support given and information provided by: head teachers and staff in schools; the principals and staff of The Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College; staff of Oldham MBC Children, Young People & Families Department; Greater Manchester Learning & Skills Council, employers; training providers; neighbouring Connexions providers; schools and colleges in neighbouring areas; and, not least, young people and their parents, carers and relatives.

Positive Steps Oldham
3rd November 2008