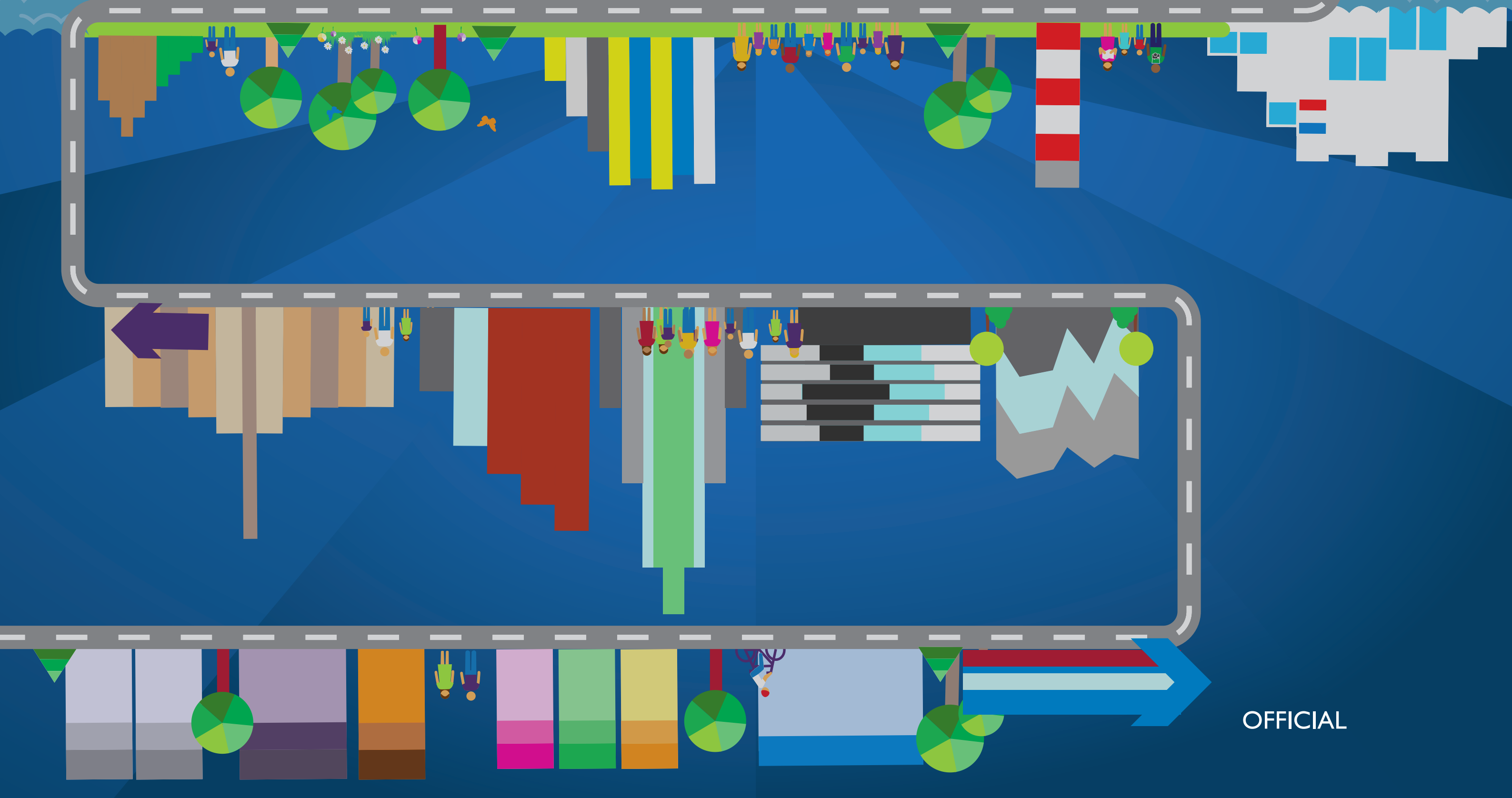
DELIVERING THE PLYMOUTH PLAN

THE PLYMOUTH PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024



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Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Since its inception in 2014, the Plymouth Plan has set out a shared direction of travel for the long term future of the city of Plymouth, helping to achieve an ambition to become one of the most vibrant waterfront cities in Europe where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.

1.2 Transforming the city is a long term venture requiring careful planning and investment and a persistent focus on delivery. This annual report provides an overview of progress over the past year, for each of the different elements of the plan. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on progress in the first ten years of the plan.

1.3 This report forms part of a suite of documents which also includes the Plymouth Report and the Authorities Monitoring Report. The Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) is a statutory document that the JLP Councils are required to produce annually, which sets out key indicators demonstrating the progress on delivery of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. The Plymouth Report provides an overview of the needs and issues facing the city – with an accompanying narrative about the shared challenges and opportunities that we face. To understand the health of the city, it is essential to also understand the city's geography, its population and the environment within which its residents live and work. We also need to understand the economic context of the city such as jobs, wages, infrastructure and economic growth. The Plymouth Report is the core document forming the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), supported by other in depth reports which can be accessed through the website. The Plymouth Report was updated for 2023 and incorporates the recently released 2021 census data, which is a critical source of data to inform our analysis.

2. Summary of key findings

The tables below provide a summary overview of the trends for each indicator. You can view more detail and see the data behind each indicator in Section 4.

Healthy city

🟢 Improvement 🟡 No change 🟠 Deterioration ○ Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A(i) Male healthy life expectancy at birth	○	🟠	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟠	🟢				
A(ii). Female healthy life expectancy at birth	○	🟢	🟠	🟢	🟠	🟠	🟢				
B. Over 65s emergency hospital admissions for Plymouth residents 2016 to 2020 (per 10,000)				○	🟠	🟢	🟠	🟢	🟠	🟡	
C. % of residents who regularly (once a month or more) do voluntary work (formal and informal)					○		🟢		🟢		
D(i). % of residents who feel safe outside in their local area during the day	○				🟢		🟠		🟡		
D(ii). % of residents who feel safe outside in their local area after dark	○				🟢		🟠		🟠		
E. Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support (extremely or very satisfied)			○	🟠	🟢	🟠	🟠			🟡	

Growing city

Improvement · No change · Deterioration · Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A. Population of Plymouth	Base data	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	
B. Carbon emissions per capita	Base data	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	No change			
C. Gap between national living wage and 10th percentile	Base data	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement		Improvement	Improvement	
D(i). % of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children achieving a good level of development (measured against national benchmark)	Base data	Deterioration	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement			Deterioration	No change	
D(ii). Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 achieving the 'basics' (measured against national benchmark)	Base data	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	
E. Capital investment in infrastructure				Base data					Improvement	Improvement	Improvement

International city

Improvement · No change · Deterioration · Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A. % of residents who agree that Plymouth has a lot to offer					Base data		Improvement		Deterioration		
B. Visitor numbers	Base data	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement		
C. Jobs in high-tech manufacturing and scientific research and development	Base data	Deterioration	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement		
D(i). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score) – University of Plymouth	Base data	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	No change	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	No change
D(ii). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score) – Plymouth Marjon University	Base data	No change	Deterioration	No change	Deterioration	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	No change
D(iii). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (student satisfaction) – University of Plymouth	Base data	Deterioration	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Deterioration	Deterioration	Deterioration
D(iv). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (student satisfaction) – Plymouth Marjon University	Base data	Deterioration	Deterioration	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Deterioration	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement
E. % of residents who agree with the statement: my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	Base data				Deterioration		Improvement		Improvement		

3. Methodology

3.1 A suite of high level indicators has been developed to monitor progress towards the strategic outcomes and objectives within the plan. This is a deliberately limited indicator set, structured around each of the Measures of Success identified in the Plymouth Plan.

3.2 The indicator set has been split into the four categories of Healthy City, Growing City, International City and Spatial Strategy, however it is recognised that all work together in a complex system of interaction. The Spatial Strategy indicators are reported elsewhere, in the Authorities Monitoring Report.

3.3 These indicators provide insight as to how the city is progressing on delivery against these objectives and highlight where further deep-dive analysis is needed to understand what is preventing sufficient progress. This insight also enables reviews and refreshes of the Plan to take place, ensuring it remains relevant to current challenges and that focus is given to those areas that are not yet showing improvement.

3.4 The indicators have been updated with the latest available data and at least three years of data have been included wherever possible. Also, where possible, progress is benchmarked against regional and national outcomes. The primary source of the data or statistic is shown for each indicator.

4. Context

4.1 With a resident population of 268,700, Plymouth is one of the largest cities on the south coast of England. Plymouth is the most significant economic centre in the South West Peninsula and the largest urban area in the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

4.2 Plymouth is Britain's Ocean City. Its connections to the sea go back beyond the sailing of the Mayflower in 1620 and now include Western Europe's largest naval base, a thriving commercial and ferry port, a significant fishing industry, and one of the most important global concentrations of marine research and production. The sea, coastline and maritime heritage are some of Plymouth's greatest assets.

4.3 Plymouth has experienced significant regeneration and transformation over the last ten to fifteen years and this is set to continue however, the city also faces some significant long-term challenges. Plymouth is the most significant urban area on the South West peninsula yet it suffers from poor road and rail connectivity. Plymouth is located 230 miles from London with the average train journey to the capital of three hours 12 minutes, thereby amongst the slowest rail speeds between major cities anywhere in the country.

4.4 The city has traditionally struggled to raise its competitiveness and productivity (Plymouth's GVA per hour worked stands at around 83.1 per cent of the UK average). This is, in part, due to a low business density and start-up rate, and poor connectivity with the rest of the region and country, a potential deterrent for inward investment and the migration of skilled workers. The city is also a low wage economy with Plymouth workers receiving £620.50 weekly compared to £682.60 nationally.

4.5 The city has higher than average levels of deprivation and health inequalities. Plymouth is within the 20% most deprived local authority districts in England. Two areas fall within the most deprived 1% in England while 28 fall within the most deprived 10% in England, affecting around 46,000 people within the city. Just under 1 in 5 children in Plymouth are estimated to be living in poverty.

4.6 The health of people in Plymouth is generally worse than the England average, with life expectancy for both men and women lower than the England average. Within Plymouth, there is considerable inequality in health, with life expectancy varying from a low of 76 years in Drake ward to a high of 85 years 11 months in Plympton Chaddlewood ward.

4.7 There will be a major shift in the population structure of Plymouth over the next 20 years as the proportion of the population aged 75 and over increases. The ONS projects a rise in the percentage of the Plymouth 75+ population of 60.3%, from 22,800 to 36,550 by 2043. An ageing population suggests an increasing need for care and support services and also an increasing burden placed on the working age population, which is set to decrease by 3 per cent.

4.8 Further information can be found in the Plymouth Report which provides an overview of the needs and issues facing the city.

5. Primary indicators update

Healthy city

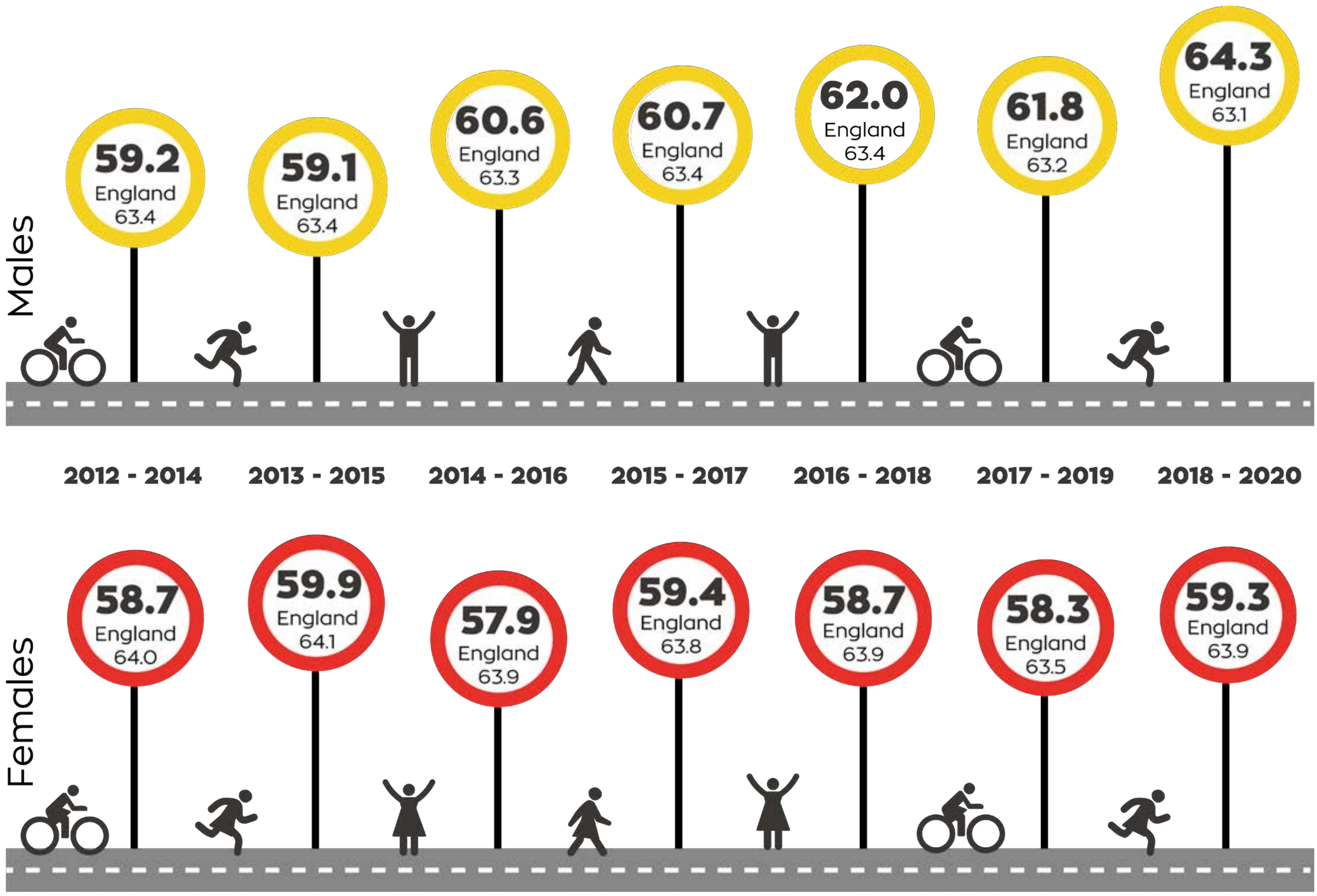
What we are trying to achieve - our strategic objective for a healthy city

Strategic Outcome

People in Plymouth live in happy, healthy, safe and aspiring communities, where social, economic and environmental conditions and services enable choices that add quality years to life and reduce the gap in health and wellbeing between communities.

People in Plymouth get the best start to life with improved health, increased life expectancy, and a better quality of life

Primary Indicator A - Healthy life expectancy at birth (males and females)



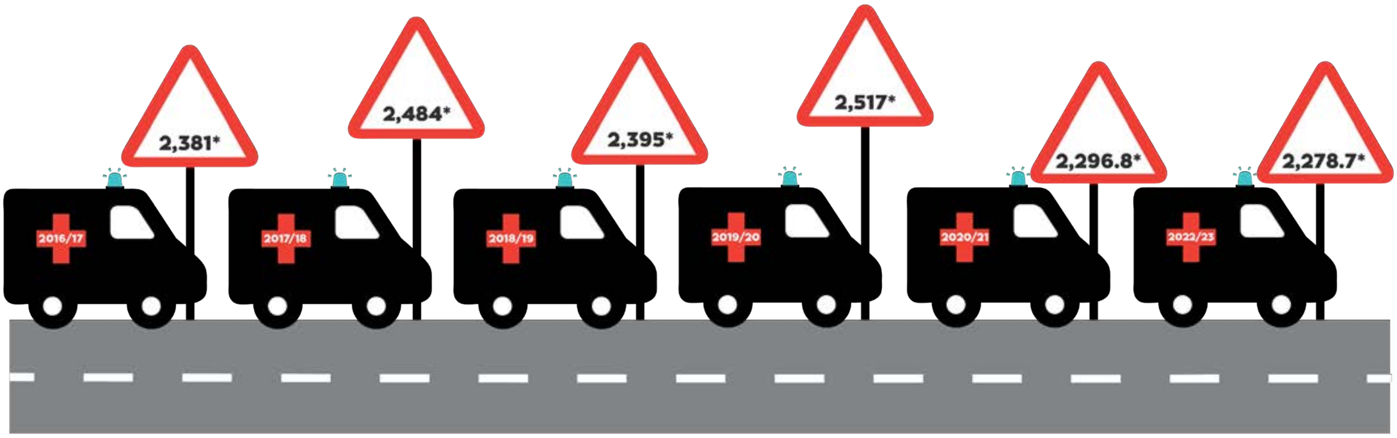
Source: Public Health England

Comments

Whilst healthy life expectancy in females has risen slightly in Plymouth, it remains below the England average of 63.9. Health life expectancy in males has risen in Plymouth and is now slightly above the England average which has remained flat over this time period.

More people taking care of themselves

Primary Indicator B - Over 65s emergency hospital admissions for Plymouth residents



Source: Hospital Episode Statistics

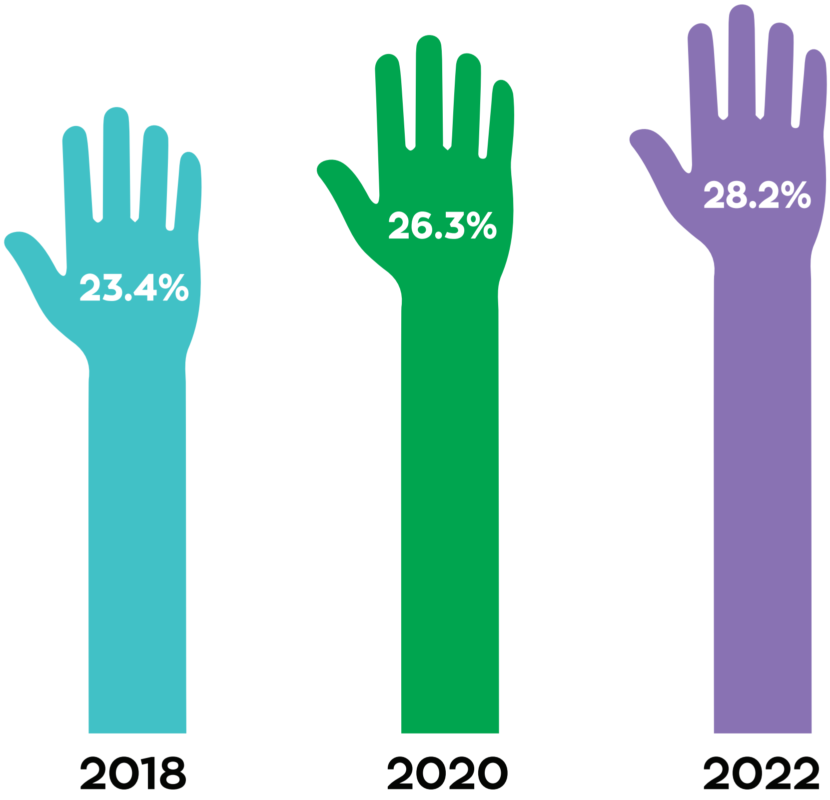
*directly age standardised rate per 10,000

Comments

Rates remain similar to 2021 so there is currently no clear sustained reduction. Due to the Covid pandemic, any comparison to rates prior to 2020 should be treated with caution.

More residents are contributing to and are involved in their local community

Primary Indicator C - % of residents who regularly (once a month or more) do voluntary work (formal and informal)



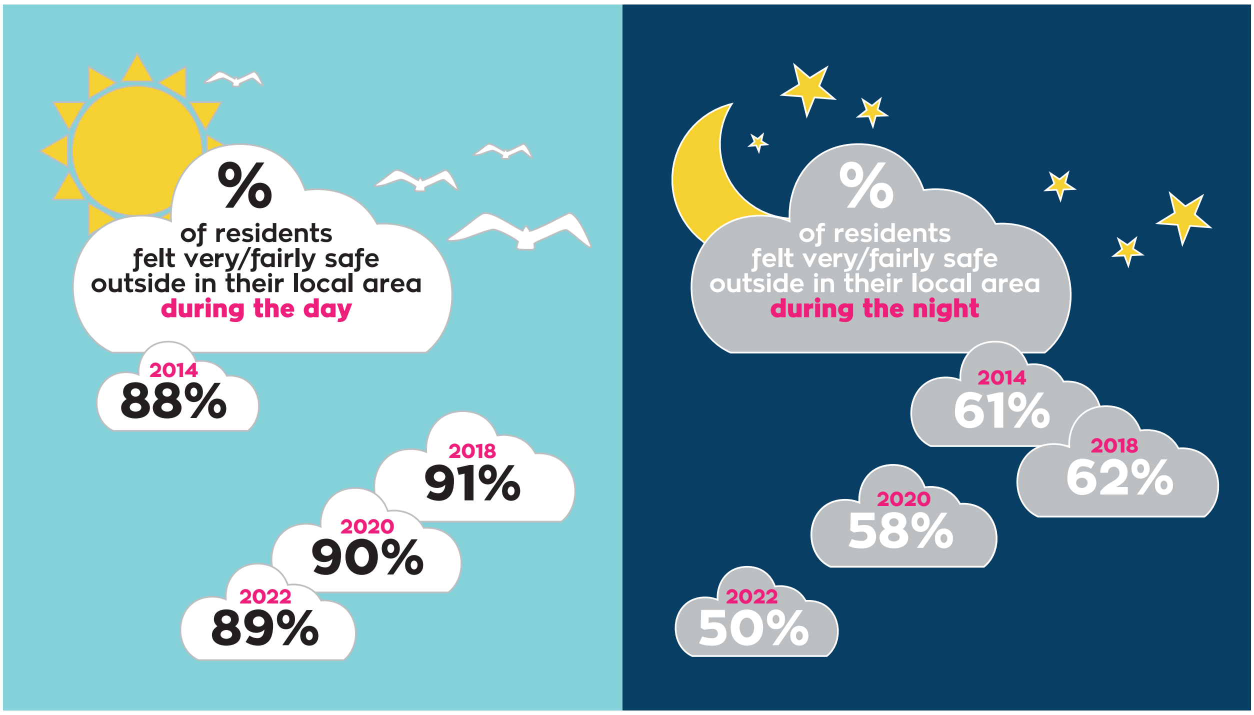
Source: [Plymouth City Survey]

Comments

There has been an increase in the percentage of residents who volunteer regularly (once a month or more) from 26.3% in 2020 to 28.2% in 2022. However, there has been a decrease in the proportion of respondents who state that they do any voluntary work or help out, from 42% in the 2020 City Survey to 38% in 2022. This is still higher than the latest national average which is around 32%. This reduction in volunteer numbers is not a surprise and can be linked to how the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on volunteer management, organisations and the experience for volunteers. Plymouth lost many of its older 65–74 year old volunteers, which is the age group most likely to volunteer regularly, and these were mainly replaced by people on furlough and younger people. In addition, we have seen a quick rise in informal volunteering, namely mutual aid groups.

People of Plymouth are well housed and live in good quality, well looked after neighbourhoods where they feel safe and happy

Primary Indicator D - % of residents who feel safe outside in their local area



Source: Plymouth City Survey

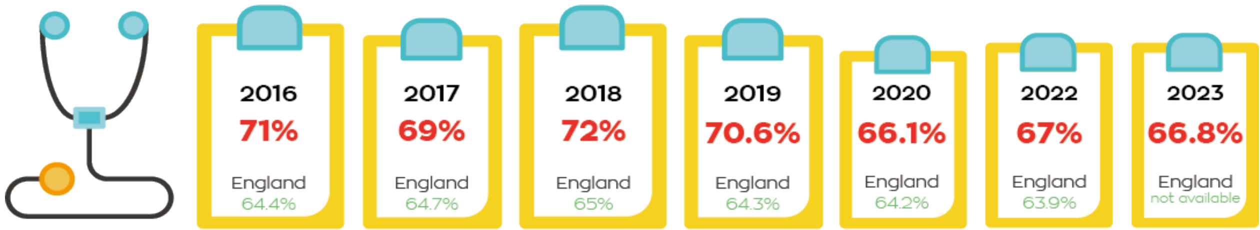
Comments

89% of respondents felt safe in their local area during the day which is a slight reduction from 90% in 2020. 50% felt safe in their local area after dark which is a significant reduction from 62% in 2018 and 58% in 2020. Further analysis is needed to understand why this change has occurred.

Females were significantly less likely to feel safe after dark than males (40% vs 60%) and young people (aged 16-25) were less likely to feel safe than older age groups. Results also varied by ward. More detail can be found in the City Survey 2022.

Good quality and sustainable health and wellbeing services for people who need them, whether they are public services or care in the community

Primary Indicator E - Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support (extremely or very satisfied)



Source: NHS Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey

Please note there are no results for 2021 due to COVID-19

Comments

At 66.8%, the level of satisfaction with adult social care services in Plymouth is similar to that shown in 2020 and 2022 although slightly lower than in previous years. Although comparator group data is not yet available for 2023, the level of satisfaction in Plymouth in 2022 was higher than than the England average (67% compared to 63.9). No survey was carried out in 2020/21 due to COVID-19.

Growing city

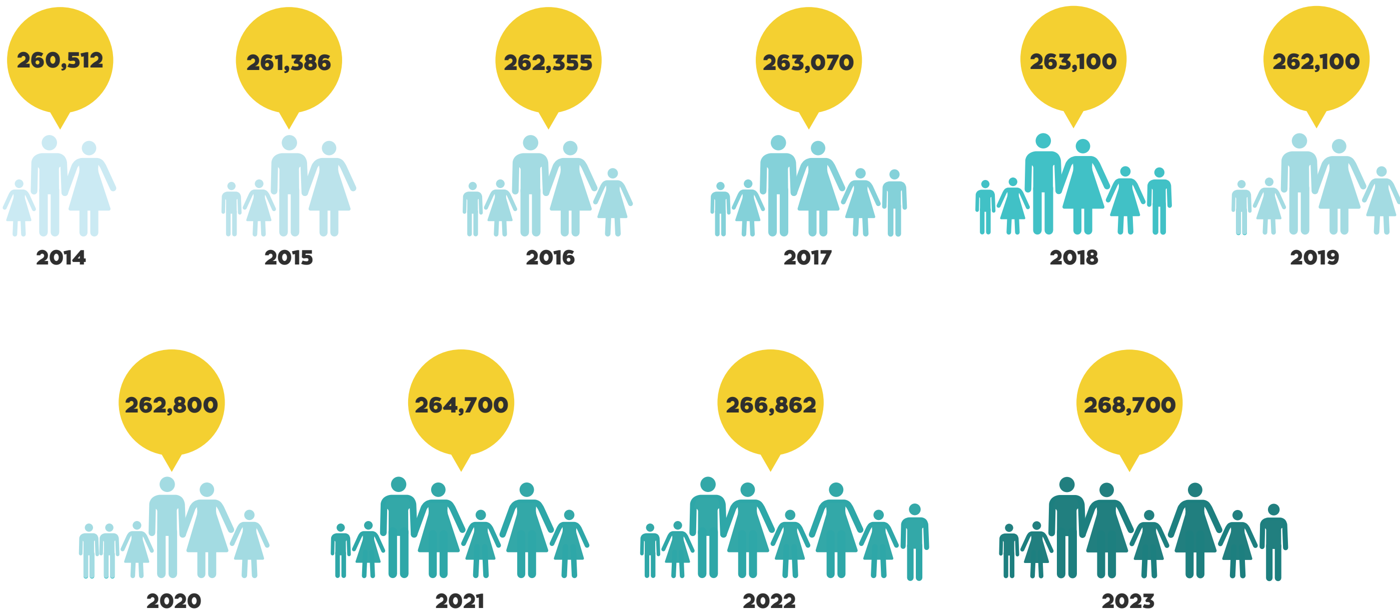
What we are trying to achieve - our strategic objective for a growing city

Strategic Outcome

Plymouth has used its economic, social, environmental and cultural strengths to deliver quality and sustainable growth. The city's long term prosperity has been improved, and its economy has been transformed and rebalanced. It has raised its productivity, and provides higher average wages as well as employment opportunities to support a skilled and talented workforce. Its population has grown to nearly 300,000 by 2034.

The population has grown to achieve the city's ambition (population of 300,000)

Primary Indicator A - Plymouth's population



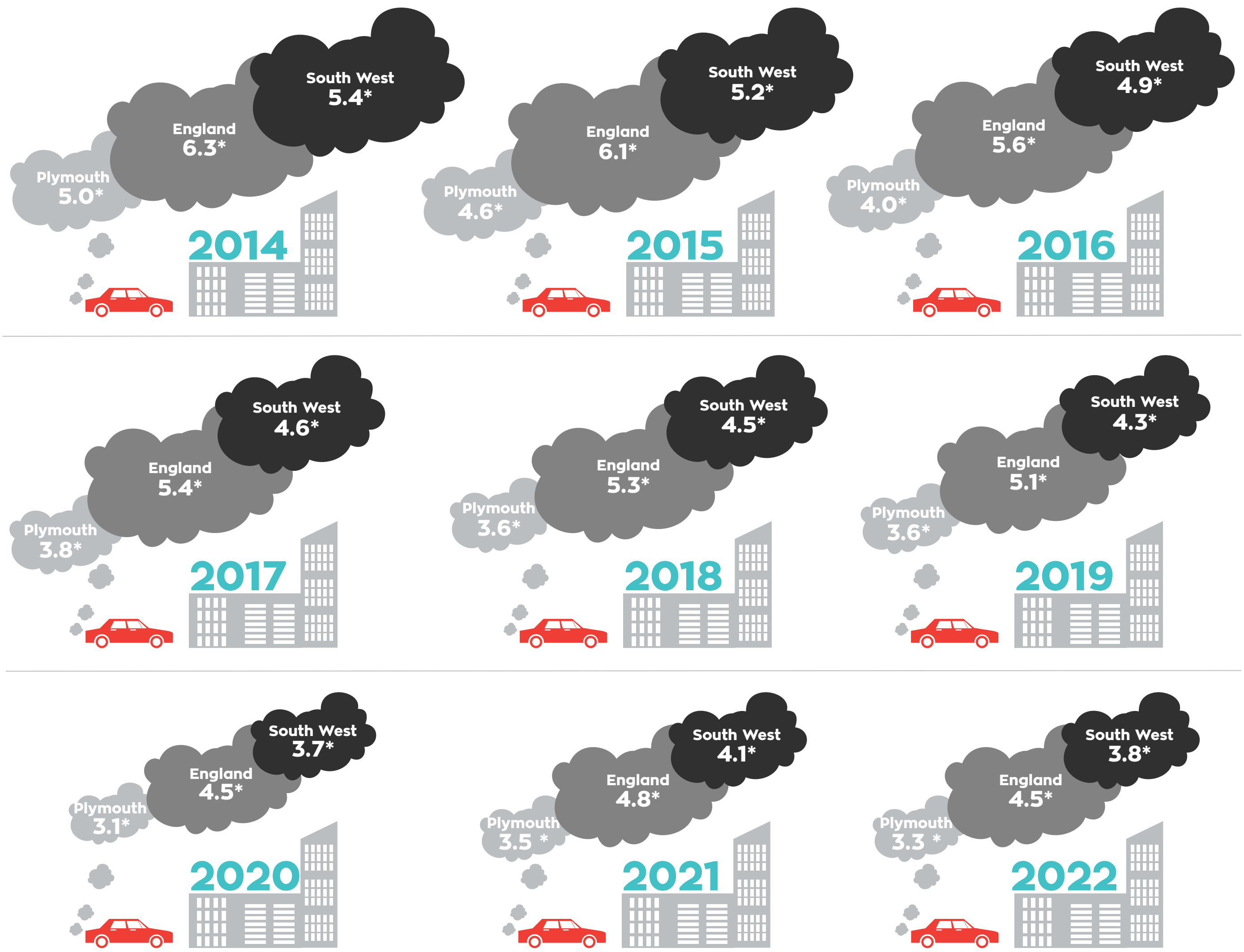
Source: [Office for National Statistics]

Comments

The Plymouth Plan aspires to see the city grow to nearly 300,000 in population by 2034. The measure relates to Plymouth as a functional urban area, including places such as Sherford, Woolwell and Land at West Park Hill where over 7,900 new homes are planned, but for now the more tightly defined administrative boundary of Plymouth is used as a proxy measure. The figures for 2021 are taken from the 2021 Census rather than from estimates based on 2011 so give a more accurate picture than in previous years. Estimated population statistics for 2023 show an increase in the Plymouth population. Looking forward, there is a need to consider Plymouth's population aspirations in the context of national planning reforms, the climate emergency, and any impacts on population change arising from issues such as Brexit and the COVID pandemic.

Plymouth continues to be recognised as a leading green city

Primary Indicator B - Carbon emissions per capita (tCO2e)



* Carbon emissions per capita (tCO2e)

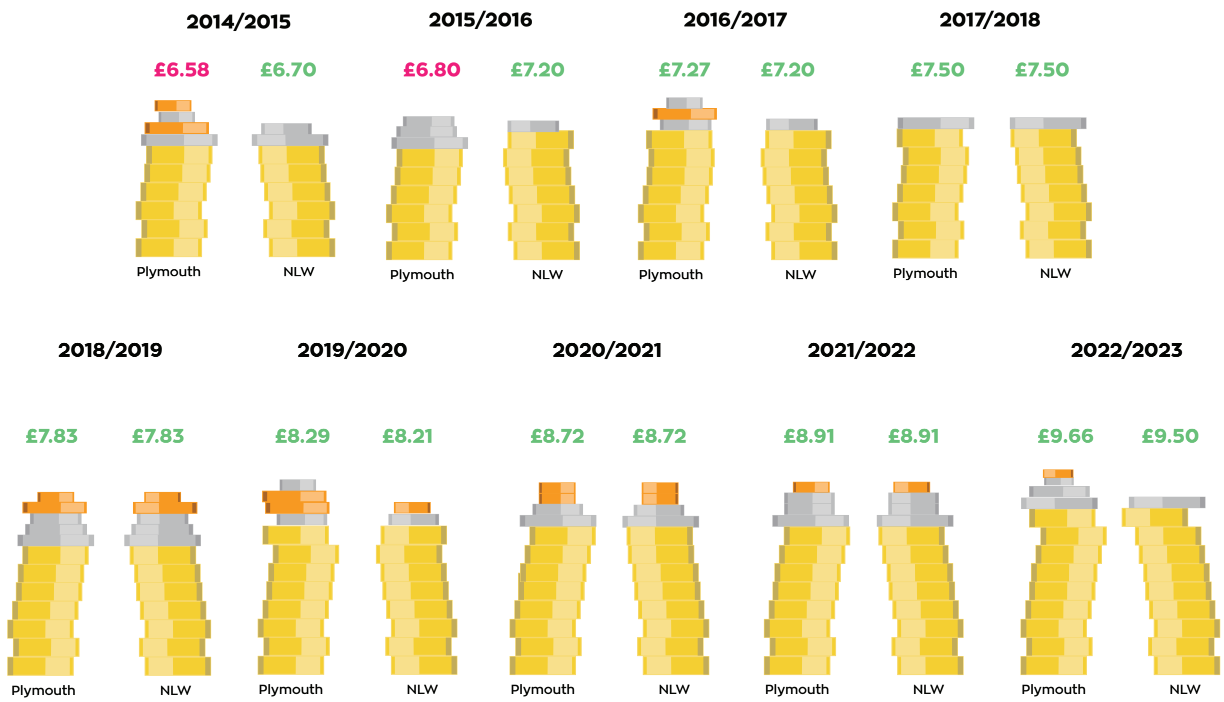
Source: [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero]

Comments

Plymouth's carbon emissions per capita have fallen steadily over the past 6 years, reducing from 4.3t tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) in 2014 to 3.3 in 2022 (latest available data). Substantial increases in the amount of renewables in the energy mix nationally have helped continue this reduction, and it is likely that the impact of the Covid pandemic was behind some of the decrease in 2020. The Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 has ensured that action at a local level plays a key role too. The Council published its latest Net Zero Action Plan in 2024. This is a three year delivery plan setting out the Council's proposals to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. It outlines how the City Council will aim to play its part in delivering the Plymouth Plan's policy aim that Plymouth achieve net zero by 2030. The plan is reviewed and updated annually in March. Please note that the statistics in this time series are revised every year to take account of methodological improvements, so the estimates presented here supersede those reported in previous years of the Plymouth Plan Annual Report.

Plymouth has a vibrant, productive, inclusive and innovative business sector with a workforce that is paid a living wage

Primary Indicator C - Gap between 10th percentile and national living wage



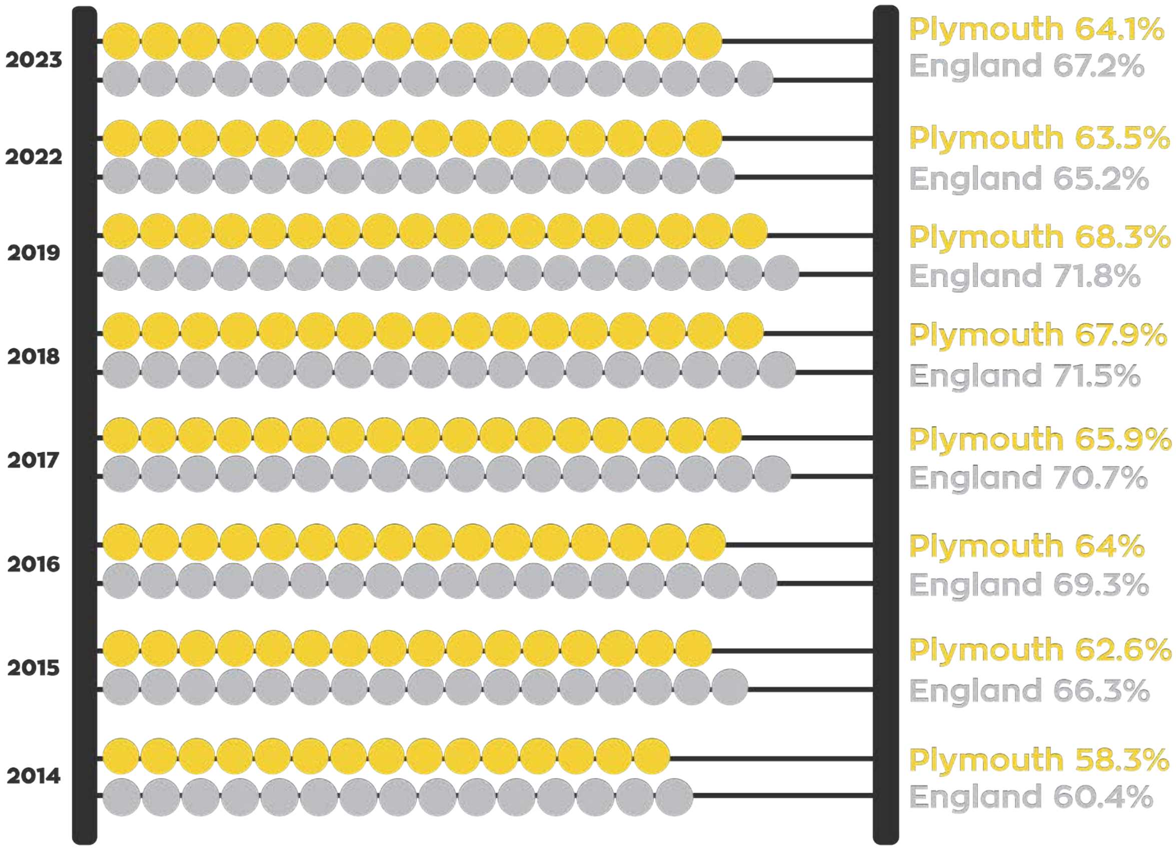
10th percentile wage per hour vs National Living Wage per hour, excluding overtime (£7.86 is 10th percentile, so less than 10% earn less than this. £7.83 is national living wage).

Source: ONS/NOMIS

Comments

Early in the plan period (2014/15 and 2015/16) Plymouth's 10th percentile wage level was below the National Living Wage. Since then, we have seen Plymouth's 10th percentile wage level increase at a faster rate than the increase in the National Living Wage resulting in the data for this year showing Plymouth having a higher 10th percentile wage than the National Living Wage.

Primary Indicator D(i) - % of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children achieving a good level of development



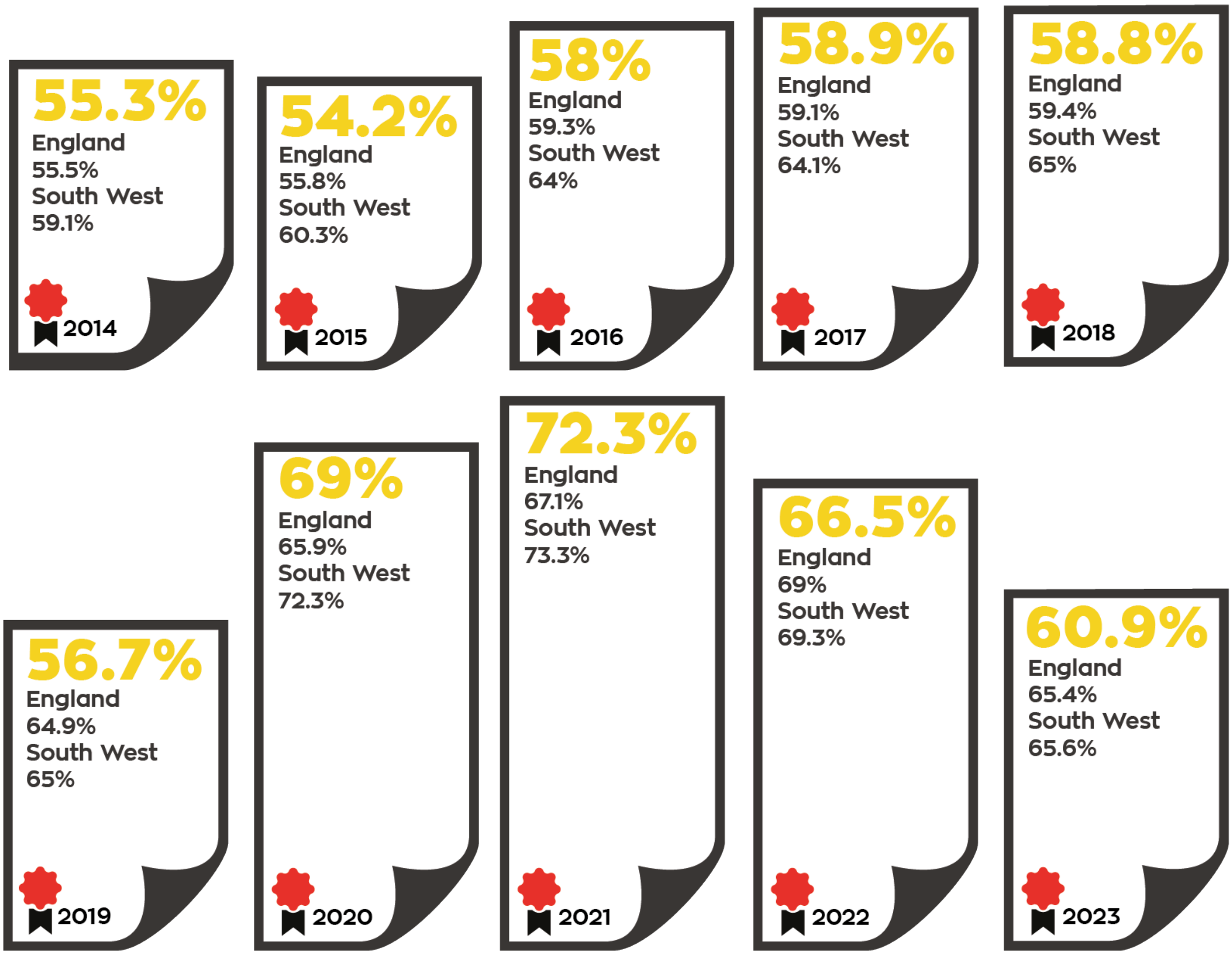
Source: [DfE Explore Education statistics]   Please note there are no results for 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19

Comments

Between 2014 and 2019 the percentage of Early Years Foundation Stage pupils achieving a good level of development increased by 10 percentage points (from 58.3% in 2014 to 68.3% in 2019). However, this was below the level of improvement nationally, which increased by 11.4 percentage points (60.4% in 2014 to 71.8% in 2019), and the gap between Plymouth and the national benchmark widened from 2.1% to 3.5%. In 2020 and 2021, academic testing within the Early Years was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic and there is growing evidence that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the communication and language development of children birth to five, which may affect long term learning and development unless the necessary support and interventions are secured. This is the first publication since the 2021/22 EYFS reforms were introduced in September 2021. As part of those reforms, the EYFS profile was significantly revised. It is therefore not possible to directly compare 2021/22 assessment outcomes with earlier years. In 2021/22, results in Plymouth (63.5%) remained below the national (65.2%), regional (66.3%) and statistical neighbour (64.0%) averages. In 2022/23, Plymouth increased its percentage of those getting ‘a good level of development’ to 64.1%, a 0.6% increase on the previous year. However there were also increases for the national average (2.1% increase to 67.2%), regional average (1.6% increase to 68.0%) and statistical neighbour average (2.2% to increase 66.2%)

The people of Plymouth have the skills to be school ready and work ready to meet the needs of the city, enabling them to avoid poverty

Primary Indicator D(ii) - Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 achieving grade 9-4 (standard pass) in English and Maths



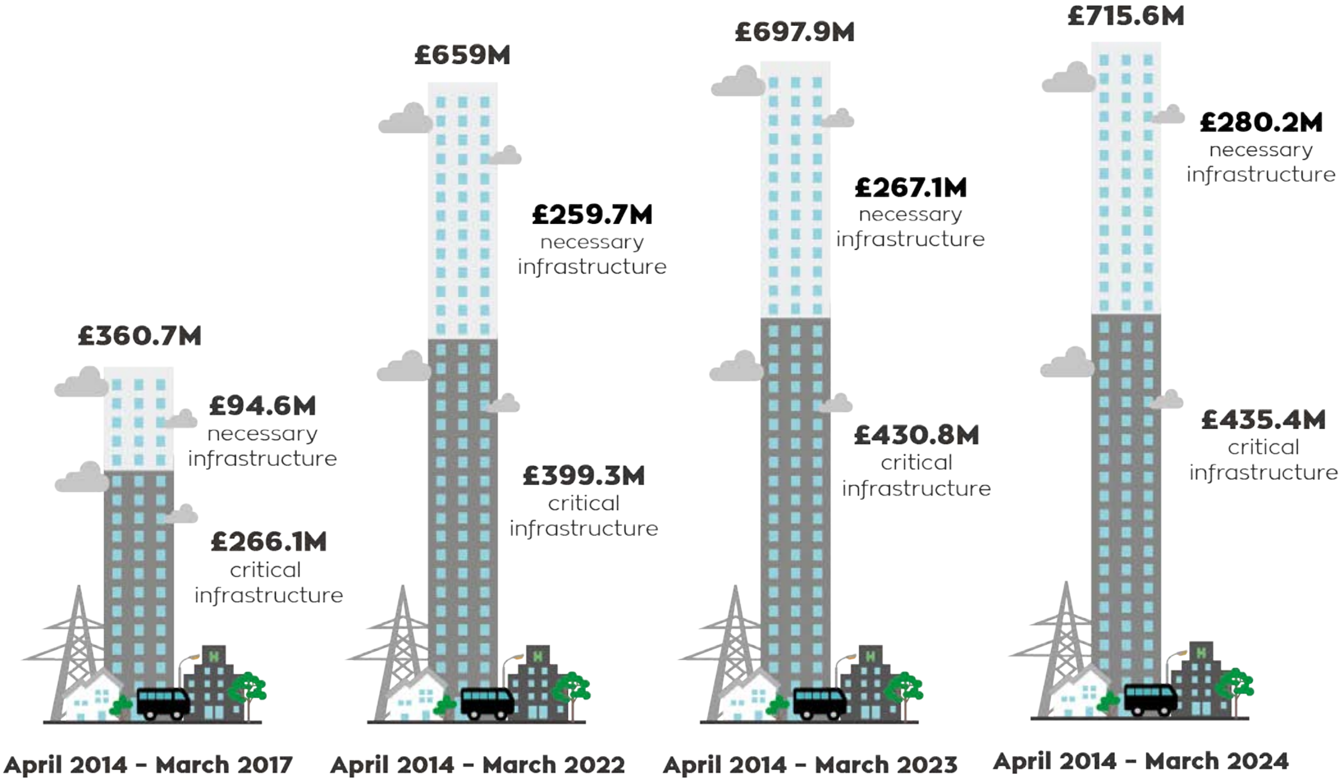
Source: [DfE Explore Education statistics]

Comments

KS4 qualifications returned to pre-pandemic standards in 2022/23. This means that there cannot be a direct comparison between the results achieved in 2021/22 and those in 2022/23. If 2022/23 results are compared with the last data set prior to the pandemic in 2018/19, Plymouth has increased its percentage of those achieving a standard pass in English and Maths from 56.7% to 60.9% in 2022/23; an improvement of 4.2%. This is a bigger change from 2018/19 to 2022/23 for all benchmarks; The increase nationally was 0.5% (from 64.9% to 65.4%). The regional increase was 0.6% (from 65.1% to 65.6%). For our statistical neighbours, the increase was 0.3% (from 62.6% to 62.9%).

Plymouth continues to strengthen the conditions for increased growth and investment including ensuring effective infrastructure systems

Primary Indicator E - Capital investment in infrastructure



Cumulative spend on public infrastructure projects by city partners

Comments

The Plymouth and South West Devon Infrastructure Needs Assessment 2017 sets out the infrastructure needed to support the Plymouth Plan and Joint Local Plan. 99 projects are identified as being critical over a 20 year timeframe. Infrastructure is defined as critical where it is needed to unlock growth and development that might not otherwise happen. To date, 47 of these projects (47%) have either been completed or are under construction with a spend of over £435 million. These include the Energy from Waste Plant, Central Library, Derriford Transport Scheme, Oceansgate, School investment at Holy Cross, Pilgrim, St Matthews, Cann Bridge, Saltram Meadow, Pomphlett and Yealmpstone Farm, Millbay and City Centre Drainage Corridor and the Forder Valley Link Road. In addition, there has been significant expenditure on infrastructure projects identified as necessary to support the city's sustainable growth agenda. To date over £280 million has been spent on schemes that have been completed or started such as Wellbeing Hubs, Sewage Treatment Works, Schools, New Crematorium, Playing Pitch improvements, Extra Care Facilities, electricity renewal and improvements and The Box cultural destination.

International city

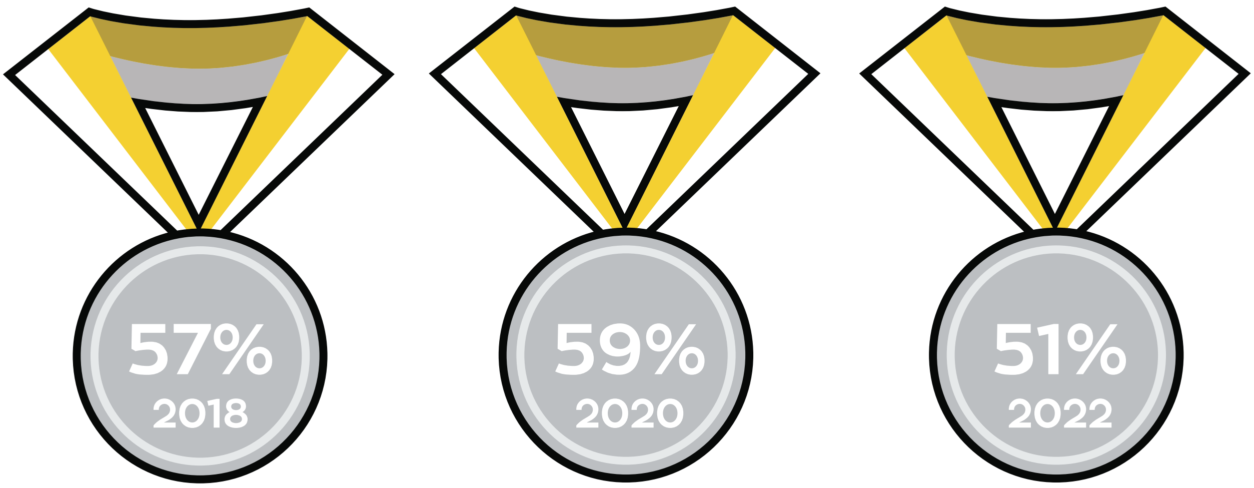
What we are trying to achieve - our strategic objective for an international city

Strategic Outcome

Plymouth is internationally renowned as Britain's Ocean City and is the UK's premier marine city, famous for its waterfront and being home to the UK's first National Marine Park. It is recognised as unique among UK cities for its natural drama and for its 500 year old history as a place of embarkation and exploration. Plymouth's continuing journey towards a world leading marine city supports the cultural experiences it offers to visitors who are looking for authenticity and character. The city's world class universities and research institutions are recognised for their innovation, and Plymouth is a place where businesses can capitalise on a unique economic position and talented workforce. Visitors from around the world are welcomed to a city that provides a diverse cultural experience and a perfect base for enjoying the city's surrounds, land and marine. Plymouth is an international city that local communities can enjoy, be a part of and be proud of.

Plymouth continues to improve its diverse cultural and sporting experience with great venues, major events, good food and hospitality offer

Primary Indicator A - Agreement with the statement 'Plymouth has a lot to offer'



Source: Plymouth City Survey

Comments

The proportion of residents agreeing that Plymouth has a lot to offer (cultural offer, events) has declined significantly from 59% in 2020 agreeing with this statement to 51% in 2022. Those aged 75 plus (59%) were significantly more likely to agree with the statement than those aged 25-34 (47%) while those aged under 45 (26%) were significantly more likely to disagree with the statement than those aged 45+ (19%). Further analysis is required to understand why residents are less likely to agree that Plymouth has a lot to offer although recent challenges such as COVID-19 and the increased cost of living may have had an impact.

Plymouth is internationally renowned as a leading UK tourist destination

Primary Indicator B - Visitor numbers

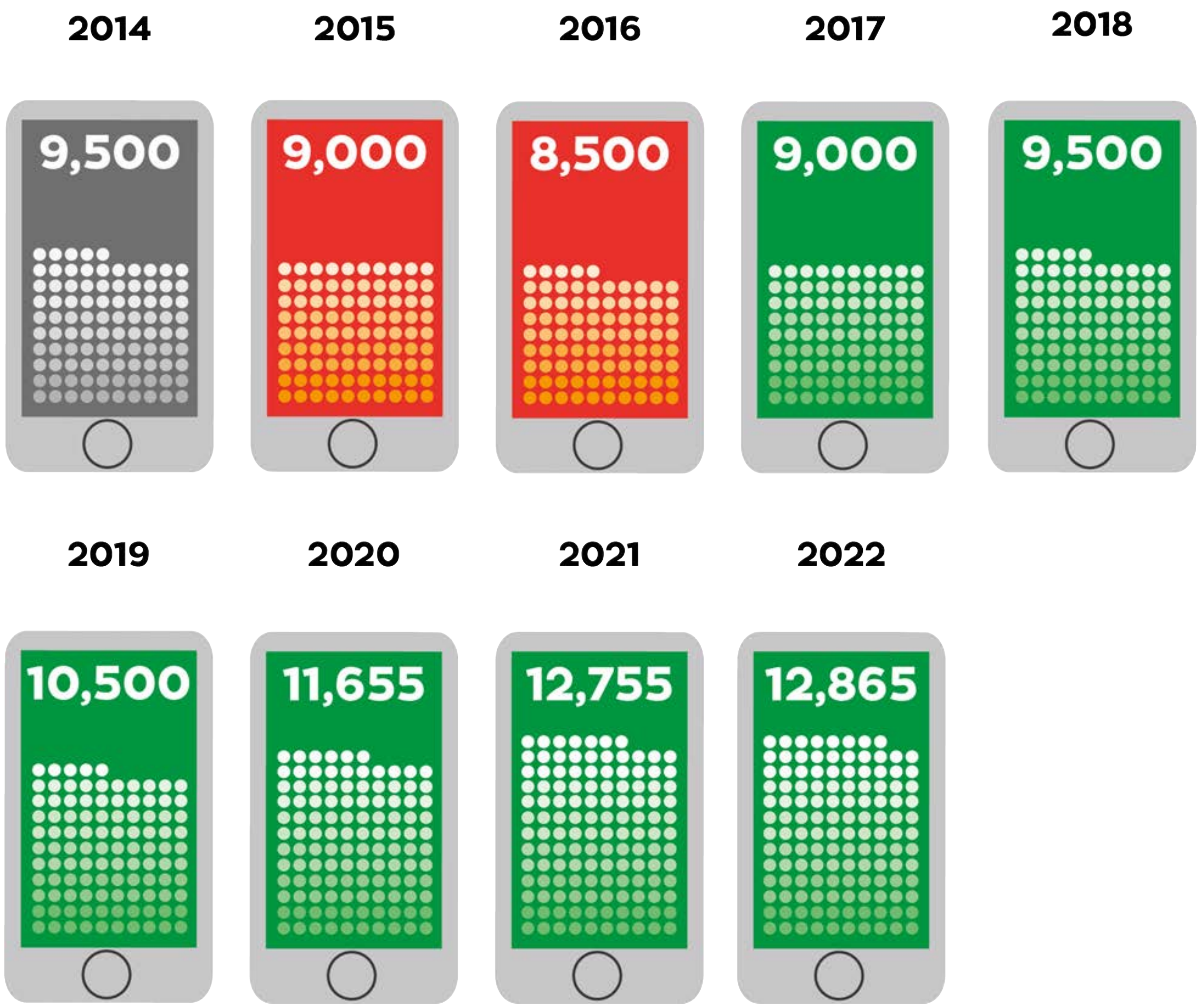
Source: South West Research Company

Comments

Visitor numbers demonstrated a clear increase over the plan period to 2019 (about 1% a year). However, the visitor economy was one of the hardest hit sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic with a reduction in visitors of over 50%. The city had already seen some significant recovery from this position in the 2021 data and there is a further increase in 2022. However, it will undoubtedly take a few more years to fully recover.

Plymouth is recognised internationally for expertise in the marine science and high technology manufacturing sectors

Primary Indicator C - Jobs in high-tech manufacturing and scientific research and development



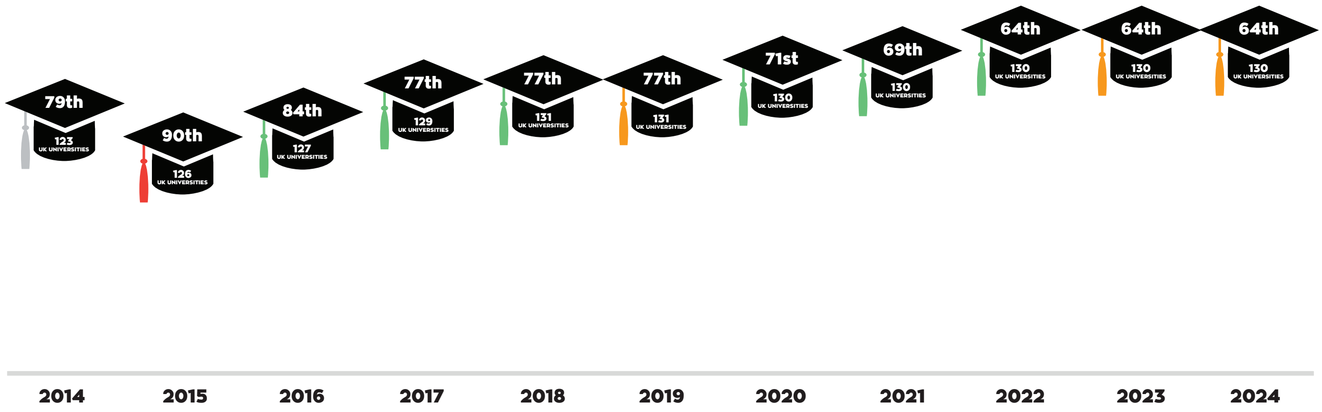
Source: University of Plymouth/AMORE

Comments

Statistics for this indicator suggest a variable but nevertheless clear increase in high-tech job numbers in Plymouth. In particular, the most recent few years of data shows a significant increase in the number of high-tech jobs in the city year-on-year.

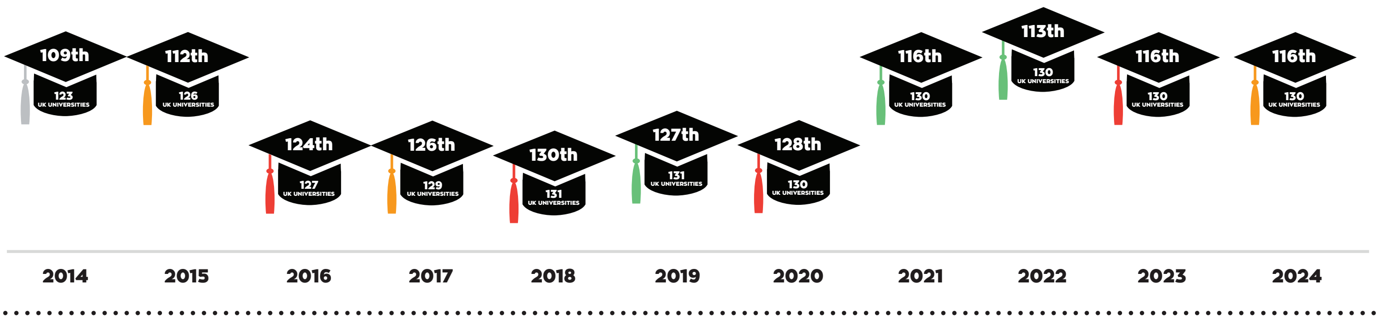
Plymouth's reputation for world class universities and research institutions continues to grow

Primary Indicator D(i) - UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score) – University of Plymouth



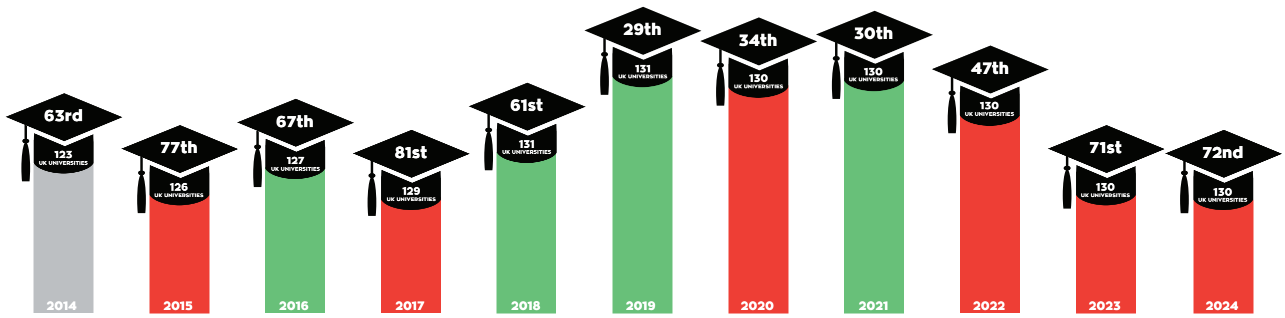
Source: Complete University Guide

Primary Indicator D(ii) - UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score) – Plymouth Marjon University



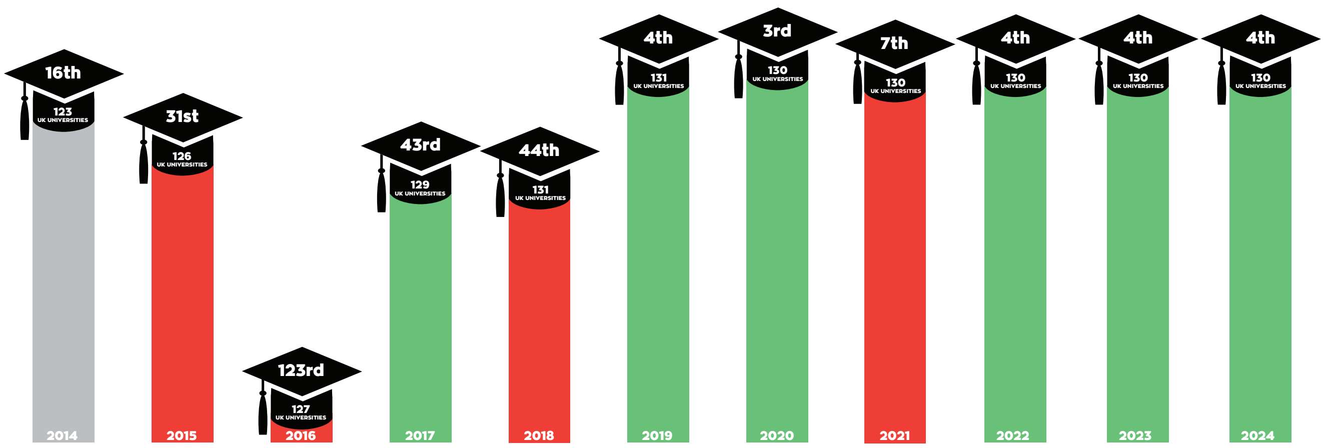
Source: Complete University Guide

Primary Indicator D(iii) - UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (student satisfaction) – University of Plymouth



Source: Complete University Guide

Primary Indicator D(iv) - UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (student satisfaction) – Plymouth Marjon University



Source: Complete University Guide

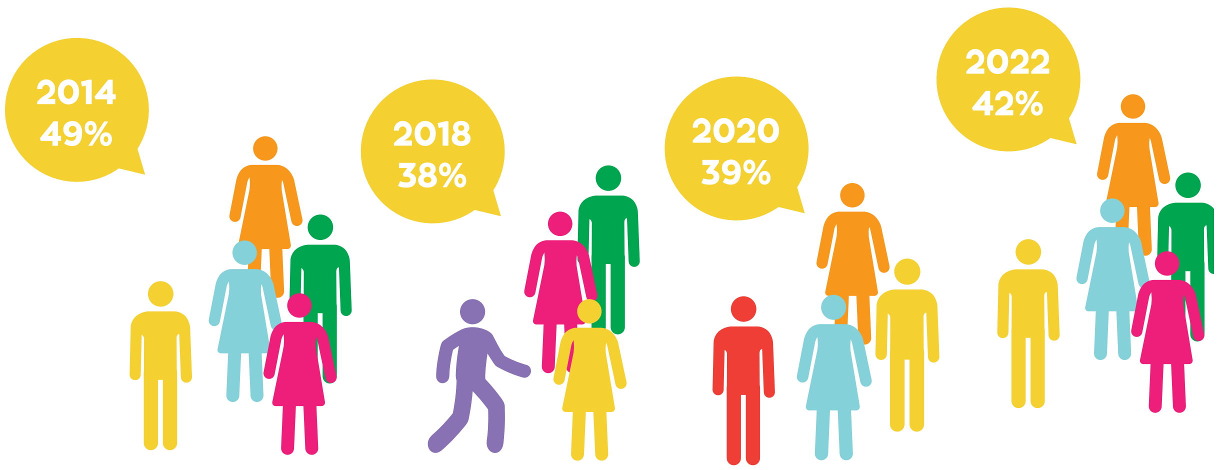
Comments

According to the Complete University Guide UK university rankings, the University of Plymouth and Plymouth Marjon University have both been on the up in recent years. The overall score covers a wide range of criteria including, for example, entry standards, graduate prospects, and academic services and facilities spend. On the criteria of student satisfaction, Plymouth Marjon University scores particularly highly, ranked fourth in the UK and first amongst all English universities.

There are other national and global guides for university rankings which also provide useful information, such as the Times Good University Guide. Globally, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the University of Plymouth has consistently been ranked within the banding 601-700, with a recent improvement shown since 2021, from a ranking of 501-600 recorded in 2020 to 401-500 since 2021 in both 2021 and 2022. There are no global rankings awarded to the Plymouth Marjon University at this time. Plymouth's newest university, Arts University Plymouth, doesn't yet feature in the Complete University Guide but will hopefully be able to be incorporated into future Annual Reports.

Plymouth's reputation is strengthened as a welcoming, multicultural city where a broad range of partners promote the benefits of diversity

Primary Indicator E - % of residents who agree with the statement: my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together



Source: Plymouth City Survey

Comments

The proportion of residents agreeing their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together has increased from 39% in 2020 to 42% in 2022. This indicator is moving in a positivie direction however results are still lower than in 2014 (49%) so further improvement is still needed.

6. Challenges ahead

6.1 Although many of the Plymouth Plan's measures of success show a positive direction of travel, the challenges for the city moving forward are significant. The Plymouth Report, updated for 2023, highlights the key challenges, with attention in this Annual Report drawn in particular to those below.

Demographic change

6.2 Plymouth's population is estimated to grow by 3.3 per cent by 2043. This will be mainly due to an increase in the over 65s and under 25s cohorts although to some extent this will be offset by the reduction in the 15-64 'working age' cohort. A 7.9 per cent increase is forecast in the aged 0-4 cohort and a 31.6 per cent increase in the 65+ cohort. The working age cohort (15 to 64 years) is forecast to reduce by 3 per cent, falling from 65.1 per cent of the local population to 61.2 per cent.

6.3 A growing and changing population raises a number of challenges. This will have an impact on future housing, education, employment and transport needs and will mean increased demands on the provision of services related to health and children's and adults' social care. This will be at a time when there are 3 per cent less people making a contribution to the local economy. This emphasises the importance of the city's commitment to driving increased economic growth, this being one of the key priorities of the Plymouth Plan.

Unhealthy lives

6.4 Although life expectancy in Plymouth has improved for both males and females in recent years, it remains below the England average. The life expectancy gap between those living in the most deprived group of neighbourhoods and those in the least deprived group of neighbourhoods remains significant. Life expectancy in the most deprived group of neighbourhoods in Plymouth for 2018-20 (at 77 years and 8 months) is 4 years and 4 months lower than the least deprived group of neighbourhoods.

6.5 Healthy life expectancy in Plymouth (the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health) is significantly lower than the England average for females whilst being similar for males. This is a particularly significant challenge because health and wellbeing needs increase with age, with a higher burden of chronic disease, susceptibility to the negative impacts of social isolation, and an associated raised need for health and social care services and carers. Given the forecast increase in the population aged 65+ years in the coming years, the concern is of the potential for additional pressure on already stretched health and social care services in the city. The Plymouth Plan's healthy city policies remain crucial priorities moving forward.

Deprivation and Child Poverty

6.6 Plymouth has higher than average levels of deprivation and health inequalities and is within the 20 per cent most deprived local authorities in England. Two areas of Plymouth are in the bottom one per cent 28 are in the most deprived 10 per cent in England (approximately 46,000 residents). When looking at individual neighbourhoods, more than six out of 10 children in some of the city's most deprived neighbourhoods are affected by income deprivation.

6.7 Data from 2021 shows that there were 9,866 children under 19 years (16.3 per cent) living in relative low income families, before housing costs are removed. The majority of these families are in work with only 30% not working. 7,561 children (12.5 per cent) are estimated to be living in absolute low income families, before housing costs were removed.

6.8 The well documented extent of poverty, deprivation and inequality that exists in Plymouth is strongly linked to the poor health outcomes across the city, as outlined above.

Employment and Skills

6.9 Plymouth has low productivity with GVA per hour worked equivalent to 83.1 per cent of the UK average, high employment and lower wages than nationally. The city has a very tight labour market, resulting in the need to attract new people, upskill the existing workforce and address the higher-than-average rates of people who are economically inactive.

6.10 Over the last five years there has been a considerable tightening of the labour market. The number of unique vacancies in the city has increased from 500 to 3,200 in less than three years. There is already fierce competition for construction, marine engineering, engineering, nuclear and manufacturing skills, which is impacting on the productivity of the wider manufacturing sector across the southwest peninsula.

6.11 Over 60 per cent of jobs in Plymouth are in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), however uptake to gain STEM qualifications in Plymouth is only around 50 per cent, creating a mismatch between demand and the local labour market.

6.12 There is a clear need to upskill the future workforce to the right levels to match the skills demand in the city going forward. For example, HMNB Devonport and Dockyard is a nationally significant strategic defence asset in the UK. In order to meet future demands and planned workforce requirements, a growth in sufficiently skilled local workforce is required which will impact upon the labour market, housing market and transport needs for the city. The Plymouth and South Devon Freeport is also expected to generate demand for another 3,500 workers and the Floating Offshore Wind opportunity in the Celtic Array is likely to further compete for comparable skills.

6.13 However, Plymouth has below national average levels of higher qualifications, a higher percentage of people with no qualifications than nationally and a lower percentage of students achieving an Attainment 8 standard pass at Key Stage 4 (60.9 per cent compared to 65.4 per cent nationally).

6.14 The number of those Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) remains stubbornly high (around 6 per cent). This figure rises significantly for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and care experienced young people. School attendance and inclusion is of particular concern. Every day we effectively have one secondary school empty due to children not attending school.

6.15 The city also has a high number of economically inactive residents due to long-term sickness. Plymouth has a lower proportion of people that are economically active than regional and national rates, and a significantly higher population of claimants who are on a health journey following the Covid pandemic.

6.16 Without targeted inward migration and a focus on the skills and ambition of the existing population, the number of working aged people with the right skills will fall or stagnate. There is a considerable risk that employers needing these skills will compete to attract workers from a shrinking labour pool.

6.17 Plymouth also needs to attract retired people back to the labour market and recruit new talent to relocate, or retain existing talent in the city, to fulfil demand. The city needs to be easier and more attractive for people to return to the labour market by offering flexible working and affordable childcare that meets their needs.

Housing

6.18 One of the main aims of the Plymouth Plan is to ensure that everyone has access to a decent, safe and affordable home, which is suited to their needs, promotes health and is located in a community where they want to live. Building the right type of homes, in the right place, at the right price, while creating quality environments, is necessary for Plymouth's residents to thrive and to attract new people and their families to want to live and work in the city. Yet, as reported in Plymouth, South Hams & West Devon Joint Local Plan Housing Position Statement, there has been a significant slow down of housing delivery in Plymouth. Additionally, the city has a growing affordable housing and homelessness problem.

6.19 One of the key new opportunity areas for housing is Plymouth's city centre. This is of a similar size to Manchester, Liverpool and Southampton but currently has a fraction of the residential population, with just c1,000 homes. City centres of comparable size typically have around 8,000 homes.

6.20 Plymouth has a long-term ambition to create a town within the city through a series of transformative investments that will deliver over 5,000 additional homes in the city centre, but the financial viability of developments remains a significant challenge, due to relatively high build costs and low housing values making it more difficult to deliver complex, brownfield regeneration projects. This housing and infrastructure is needed to support the city's growth ambitions and to meet our future housing need.

Climate emergency

6.21 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions remains a very significant challenge for the city. In order to achieve our net zero ambitions, more change is required at a quicker pace. This is something that every business, every organisation, every group and every individual in the city has a stake in and an opportunity to do something about. The two largest sources of emissions are transport (at 28% of city emissions) and buildings (at 26%). Behavioural changes in relation to how people travel, continued investment in sustainable transport options, retrofitting of homes and businesses to make them more energy efficient, and increasing the opportunity for and availability of low carbon energy solutions will all have significant benefits in helping Plymouth play its part in tackling the global climate emergency. There are also many co-benefits of reducing our emissions, for example, encouraging a greater uptake in travel by sustainable modes will lead to a reduction in emissions but also contribute to healthier lifestyles. The Climate Connections website is a resource to support the whole city on this agenda, and includes information on the net zero commitments and actions of many organisations in the city, including the City Council's own Net Zero Action Plan.

6.22 Any future review of the Plymouth Plan will need to take into account the likely effects of these and other challenges, and consider how any long-term impacts can be mitigated.

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