

# THE PLYMOUTH PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025

## 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	2025
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	2025
A. Population of Plymouth	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
B. Carbon emissions per capita	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
C. Gap between national living wage and 10th percentile	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
D(i). % of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children achieving a good level of development (measured against national benchmark)	○	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	
D(ii). Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 achieving the 'basics' (measured against national benchmark)	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
E. Capital investment in infrastructure				○				●	●	●	●	

## International city

● Improvement ● No change ● Deterioration ○ Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
A. % of residents who agree that Plymouth has a lot to offer					○		●			●		●	
B. Visitor numbers	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
C. Jobs in high-tech manufacturing and scientific research and development	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
D(i). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score) – University of Plymouth	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
D(ii). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score) – Plymouth Marjon University	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
D(iii). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (student satisfaction) – University of Plymouth	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
D(iv). UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (student satisfaction) – Plymouth Marjon University	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
E. % of residents who agree with the statement: my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	○				●		●	●	●		●	●	

### 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 nearly 268,700, Plymouth is the economic centre of the far southwest with an economy worth £6.97bn supporting 117,000 jobs.

4.2 Plymouth is Britain's Ocean City. Over the past 10 years, the development of the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, social enterprise city status, the first National Marine Park in the UK, alongside significant development and cultural place-making demonstrates the progress and opportunities in Plymouth.

4.3 Plymouth has several strong, distinctive assets, which include: the largest naval base in Western Europe; a vibrant manufacturing and engineering sector employing over 13 per cent of the workforce; a burgeoning creative and cultural sector; a significant and fast-growing marine autonomy sector with AI capabilities, one of only 16 critical care teaching hospitals in the UK and the associated Plymouth Science Park. However, the city still faces economic challenges which need to be addressed to realise its long-term ambitions.

4.4 Plymouth has low productivity with GVA at 81.1 per cent of the UK average, high employment rates and lower wages than nationally with Plymouth workers receiving £655.30 weekly compared to £729.80 nationally. Plymouth has an ageing population with 36 per cent of the city's population outside the working age, as well as slow population growth. There are also a high number of economically inactive residents due to long-term sickness.

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 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 77 years 2 months in Drake ward to a high of 84 years in Plympton Chaddlewood.

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.

#### How we will know we have been successful - our measures of success of a healthy city.

**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)**

**More people taking care of themselves**

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

**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)**

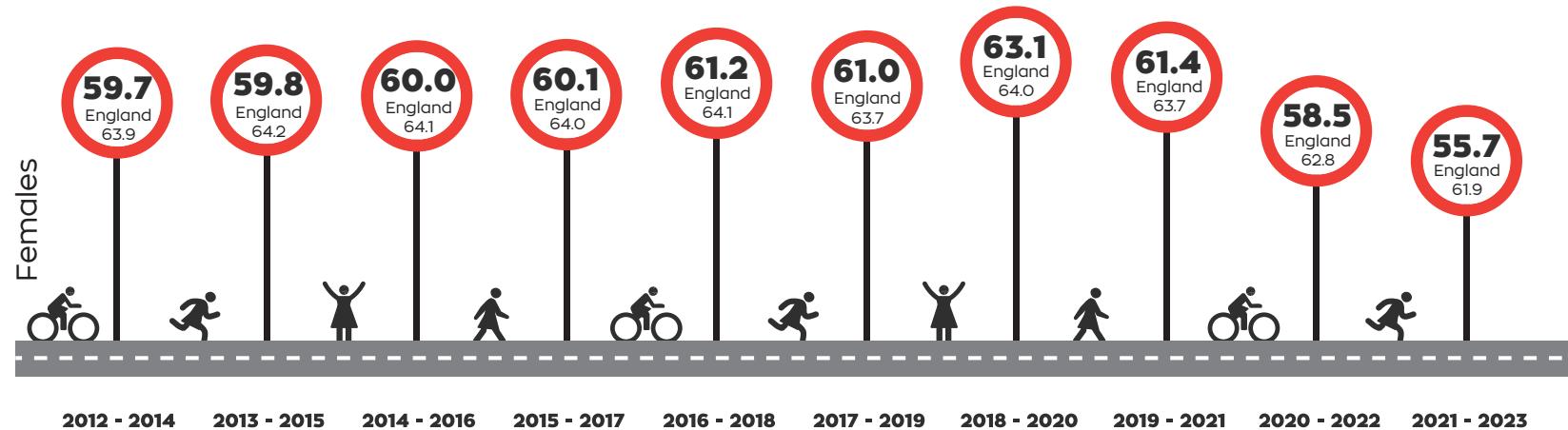
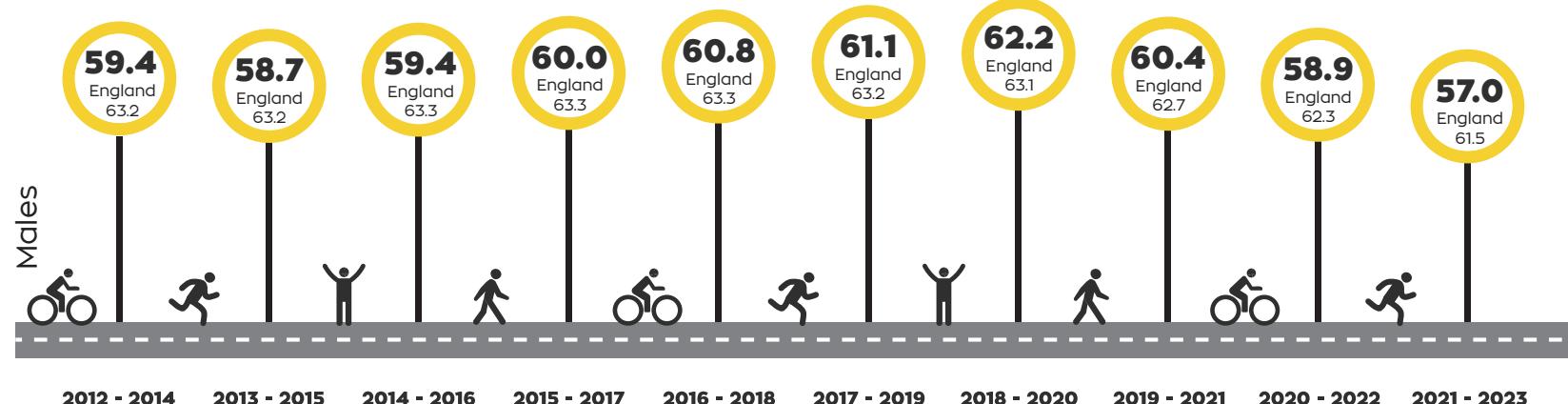
**People of Plymouth are well housed and live in good quality, well looked after neighbourhoods where they feel safe and happy**

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

**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)**

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

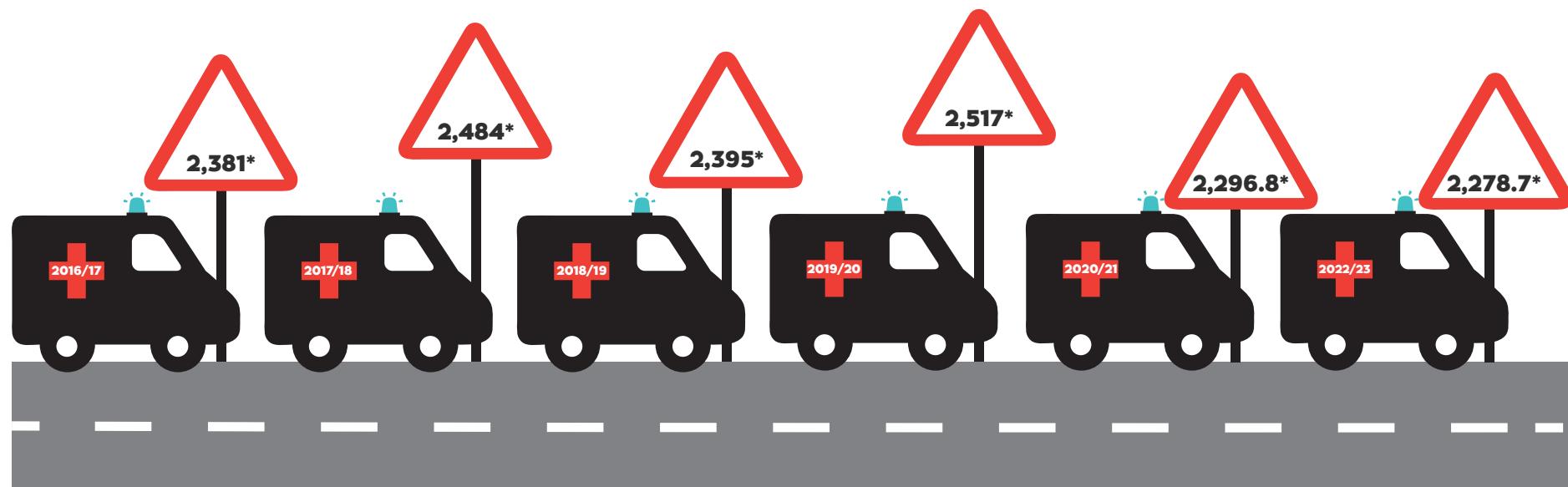


Source: [Public Health England](#)

**Comments**

Healthy life expectancy for both males and females remains below the England average. Also, whilst healthy life expectancy is falling nationally, it would appear to be dipping faster in Plymouth, particularly for females. A deep dive into women's health will be included in the next annual Director of Public Health Annual Report..

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



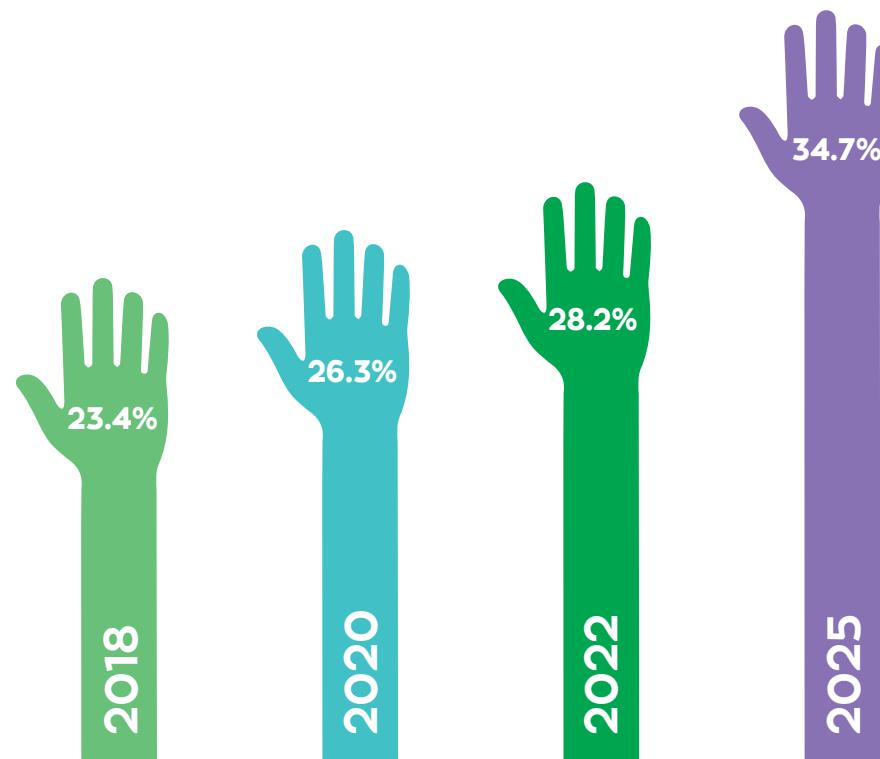
Source: [Hospital Episode Statistics](#)

\*directly age standardised rate per 10,000

#### Comments

This indicator cannot be updated as data is no longer available at a national level and will be reviewed for 2026.

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

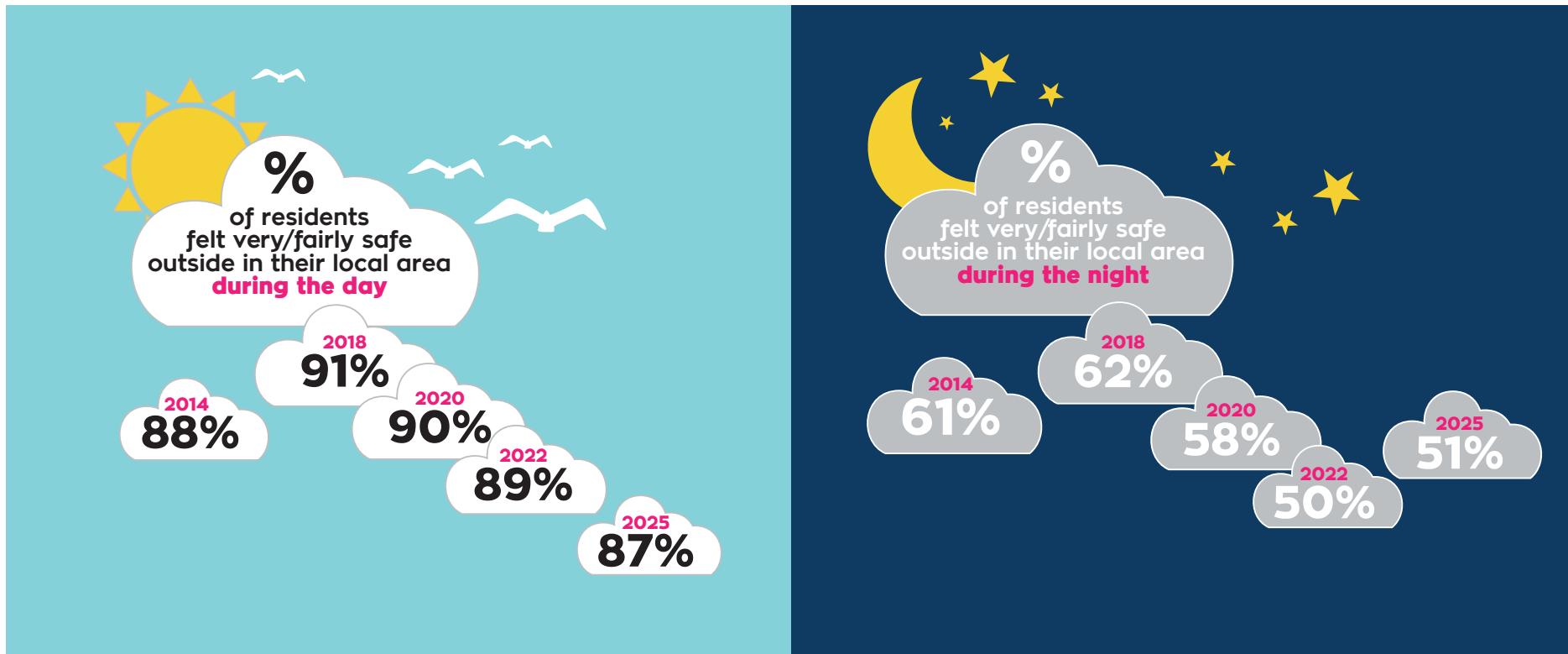


Source: [Plymouth City Survey](#)

**Comments**

There has been an increase in the percentage of residents who volunteer regularly (once a month or more) from 28.2% in 2022 to 34.7% in 2025. However, any comparisons should be treated with caution as the volunteering categories specified in the survey were changed for 2025 including the addition of 'Doing your bit for nature'. This has caused the proportion of [City Survey](#) respondents who report that they volunteer to increase significantly from 38% to 47%.

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



Source: [Plymouth City Survey](#)

**Comments**

87% of respondents felt safe when outside in their local area during the day which is no significant difference when compared with the 2022 [City Survey](#) when 89% felt safe and the 2010 City Survey when 90% felt safe.

Only 51% of respondents felt safe when outside in their local area after dark, while nearly a third (32%) felt unsafe. There has been a slight increase of 1% compared with the 2022 City Survey but a significant decrease on the 58% in the 2020 City Survey and 62% in 2018 that felt safe in their local area after dark. Young people, females, people with health problems or disabilities and care leavers were significantly less likely to feel safe after dark.

**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](#)

### Comments

At 64.8%, the level of satisfaction with adult social care services in Plymouth has dropped below that seen in previous years. However, the rate remains higher than the England average. *Please note there are no results for 2021 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.

### How we will know we have been successful - our measures of success of a growing city.

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

**Primary Indicator A** - Plymouth's population

**Plymouth continues to be recognised as a leading green city**

**Primary Indicator B** - Carbon emissions per capita (tCO2e)

**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

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

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

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

**Primary Indicator E** - Capital investment in infrastructure

### Primary Indicator A - Plymouth's population

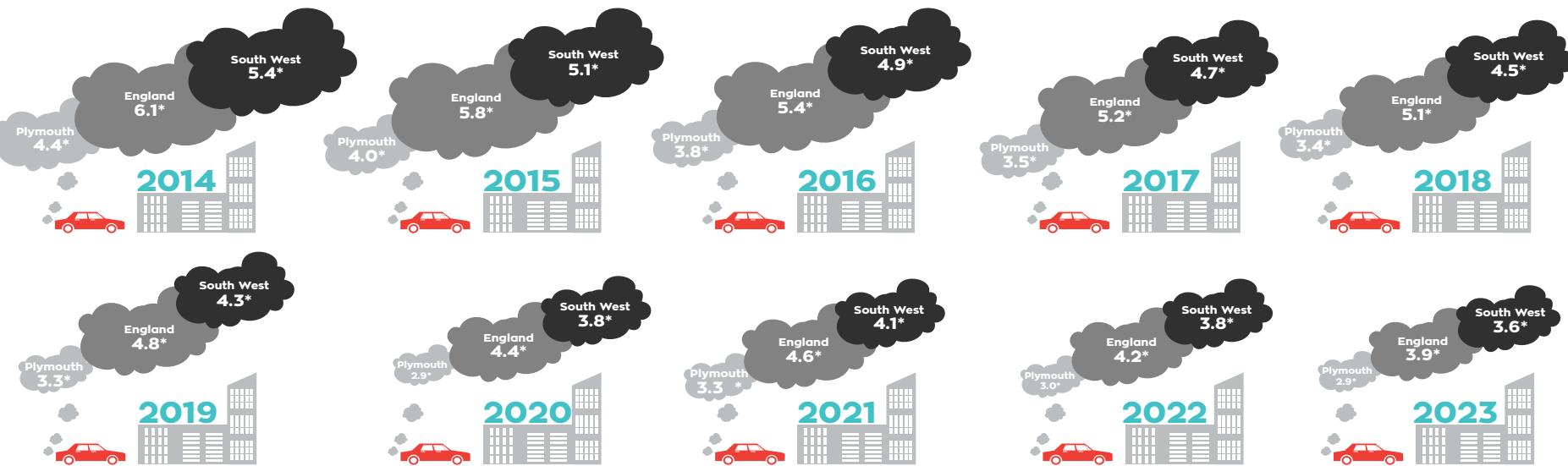


Source: [Office for National Statistics](#)

### 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, but for now the more tightly defined administrative boundary of Plymouth is used as a proxy measure. The figures for 2021 were taken from the 2021 Census so give a more accurate picture than in previous years. Estimated population statistics for 2024 show an increase in the Plymouth population. Looking forward, there is a need to consider Plymouth's population aspirations in line with national planning reforms, the climate emergency and the changing national and local context.

## Primary Indicator B - Carbon emissions per capita (tCO2e)



Source: [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#)

\* Carbon emissions per capita (tCO2e)

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.

### Comments

Plymouth's carbon dioxide emissions per capita have continued to fall and are now below 3 tonnes of CO2e per person living in the city. This is 25% lower than the average for England, as well being almost 20% lower than the average per capita emissions for those living in the southwest of the country. The city has seen emissions per person fall by a third over the last decade, down from 4.4tCO2e in 2014. The reductions have stemmed primarily from there now being lower emissions from electricity consumption, following the continued decarbonisation of the electricity system in the UK. In contrast, emissions stemming from transport have not seen a reduction. However, there is a considerable amount of work taking place across the city to accelerate the reduction of emissions, with the [Climate Connections](#) website acting as a focal point to highlight and inspire climate action across all sectors.

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



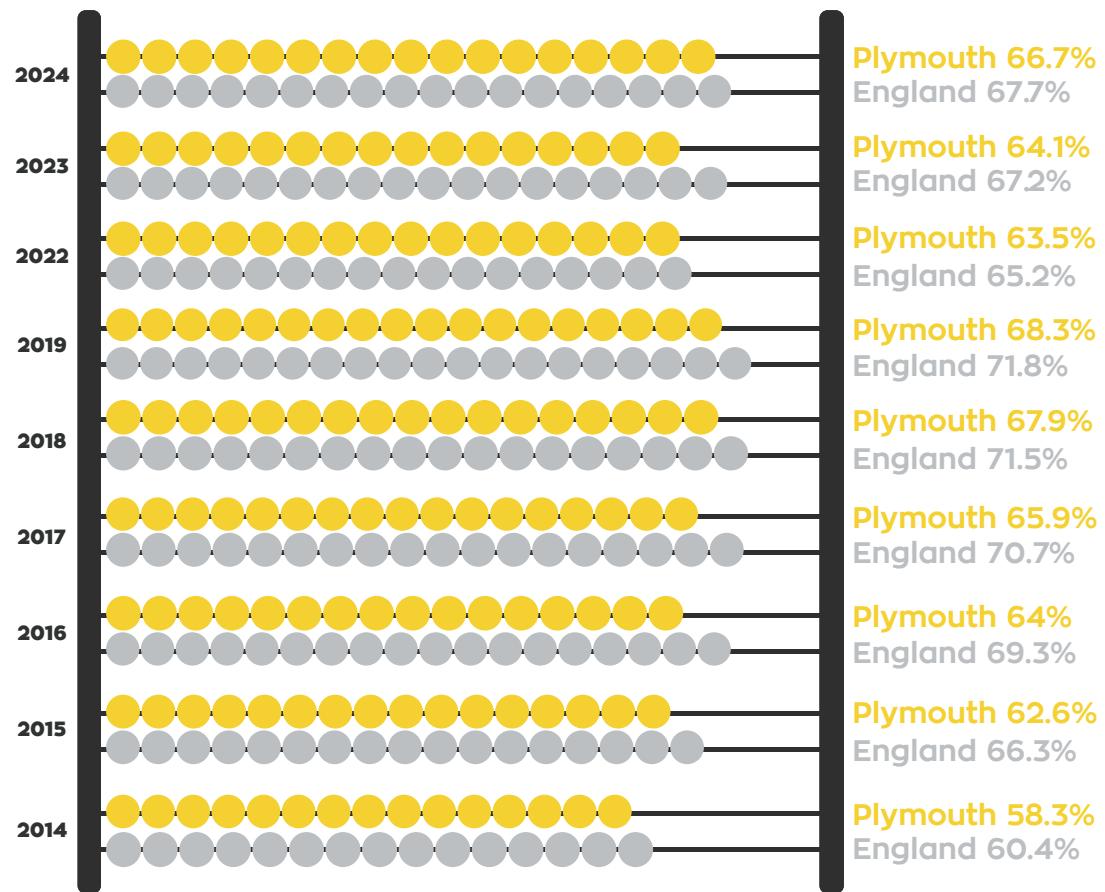
10th percentile wage per hour vs National Living Wage per hour, excluding overtime (£11.50 is 10th percentile, so less than 10% earn less than this. £11.44 is national living wage).

Source: ONS/NOMIS

### Comments

Plymouth has a vibrant, productive, inclusive and innovative business sector with a workforce that is paid a living wage. In 2024/25, the national living wage for England was £11.44. When comparing this to the lowest paid workers in the city, less than 10% of workers in the city are paid less than £11.50 which suggests that under 10% of workers in the city are paid less than the national living wage.

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

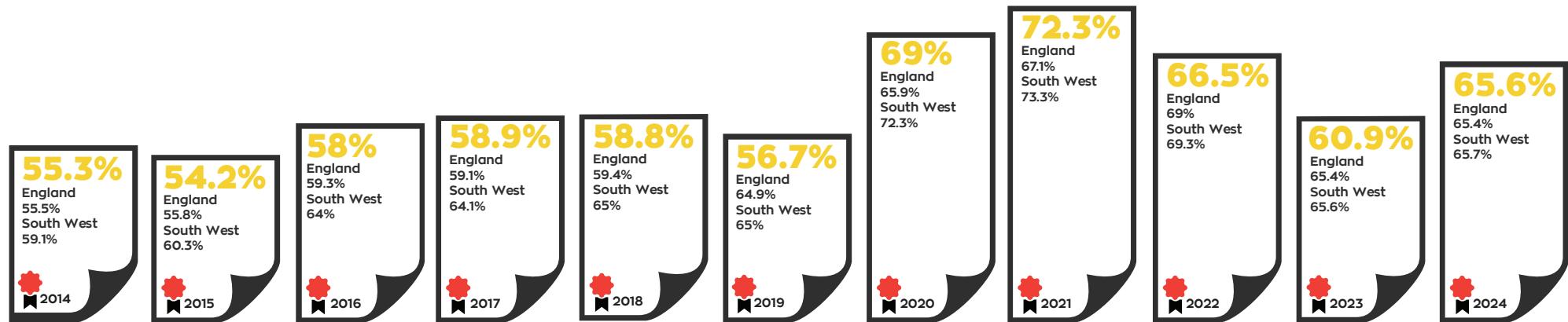


Source: [DfE Explore Education statistics](#)

### Comments

New EYFS reforms were introduced in September 2021 and, as part of these, the EYFS profile was significantly revised. It is therefore not possible to directly compare recent assessment outcomes with earlier years. In 2024, results in Plymouth (66.7%) have improved since 2023 (64.1%) and whilst remaining slightly below the national average (67.7%) have reduced the gap between the Plymouth and national average. *Please note there are no results for 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19.*

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

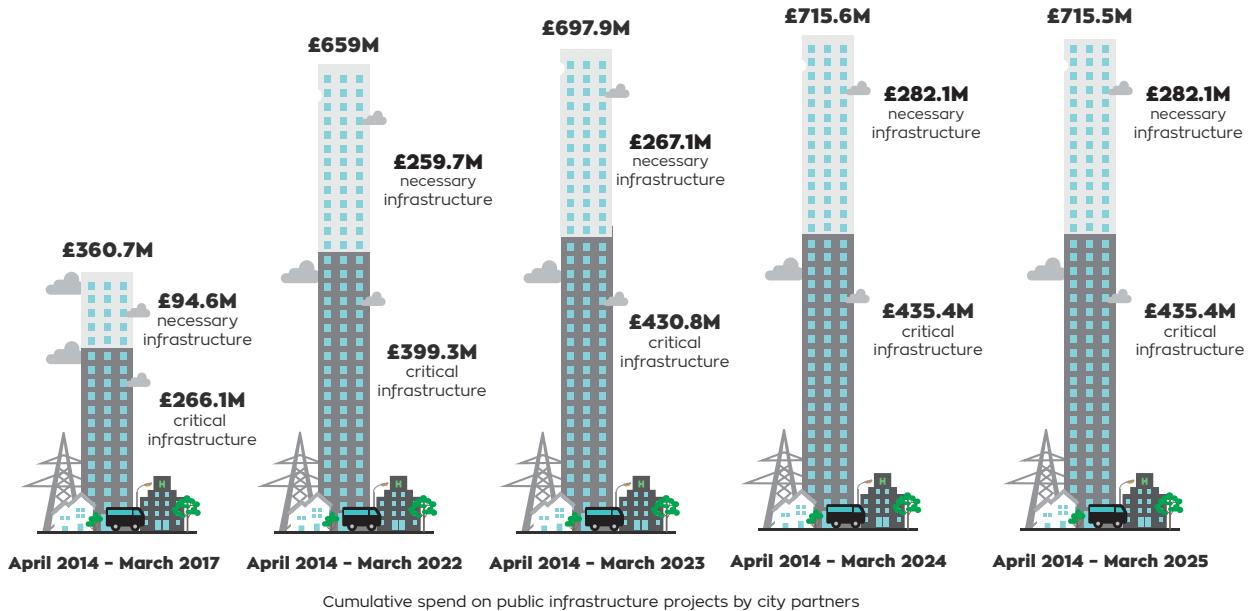


Source: [DfE Explore Education statistics](#)

### 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 or later. The proportion of those achieving grade 9-4 (standard pass) at KS4 in English and Maths has increased from 60.9% to 65.6% in Plymouth whilst the national and regional average have remained static. Therefore, results in Plymouth are now back in line with the national and regional average.

## Primary Indicator E - Capital investment in infrastructure



### 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 and over £435 million has been spent overall on critical infrastructure. Projects include the Energy from Waste Plant, Central Library, Derriford Transport Scheme, Oceansgate, School investment at Holy Cross, Pilgrim, St Matthews, Cann Bridge, Saltram Meadow, Pophleett and Yealmstone 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 £282 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. 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.

## **How we will know we have been successful - our measures of success of a growing city.**

**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'

**Plymouth is internationally renowned as a leading UK tourist destination**

**Primary Indicator B** - Visitor numbers

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

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

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

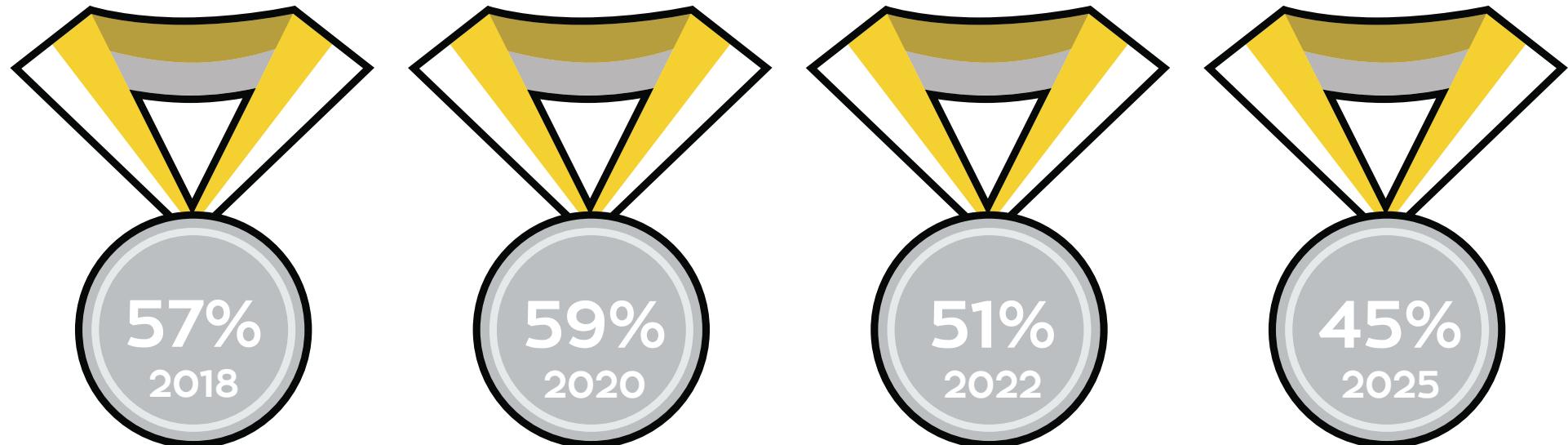
**Primary Indicator D(i)** - UK ranking of Plymouth's universities (overall score)

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

**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

**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 51% in 2022 and 59% in 2020. 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 the increased cost of living may have had an impact.

### Primary Indicator B - Visitor numbers

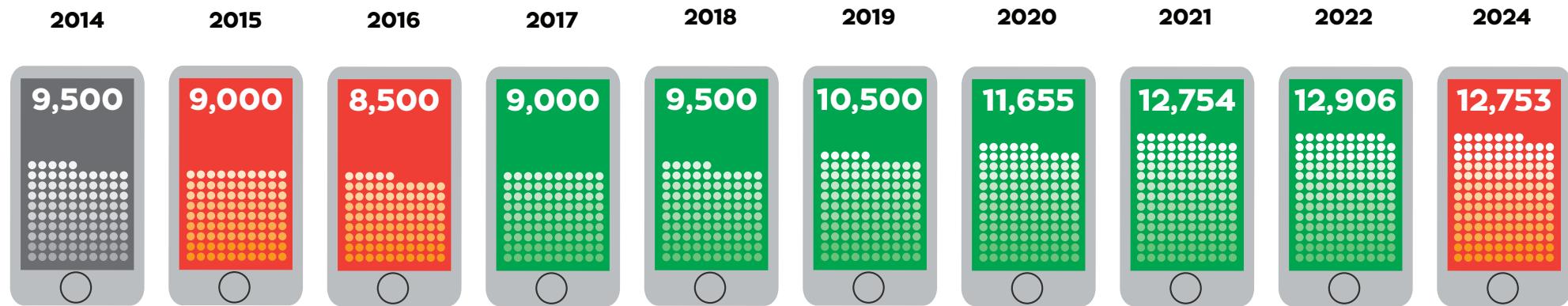


Source: South West Research Company

### Comments

As Britain's Ocean City, Plymouth has seen steady growth in visitor numbers and spend between 2011 and 2019 which exceeded the targets set within the 2011 Visitor Plan. Covid 19 had significant impact on the sector in 2020, however there has been consistent growth since then with numbers moving above 4 million again. 2024 data shows visitor numbers at 4,135,000 which is 5% down on 2023 and reflects the impact of economic pressures at national level across the sector.

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

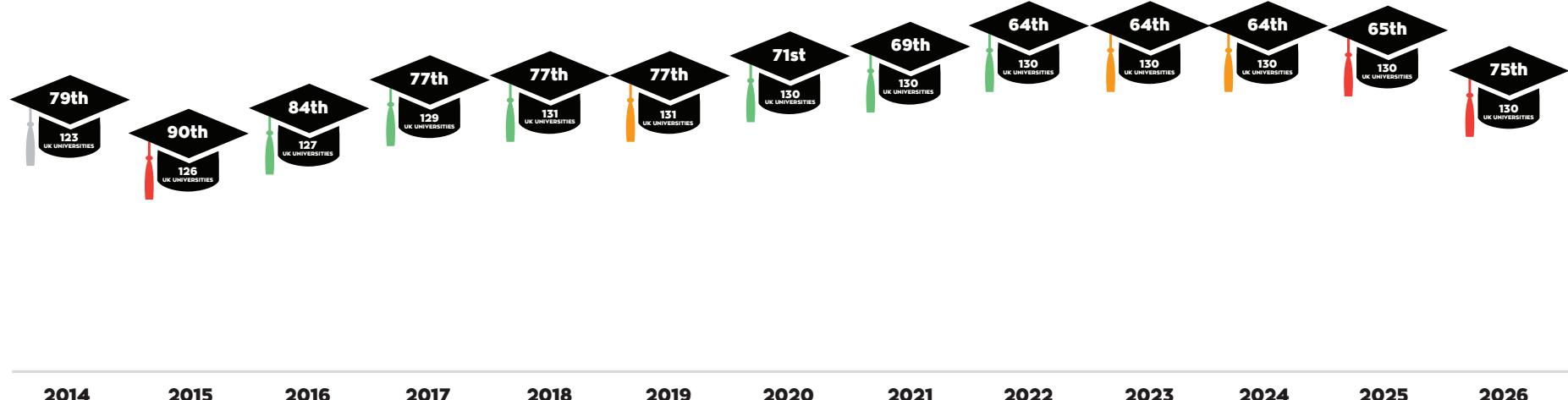


Source: University of Plymouth/AMORE

**Comments**

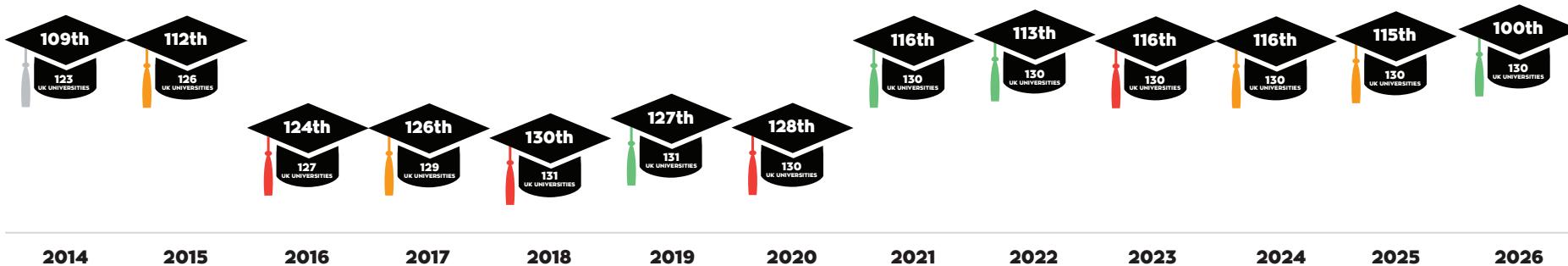
Plymouth is recognised internationally for expertise in the marine science and high technology manufacturing sectors. Job growth in High-Tech Manufacturing and Scientific Research and Development has followed an upward trend over the past 5 years and reached 12,753 jobs in 2023.

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



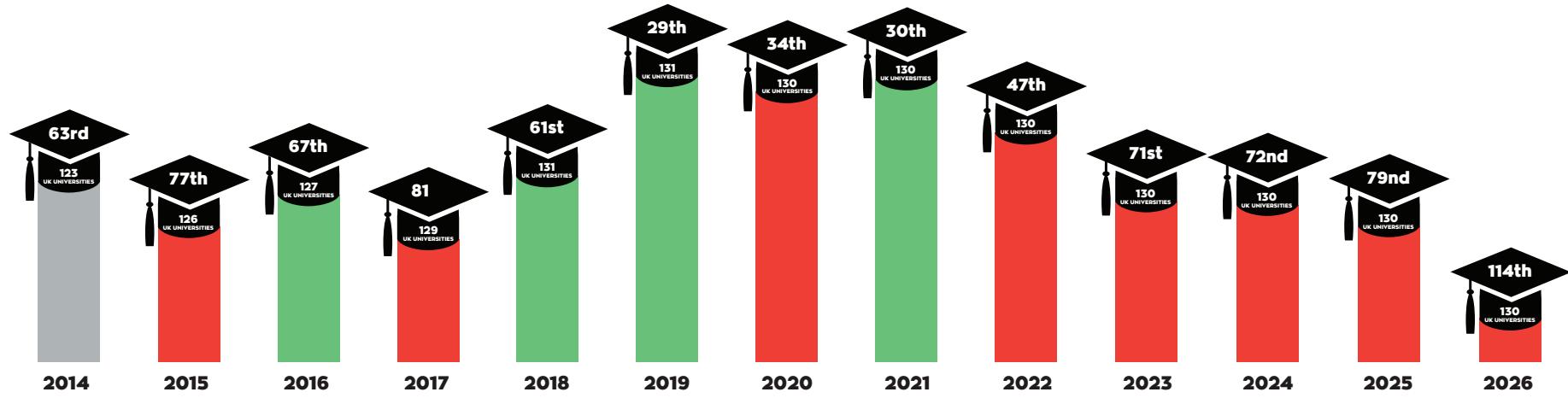
Source: [Complete University Guide](#)

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



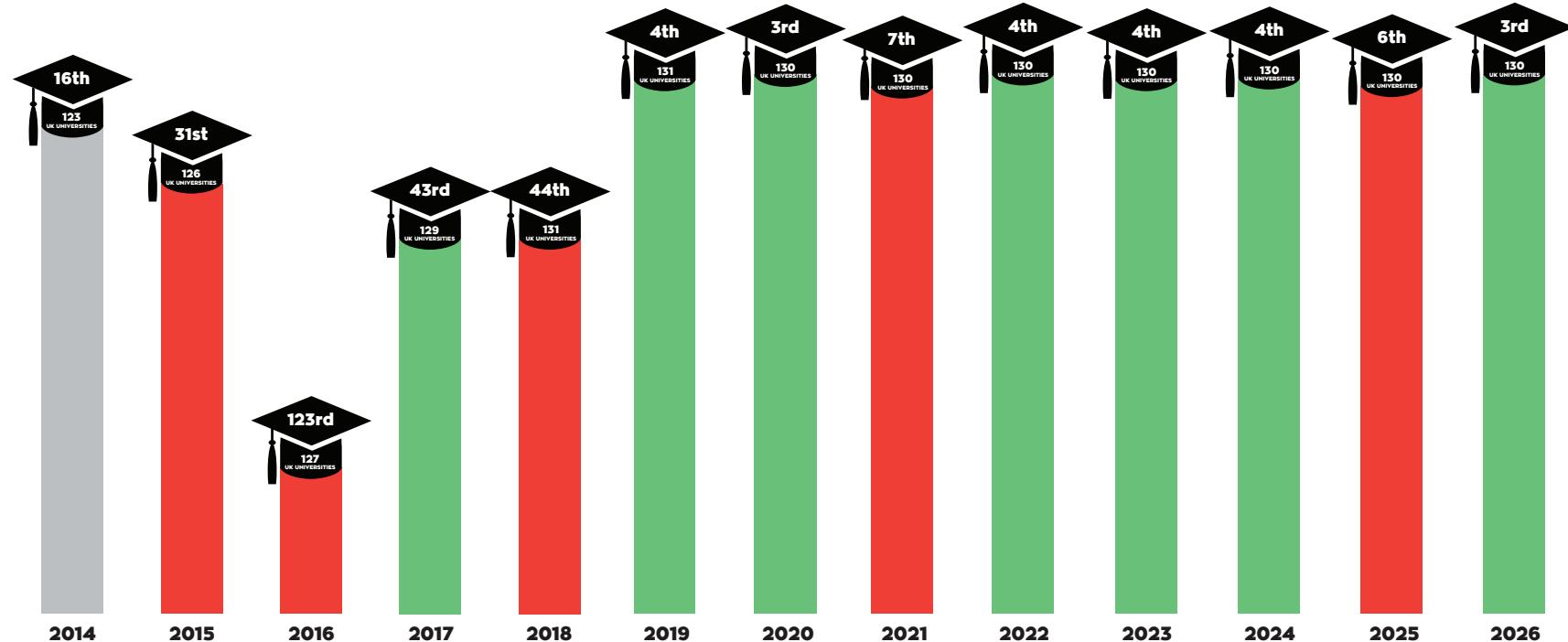
Source: [Complete University Guide](#)

**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**

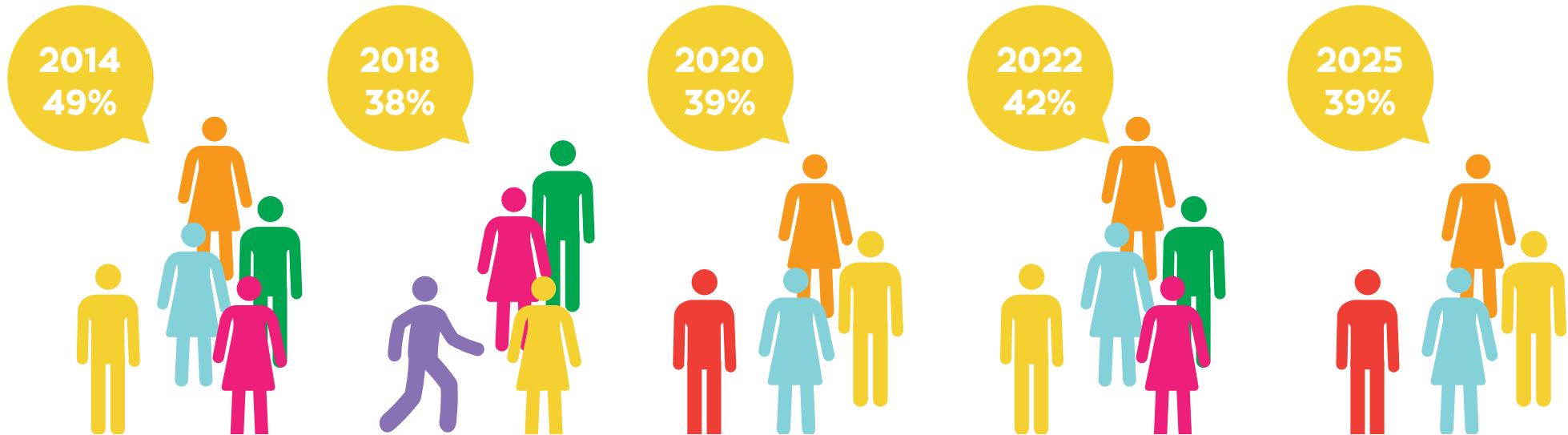


Source: [Complete University Guide](#)

### Comments

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.

**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 that agreed their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together has decreased compared with the 42% who agreed in the 2022 [City Survey](#). It is however more in line with the results from the 2020 City Survey results where 39% agreed. Respondents of 'Any other ethnic group' were significantly more likely to have disagreed with the statement than 'White' respondents as were those with significant disabilities or health problems were more likely to disagree.

## 6. Challenges and opportunities ahead

### Opportunities

6.1 Plymouth has recently been named one of five key national defence growth areas in the UK Defence Industrial Strategy backed by a £250 million UK-wide investment. This builds on the city's recent designation as the national centre for marine autonomy and the Government's 10-year £4.4 billion investment into HMNB Devonport. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to drive sustainable, long-term growth for the city and wider region. This investment will also catalyse growth in sectors adjacent to the defence industry with a focus on innovation, marine autonomy and dual-use capabilities.

6.2 Plymouth also has future opportunities around green growth through floating offshore wind technologies and Heat Networks, automation and artificial intelligence as well as supporting new and emerging sectors such as the creative industries and development of our ports. For further information on Plymouth's growth ambitions please see the [Plymouth Economic Strategy 2024-2034](#).

### Challenges

#### Employment and skills

6.3 Plymouth has low productivity with GVA per hour worked equivalent to 81.1 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.

6.4 Plymouth also has a significantly higher proportion of economically inactive residents due to long-term sickness; residents suffering from long-term sickness accounts for 35.8 per cent of economically inactive residents in Plymouth compared to 27.4 per cent nationally. Without targeted actions and a focus on specific areas and groups, there is a risk that too many people find it difficult to access the work and educational opportunities that make the most of their talents and enable them to secure higher value jobs.

6.5 The number of those Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) in the city have seen a substantial reduction in recent years (4.5%). However, school attendance and inclusion remains a concern. There are currently around 1,500 children not in school in Plymouth and every day we effectively have one secondary school empty due to children not attending school. There are also high levels of 18 to 25-year old unemployment.

6.6 Ensuring that the secondary school curriculum best serves Plymouth's students, whilst also encouraging uptake on STEM subjects and increasing attainment required for the future career demands of the city is needed.

6.7 There has been strong growth of 7,000 jobs in the past two years, and current projections suggest there will be 25,000 more jobs than people of working age within the next 10 years. The city will therefore need to attract, retain and train sufficient skilled people to support the associated jobs growth. 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 causing displacement and wage inflation. The city also 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**

6.8 Plymouth needs to attract new talent to relocate, or retain existing talent in the city, to meet demand and the future jobs growth. This means providing the right housing in the right place, alongside a leisure and cultural offer and vibrant city centre that makes people want to stay.

6.9 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.

6.10 One of the key new opportunity areas for housing is Plymouth's city centre. Plymouth has a long-term ambition to create a new town in the city through a series of transformative investments that will deliver over 10,000 new homes in and around the city centre. Plymouth's city centre currently has a very low level of housing with only 1,000 homes, compared to 8,000 homes for typical cities of Plymouth's size. However, 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 associated infrastructure is needed to support the city's growth ambitions and to meet our future housing need.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

6.11 Life expectancy in Plymouth has improved for both males and females in recent years however remains below the England average. Within Plymouth, there is considerable inequality in health, with life expectancy varying from a low of 77 years 2 months in Drake ward to a high of 84 years in Plympton Chaddlewood.

6.12 Healthy life expectancy in Plymouth (the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health) has fallen in recent years for both males and females and is now lower than at the start of the plan in 2014. It is also significantly lower than the England average, particularly for females. This is a significant challenge for the city 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 must remain crucial priorities moving forward.