

Introduction

Essential skills, including literacy and numeracy, are increasingly crucial for life and work, for business success, and for economic growth. However, the number of adults improving these skills in England has reduced by more than 60% over the past decade as Government investment in skills is set to be £1 billion less in 2025 compared to 2010. As a result, on current trends it would take over 20 years for every adult to get the help they need¹.

To effectively target support through the Adult Education Budget and new programmes such as the Multiply adult numeracy programme, it is important to understand local need. This briefing presents the results of an England-wide data modelling exercise to map the essential skills of adults aged 16 to 64, thought to be the first of its kind.

The modelling reveals disparities in essential skills levels within local areas which far exceed those between local and combined authorities across the country. This suggests that not only is there a need for an increased focus on and investment in essential skills as part of a national lifelong learning strategy, but that this must be coupled with a laser-like local focus on targeting provision where it is most needed.

Learning and Work Institute's essential skills model

Our model estimates indicative numbers of 16–64-year-olds with low literacy or numeracy in local areas. It uses England level data from the OECD's adult basic skills survey on the likelihood of having low essential skills by age, qualification and labour market status. It applies this to local data (Labour Force Survey for MCAs and LAs, Census 2011 data for wards) to give indicative numbers and proportions of people with low literacy or numeracy.

In headline terms, there are two core components:

- **Young people.** For 16–24-year-olds, we use data on essential skills levels by qualification level (Below level 2, level 2, level 3 and level 4+).
- **Adults.** For those aged 25+ we look at essential skill levels for those in employment and those not in employment.

We also conduct cross-checks to ensure, for example, that Census 2011 ward-level detail is consistent in terms of levels and rates with Labour Force Survey data at local authority level (which is more up to date but can't be broken down to ward level).

¹ <https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/getting-the-basics-right-the-case-for-action-on-adult-basic-skills/>

² <https://learningandwork.org.uk/news-and-policy/literacy-numeracy-england-map/>

Summary of results: England

Overall summary

Variations between levels of essential skills needs were low when comparing high level local authorities, including Mayoral Combined Authorities and County Councils. The largest variations in levels of essential skills needs were found at lower levels of local authority. For example, the ward with the highest levels of essential skills needs has almost triple the rate of the ward with the lowest levels of essential skills needs. Our analysis also finds that regions with the lowest needs like the South East have some of the highest need wards in England, showing that essential skills need goes beyond the North-South divide in England.

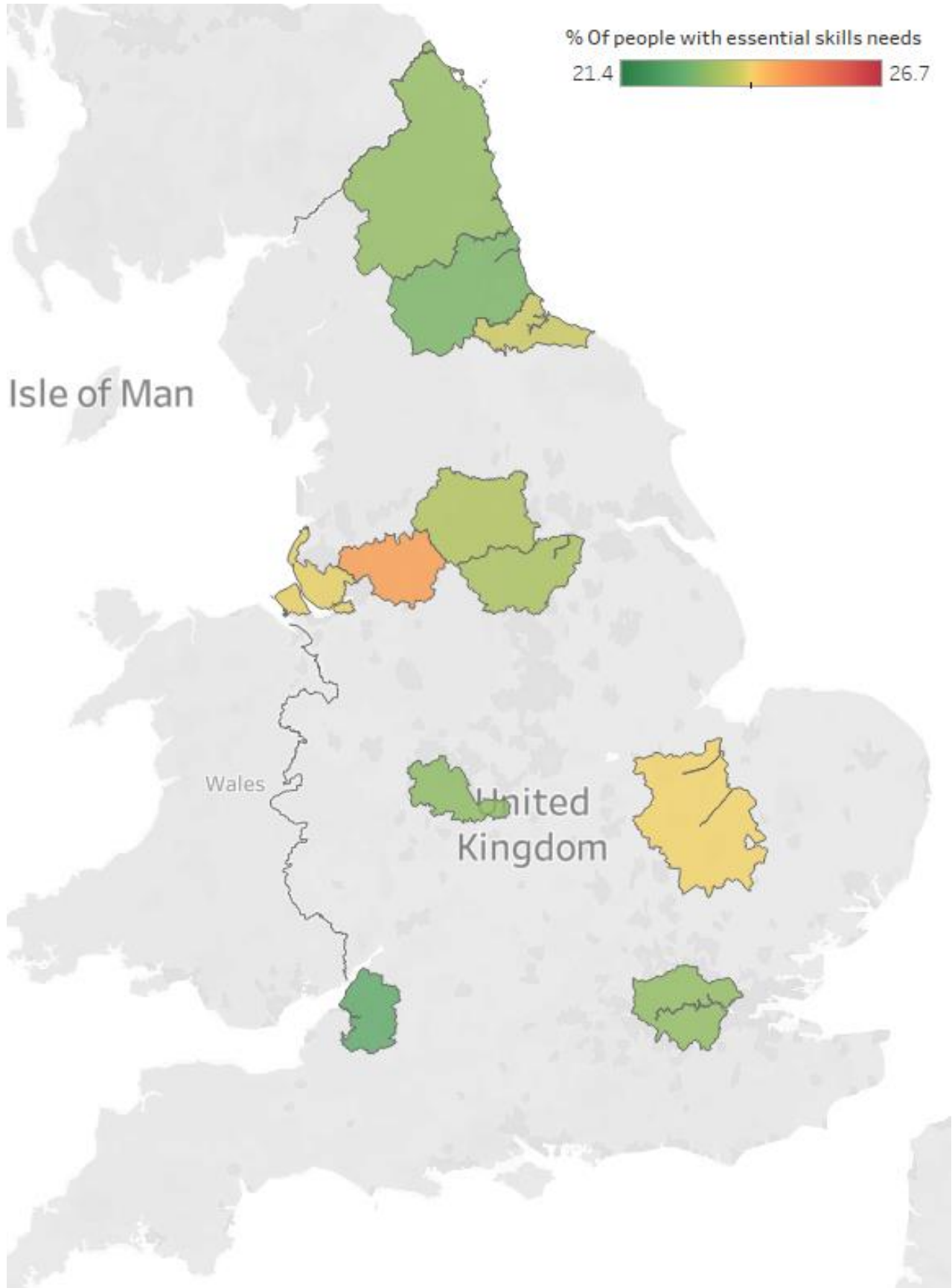
Mayoral Combined Authorities

Levels of essential skills needs varied only somewhat across the different combined authorities. The top two combined authorities with the highest proportion of people with essential skills needs were both located in the North East Region – these were Tees Valley (24.9%) and North East at (24.6%). Greater Manchester (24.4%) had the third highest proportion of people with essential skills needs when compared to other combined authorities. At the combined authority level, West of England (22.6%), Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (23.1%) and London (23.2%) had the lowest percentage of people with essential skills needs. As a result of its large population, London had the highest number of people with essential skills needs, reflecting its higher population and larger proportion of people with such needs.

Table 1. Essential skills need by combined authority

Mayoral Combined Authorities	% with low essential skills	Number with low essential skills
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority	23.1%	120,466
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24.4%	444,712
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	24.4%	233,083
Greater London Authority	23.2%	1,415,023
North East Combined Authority	24.6%	173,934
North of Tyne Combined Authority	24.2%	120,764
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	24.1%	211,647
Tees Valley Combined Authority	24.9%	101,094
West Midlands Combined Authority	24.1%	442,561
West of England Combined Authority	22.6%	139,312
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	23.6%	342,905

Figure 1. Map of essential skills needs by combined authority



County councils

Levels of essential skills needs also varied only somewhat across the different county councils. The top five county councils with the highest proportion of people with essential skills needs were located in the East Midlands or the North West. Essential skills needs were highest in Lincolnshire, where 24.7% of the adult population had low levels of essential skills. This was followed by Cumbria at 24.4%, and Lancashire at 24.1%.

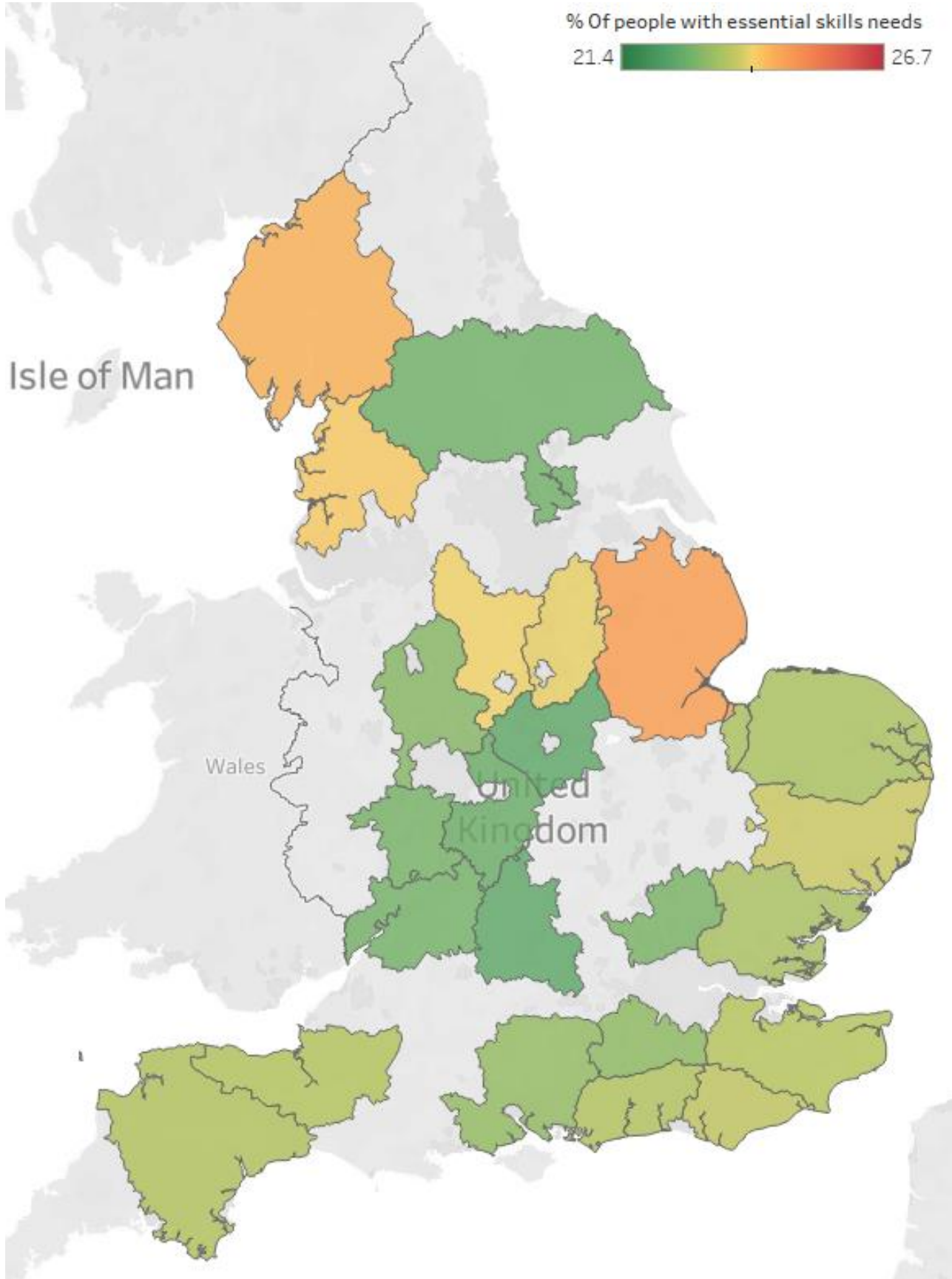
At a county council level, Oxfordshire had the lowest level of essential skills needs, with 22.5% of the adult population estimated to have low levels of essential skills. Leicestershire had the second lowest level of essential skills needs at 22.6%. This was lower than the other county councils in the East Midlands, with Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire ranked amongst the five councils with the highest levels of essential skills needs in England.

Owing to its larger population, Kent had the highest number of people with essential skills needs (222,496).

Table 2: Essential skills needs by county council

County Council	% with low essential skills	Number with low essential skills
Cumbria County Council	24.4%	68,539
Derbyshire County Council	24.0%	13,896
Devon County Council	23.5%	105,878
East Sussex County Council	23.7%	75,466
Essex County Council	23.4%	210,262
Gloucestershire County Council	22.8%	85,918
Hampshire County Council	23.2%	187,964
Hertfordshire County Council	22.9%	169,517
Kent County Council	23.6%	222,496
Lancashire County Council	24.1%	172,785
Leicestershire County Council	22.6%	94,053
Lincolnshire County Council	24.7%	107,252
Norfolk County Council	23.4%	122,603
North Yorkshire County Council	22.8%	77,996
Nottinghamshire County Council	24.0%	118,193
Oxfordshire County Council	22.5%	93,377
Somerset County Council	23.5%	74,175
Staffordshire County Council	23.0%	119,419
Suffolk County Council	23.8%	103,196
Surrey County Council	23.1%	171,306
Warwickshire County Council	22.7%	76,824
West Sussex County Council	23.5%	117,933
Worcestershire County Council	22.9%	78,208

Figure 2: Map of essential skills needs by county council



Districts and Unitary Authorities

The biggest variation in essential skills needs came at a more local level. Three of the ten districts with the highest percentage of essential skills needs were located in the East Midlands region, with two in Lincolnshire and one in Nottinghamshire – East Lindsey in Lincolnshire had the highest levels of essential skills needs in the UK, with 26.7% of the adult population estimated to have low essential skills. Similarly, three of the ten districts with the highest percentage of essential skills needs were located in the North West, with two in Lancashire and one in Cumbria. These are consistent with the findings at the county council level where Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, and Cumbria were amongst the five counties with the highest levels of essential skills needs.

Essential skills needs in Gosport (26.3%) were particularly high when compared to Hampshire council as a whole, where 23.2% of the population were estimated to have low essential skills needs.

Table 3: Districts and Unitary Authorities with the highest levels of essential skills needs

County/UA	Local Authority	People with low essential skills	% with low essential skills
Lincolnshire	East Lindsey	19,356	26.7
Lancashire	Pendle	15,501	26.6
Tees Valley	Stockton-on-Tees	25,450	26.4
Essex	Tendring	20,746	26.3
Hampshire	Gosport	13,891	26.3
Nottinghamshire	Mansfield	17,375	26.1
Lancashire	Hyndburn	14,028	26.0
Lincolnshire	Boston	10,716	26.0
Devon	West Devon	7,878	26.0
Cumbria	Copeland	11,358	26.0

Three of the ten districts with the lowest percentage of essential skills needs are located in the South East region. Two of these districts (Tandridge and Surrey Heath) are a part of Surrey County Council. Another three districts with the lowest percentage of essential skills needs were located in the East. In total, **eight of the ten districts with the lowest percentage of essential skills needs were located in the South of England**. West Berkshire was the unitary authority with the lowest level of essential skills needs (21.8%).

Table 4: Districts and Unitary Authorities with the lowest levels of essential skills needs

County/UA	Local Authority	People with low essential skills	% with low essential skills
Surrey	Tandridge	11,020	21.4
Leicestershire	Charnwood	26,075	21.7
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Cambridge	18,651	21.7
Bath and North East Somerset	Bath and North East Somerset	25,464	21.8
West Berkshire	West Berkshire	20,084	21.8
Essex	Rochford	11,351	22.0
Surrey	Surrey Heath	11,449	22.2
Worcestershire	Worcester	15,207	22.2
Bristol	Bristol	70,191	22.2
Norfolk	Norwich	22,053	22.3

Figure 3: Map of essential skills needs by district/unitary authority

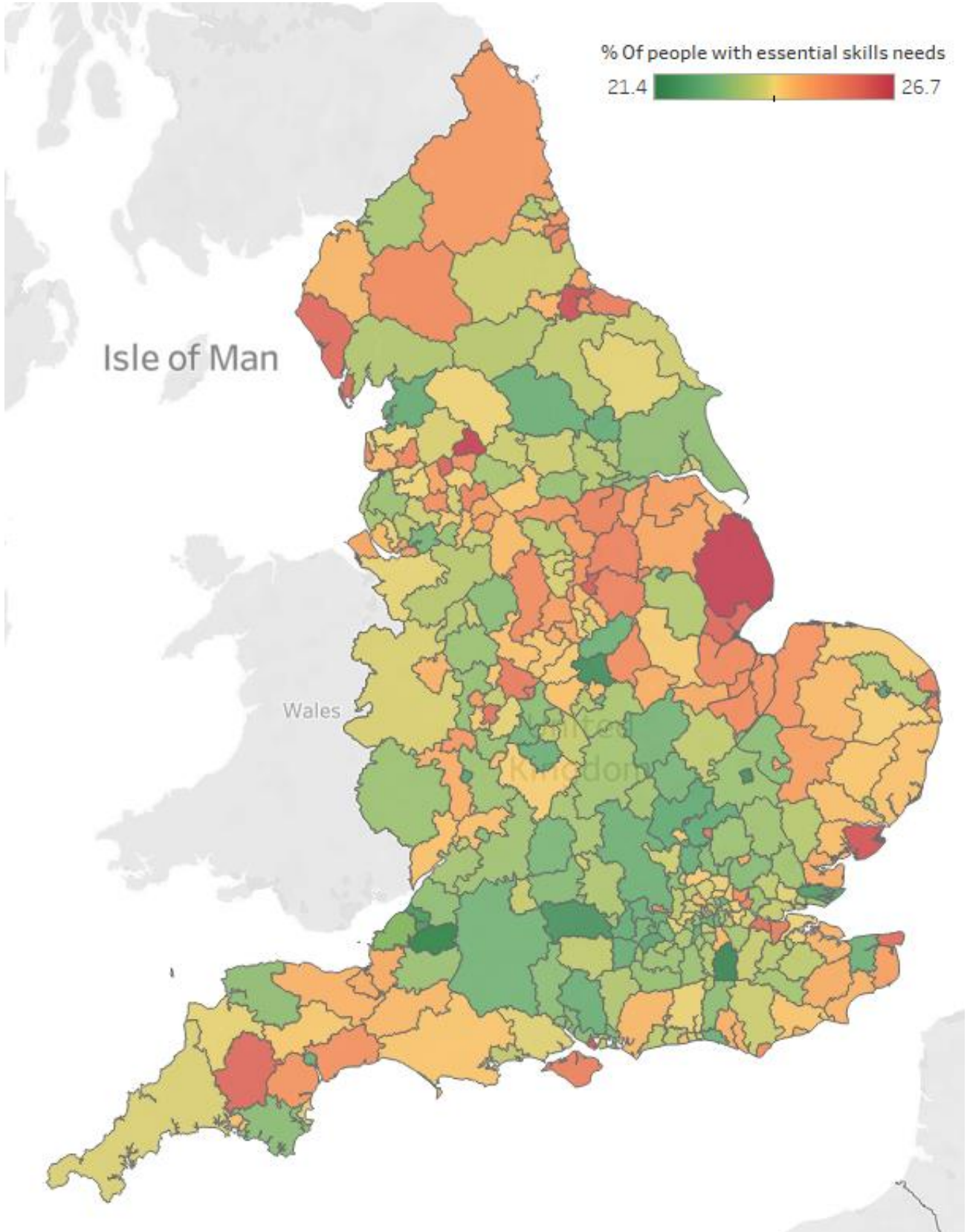


Table 5: Essential skills needs by district/unitary authority

CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%
Bath and North East Somerset	Bath and North East Somerset	25,464	21.8	London	Ealing	54,944	23.8
Bedford	Bedford	23,185	22.8		Enfield	55,140	24.0
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen	21,994	24.7		Greenwich	49,073	24.1
Blackpool	Blackpool	20,960	25.3		Hackney	48,467	22.6
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	56,493	23.6		Hammersmith and Fulham	29,773	23.0
Bracknell Forest	Bracknell Forest	17,295	22.7		Haringey	47,277	24.1
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove	46,825	22.6		Harrow	37,368	23.6
Bristol	Bristol	70,191	22.2		Havering	38,347	23.2
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire	72,710	22.6		Hillingdon	48,811	23.6
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority	Cambridge	18,651	21.7		Hounslow	43,379	24.0
	East Cambridgeshire	12,162	23.0		Islington	42,931	23.1
	Fenland	15,209	25.3		Kensington and Chelsea	25,712	24.7
	Huntingdonshire	26,378	23.6		Kingston upon Thames	26,963	22.5
	Peterborough	31,781	24.6		Lambeth	57,437	22.7
South Cambridgeshire	South Cambridgeshire	21,618	23.2		Lewisham	52,837	23.6
	Central Bedfordshire	40,248	22.4		Merton	32,889	23.7
Cheshire East	Cheshire East	52,145	23.5		Newham	60,876	24.1
Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire West and Chester	48,963	24.0		Redbridge	49,970	25.2
Cornwall	Cornwall	77,015	23.9		Richmond upon Thames	29,630	23.2
Cumbria	Allerdale	13,705	24.5		Southwark	54,561	23.3
	Barrow-in-Furness	10,121	26.0		Sutton	31,211	23.3
	Carlisle	15,167	23.4	Tower Hamlets	56,350	23.6	
	Copeland	11,358	26.0	Waltham Forest	47,012	24.2	
	Eden	8,115	25.3	Wandsworth	54,749	22.7	
	South Lakeland	13,315	23.5	Westminster	36,241	23.5	
Derby	Derby	38,626	24.6	Luton	Luton	33,350	24.1
Derbyshire	Amber Valley	19,032	24.9	Medway	Medway	42,920	24.0
	Bolsover	12,887	25.1	Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	39,862	23.3

CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%
	Chesterfield	15,975	23.9	Norfolk	Breckland	19,348	24.4
	Derbyshire Dales	10,066	25.2		Broadland	17,446	23.4
	Erewash	17,572	24.7		Great Yarmouth	14,436	25.5
	High Peak	14,103	24.4		King's Lynn and West Norfolk	20,727	25.1
	North East Derbyshire	13,944	23.9		North Norfolk	12,820	24.2
	South Derbyshire	15,432	24.2		Norwich	22,053	22.3
Devon	East Devon	19,786	25.1		South Norfolk	20,162	24.2
	Exeter	20,825	22.6	North East Lincolnshire	North East Lincolnshire	22,506	24.5
	Mid Devon	11,552	24.2	North Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	25,042	24.9
	North Devon	11,912	23.0	North Northamptonshire	North Northamptonshire	47,552	22.7
	South Hams	10,380	23.0	North Somerset	North Somerset	28,640	23.2
	Teignbridge	18,831	25.0	North Yorkshire	Craven	8,315	24.0
	Torridge	9,016	24.0		Hambleton	12,097	23.6
West Devon	7,878	26.0	Harrogate		22,549	22.5	
Dorset	Dorset	48,694	24.2		Richmondshire	6,798	23.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire	43,464	23.0		Ryedale	7,330	24.0
East Sussex	Eastbourne	14,895	25.2		Scarborough	14,500	23.8
	Hastings	13,582	24.5	Selby	12,416	23.5	
	Lewes	15,315	24.5	Nottingham	52,670	23.9	
	Rother	12,585	24.2	Ashfield	18,969	24.4	
	Wealden	21,821	23.8	Bassetlaw	18,366	25.5	
Essex	Basildon	29,102	24.0	Nottingham	Broxtowe	16,678	24.1
	Braintree	22,228	23.5		Gedling	18,487	24.4
	Brentwood	12,085	23.6		Mansfield	17,375	26.1
	Castle Point	12,564	23.6		Newark and Sherwood	19,054	25.5
	Chelmsford	25,064	23.3		Rushcliffe	16,151	22.6
	Colchester	30,244	24.4		North East Combined Authority	County Durham	75,557
	Epping Forest	19,425	23.0	Gateshead	30,791	24.5	

CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%
	Harlow	13,287	24.6	North of Tyne Combined Authority	South Tyneside	45,872	23.4
	Maldon	8,948	24.7		Sunderland	28,876	23.8
	Rochford	11,351	22.0		Newcastle Upon Tyne	44,494	25.0
	Tendring	20,746	26.3		North Tyneside	21,724	25.0
	Uttlesford	12,731	23.2		Northumberland	43,670	25.3
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham	16,648	23.0	Oxfordshire	Cherwell	20,975	23.3
	Cotswold	11,568	23.2		Oxford	25,388	23.8
	Forest of Dean	12,545	24.3		South Oxfordshire	19,671	23.4
	Gloucester	19,848	23.7		Vale of White Horse	18,093	22.9
	Stroud	17,667	23.3		West Oxfordshire	16,140	22.8
	Tewkesbury	13,264	24.3	Plymouth	Plymouth	39,209	24.3
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Bolton	43,427	25.1	Reading	Reading	25,275	23.2
	Bury	27,323	23.9	Rutland	Rutland	4,848	24.6
	Manchester	94,043	24.4	South Yorkshire Combined Authority	Barnsley	38,359	25.0
	Oldham	34,654	24.7		Doncaster	48,594	25.4
	Rochdale	34,101	25.4		Rotherham	40,104	24.9
	Salford	39,063	24.2		Sheffield	90,733	23.6
	Stockport	40,747	23.7	Shropshire	Shropshire	42,748	23.9
	Tameside	34,256	24.8	Slough	Slough	23,771	25.1
	Trafford	33,166	23.2	Somerset	Mendip	16,358	23.2
	Wigan	47,303	23.8		Sedgemoor	17,902	24.7
Hampshire	Basingstoke and Deane	26,535	23.6		Somerset West and Taunton	21,303	24.5
	East Hampshire	16,766	23.5		South Somerset	23,426	24.5
	Eastleigh	17,768	22.9	South Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire	41,494	23.0
	Fareham	16,288	23.0	Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea	25,660	23.3
	Gosport	13,891	26.3	Staffordshire	Cannock Chase	15,517	24.2
	Hart	12,866	22.5		East Staffordshire	17,689	24.3
	Havant	17,662	22.8		Lichfield	15,014	25.6
	Isle of Wight	19,424	25.5		Newcastle-under-Lyme	18,,817	23.5
New Forest	23,017	23.9	South Staffordshire		14,992	23.1	

CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	
	Portsmouth	33,817	23.7		Stafford	18,892	23.2	
	Rushmoor	13,634	23.3		Staffordshire Moorlands	13,486	23.0	
	Southampton	40,711	23.1		Tamworth	11,914	25.6	
	Test Valley	17,402	23.0		Stoke-on-Trent	Stoke-on-Trent	36,878	23.8
	Winchester	17,060	22.5		Babergh	13,394	24.3	
Herefordshire	Herefordshire	25,281	23.2	Suffolk	East Suffolk	32,165	24.3	
	Broxbourne	13,538	22.9		Ipswich	20,752	23.6	
	Dacorum	23,822	23.8		Mid Suffolk	14,222	24.3	
	East Hertfordshire	21,586	23.2		West Suffolk	26,280	24.9	
	Hertsmere	14,723	24.1		Surrey	Elmbridge	20,045	23.4
	North Hertfordshire	19,873	22.4	Epsom and Ewell		11,273	23.3	
	St Albans	21,401	22.5	Guildford		22,559	23.2	
	Stevenage	14,474	25.6	Mole Valley		12,175	23.2	
	Three Rivers	13,417	23.0	Reigate and Banstead		21,659	23.5	
	Watford	15,605	23.9	Runnymede		13,884	22.8	
	Welwyn Hatfield	19,570	23.0	Spelthorne		15,213	23.9	
Kent	Ashford	18,727	24.6	Surrey Heath		11,449	22.2	
	Canterbury	23,694	22.6	Tandridge		11,020	21.4	
	Dartford	18,203	25.7	Waverley		16,920	23.1	
	Dover	16,432	24.9	Woking		15,093	23.5	
	Folkestone and Hythe	18,619	25.5	Swindon	Swindon	32,941	23.7	
	Gravesham	24,983	23.6	Tees Valley Combined Authority	Darlington	13,143	24.5	
	Maidstone	17,829	23.7		Hartlepool	12,873	24.8	
	Sevenoaks	16,097	24.5		Middlesbrough	20,525	25.2	
	Swale	22,496	24.5		Redcar and Cleveland	18,239	25.5	
	Thanet	22,162	25.9		Stockton-on-Tees	25,450	26.4	
	Tonbridge and Malling	18,394	23.6	Telford and Wrekin	Telford and Wrekin	26,915	24.5	
Tunbridge Wells	16,323	23.3	Thurrock	Thurrock	25,913	23.7		
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Kingston upon Hull, City of	39,318	23.8	Torbay	Torbay	17,510	24.0	

CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%
Lancashire	Burnley	12,959	25.1	Warrington	Warrington	29,308	22.8
	Chorley	17,176	24.0	Warwickshire	North Warwickshire	8,851	23.0
	Fylde	10,406	24.4		Nuneaton and Bedworth	18,765	23.3
	Hyndburn	14,028	26.0		Rugby	15,709	23.7
	Lancaster	19,808	22.5		Stratford-on-Avon	16,930	24.1
	Pendle	15,501	26.6		Warwick	20,245	22.6
	Preston	23,252	25.4		West Berkshire	West Berkshire	20,084
	Ribble Valley	8,191	23.9	West Northamptonshire	West Northamptonshire	56,148	23.3
	Rossendale	10,660	24.1	West of England Combined Authority	Bath and North East Somerset	27,003	22.5
	South Ribble	16,027	24.0		Bristol, City of	73,801	22.8
	West Lancashire	16,722	23.2		South Gloucestershire	41,167	23.0
	Wyre	14,144	24.1		West Sussex	Adur	8,958
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	Halton	19,088	24.8	Arun		21,351	23.6
	Knowsley	21,937	24.0	Chichester		16,424	24.4
	Liverpool	80,301	24.4	Crawley		17,442	23.5
	Sefton	36,080	23.4	Horsham		19,925	24.0
	St Helens	25,309	23.6	Mid Sussex		20,553	23.0
	Wirral	46,595	24.7	Worthing	15,942	24.4	
Leicester	Leicester	56,248	24.3	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Bradford	76,834	23.8
Leicestershire	Blaby	13,847	23.5		Calderdale	29,285	23.4
	Charnwood	26,075	21.7		Kirklees	65,021	24.2
	Harborough	12,493	23.4		Leeds	116,361	23.8
	Hinckley and Bosworth	16,915	24.3		Wakefield	47,582	23.2
	Melton	7,113	25.2		Wiltshire	Wiltshire	65,535
	North West Leicestershire	14,972	24.2	Windsor and Maidenhead	Windsor and Maidenhead	20,481	22.5
	Oadby and Wigston	7,326	22.8	West Midlands Combined Authority	Birmingham	175,700	24.0
Lincolnshire	Boston	10,716	26.0		Coventry	57,874	23.7
	East Lindsey	19,356	26.7		Dudley	46,044	24.2

CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%	CA / UA / COUNTY	Local Authority	People	%
	Lincoln	14,671	22.6		Sandwell	52,401	25.7
	North Kesteven	15,467	23.5		Solihull	29,044	22.7
	South Holland	14,288	25.3		Walsall	40,730	23.7
	South Kesteven	20,788	24.2		Wolverhampton	30,578	24.9
	West Lindsey	13,833	24.7		Wokingham	22,588	22.5
London	Barking and Dagenham	36,275	25.4	Worcestershire	Bromsgrove	13,306	23.1
	Barnet	63,236	23.9		Malvern Hills	10,769	24.6
	Bexley	39,001	23.8		Redditch	12,624	24.3
	Brent	54,657	24.3		Worcester	15,207	22.2
	Bromley	49,414	23.4		Wychavon	16,971	23.2
	Camden	43,477	23.6		Wyre Forest	14,560	25.0
	Croydon	61,263	24.4	York	30,286	22.5	

Wards

By far the largest variation in essential skills needs come at ward level, showing the importance of effectively targeting support to pockets of greatest need across the area. **While districts and combined authorities in the South of England were found to have the lowest levels of essential skills needs nationally, 16 of the 20 wards with the highest levels of essential skills needs were based in this region.** This suggests that pockets with high levels of essential skills needs exist even in areas with an overall low level of need.

While the Greater London Authority had the third lowest percentage of people with essential skills needs amongst the combined authorities, **10 of the 20 wards with the highest essential skills needs were based in the GLA.** Six of these wards were based in the London borough of Tower Hamlets, where over a third of the population in each of these wards estimated to have low levels of essential skills needs. This was far higher than the overall average estimate for Tower Hamlets (23.6%), suggesting that large disparities exist even within boroughs. Similarly, essential skills needs in the Heslington (38.5%) and Loughborough Ashby (35.3%) wards were far higher than the overall essential skills needs in their respective local authority (22.5% in York and 21.2% in Charnwood).

Table 6: Wards with the highest levels of essential skills needs

MCA / UA / Council	Local Authority	Ward	% with low essential skills
York	York	Heslington	38.5
Essex	Colchester	Wivenhoe Cross	38.0
Devon	Exeter	Duryard	37.2
Surrey	Runnymede	Englefield Green East	36.6
GLA	Tower Hamlets	East India and Lansbury	36.2
GLA	Camden	King's Cross	35.4
Leicestershire	Charnwood	Loughborough Ashby	35.3
Kent	Canterbury	Blean Forest	34.9
Lancashire	Hyndburn	Central	34.8
Essex	Colchester	St Andrew's	34.8
GLA	Tower Hamlets	Bromley-by-Bow	34.6
WECA	Bath and North East Somerset	Bathwick	34.5
GLA	Tower Hamlets	St Dunstan's and Stepney Green	34.2

MCA / UA / Council	Local Authority	Ward	% with low essential skills
GLA	Haringey	Northumberland Park	33.8
GLA	Hackney	Springfield	33.7
GLA	Tower Hamlets	Mile End East	33.6
GLA	Tower Hamlets	Mile End and Globe Town	33.6
GLA	Camden	St Pancras and Somers Town	33.6
Lancashire	Pendle	Whitefield	33.5
GLA	Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green South	33.4

Seven of the twenty wards with the lowest levels of essential skills needs were based in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, with three based in Cambridge, three based in South Cambridgeshire, and one based in East Cambridgeshire. This was largely consistent with findings at combined authority level, where Cambridgeshire & Peterborough had the second lowest essential skills needs amongst the combined authorities.

While the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) had the third highest percentage of essential skills needs amongst the combined authorities, six of the twenty wards in England with the lowest percentage of essential skills needs were based in the GMCA. Three of these wards were based in Trafford with another three based in Manchester. This suggests that pockets with low essential skills needs exist even in areas with high essential skills needs.

Table 7: Wards with the lowest levels of essential skills needs

MCA / UA / Council	Local Authority	Ward	% with low essential skills
GMCA	Manchester	Didsbury West	15.2
GMCA	Manchester	Chorlton	15.5
GMCA	Trafford	Hale Central	15.9
CPCA	Cambridge	Romsey	16.3
CPCA	Cambridge	West Chesterton	16.3
GMCA	Trafford	Priory	16.7
CPCA	South Cambridgeshire	Longstanton	16.9
GMCA	Trafford	Altrincham	17.0
WMCA	Solihull	Blythe	17.0
WMCA	Solihull	Dorridge and Hockley Heath	17.1
GMCA	Manchester	Didsbury East	17.2
CPCA	Cambridge	Cherry Hinton	17.3
CPCA	South Cambridgeshire	Bourn	17.3
WMCA	Birmingham	Sutton Vesey	17.3
CPCA	East Cambridgeshire	Bottisham	17.3
WMCA	Solihull	Knowle	17.4
WMCA	Solihull	St Alphege	17.4
WMCA	Solihull	Meriden	17.4
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen	Fernhurst	17.5
CPCA	South Cambridgeshire	Whittlesford	17.5

Table 8 shows the 10 wards with the highest and lowest essential skills needs, matched to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). IMD rank was identified for all constituent Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) within each ward, and then averaged. IMD rank goes from 1 (most deprived) to 32,844 (least deprived).

The table shows little association between IMD rank and levels of skills needs. Although wards with high skills needs are slightly more likely to have a high level of deprivation, but there are also many wards with high skills needs and low levels of deprivation – and vice versa.

Table 8: Wards with highest and lowest essential skills needs, and Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data

Ward	Local authority	Percentage with essential skills needs	Need	IMD ward average rank (1 highest deprivation)
Heslington	York	38.5	High	29526
Wivenhoe Cross	Colchester	38.0	High	28225
Duryard	Exeter	37.2	High	21822
Englefield Green East	Runnymede	36.6	High	30835
East India and Lansbury	Tower Hamlets	36.2	High	4356
King's Cross	Camden	35.4	High	12046
Loughborough Ashby	Charnwood	35.3	High	17096
Blean Forest	Canterbury	34.9	High	28308
Central	Hyndburn	34.8	High	869
St Andrew's	Colchester	34.8	High	8999
Dorridge and Hockley Heath	Solihull	17.1	Low	30352
Blythe	Solihull	17.0	Low	30007
Altrincham	Trafford	17.0	Low	25726
Longstanton	South Cambridgeshire	16.9	Low	29797
Priory	Trafford	16.7	Low	23506
West Chesterton	Cambridge	16.3	Low	25215
Romsey	Cambridge	16.3	Low	21021
Hale Central	Trafford	15.9	Low	28255
Chorlton	Manchester	15.5	Low	17427
Didsbury West	Manchester	15.2	Low	18800