



SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST STRATEGIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK INDICATORS: EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

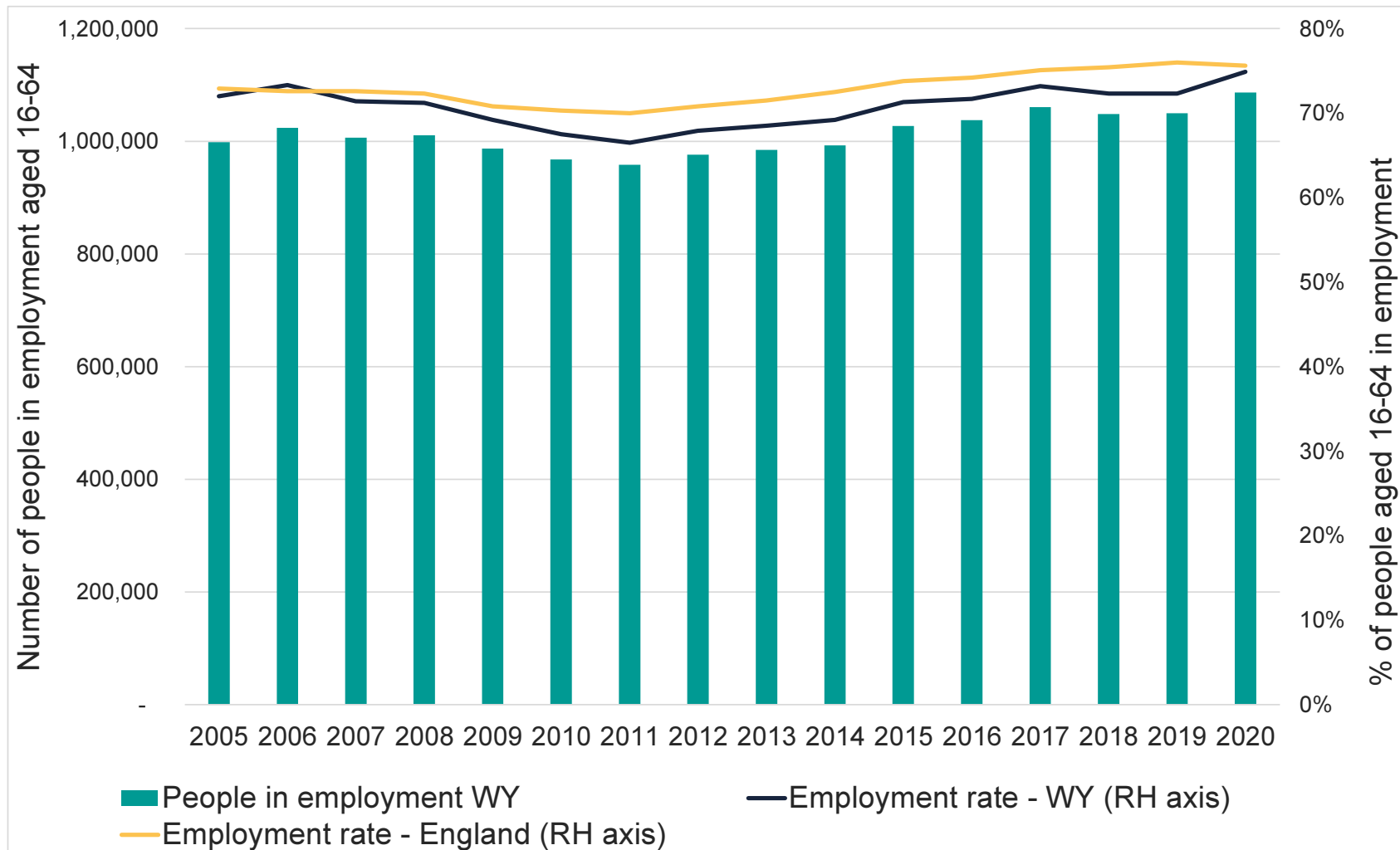
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS COMMITTEE, 29 OCTOBER 2021

Introduction

- The following slides provide an overview of West Yorkshire's performance and progress against the headline indicators for the Combined Authority's Strategic Economy Framework
- A subset of indicators has been presented, reflecting those most directly relevant to the Employment and Skills agenda.
- An assessment of progress against the full range of indicators is provided in the forthcoming State of the Region report.

West Yorkshire's employment rate has been on an upward trend in recent years

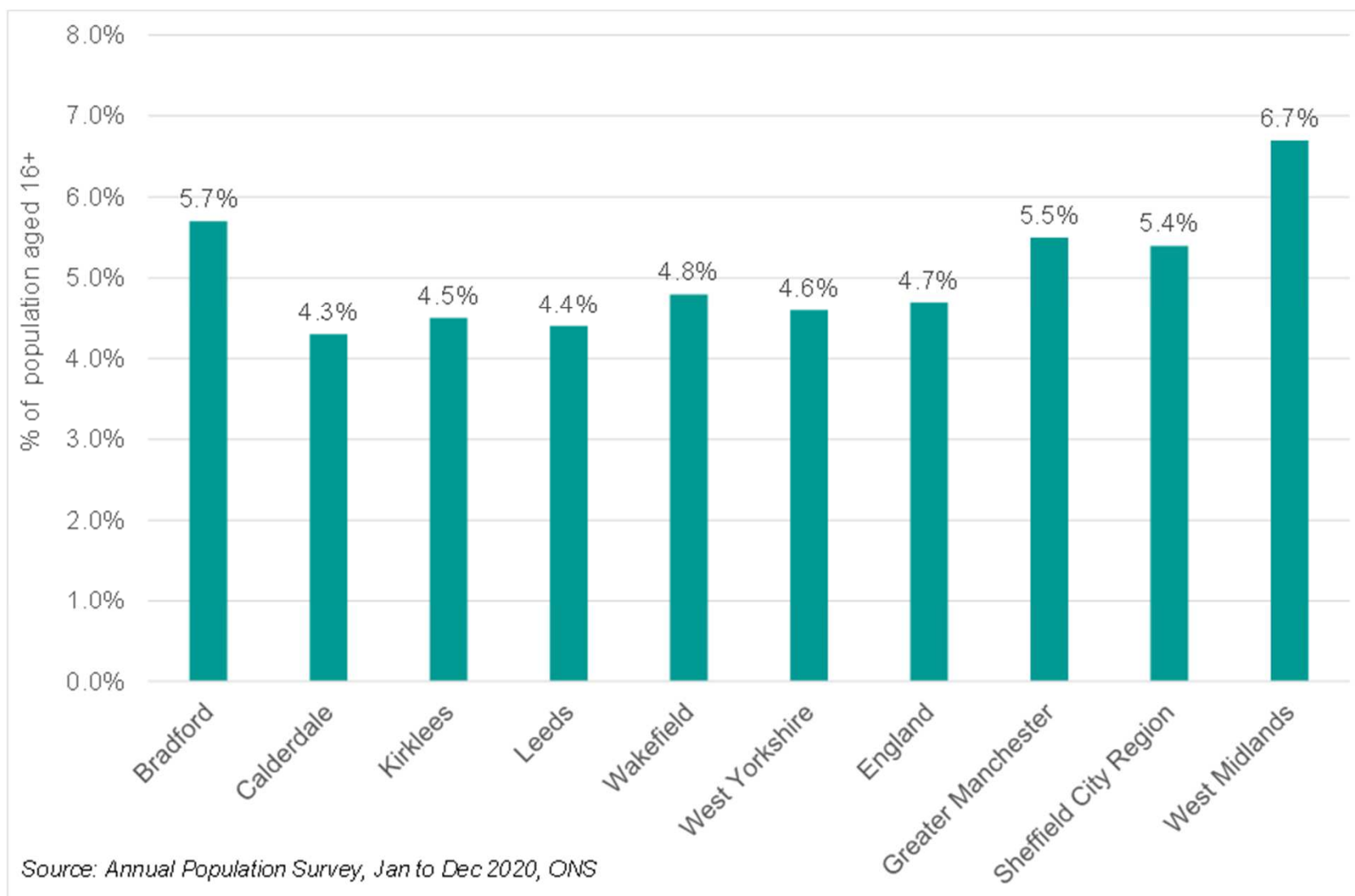
Figure: Trend in employment rate and number of people in employment)



Source: Annual Population Survey, (January to December datasets), ONS

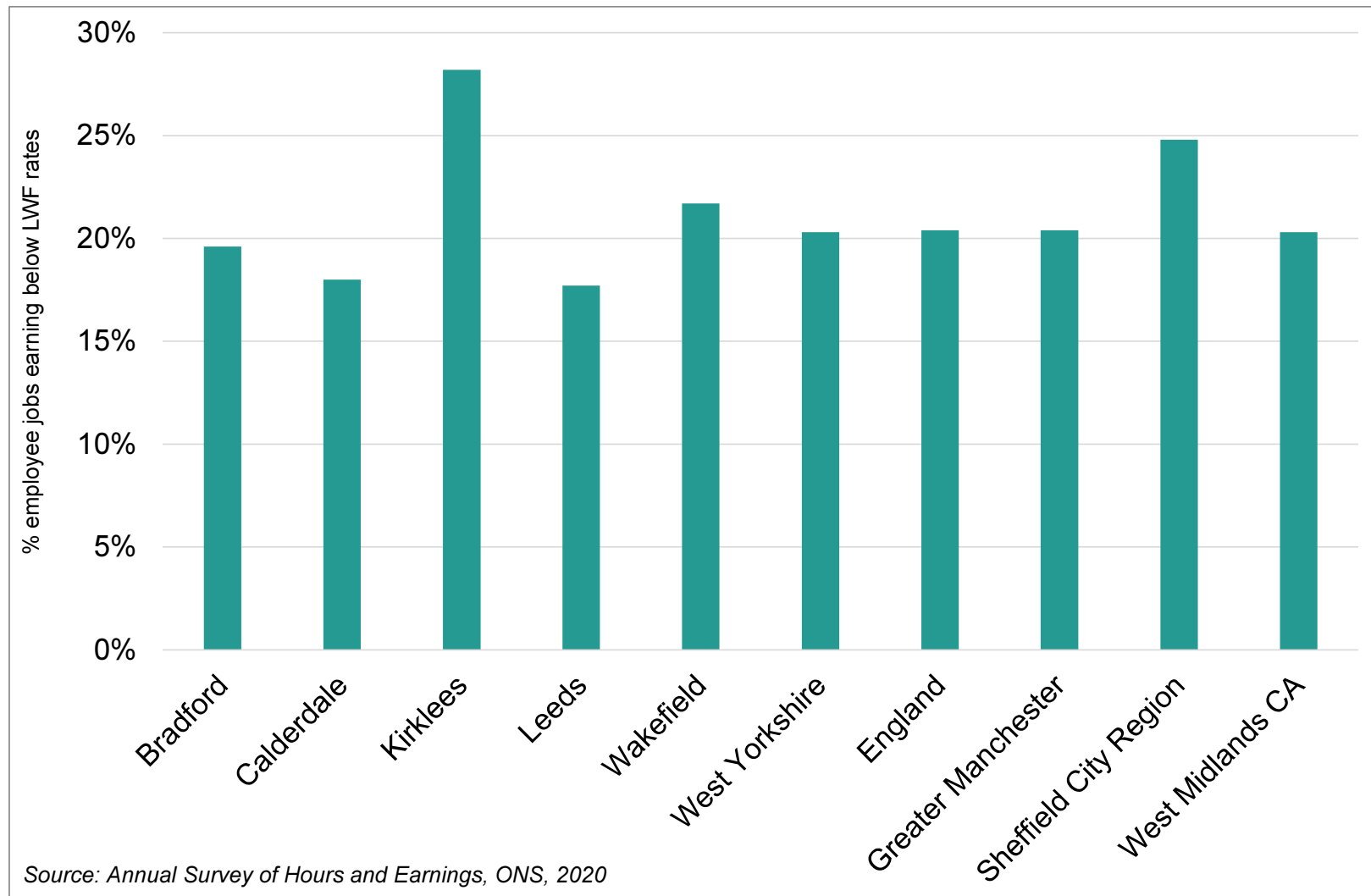
West Yorkshire's unemployment rate is at near parity with the national average

Figure: Unemployment rate - % of economically active population aged 16+



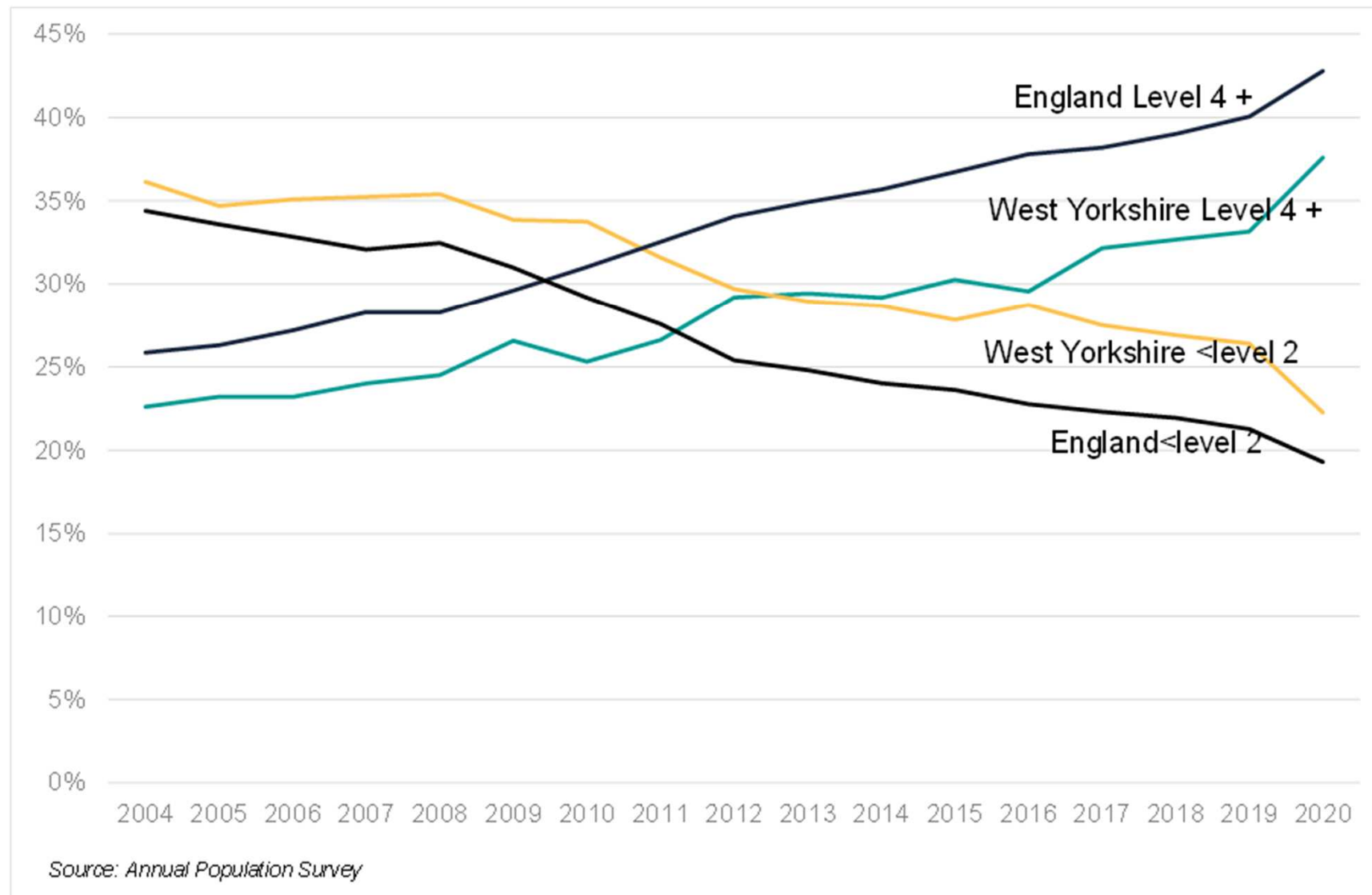
20% of jobs in West Yorkshire pay below the Real Living Wage

Figure: Proportion of all employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real living wage rate



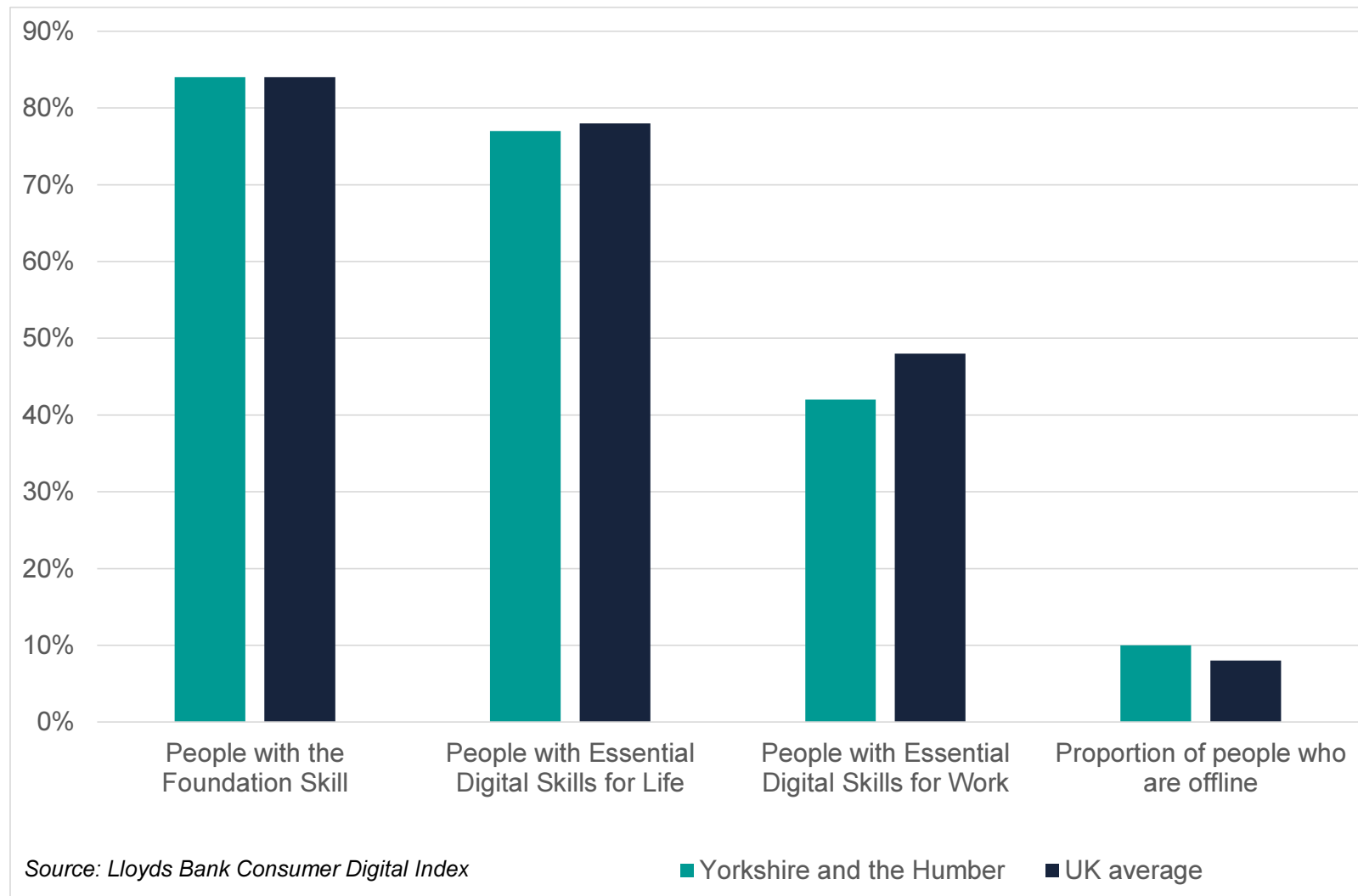
West Yorkshire has narrowed the gap with the national average on its qualification profile

Figure: Trend in proportion of working age population qualified at Level 4+ versus proportion with no qualifications / qualified below Level 2



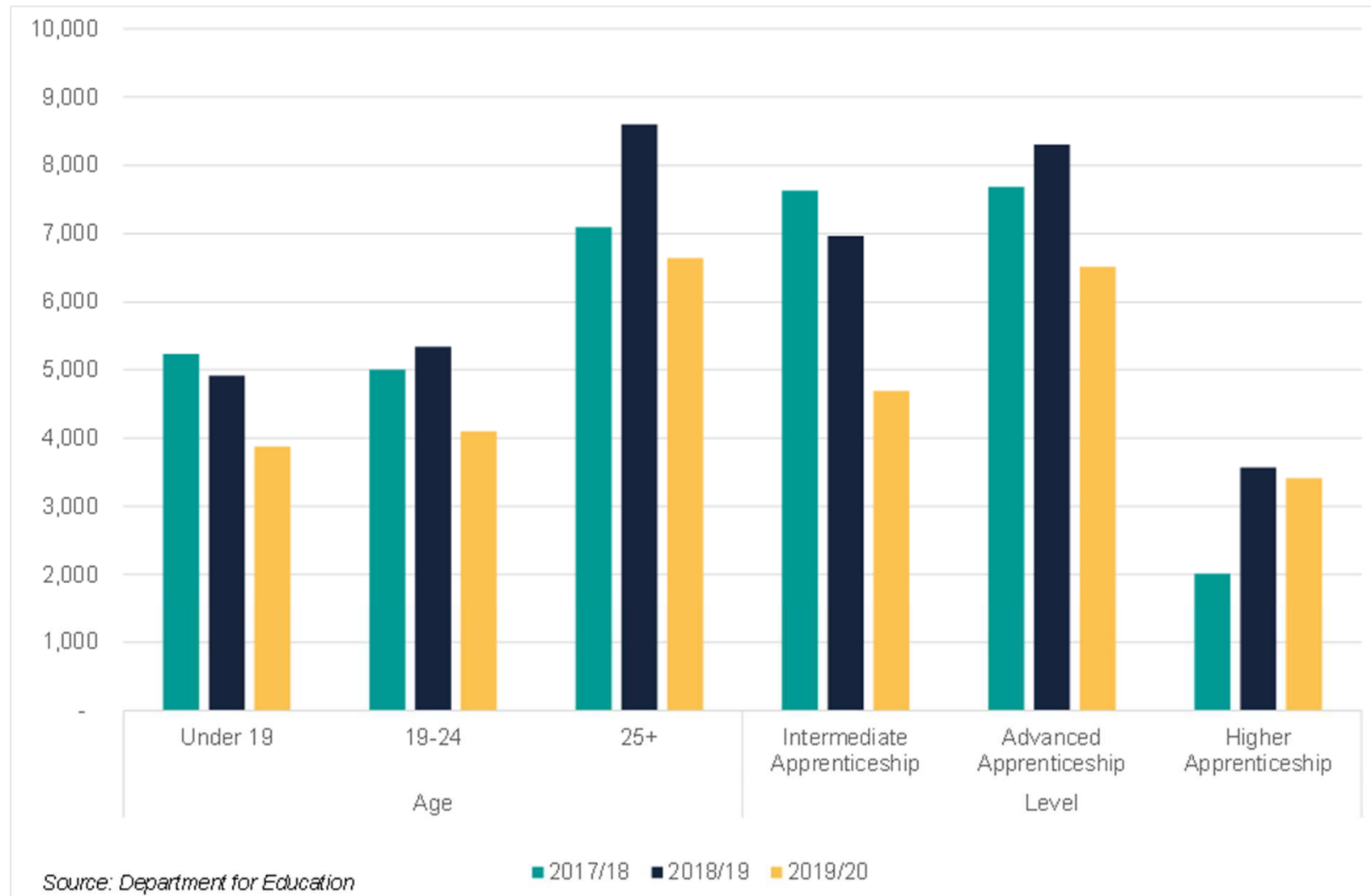
More than half of people lack the full range of essential digital skills for work

Figure: Digital skills – proportion of people aged 15+ who have each skill level



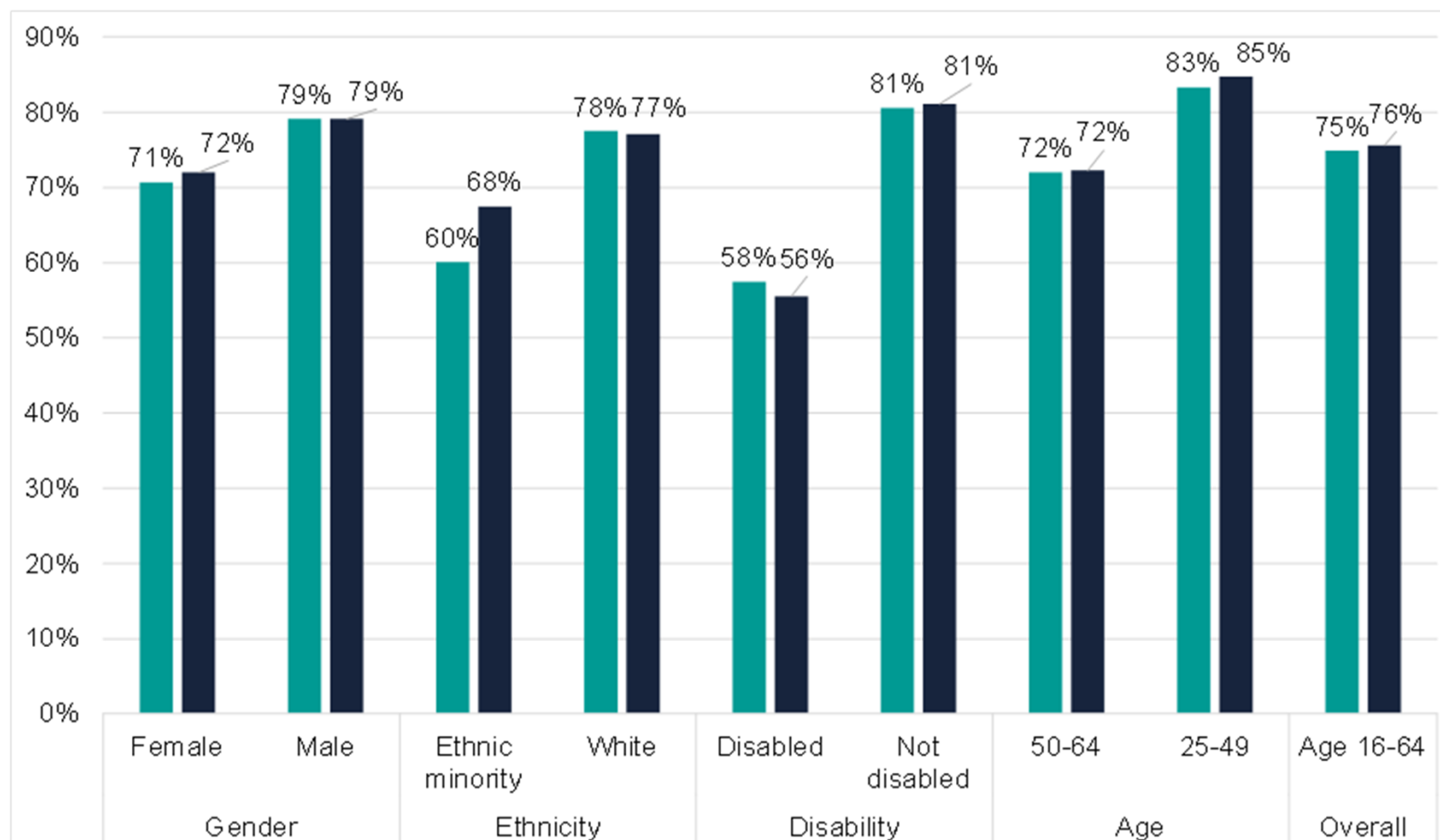
There has been a negative effect on apprenticeship starts from COVID-19 and the apprenticeship reforms.

Figure: Trend in apprenticeship starts by age and level, West Yorkshire



Inequality in the labour market is reflected in differences in employment rates

Figure: Employment rate by group

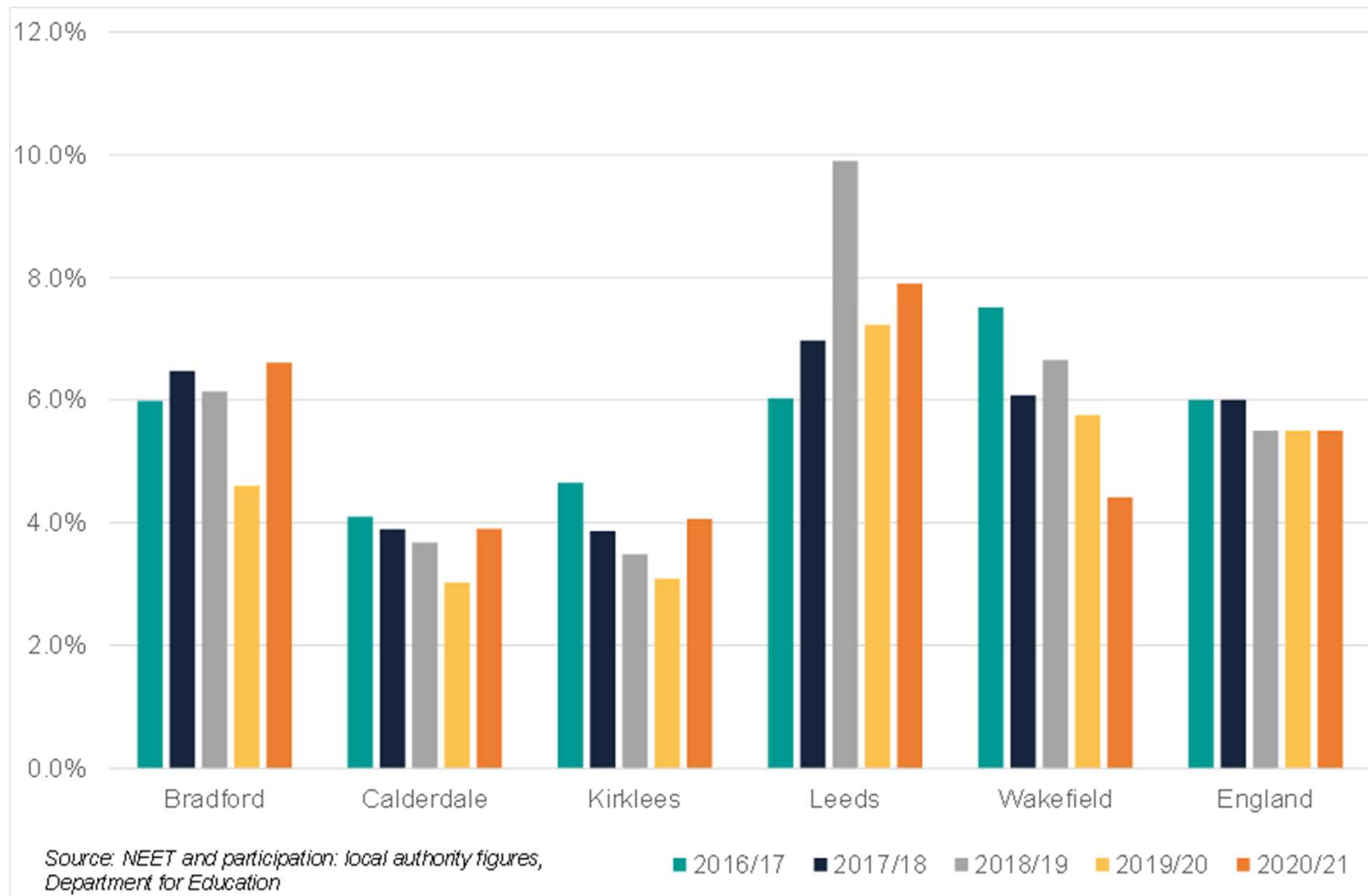


Source: Annual Population Survey,
Jan 2020 to Dec 2020

■ West Yorkshire ■ England

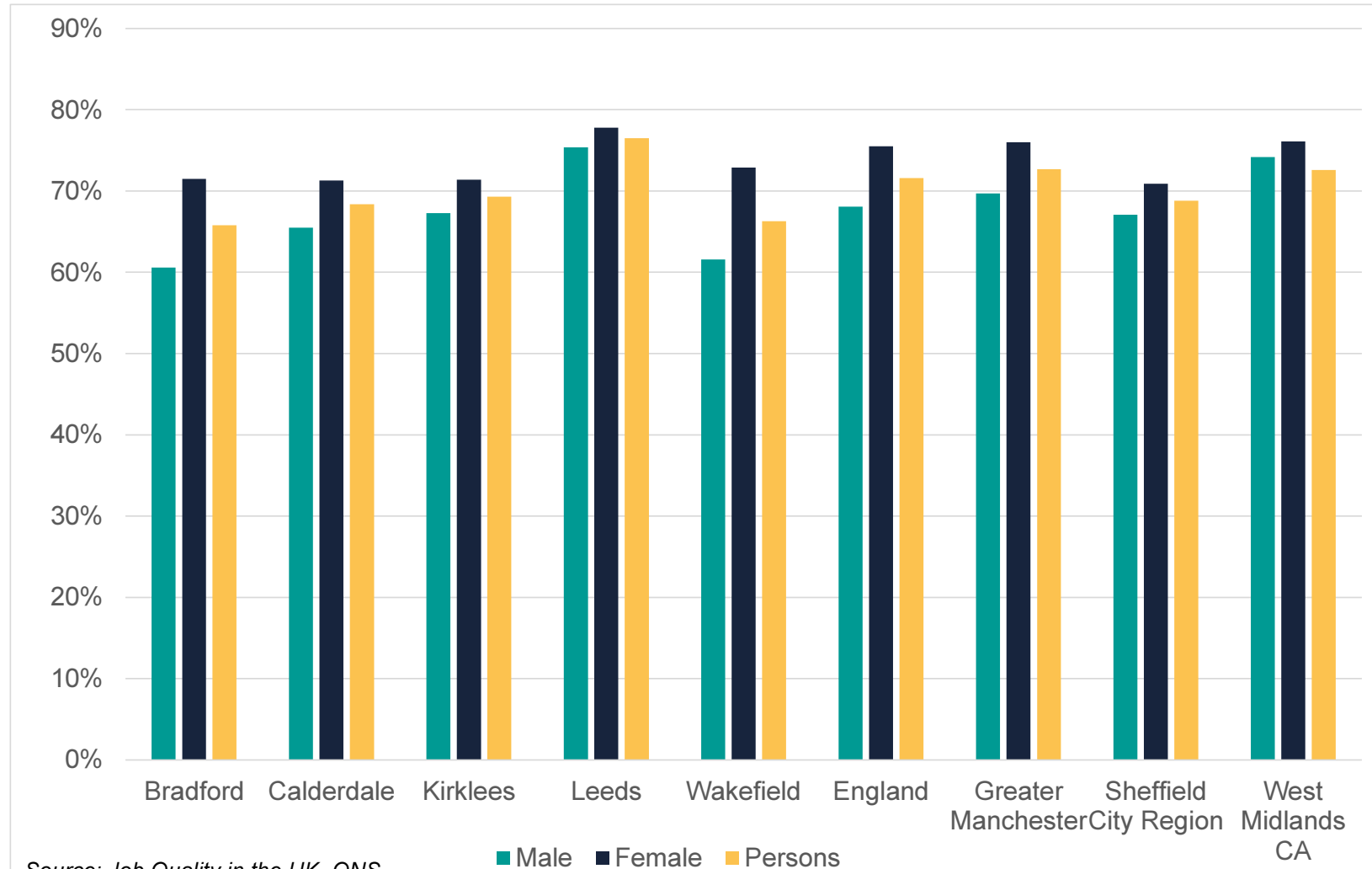
% of young people who are NEET in West Yorkshire is slightly above the national average

Figure: Trend in proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known



All local authorities in West Yorkshire except Leeds are below the national average on quality work

Figure: Proportion of residents who are employees in quality work by sex, 2018



Source: Job Quality in the UK, ONS

Conclusions

- The latest data indicate that West Yorkshire has seen recent positive improvements in terms of growth in employment and reductions in unemployment.
- There has also been progress on the longstanding issue of West Yorkshire's weak skills, as the qualification gap with the national average narrowed in 2020.
- However, there are issues around the quality of work that is available in the region and also in respect of access to employment for disadvantaged groups.
- The indicators also show that the pandemic has had an adverse effect on the skills system, reflected in the sharp fall in apprenticeship starts.