

## Northumberland's High Schools Performance Post-16

Which ever way you look at it, this set of data does not install confidence in a system that is about to send children into these schools for longer. To my mind these results demonstrate that 100% accountability, continuity, staying within a Key Stage for the entire duration of its teaching, and increased time spent within a school to embed education are not key to improving results – in fact these hammer that argument for 6.

The main indicators of performance appear to be average point score per student and average point score per exam. Comparisons across 2002,2003 and 2004 have been made to provide year on year performance of data that has been presented in the same format (GCE/VCE for A/AS qualification). Prior to 2002 the data were provided by the DFES<sup>1</sup> in a differing format, and therefore do not feel that fair comparisons can be made.

### Comparisons with other LEAs

Comparisons across other leas undertaken on the 2003 data (2004 not seem to be available). Measures of performance were based upon average point score per candidate (APS/C) and average point score per examination entry (APS/EE).

<b>Comparison</b>	<b>Northumberland APS/C in 2003</b>	<b>Northumberland APS/EE in 2003</b>
<b>Gender differences</b>	Males < females	Males < females
<b>Statistical neighbour</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> / 11	8 <sup>th</sup> / 11
<b>In relation to England average</b>	Below	Equal
<b>National LEA position</b>	68 <sup>th</sup> / 150 (top 45%)	59 <sup>th</sup> / 150 (top 39%)

Therefore despite appearing low down compared with statistical neighbours, Northumberland poll in the top 50% of LEAs when compared nationally.

One aspect of note is that Northumberland does appear to be very near to the bottom of the national tables concerning the % pupils achieving post-16 vocational qualifications (10 th / 11 statistical neighbours). Perhaps any re-arrangement of the educational system within this county could encompass the broadening of vocational training availability throughout the county's High schools to enable easy access for all pupils wishing to pursue this route.

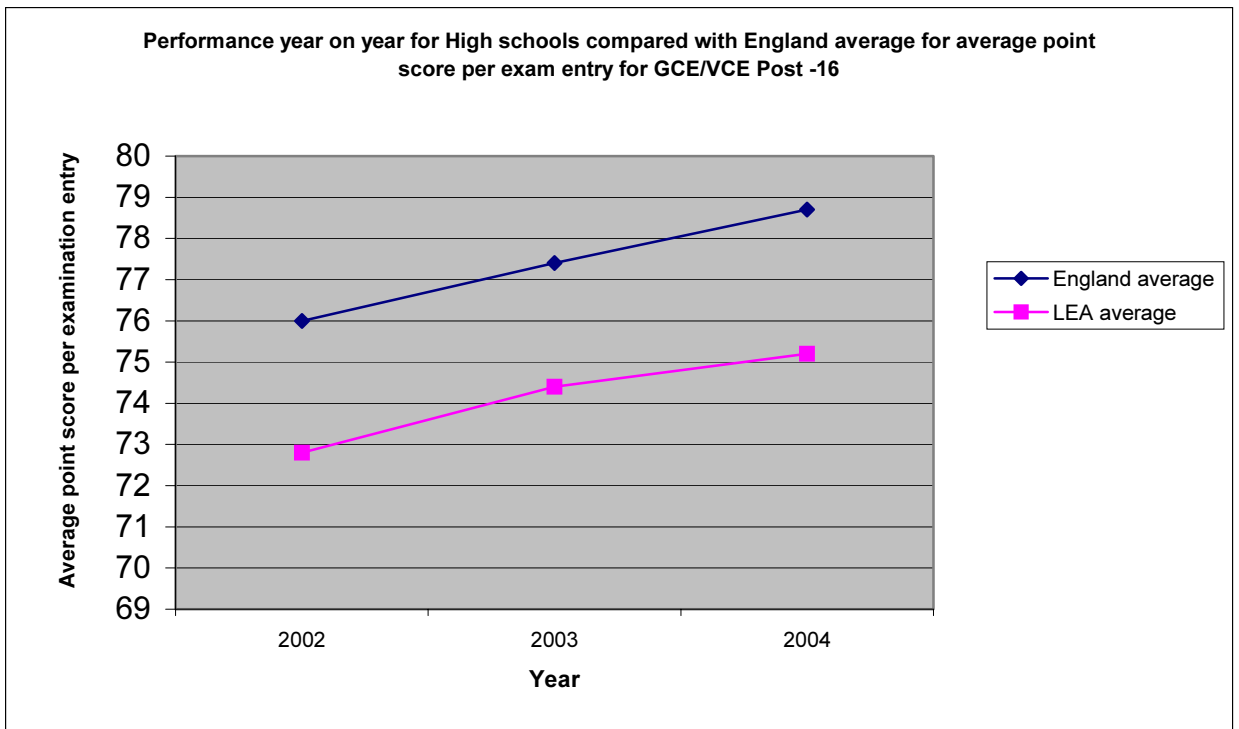
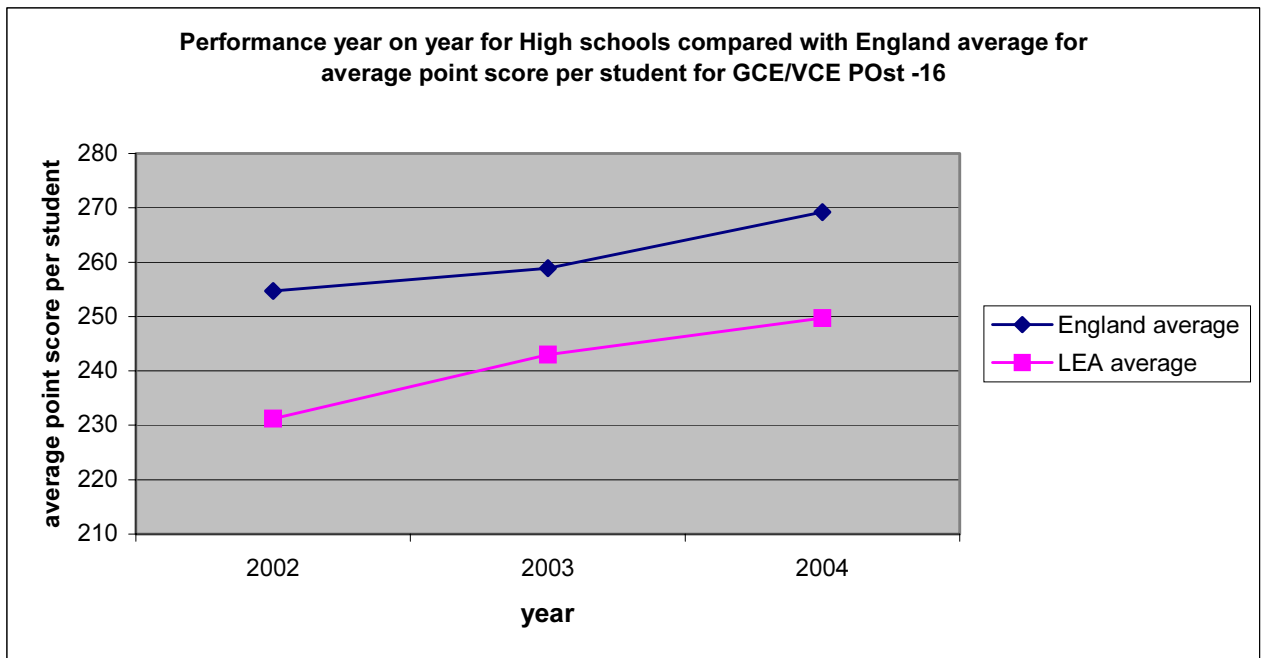
### Comparison with England average

	2002 APS/C	2002 APS/EE	2003 APS/C	2003 APS/EE	2004 APS/C	2004 APS/EE
Northumberland LEA average	231.2	72.8	243	74.4	249.7	75.2
England average	254.7	76	258.9	77.4	269.2	78.7

On all counts the average result for Northumberland, although rising year on year, falls below those of the England overall average. This is demonstrated very well on the graphs below.

---

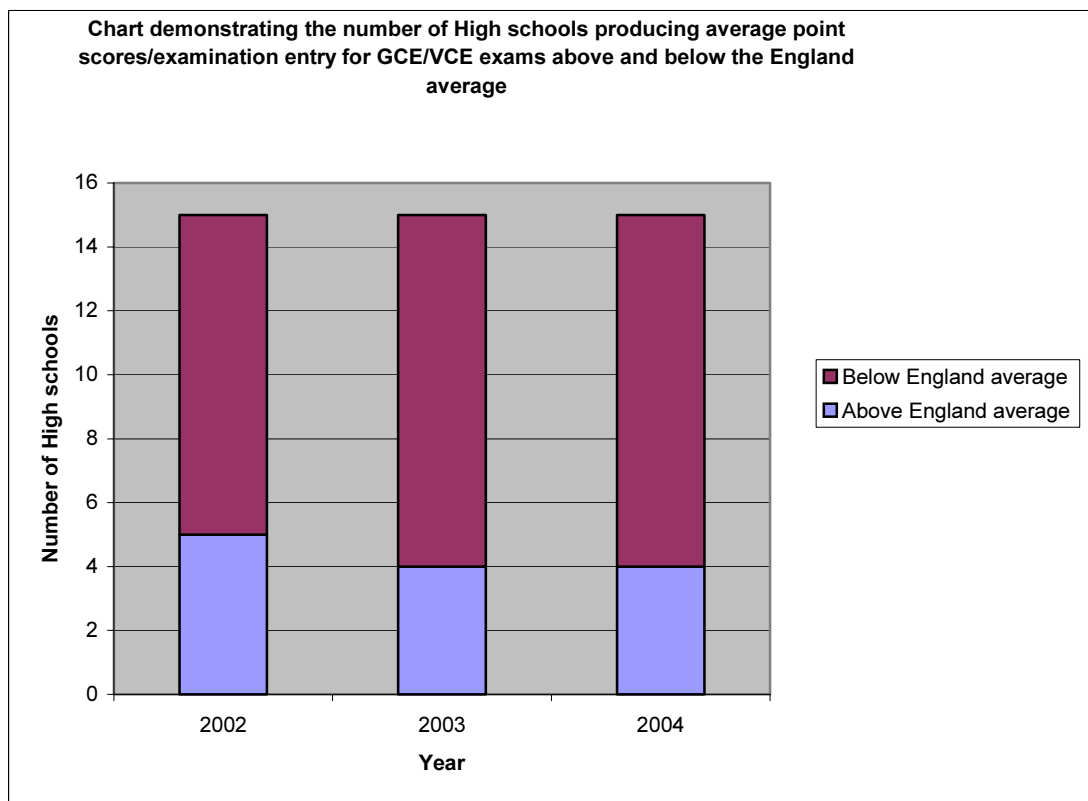
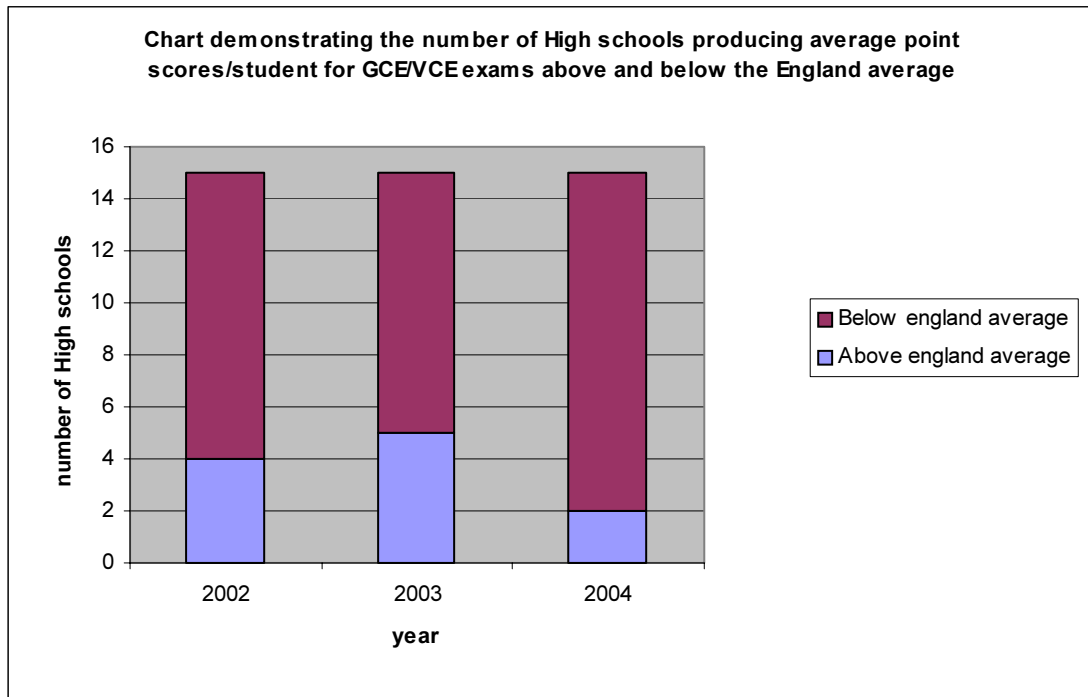
<sup>1</sup> All data has been taken from the Post-16 Performance Tables of data found on the DFES web site.



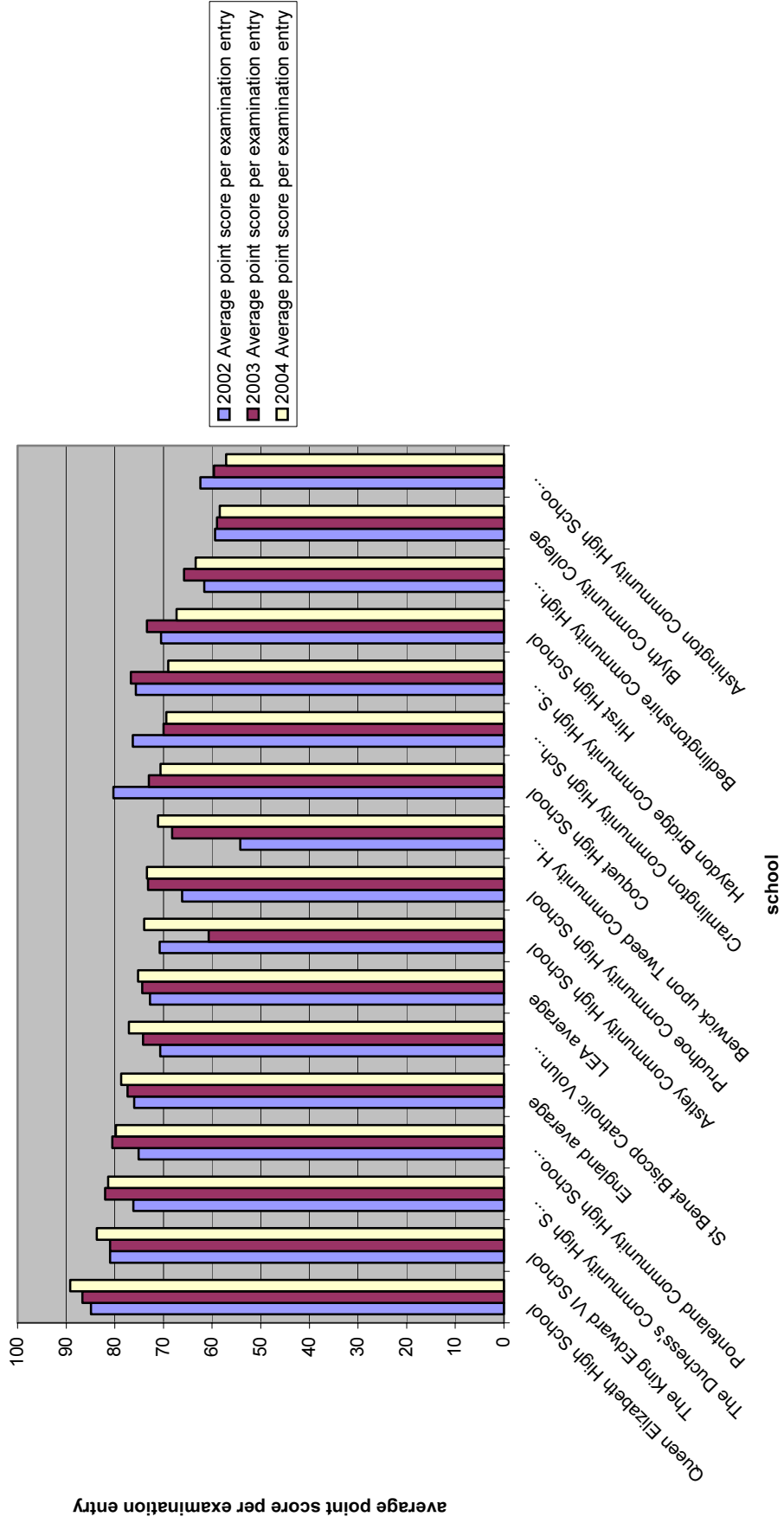
Despite being lower, the LEA average results for Northumberland have shown greater improvement than the England average since 2002 (8% and 5.69% respectively for APS/C).

## Northumberland High Schools

Over the 3 years studied, Northumberland High schools averaged overall APS/S and APS/EE lower than the England average. Individually, there were only 4, 5 and 2 high schools in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively that achieved an APS/S score higher than the national average (that is 11, 10 and 13 falling below). The same pattern emerges for APS/EE, where 5, 4 and 4 High schools surpass the national average in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively.



Year on year comparison of High schools for average point score per examination entry



Year on year comparison of high schools for average point scored per student at GCE/VCE

