People of working age in Suffolk have no qualifications (2018) - lower than both the East (7.4%) and Great Britain (7.8%).

There are no social mobility hot spots in Suffolk.

The Social Mobility Index compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job across each of the 324 local authority district areas of England.

5.1% People of working age in Suffolk have no qualifications (2018) - lower than both the East (7.4%) and Great Britain (7.8%).

5.1%

The proportion of young people in Jan 2019 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>% NEET January 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waveney</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Heath</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babergh</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Edmundsbury</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk Coastal</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Suffolk</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk County</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

79% of local authority maintained schools in Suffolk are judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted (March 2019), compared to 85% for England.
3. How we ensure that we do not widen the social mobility gap and help people find sustainable employment.

2. Growing and retaining skill levels in Suffolk, and attracting higher skilled professional jobs and people.

1. Encouraging larger companies to locate in Suffolk, and increasing productivity and GVA per head.

Top 3 challenges:
- Social mobility in many areas presents a significant challenge.
- We employ more people than average in the caring, leisure and other service occupations and fewer people than average in professional occupations, however, our unemployment rate is lower than national and regional averages and the results of our students are improving.
- The majority of businesses are small and our weekly pay and average skill levels need to be increased as both are below national and regional averages.

Regionally, the working age population is older than the national average: 65% of the predominantly rural population was of working age, 16 to 64 (65% for predominantly urban).

Although this report was created after these changes, most of the sources for the data in the report use the pre-2019 council areas, so these geographies may still be used.

Educational attainment:
- Year: various
- Source: Department for Education
- Date Accessed: 21 November 2019
- Website: https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/
- See the above websites for data caveats

Higher education participation:
- Year: 2016
- Source: UCAS
- Date Accessed: 20 July 2018
- Website: www.ucas.com/corporate/data-and-analytic/ucas-undergraduate-releases/he-entry-rates
- Any other comments: For people living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, UCAS covers the overwhelming majority of full-time undergraduate provision. Therefore, the statistics on acceptances or entry rates can be taken as being very close to all recruitment to full-time undergraduate higher education. The number of 18 year olds accepted to higher education through UCAS from each parliamentary constituency, along with the entry rate (the number of acceptances divided by the population. HEFCE data has not been updated since 2011/12.

Commentary:
- Suffolk has a lower proportion of working age people than nationally meaning it faces more of a productivity challenge than other areas – our low GVA per head reinforces this.
- The majority of businesses are small and our weekly pay and average skill levels need to be increased as both are below national and regional averages.
- We employ more people than average in the caring, leisure and other service occupations and fewer people than average in professional occupations, however, our unemployment rate is lower than national and regional averages and the results of our students are improving.
- Social mobility in many areas presents a significant challenge.
- Suffolk is a good barometer for the national economy as local changes tend to reflect the national position.

Top 3 challenges:
1. Encouraging larger companies to locate in Suffolk, and increasing productivity and GVA per head.
2. Growing and retaining skill levels in Suffolk, and attracting higher skilled professional jobs and people.
3. How we ensure that we do not widen the social mobility gap and help people find sustainable employment.