

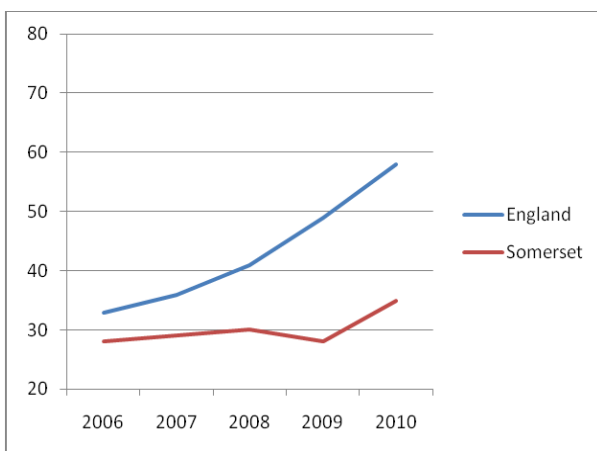
## Raising Aspirations Programme Summary

Young people from the poorest households in Somerset are being left behind as educational attainment levels England continue to improve year on year. Urgent action is needed to break the cycle of under-achievement and low aspirations which is denying young people in Somerset the opportunities they deserve.

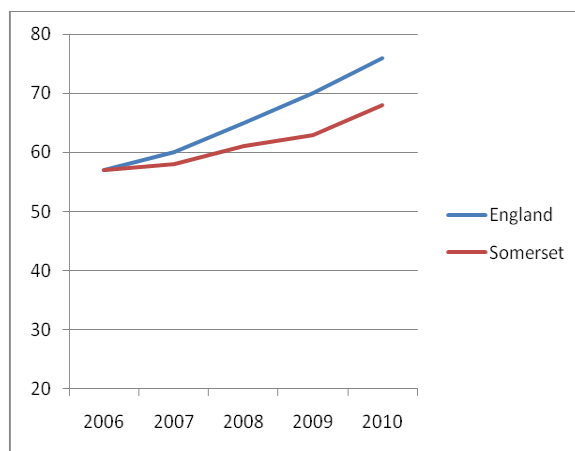
There is an alarming gap growing between the attainment levels of young people in Somerset and the average for England, particularly by children from the poorest families. This is illustrated very clearly in these graphs.

### Pupils achieving 5 GCSE Grade A\*-C

*Eligible for Free School Meals*



*All Pupils*



Pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs in 2010	National Average	Somerset	National Rank (out of <b>157</b> local authority areas)
All pupils	76%	68%	<b>149<sup>th</sup></b>
Pupils on free schools meals	58%	35%	<b>156<sup>th</sup></b>

Somerset Community Foundation is an independent charitable foundation with the freedom and flexibility to address the most critical issues affecting our communities. Addressing the poor attainment by young people in Somerset is one of our highest priorities, an issue we can address through the following:

1. **Mentoring** – we can facilitate links between businesses and schools to provide one-to-one support to local pupils to help them fulfil their potential in life.
2. **Community projects** – supporting local grassroots community projects that help children and young people overcome disadvantage and isolation.
3. **Convening** – bringing multiple stakeholders together to develop joined up responses, bridging public, private and voluntary sectors.