



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 8th December 2022

To: Chair and Members of the Children and Young People's Overview And Scrutiny Committee Panel

Report Title: Children and Young People Not In Education, Employment Or Training (NEET)

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Cllr Lani-Mae Ball Cabinet Member, Education, Skills and Young People	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Under Part 1 of Education and Skills Act 2008, young people aged 16 and 17 are under a duty to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday – this is called Raising the Participation Age. The Government want young people to take responsibility for the decisions that affect their own future.
2. As per this duty, the local authority carries out robust tracking and monitoring of the 16-18 cohort (up to age 25 for those with an Education Health Care Plan), offering targeted support (impartial information, advice and guidance) to all young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), enabling, encouraging and assisting a positive transition into an Education, Employment and/or Training (EET) destination. The monthly outcomes continue to show us better than regional and national averages.

EXEMPT REPORT

3. There are no exemptions

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. It is recommended that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel notes:
 - The continued work undertaken working closely with colleagues and partners, local post-16 providers, the Education Standards Funding Agency (ESFA) and directly with young people to establish the destinations for the 16-18 cohort.
 - That to fulfil our statutory duties, robust tracking continues on a monthly basis, helping to identify the destinations of the 'Not Known' cohort, offer support to those who are NEET, signposting where appropriate and promoting 'participation in learning' to increase the number of young people into EET.
 - Young people who are NEET who require more ongoing direct support are referred to the Pathways to Progression Ambition 16-18 NEET Education Standards Fund (ESF) programme.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5. The citizens in this age group being tracked and monitored with targeted support is allowing for them to have support, gain knowledge and have access to education, employment and training opportunities that will improve life chances, whatever their current status.

BACKGROUND

6. The table below includes the NEET, Not Known and 'In Learning' figures for all Doncaster young people aged 16-18 (Years 12 and 13) as at the end of August 2022 – cohort total 6,973.
7. Please note that this is the final data for the 2021/22 cohort of young people and the latest official figures from the Department for Education (DfE). Please also note the cohort increase from August 2020 (6,526) to August 2021 (6,736) to August 2022 (6,973). 447 additional young people (16-18) who we are now required to track since 2020.

August 2022	Cohort (Y12/Y13)	NEET		Not Known		NEET & NK	Combined Total		In Learning
		No.	%	No.	%				
Doncaster	6,973	245	3.5%	94	1.3%	339	4.9%		92.3%
Yorks/Humber	122,600	4,338	3.5%	15,770	12.9%	20,108	16.4%		80.4%
England	1,211,508	36,400	3.0%	85,019	7.0%	121,419	10.0%		87.1%

8. Although these figures give a monthly snapshot, the only official figures 'published' by the DfE is a 3-month average of the December, January and February figures, annually. This is when the DfE believe that young people are in their most settled destinations.

9. The currency requirements set out by the Department for Education (DfE) mean that it is normal for the proportion of young people whose current activity is 'not known' to rise sharply over the summer. DfE does not monitor 'not knowns' between July and September and LAs are advised not to benchmark their performance against others during this period.
10. As at the 1st September 2022, we started tracking the new cohort of Y12 & Y13, so the figures re-set at 100% NEET & Not Known.
11. Since the beginning of September 2022, we have received and updated enrolment information for over 6,000 young people (from a cohort of over 7,000 young people). In order to reduce the number of young people who are NEET or Not Known even further, we carry out direct follow-up via telephone, text, email, social media and home visits. During October half term, we carried out targeted home visits to the NEET & Not Known cohort to establish a current destination and/or offer support. We have been able to secure more up to date details by doing this.
12. Face-to-face NEET events have now restarted in partnership with local training providers. All Doncaster NEET young people (academic age Y12 & Y13) are invited to these events by letter and have the opportunity to speak with a range of providers and employers. The most recent training provider event was held on 29th September 2022, with 40 young people attending. All of these young people were able to speak with a local post-16 training provider and were offered an interview.
13. Regular 'tracking' letters are also posted out to the 'Not Known' cohort (most of whom we do not have a current telephone number), asking these young people to make contact with us to discuss support and available options. These tracking letters are used to signpost young people to available support platforms such as the START Careers website. As mentioned above, NEET support is tailored to the young person's needs and includes telephone, text, email, social media, home visits and face-to-face at community venues.

Inspiring Futures - Care Leavers

14. Every care leaver in the Inspiring Futures Team, is advised of the EET offer. This includes support from the PA for ETE (Careers Advisor) for 1:1 Careers Information, Advice and Guidance, CV writing, job preparation as well as sign posting and referral to suitable provision that meets their needs. We work closely with the DATM Group (Doncaster Area Training Managers) and have named links with the College and training providers. Information can be found in the Care Leaver Opportunity Guide on provision in Doncaster. We also connect with business who support the Care Leaver Covenant including Nexus and promote their vacancies to Care Leavers.

Total Caseload = 245 (17-24 years of age)

15,

Not in Education, Employment or Training	71	29%
In Education, Employment or Training	174	71%

16. The 71 Young People who are NEET are monitored on a regular basis either through fortnightly EET Clinics with Personal Advisors (PA) or through the PA's reviewing their Pathway Plans and ensuring that they are aware of the EET offer of support.
17. Not all young people are ready to enter education, employment or training due to other circumstances for example, housing, however support continues to be provided to young people to enable them to progress into EET. An offer continues to all Care Leavers, whatever their circumstances, including access to Careers support when they are ready.
18. The tables below show a breakdown of information across cohorts.

DFE Caseload = 199 (17-21 years old)

Not in Education, Employment or Training	53	27%
In Education, Employment or Training	146	73%

Year 12

19. Of those young people who are in Year 12, 84% are in Education Employment and Training, with continued support provided to those young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (16%).

Year 13

20. Of those young people who are in Year 13, 76% are in Education Employment and Training, with continued support provided to those young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (24%). 18% of young people from this cohort are studying towards a Level 3 qualification potentially progressing to a University Course post Year

Non DFE Caseload (21-24 Year Olds)

21. Of those young people aged 21-24, 61% are in Education, Employment and Training, with continued support being provided to those young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (39%).

OPTIONS CONSIDERED





22. This section is not applicable

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

23. This section is not applicable

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

24.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	✓			
Comments: Young people are identified within Key Stage 4 at school if they are at risk of becoming NEET at post 16. Schools continue to work with them and answer to our requests both statutory and non-statutory to update us on proposed destination and activity. When the young people leave secondary education the contact increases for the young people who have found themselves not in EET. Our staff expertise that can then guide these young people towards the increasing breadth of EET opportunity in Doncaster. This enables them to decide on the most appropriate destination to suit their current status; personal circumstances, academic ability or skills focus and then develop them in an area of interest that will help prepare them for future employment.				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments: relevant				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			

Comments: All young people should have the chance to develop the skills they need for adult life. Continuing in learning will give young people as much chance as possible to get the qualifications, the knowledge and the practical skills they need to help them succeed. Leaving education early with few or no qualifications can severely limit a young person's choices later in life. There is evidence that young people who stay in education or training between 16 and 18 have better chances of future employment, better health and a higher income.

Tracking young people's participation is a key element. By collecting destination information, young people who are not participating, or are NEET, can be identified and given support to re-engage quickly. Robust tracking also provides us with information that helps to ensure suitable education and training provision is available and that resources can be targeted effectively – referring and signposting to appropriate opportunities.

 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			

Comments: Ensuring that our support 'offer' is impartial, varied, fair and inclusive, means that we can meet the different needs and aspirations of our young people, helping them to overcome barriers and to prevent NEET. It is also crucial that we continue to develop our understanding of the circumstances and needs of different groups of young people and the barriers that result in them becoming NEET. Being NEET between the ages of 16 and 18 years is associated with later negative outcomes, such as unemployment, lower pay, having a criminal record, poor health, teenage parenthood and negative psychological outcomes.

Increasing participation in education, employment and training is key to advancing equality of opportunity.

Legal implications

25. No Legal Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

Financial implications

26. No Financial Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

Human Resources Implications

27. No Human Resources Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

Technology Implications

28. No Technology Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

29. Ongoing support for young people is imperative, to enable full access and equitable opportunity for access to Education, Employment and Training for all young people in Doncaster and to mitigate where possible the risk of young people become NEET.

CONSULTATION

30. Consultation and engagement is undertaken regularly with key partners as part of the monitoring, tacking and also support provided to young people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

31. Participation of young people in education, employment or training statutory guidance for local authorities (DFE 2016)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

32.

- Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Education, Employment or Training (EET)
- Department for Education (DfE)
- Education Standards Funding Agency (ESFA)

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