

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
7 JUNE 2018**

**Not in Education, Employment and Training Update**

---

**Recommendation**

1. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to:
  - a) Note the approach taken to working with young people who are Not in Education, Employment and Training, and
  - b) Consider any support that could be offered to young people in care and leaving care to improve their outcomes post 16.

**Background**

Statutory guidance and legislation – our obligations

**2. Education and Skills Act 2008** (sections 10, 12 and 68)

The DfE provides the framework to increase participation and reduce the proportion of young people NEET, but the responsibility and accountability lies with local authorities.

**3. Local Authorities** have existing duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. These duties are to:

- *Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people who are over compulsory school age but under 19 and for those up to age 25 with a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in their area. To fulfil this, local authorities must have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.*
- *Make available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those up to age 25 with an LDA or EHCP, support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training.*
- *Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of young people aged 16, 17 years old in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training. A key element of this is identifying the young people in their area who are covered by the duty to participate and encouraging them to find a suitable education or training place.*
- *Local authorities must make arrangements to identify those aged 16, 17 years old and up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday who are not participating in education or training.*

4. Local authorities also have a duty to provide strategic leadership in their areas to support participation in education, training and employment - working with and influencing partners by:

- *Ensuring a focus on participation is embedded and communicated throughout the authority's services for children and young people;*
- *Ensuring the services for young people in the local area come together to meet the needs of young people – including funding for education and training places and re-engagement provision;*
- *Agreeing ways of working with other partners such as Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), Jobcentre Plus, employers, voluntary and community sector organisations, health services, police, and probation services; and*
- *Working with neighbouring authorities, especially where young people routinely travel out of the area to access education and training, for work or other services.*

### **The current picture of NEETs in Worcestershire**

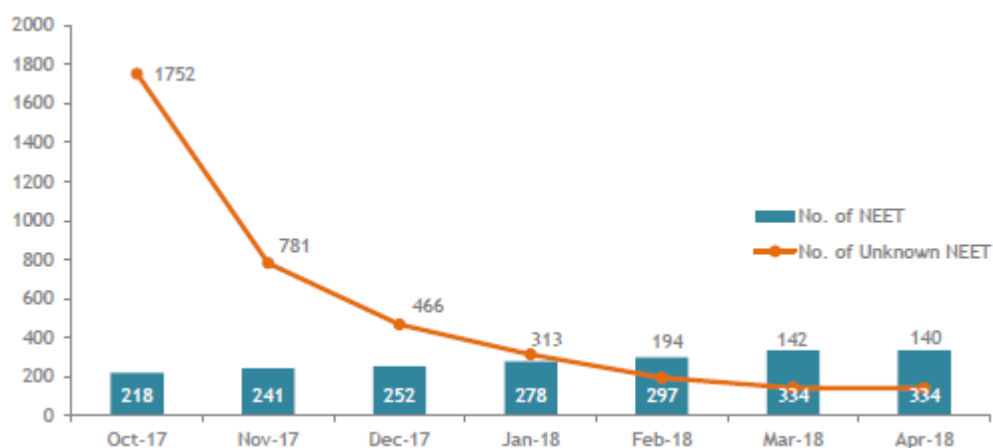
5. The DfE publishes data submitted by local authorities through the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS). CCIS contains data on a variety of linked identifiers used by the DfE for comparison including Participation, September Guarantee, Intended Destinations, Special Educational Needs, Vulnerable Groups and Youth Contract with a particular focus on NEETs and those whose status with regard to their participation in education, employment and training is "Unknown".

6. Local authorities with high rates of NEETs and Unknowns are subject to increased scrutiny and pressure from central government to show improvement.

7. Following significant work between 2013–2016, the proportion of identified "true" NEETs in Worcestershire has remained low, down to 2.8% in April 2018 with an Unknown figure of 1.3%, resulting in a combined unknown NEET figure of 4.1%.

8. This figure compared to a NEET combined NEET unknown figure of 6.7% across England and 7.7% in the West Midlands shows the investment made by Worcestershire County Council since March 2014 has supported improving outcomes for young people.

9. However whilst these figures suggest low numbers of young people in the county finding themselves NEET, Worcestershire County Council recognises that those people currently in this group are amongst the county's most vulnerable often involving care leavers, young people with SEN needs or those with mental health problems which can have long term economic consequences on our public services and our economy.



## Looked after Children in the NEET group

**10.** Based on residents of Worcestershire (not necessarily under Worcestershire's care services)

Years 12-13 (statutory obligation)

- No of Looked After Children who are NEET - 19
- Percentage of County wide Looked After Children who are NEET - 15.7 %

**11.** Based on Young People in and out of county who are in Worcestershire's care services.

Year 12-13 (statutory obligation)

- No of Looked After Children who are NEET – 23\*
- Percentage of Young People in Worcestershire's care who are NEET - 20.2%\*

\*NB a young person out of area cannot be taken off the NEET register until the local authority within their resident address confirms the transfer of responsibility

## Worcestershire County Council Education Services for NEETs

**12.** In October 2015, WCC contracted a number of Education Services to Babcock Prime, our education delivery partner which included the then titled Post 16 team whose role it is to work with and support our young people aged 16-18 who find themselves NEET back into Education, Employment and Training.

**13.** In May 2017, the team was charged with reporting on barriers to inclusion that were faced by these young people in the NEET group, at this time Prime reported that there were over 24 young people who were resident in county who were looked after. This exercise highlighted that our most vulnerable young people were not accessing the service as the service was not structured to support them. Therefore in December 2017, a decision was made to restructure this service and to change the focus. Whilst this process has not concluded, the expectation is that there will be case workers and one of those will have a role to focus on Looked after children and to ensure the service works with our social work colleagues to secure positive outcomes for our young people.

## **Worcestershire County Councils in house programmes for NEETs**

**14.** Worcestershire County Council has a number of programmes that support the outcomes for young people who are looked after:

**15.** Study Programmes – WCC Education and Skills team offers a study programme for young people who struggle with large establishments and big class sizes; this programme offers a vocational offer mixed with English, Maths and Employability. Predominately aimed at young people whose educational level is around Level 1 (GCSE D-E)

**16.** Get ahead - Funded through the Careers and Enterprise Company targeting those most at risk of becoming NEET in schools within year 11 and therefore our looked after children, supporting them to access intensive mentoring and careers planning support. This programme has varied success due in the main to schools and their ability to release young people to the sessions.

**17.** Skills4Worcestershire.co.uk – This website launched in March 2018 brings together careers resources, local employment information and online support for young people, parents, employers and schools. This website is due to have a section specifically aimed at young people who are looked after in Phase 2, due for go live in July 2018.

**18.** Worcestershire Apprenticeships – WA the impartial apprenticeship brand has been linked to the care leaver's team to work with young people who are looking at apprenticeships and accessing opportunities around the county.

**19.** Worcestershire County Council Work Experience for Care leavers – As part of our corporate parenting role, the Council offers work experience which can range from a two hour taster session/shadowing to a six month traineeship. We also offer tailored qualifications such as employability skills and the progression award. To date we have four young people doing traineeships in Children's Services and Adult Social Care. We have had eight other work experience placements in various departments and teams and four more booked for June and July. We also have one young person completing her personal progression award and another two who are exploring these options.

**20.** Worcestershire County Council Apprenticeship Programme – Worcestershire's HR team supports care leavers to apply for our vacancies in house, every vacancy is flagged with the care leaver's team and support is offered as needed. Every care leaver is then automatically offered an interview and skills scan for the post. To date we have 2 care leavers working in WCC through this process.

### **Activity to be launched**

**21.** Business Mentoring – Programme aimed to offer each care leaver a mentor from business. Planned to launch in autumn 2018, matching 10 young people with mentors who will offer advice, guidance on employment and where possible work shadowing in their workplaces.

## **Bidding Activity**

**22.** It is worth noting that WCC also has a number of bids into European Social Funding that have a focus on NEETs and our most vulnerable. We are waiting the outcome of a bid submitted to cover 16-24 year olds who are NEET and add support to North Worcestershire; this will allow us to place additional resources to support looked after children /care leavers in North Worcestershire for the next three years.

## **The future**

**23.** Greater linkages need to be made between both preventative programmes operated by Education and Skills and social care, as well as reactive programmes designed to support vulnerable young people. There is also a need to look at duplication of services between external and internal programmes as well as being able to design appropriate solutions from the wider skills community as needed to support our young people. Current conversations are ongoing to support this work, however resource is low.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Name: Judy Chadwick

Job Title – Skills and Investment Group Manager

Tel: 01905 843492

Email: [jchadwick@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jchadwick@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix A – NEET Reduction and Prevention Strategy 2017-21
- Appendix B- NEET delivery plan 2017-21