

REPORT TO:	Corporate Parenting Panel 16th January 2019
SUBJECT:	Education & Employment & Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) Young People
LEAD OFFICER:	Nick Pendry Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:	
FINANCIAL IMPACT None.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- For information purposes only.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Whilst in care/care leavers are much more likely to be NEET than their non-looked after peers, we do perform better than both national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 2.2 Former UASC young people are much more likely to be in EET than non-UASC care leavers.
- 2.3 A larger proportion of 16/17 year olds in care/leavers attend college than their non-looked after peers but less are in school sixth forms, suggesting they are more likely to be following vocational pathways and/or lower level courses.
- 2.4. There are financial incentives available for in/care leavers to remain in EET.

3. OVERVIEW

Statutory Duties

- 3.1 All young people are required to stay in appropriate education, employment or training (EET) until their 18th birthday. This includes:
 - Staying in full-time education, at a school sixth form or college
 - Learning whilst you work, e.g. traineeships and apprenticeships

- Getting a job with specified training, e.g. formal employer-led training such as the armed forces
 - Volunteering for more than 20 hours a week in combination with accredited learning
- 3.2 Local authorities are statutorily required to track the participation of all 16 and 17 year olds who are resident within their borough, identify those who are NEET and offer appropriate support into sustainable EET until they reach age 18.
- 3.3 In addition local authorities are required to track EET outcomes for care leavers until their 21st birthday. This means that data in this report will refer to (unless stated otherwise):
- Looked after children/care leavers information will be for those young people for whom Croydon is the corporate parent, irrespective of which borough they reside in
 - Total cohort comparative data (all 16/17 year olds) will relate to all young people residing in Croydon, which will also include looked after children/care leavers from other boroughs who live in Croydon.
- 3.4 Post-16 (sixth form) education attainment is covered in the Annual Report of the Virtual School and therefore not covered within this report.

Financial Support

- 3.5 Young people in care or care leavers aged 16-18 years are eligible for a Bursary of £1200 per annum if they are studying an eligible programme of 30 weeks or more (pro-rata payment for shorter programmes). Payment is made directly to the young person.
- 3.6 Neither Local Authorities nor schools/colleges receive Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) for post-16 learners. ESFA funded education establishments do receive an additional £480 for each full-time student they have enrolled who is in care or a care leaver. This is determined by the number of enrolled students who claim the Bursary in the previous academic year.
- 3.7 Care leavers in Higher Education are eligible for a HE Bursary of £2000 over the course of their study as well as any entitlement to Student Finance. Under the Children Act, the local authority also has a duty to provide assistance (including contribution to expenses) for young people continuing in education or training.

16/17 Year Old Participation

- 3.8 Data is current (unvalidated - Nov-18), but please note that not knowns are high at this time of year due to new academic year participation information still being collected and recorded. Typically, NEET rises and not known reduce following completion of autumn census' and stabilisation of autumn term movement of students between providers. For this reason, official annual data is based upon a Dec-Feb monthly average which is published in late spring.

Current 16-17 Year Old Participation (un-validated Nov-18)				
	All 16/17 year old Croydon residents	Croydon LAC/care leavers only		
		All	Of which: In-borough	Of which: OOB
Number of young people	8663	313	144	169
Not Known %	11.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Participating* %	86.4%	83.4%	84.7%	82.2%
NEET %	1.4%	16.6%	15.3%	17.8%
NEET + Not Known %	13.3%	16.6%	15.3%	17.8%

*Includes young people in secure accommodation

3.9 The participation statuses of all Croydon LAC and care leavers are known, in comparison to almost 12% of the overall cohort for whom we do not have a known participation status.

3.10 Of the 313 LAC/care leavers, 207 (66%) are UASC.

3.11 52 LAC are NEET: 30 (14.5% NEET rate) of these are UASC compared to 22 (20.7%) local young people, meaning that local LAC/carer leavers are more likely to be NEET than UASC.

3.12 The LAC/care leaver NEET rate is much higher than for the total cohort. Although the NEET rate for the total cohort is likely to increase as not knowns decrease, it is typically 2% to 2.5%, so still significantly lower. LAC/care leavers equate to approximately 3.6% of the total cohort. However, they typically account for c14% of total NEET.

3.13 Of the 52 NEET LAC/care leaver young people, 22 went to Croydon schools with the remaining 30 going to schools in 21 other boroughs. Local authorities are required to support all NEET young people aged 16/17 years who reside in their borough.

16/17 year old LAC & Care Leavers - Participation Type (Nov-18)			
	Total	In Borough	OOB
Apprenticeship	2	2	0
6th Form	32	12	20
FE College	204	103	101
Secure	7	0	7
Employment	11	5	6
Other Post 16	3	0	3
Training ESFA Funded	2	0	2
Totals	261	122	139

3.14 For statutory post-16 tracking purposes we aren't required (nor do we) collect information on courses or levels of study, we just have to ascertain where they are (e.g. college, school sixth form, apprenticeship etc.)

- 3.15 A high proportion (78%) of post-16 LAC/care leavers are in college provision and low proportion (12%) in school sixth forms. However, the high volume of UASC in this age group is probably a contributing factor as school sixth forms curriculum is A level dominated. UASC (particularly those who have arrived during key stage 4) are less likely to have received the required GCSE grades at age 16 to gain entry to A level courses in academic year 12. The low apprenticeship rate is typical for this age group, as this tends to be a more popular option at 18+.
- 3.16 Popular colleges are: Croydon (57), John Ruskin (27) East Surrey (14) and Lambeth (13).

18-21 Year Old Participation

- 3.17 Activity is measured within 2 months of the young person's birthday.

	Total	Former UASC	Non Former UASC	Comparative Data	
				England 2016/17	Statistical Neighbours 2016/17
EET	406	292	114		
EET %	64%	74%	47%	50%	50.2%
NEET	232	101	131		
NEET %	36%	26%	53%	50%	49.8%

- 3.18 The number of NEET young in care/care leavers across the whole 16 to 21 year old age group is 284, meaning the majority (81%) are 18+. As with 16/17 year olds, UASC care leavers are more likely to be participating in EET than their non-UASC peers. Croydon EET and NEET rates are better than both the national average and our statistical neighbours. NEET rates do rise quite significantly at 18+, which suggests that raising the compulsory participation age from 16 years to 18 years has been successful, but the impact is high NEET rates at 18+.

3.19 Within this cohort participation as at 31 October 2018 was as follows:

Activity	Total	Former UASC	Non Former UASC
F1 - Young person engaged full time in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level)	45	27	18
F2 - Young person engaged full time in education other than higher education	225	185	40
F3 - Young person engaged full time in training or employment	88	57	31
G4 - Young person not in education, employment or training because of illness or disability	23	9	14
G5 - Young person not in education, employment or training: other circumstances	162	75	87
G6 - Young person not in education, employment or training due to pregnancy or parenting	17	4	13
P1 - Young person engaged part time in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level)	3	0	3
P2 - Young person engaged part time in education other than higher education	8	4	4
P3 - Young person engaged part time in training or employment	37	19	18
Unknown - Due to Lack of Contact	3	0	3
(blank)	27	13	14
Total	638	393	245

Support

3.20 A range of support is provided to NEET young people, both as part of the 'generic' local NEET offer to all 16/17 year old Croydon residents and also specific LAC/care leavers targeted support by the Virtual School. NEET young people residing in other boroughs are eligible for support offered by their home borough.

3.21 Generic 16/17 year old offer in Croydon:

- All NEET young people (and their parent/carer) residing in Croydon are

contacted by phone, text, letter and occasional door knocking offering advice, guidance and support;

- Monthly 'Youth Opportunities' bulletin detailing local opportunities such as apprenticeships, work programmes, courses and volunteering;
- Invitations to attend Croydon Works events and local careers activities;
- We also have one NEET caseworker which is co-funded by Youth Engagement and Gateway to provide support to those young people and/or their families eligible for various benefits;
- Availability of information on the Young Croydon website;
- Increased capacity to provide intensive support to NEET young people being planned for 2019/20 (subject to budget growth agreement).

Virtual School offer:

- Regular (monthly) monitoring of all LAC NEET young people (all);
- Dedicated Education Advisor to provide advice, guidance and support (12);
- Joint working with YOS (2)
- In the 17/18 academic year we introduced 1-2-1 tuition for those NEET looked after young people who require additional support, particularly with English and maths, to enable them to access and sustain full-time courses, employment or training (on an individual needs basis).

3.22 Support for those over 18 primarily comes from Croydon Works, CALAT and the Work and Health Programme run by REED. A dedicated NEET caseworker from Gateway acts as the primary link with the Leaving Care Team.

3.23 However a large number of NEET young people choose not to engage, despite frequent contact attempts and offers of support.

Employment and volunteering

3.24 Care leavers are employed in various roles across the Council, but there is scope to increase this via the apprenticeship programme. Some difficulties have been experienced in relation to care leavers (and others) employed as apprentices on the Council's apprenticeship terms and conditions, particularly in relation to financial viability for those on Universal Credit and/or with childcare needs. The Employment Pathway Strategy (draft Nov-18) makes specific provision for care leavers – To develop a package of support for care leavers interested in Council apprenticeships. This must consider Universal Credit implications. A volunteer care leaver is supporting the Children in Care Council and a peer mentoring programme is also in development for rollout early in 2019.

Higher Education

3.25 As at 31 October 2018 88 care leavers aged 18-25 were in Higher Education; 45 were aged 18-21 and 43 were aged 22 or over. It is not uncommon for care leavers to be more ready to enter Higher Education at a slightly older age than their non-care peers.

70% of the care leavers at university are former unaccompanied minors.

25 young people are at universities outside of London, including Brighton,

Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, Anglia Ruskin and Leicester. The remainder at London universities, including City University, South London and Middlesex. Many of these young people commute to university from Croydon.

Prior to university young people had been at a wide range of schools and colleges with John Ruskin College, Croydon College and South Thames the top three feeder institutions.

4. CONSULTATION

Not applicable

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Not applicable

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not applicable

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not applicable

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not applicable

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not applicable

CONTACT OFFICER: Julie Ralphs, Education Commissioning and Youth Engagement ext 60893 and Fiona Mackirdy, Service Manager, Leaving Care ext 47688.

APPENDICES: None