

Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 15th February 2018

Subject: Update on progress in relation to increasing the Number of Young People in Employment, Education or Training

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Scrutiny Inquiry report (March 13) investigated support available in Leeds to reduce the risk of young people not accessing appropriate employment, education or training (also referred to as NEET) The report included thirteen recommendations
2. Through the Scrutiny recommendation tracking system the Scrutiny Board have monitored progress and identified all but one recommendation as completed.
3. This report provides a general update on NEET and recommendation 6 which remains outstanding from the March 2013 report.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note and comment on the progress made to reduce the risk of young people not accessing appropriate employment, education or training

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on activity to meet the monitoring requirement of Scrutiny Board following its inquiry on the support of young people identified as NEET or at risk of becoming NEET

2 Background information

- 2.1 Scrutiny Board examined work on each of the three Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) obsessions. The third of these related to reducing the number of young people NEET with the focus being on the support available in Leeds.
- 2.2 The resulting Scrutiny Inquiry report included 13 recommendations for action. The Board has monitored implementation since 2013 and agreed that the actions arising from all but recommendation 6 had been completed.
- 2.3 This report provides an update on progress in relation to increasing the number of young people in Employment, Education or Training (EET) and an update on the remaining recommendation 6.

3 Main issues

3.1 NEET & Not Known Performance Update

- 3.1.1 The DfE's new headline performance measure combines each local authority's NEET rate with their not known rate. This provides local stakeholders with a much more accurate measure of which young people need support: i.e. both those who are NEET and those whose status is not known.
- 3.1.3 In Leeds at the end of December 2017 there were 369 young people NEET (2.5% of year 12/13 population) and 733 young people destination unknown (5% population) i.e. 7.5% combined NEET and not known. This compares to the DfE Core City figures of 3.9% NEET, 5.0% not known, i.e. 8.9% combined NEET and not known. Further details of breakdowns/comparators to 2016 are available at Appendix one – Pathways Support Team Quarter three report

3.2 Update on changes to the way young people in Leeds access targeted IAG

- 3.2.1 Leeds Pathways Support team now offer IAG support from 9 locality hubs plus the City Centre. With the exception of Great George Street this work has developed incrementally over the last twelve months. The latest Hub to offer support from the Pathways team being Deacon House (October 2017) The Pathways Team are working closely with colleagues from the Communities Team to encourage and support young people to access these facilities.

Further details on access to Community Hubs is provided in appendix one.

- 3.2.2 In 2017/18 Leeds City Council made £310k available to the Leeds Pathways Grant Fund. The purpose of the grants being to support vulnerable young people who were NEET and specific cohorts who were at risk of NEET. The funds aimed

to add value to the range of existing and potential support packages available to this group rather than duplicate activity i.e. to complement programmes funded through European Structural and Investment funds.

3.2.3 10 x Local Providers were awarded Leeds Pathway's Grants. Young Lives Leeds are taking a lead role in enabling conversations between these providers and council colleagues about policy, practice and learning from the programme to date to maximise outcomes from this resource in 2018/19.

3.2.4 All parents of children in schools years 9 – 13 have received a mailing on post-14 and post-16 learning options available across Leeds. This includes promotion of the Leeds Pathways website and Leeds Pathways Support team. More than 90% of students who enrolled at the UTC in September 17 said that they first heard of the opportunity via this mailing. Due to the success of the "Leeds Letter" the DFE have made this a statutory requirement for LA's to inform parents of post 14 options.

3.3 **Future Plans**

3.3.1 Working with existing Pathway Grant providers to refresh the project brief building on learning to date

3.3.2 Increase assertive Outreach in the Local Community to make contact with the most hard to reach young people. This will be achieved by increasing the number of NEET/Not Known sweeps in partnership between the Pathways Team and Pathways grant providers

3.3.3 Increase capacity for tracking through a Tracking Apprenticeship opportunity within the Pathways Team

3.3.4 Build on the number of agencies involved in "tracking" the list and continue to work with learning providers on ring rounds.

3.3.5 Expand the number of Next Steps events to capture young people who are unsure of their post 16 plans early in the New Year in addition to the September event.

3.3.6 An apprenticeship recruitment fair will be held at the Leeds Direct Arena on 5th March 2018, which will be an opportunity for young people to access opportunities and speak directly with employers and providers. Plans to follow up this event with application workshops to encourage young people to progress from initial interest to participation.

3.3.7 Following the success of previous years Apprenticeship Seminars will be held at the Leeds University Rose Bowl aimed at Parents/Teachers and Young People. Key Employers in the city will talk about apprenticeship opportunities – there is a particular focus on key growth areas and vacancy opportunities.

3.3.8 Continue to build on the success of the 44 NEET/Not Known and Outreach sessions to provide a more accurate picture of where support is needed.

- 3.3.9 An annual 'Participation and NEET Data Report' will be published by Children and Families Services providing progress against key performance measures along with the existing NEET report card currently presented to the Children's Trust Board.

3.4 Scrutiny Board Inquiry Recommendations

- 3.4.1 **Recommendation 6:** *That the Director of Children's Service works with Clusters across the City to share good practice and establish programmes in primary schools which reduce the risk of NEET, such as the concept of 'World of work Wednesdays'. Such programmes should also be adapted to suit the needs of young people in secondary education.*

The marketplace for workplace readiness activity aimed at primary and secondary pupils continues to be relatively buoyant. There remain issues around the awareness of schools about the offer, and their capacity and capability to engage effectively. The Government's recently published Careers Strategy recognises some of these issues although it is fair to say that the focus of the strategy is mainly on those in secondary education rather than primary.

Following consideration of the draft Leeds Talent and Skills Plan in December, Scrutiny Board (Inclusive Growth, Culture and Sport) are currently undertaking scrutiny of the quality and accessibility of IAG provision in Leeds, with the intention of assisting in developing an IAG Charter for young people in Leeds, which will address the needs of all young people in both primary and secondary education, including offsite provision and young people with Special Educational Needs. This inquiry offers the opportunity to understand in more detail some of the concerns raised by Scrutiny in their original enquiry and identify tangible opportunities to address the issues around work readiness within the education system.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The NEET Data Board continues to consult with schools and colleagues to make improvements to tracking
- 4.1.2 Young People continue to have a key development role in operational delivery of Leeds Pathways.
- 4.1.3 The Council continue to run a thriving Careers Network for schools, colleagues and providers. The network is utilised to identify and share good practice along with gaining constructive feedback on proposed policies and tools to support effective information, advice and guidance for young people.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 It is envisaged that this further information completes the responses to the inquiry recommendation from March 2013. It is recognised that Members expect an annual report on participation/NEET which will be addressed through the annual publication of a Participation and NEET data report.

- 5.2 The outcome of the Scrutiny Board (Inclusive Growth, Culture and Sport) inquiry into IAG will allow the Council to have oversight of these matters in relation to early interventions to prevent young people becoming disengaged from education and at risk of becoming NEET

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note and comment on the progress made to reduce the risk of young people not accessing appropriate employment, education or training

Appendices

Pathways Support Team – Summary for City October – December 2017 – Appendix One