

### **Briefing Note for Lead Member Briefing**

<b>Report From:</b>	Nina Dohel, Director of Education	<b>For:</b>	Cllr Jasmine Ali – Cabinet Member Children, Schools and Adult Care
<b>Subject:</b>	Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)	<b>Date:</b>	November 2019

#### **Summary:**

#### **Key Issues:**

1. Since 2015 it has been a legal requirement for young people to continue in education and training until they are 18 years old. Local authorities have been tasked with 'Raising the Participation Age' duties in relation to 16 and 17 year olds, including:
  - a) promoting the participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds;
  - b) identifying 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating in education or training in order to offer support as soon as possible;
  - c) collecting information on the education and training placements of all 16 and 17 year olds and submitting this to the Department for Education.
2. The Department for Education publishes an annual 'NEET scorecard' showing performance of local authorities across England in meeting these duties. The latest data, published in October 2019, relate to participation of young people measured at various points between December 2018 and March 2019.
3. In March 2019, 92.6% of Southwark's 5,200 16 and 17 year olds were recorded as being in education and training, a similar to the figure for England (92.5%) but lower than London (94.9%). Most were in full time education:

#### *Breakdown of participation among Southwark 16 & 17 year olds*

Full time education	87.8%
Apprenticeships	2.6%
Other education and training	2.1%

4. At the end of 2018, Southwark's was in the top quartile nationally for the % of 16 and 17 year olds known to be not in education, employment or training (NEET).

#### *% of young people known to be NEET*

Southwark	1.4%
London	1.7%
England	2.6%

5. The biggest area of concern is in relation to 16 and 17 year olds whose activity is not known. At the end of 2018, Southwark was in the bottom quartile for this measure:

#### *% of 16 and 17 year olds activity not known*

Southwark	8.5%
London	3.0%
England	2.9%

6. As a consequence Southwark was also in the bottom quartile for the % of NEET or activity not known combined – 9.9% of local 16 and 17 year olds at the end of 2018, compared with 4.8% for London and 5.5% for England.
7. Southwark does face a challenge in tracking young people with 70% of our residents in this age group travelling outside of the borough to learn, but clearly performance needs to improve in this area. The Southwark Choices team that collects this data has now moved into Education Access and Statutory Services and a number of changes have been made in an effort to improve collection of data including developing a new online form for parents, obtaining school census information at an earlier date and writing to schools regarding sharing of details of children's destinations.
8. Support to young people NEET is provided through a number of teams across the Council including:
  - Southwark Choices – information, advice and guidance for 16 and 17 year olds;
  - Virtual School - for looked after children;
  - Southwark Information and Advice Service (SIA) - for young people with SEND;
  - Southwark Works programme commissioned by the Local Economy Team, including:
    - St Giles Trust – for young people with learning difficulties; and young people involved with the criminal justice system.
    - Twin Training International – for young people who are NEET and at risk of long term unemployment.
9. Amongst the NEET cohort, there are young people with significant barriers to accessing provision including:
  - a) previously missing education, particularly in year 11;
  - b) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities;
  - c) mental health and other medical concerns;
  - d) involvement in criminal justice system;
  - e) low educational outcomes from school (e.g. no GCSEs).
10. Numbers fluctuate through the year, with the current NEET caseload standing at 97 young people. Most of these NEET young people have had contact with targeted services. 39% of current known NEET young people are open to Children's Social Care, Family Early Help, YOS or CAMHS, while 81% either are or have been in the past.

*Number of Southwark young people NEET open to targeted services, October 2019*

<b>Service</b>	<b>Current service involvement</b>	<b>Previous service involvement</b>	<b>Total (current + previous)</b>
Children's Social Care: Looked after child	6	3	9 (9%)
Children's Social Care: Child in Need or Child Protection Plan	15	50	65 (67%)
Youth Offending Service	20	13	33 (34%)
Family Early Help	9	19	28 (29%)
CAMHS	15	10	25 (26%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 97 young people in total (October 2019)</li> <li>• 59 young people (61%) not currently open to any of the above services.</li> <li>• 18 young people (19%) never open to any of the above services.</li> <li>• 34 young people (35%) with SEND recorded, plus one with EHCP.</li> </ul> <p>[nb some young people are in more than one category, e.g. open to both YOS &amp; CAMHS]</p>			