

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



26 September 2018

Participation in Learning

Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Children and Young People's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the participation of young people in learning, prior to a presentation by Linda Bailey; Strategic Lead: Progression and Learning; Children and Young People's Services.

Background

2. The Local Authority has a number of statutory duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. These duties¹ include promoting Raising the Participation Age (RPA) compliant participation, which requires all young people to remain in learning (that meets specific criteria e.g. number of hours) until at least their 18th birthday.
3. The Local Authority collects and reports the current destinations of young people to the Department of Education on a monthly basis. This includes information on young people participating in RPA compliant learning; young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET); and young people whose current destination is not known.
4. In terms of current performance, the data shows that the combined proportion of young people who are NEET and whose current destination is not known is slightly lower in County Durham compared to the regional average but is higher than the national average. The data also shows that a lower proportion of young people in vulnerable groups are participating in learning and a higher proportion are NEET compared to the rest of the cohort. Some young people in vulnerable groups encounter significant challenges in their lives that requires additional support to enable them to progress into sustained education, employment or training. For example, it can be challenging to engage some young people who are supported by the Youth Offending Service in education, employment or training due to the nature of their offending. It can also be challenging to engage some young people who present with multiple vulnerabilities e.g. young people who are Care Leavers and have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

¹ Duties stipulated in the Education Act 1996, Education and Skills Act 2008, and the Children and Families Act 2014.

Statutory Responsibilities

5. Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. Specifically these are:
 - To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained.
 - To make available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those between 20 and 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training.
6. In addition, Local Authorities have two RPA related duties with regard to 16 and 17 year olds:
 - Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
 - Local authorities must make arrangements to identify 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating in education or training.

Participation in Learning

7. The following table shows current performance (June 2018) in relation to the proportion of 16-17 year olds in County Durham who are participating in learning, the proportion who are NEET, and the proportion whose destination is Not Known compared to regional and national averages.

16-17 year olds	County Durham	North East	England
Participating in Learning	89.8%	90.5%	91.5%
Employment	13.7%	12.2%	9.4%
NEET	5.1%	4.7%	3.0%
Not Known	1.6%	2.1%	3.1%
NEET + Not Known	6.7%	6.8%	6.1%

Department for Education, June 2018.

8. The overall 16-17 cohort in County Durham is 10,370 and the number of 16-17 year olds who are NEET is 529. Of these, 406 are available to the Labour Market and 123 are not available to the Labour Market. The number of 16-17 year olds whose destination is not known is 167.

9. In terms of trends, the following table shows the difference in participation in learning of 16-18 year olds in County Durham at June 2018 compared to June 2013. During this time, the proportion and number of young people who are NEET has reduced and remained stable. Also, there has been an increase in the proportion of young people who are in an employment destination.

16-18 year olds	June 2013	June 2018
Participating in Learning	78.3%	82.8%
Apprenticeships	6.9%	12.6%
Employment	13.4%	21.1%
NEET	8.4%	6.3%
Not Known	8.7%	3.2%
NEET + Not Known	17.1%	9.5%

Durham County Council Client Caseload Information System, 16-18 year olds, June 2013 and June 2018.

10. The following table shows the estimated number of unemployed 16-24 year olds from March 2013 to March 2018. This data is based on a sample survey, which means it provides an estimate of population characteristics rather than an exact measure. Therefore, confidence in the data can be variable, especially on occasions when the group sample size is small.

	March 2013	March 2018
16-24 year olds unemployed in County Durham	9,500	4,800

Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey – March 2013 to March 2018.

Programmes to Support Young People

11. There are a number of programmes that specifically support young people who are NEET, in addition to the broad range of learning opportunities that are available for all young people, including Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Supported Internships, 16-18 Study Programmes etc. delivered by Further Education Colleges and other learning providers. It is important to note that there were 5,087 young people aged 16-18 attending a Further Education College, 4,034 young people attending a School Sixth Form, and 2,001 young people undertaking an Apprenticeship at June 2018.

DurhamWorks Programme

12. DurhamWorks is a European funded, Durham County Council led partnership programme that supports young people aged 16-24 who are NEET. The Local Authority was recently informed that its application to extend DurhamWorks was successful. This means that the overall funding available to support unemployed young people who are resident in County Durham will be £29.04m between December 2015 and July 2021.
13. The programme specifically targets vulnerable young people, including young people with SEND (including those with social, emotional and mental health issues), young people who are Looked After, Care Leavers and young people who are supervised by the Youth Offending Service. It is based on the understanding that vulnerable young people often require sustained additional support and that single interventions rarely produce long term impact. Therefore, mentoring and personal support, often from specialist staff, is key to the DurhamWorks offer.
14. Through DurhamWorks, young people have access to a broad range of innovative, flexible activities to meet their needs, ranging from 'hook-type' provision to engage individuals, activities to develop individual emotional resilience, through to programmes to develop skills for employment. There are specialist learning providers who have experience of delivering provision that is specifically tailored to support young people who have multiple barriers to their progression.
15. DurhamWorks has a specific focus on engaging with employers to develop a range of opportunities for young people, from work experience placements through to paid employment. As part of the offer to employers, County Durham Community Foundation administers a 'Learning, Working, and Earning' Grant, which provides financial support to small and medium sized enterprises to enable them to employ young people.
16. Since the programme commenced in December 2015, 4,767 verified² young people in County Durham have engaged in DurhamWorks and 3,239 young people have participated in education, employment and training as a result. The aim is to support over 10,000 young people during the lifetime of the programme.
17. There has also been a seven percentage point increase in young people aged 16-18 in employment since the start of the DurhamWorks programme (Dec 2015: 14.8% - July 2018: 21.8%) and a significant decrease in the proportion of young people in vulnerable groups who are NEET, including young people who have SEND, young people who are Looked After and young people who are Care Leavers.

² A verified young person refers to someone where evidence has been seen to confirm his/her eligibility for the DurhamWorks Programme. This consists of evidence to confirm age, residency, NEET status, and proof that the young person has a right to live and work in the United Kingdom.

18. The following table shows the proportion of young people aged 16 and above in vulnerable groups who are NEET and who are participating in education, employment and training at June 2018 compared to December 2015 (commencement of the DurhamWorks Programme). It is important to note that some vulnerable groups (e.g. young people who are supervised by the Youth Offending Service) contain relatively small numbers of young people, which can have a disproportionate impact on percentages.

16 year old and above	Dec 2015	June 2018
SEND (NEET)	20.2%	16.1%
SEND (EET)	63.3%	67.4%
Looked After (NEET)	21.2%	14.7%
Looked After (EET)	66.7%	80.0%
Care Leavers (NEET)	50.3%	41.6%
Care Leavers (EET)	39.6%	50.4%
Supervised by YOS (NEET)	36.2%	33.8%
Supervised by YOS (EET)	58.6%	57.1%

Durham County Council, Client Caseload Information System, December 2015 and June 2018.

19. An independent evaluation of DurhamWorks undertaken by York Consulting has found that it is the unique design of the comprehensive and long term programme of activity, alongside the range of professionals involved - from Progression Advisers, Delivery Partners and specialist subcontractors – which enables positive outcomes for vulnerable young people.

Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service

20. Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service delivers a range of programmes to support young people to develop skills and gain qualifications to support them into work. This includes programmes tailored to meet the needs of young people in vulnerable groups.
- (a) **Apprenticeships** – enable young people to gain qualifications, receive training in the work place and earn a salary. A broad range of Apprenticeships are available including Business Administration, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools.
 - (b) **Traineeships** – this is an unpaid education and training programme for up to six months with work experience to prepare young people for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'. They are designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the

appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment. Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service has previously delivered two traineeship programmes to Care Leavers resulting in positive outcomes, with a further programme commencing in autumn 2018.

- (c) **Supported internships** – these are structured study programmes based primarily with an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 who have SEND (with an Education, Health and Care Plan) to achieve suitable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. They are unpaid, and last for approximately one year. Wherever possible, they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme. Alongside their time at the employer, they complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant qualifications including English and maths. Eleven Supported Internships will commence with Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service in autumn 2018.

Vision to Increase Participation in Learning

21. The Local Authority has engaged with a broad range of partners to implement the plan: 'Believe, Achieve and Succeed: Increasing the Participation of Young People in Learning 2015-2018.' As part of the drive to further increase the participation of young people in learning, the partnership vision and plan is being updated and will set out the action required to meet the challenges and opportunities across the next three years.

Conclusion

22. This report has set out the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities in relation to the participation of young people in education or training; current performance in relation to young people who are NEET and young people whose current destination is not known; as well as programmes that are currently available to support young people into education, employment or training.

Recommendations

23. Members are asked to note and comment upon the information provided within the report and during the presentation.
24. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to receive further updates about the participation of young people in learning at future meetings of the Committee.

Contact: Linda Bailey

Tel: 01325 375 940

E-mail: linda.bailey@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Discrimination Act –N/A

Legal Implications – N/A