

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Cabinet
2. Date:	30th April 2014
3. Title:	Integrated Youth Support Service – Performance Report Raising Participation and Not in Education, Employment and Training
4. Directorate:	CYPS

5. Summary

This report provides an update on the progress achieved by the Integrated Youth Support Service and its partners in relation to progression and retention in learning and employment for young people academic age 16 to 18.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet notes:

- Progress made on improving progression and retention in learning for young people of academic age 16 and 17 in relation to raising the Participation Age
- The continued reduction in the percentage of young people not in education employment and training (NEET)

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Introduction

The Integrated Youth Support Service is now fully operational and evidencing increased success in engaging young people in positive activities and providing additional support to vulnerable young people to overcome barriers in their lives and achieve positive outcomes. A key part of this work is supporting young people aged 13-19 to engage with and remain in learning.

From September 2013, all young people in England were required to stay in learning until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 and from September 2015 they will be required to remain in learning until their 18th birthday. This has provided an increased incentive to work in partnership across the wider IYSS partnership to ensure that young people remain in learning post 16.

7.2 Progress against targets

Rotherham MBC reports monthly to DfE against targets for percentage of young people of academic age 16-18 not in education employment or training (NEET) and participation at academic age 17. We are compared with both statistical neighbours and the national picture

NEET Performance

- NEETs has continued to reduce steadily over the last year to its lowest level to date. As of March 2014 6.2% of young people of academic age 16-18 (571 young people) are NEET in comparison to 7.6% March 2013.
- In terms of statistical neighbours Rotherham performs at 6.4% (January to March average) in comparison to the statistical neighbour average of 6.3% and a national average of 5.3%
- Not Knowns are 4.8%, 0.2% below the Rotherham target of 5.0% and in line with statistical neighbours
- A key part of the success in reducing NEET at aged 16 and 17 has been the delivery of the Youth Contract whereby 181 young people have engaged with IYSS and 133 have been supported to re-engage in learning achieving a 73% success rate.
- Improving performance at academic age 18 is proving challenging. 68.7% of the NEET cohort are now aged 18 and 19 and this is reflected in the high level of 18-25 year olds unemployed across Rotherham.
- Rotherham IYSS has just recently agreed funding for the Ambition project which will provide targeted key worker support and employability and work experience support for 18 to 25 year olds working closely with Job Centre Plus. This will commence in June

Raising Participation Academic Age 16 and 17

- 97.8% of Y11s made a successful transition into post-16, an improvement of 0.8% on the previous year. Just 77 young people failed to enter positive destination at 16 in Sept 13.
- Rotherham participation at academic age 17 for January to March 2014 stands at 95%.
- In terms of statistical neighbours Rotherham has performed slightly above the average (94.4%) and is 1.7% above the national figure of 93.3%

Learning routes at Academic Age 16 -18

- Rotherham has experienced a significant increase in L3 participation (4,200 in 12/13 compared to 4,049 in 10/11)
- The borough has a very diverse provider base comprising 8 School Sixth Forms, a Sixth Form College, 2 General Colleges of Further Education and 3 main Work based learning providers– all judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding
- 1,764 apprenticeship started in 12/13, a 19% increase since 09/10 in comparison to a decrease in starts nationally in 12/13
- Since 2009, the LA has recruited 189 apprentices (none before this date), including 41 since August 2013.

8. Finance

The IYS service is funded through RMBC core budget, Youth Justice Board and receives funding from Skills Funding Agency on performance by results basis for Youth Contract. There have been significant reductions in budget to the service over the last 2 years

Total funding for 2015/16 is circa £3.5 million

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- The reduction in IYSS resource in 2014/15 will result in a 50% reduction of service to schools to support vulnerable young people at transition in year 11. This may impact on achieving our priorities in the Health and Well Being plan
- Delivery of careers guidance falls to schools who undertake this in a variety of ways; therefore young people across the borough may not receive a consistent offer. This may result in young people making poor choices and not remaining in learning until aged 18.

- 69% of the NEET cohort are aged 18 and 19. The reduction in staffing in IYSS has resulted in a reduced capacity to work with 18 and 19 year olds. IYSS is therefore only achieving limited impact with this age group .

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

RPA is highly significant for local authorities. They are currently under existing duties to support young people into education and training including:

- Securing sufficient education and training provision for all young people 16-19 (20-24 LDD)
- Making available to young people 13-19 (20-24 LDD) support to encourage, enable or assist young people to participate
- Ensuring that its functions promote the effective participation in education or training of persons in its area
- Making arrangements to establish the identities of persons in its area failing to participate

The Education and Skills Act places two new duties on local authorities relating to 16 and 17 year olds:

- A duty to promote the participation of 16 and 17 year olds
- A duty to identify 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating.

Local Authorities must have mechanisms in place to support their re-engagement in education or training as soon as is reasonably possible.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Education and Skills Act 2008 (ESA 2008) sets out the legal framework for Raising the Participation Age (RPA) in England.

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