

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel 4 March 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Nick Pendry Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People &amp; Learning</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b> None.	

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- For information purposes only.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Young people who are looked after or care leavers age 17-21 in Croydon are more likely to be in education, employment or training than looked after children or care leavers in England. However looked after children and care leavers are still much more likely to be NEET than their non-looked after peers.
- 2.2 Former unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are much more likely to be in education, employment or training than their non-UASC counterparts.
- 2.3 There are some features of the Croydon Care Leaver population that impacts on the optimum number of young people who are in education, employment or training.
- 2.4 An ambitious target of 85% of care leavers in EET has been set by the council for 2019-20.

### 3 OVERVIEW

#### Statutory Duties

- 3.1 All young people are required to stay in appropriate education, employment or training (EET) until their 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. In Croydon, we track all care leavers open to the service, which includes those aged 21-25 years as well.

#### 16 – 18 Year Old Participation

- 3.4 Of the 260 16-17 year olds supported by the Virtual School 45 are not in education, employment or training which is 17.3% of the cohort.

Not in Education, Employment or Training	Local	UASC	Total
16-17	27	18	45

#### 18-21 Year Old Participation

- 3.4 For the cohort aged 18-21 years that we are required to track, performance is as follows:

Indicator Title	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Jan-20	2018-19 Target	2019-20 Target	Croydon 2019-20	England 2018-19	SN 2018-19
Percentage not in employment, education, or training (EET) on their 17th to 21st Birthday	35%	35%	35%	<b>35%</b>	40%	15%	35%	39%	34.2%

- 3.5 The number of NEET young people in the 18-21 year old age group is 205 out of a total cohort of 648. Former unaccompanied asylum seeking young people make up 64% of the 18-21 year old care leavers' population but 73% are in

education, employment or training compared to 48% of non-UASC care leavers aged 18-21.

3.6 Within this cohort participation, as at 31 January 2019, was as follows:

Row Labels	Non-UASC	UASC	Grand Total
F1 - Young person engaged full time in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level)	20	17	37
F2 - Young person engaged full time in education other than higher education	31	176	207
F3 - Young person engaged full time in training or employment	37	64	101
G4 - Young person not in education, employment or training because of illness or disability	18	9	27
G5 - Young person not in education, employment or training: other circumstances	74	96	170
G6 - Young person not in education, employment or training due to pregnancy or parenting	13	3	16
Not Recorded	11	11	22
P1 - Young person engaged part time in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level)	1		1
P2 - Young person engaged part time in education other than higher education	6	9	15
P3 - Young person engaged part time in training or employment	16	27	43
Unknown - Due to Lack of Contact	5	4	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>648</b>

3.7 When the whole leaving care cohort is considered (those aged 18-25 years) the NEET percentage rises slightly to 36.7%, but this may reflect that young people staying in touch with the service are likely to be the more vulnerable young people who continue to need leaving care support for a range of reasons, including lack of employment or education.

### Target Setting

3.8 In 2019-20 the Council set a target of 85% of care leavers to be in education, employment or training, reflecting the Council's ambition for the young people for whom it has corporate parenting responsibility. In measuring performance against this target, the following matters need to be taken into account:

- Currently there are 31 care leavers in custody (3.7%), meaning these young people will have more limited opportunity to be in education, depending on opportunities and the regime in the custodial setting;
- A number of young people do not have an immigration status that allows them to engage in employment or education. At any one time approximately 65 young people are considered All Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE), an immigration status that forbids them from being in employment or education. This is approximately 7.8% of the cohort.

## **Support**

- 3.9 All young people have access to a range of support to continue or return to education, employment or training:
- The Virtual School ensures all young people in education up to the end of year 13 have a Personal Education Plan to outline the ambition and support they will need. They rigorously track young people in education through to the end of year 13 and can provide bespoke support as needed, although there is no Pupil Premium Grant payable for young people over 16.
  - The Virtual School have also been providing bespoke careers advice and guidance for care leavers who may not yet know what career or education path they wish to follow.
  - Beats Learning, is a local organisation specifically funded to work with Croydon Care Leavers, particularly those that are 'hard to reach'. They work closely with the Leaving Care Team to identify and support young people and because they are positioned independently of more traditional services are able to work creatively to engage young people. They provide entry levels of qualifications alongside vocational courses and activities, with a focus on enabling young people to have sustainable jobs.
  - The Department for Works and Pensions have named care leaver 'leads' in each Job Centre Plus and there are good relationships between the Leaving Care Team, the Gateway Income Maximisation Team staff and the DWP leads to ensure young people are supported into employment or training
  - Croydon Adult Learning and Training (CALAT) is supportive of care leavers, particularly those who need to achieve entry level qualifications in English and Maths, or who are interested in vocational qualifications.
  - 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. However a large number of NEET young people choose not to engage, despite frequent contact attempts and offers of support.
  - The Princes Trust and Palace For Life are also very active locally offering mentoring, work experience and paid opportunities for training
- 3.10 Care leavers are employed in various roles across the Council, and during 2019 there have been a number of ring-fenced apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers, with further traineeship and apprenticeships in the pipeline.

## **Higher Education**

- 3.11 As at 31 January 2020 75 care leavers aged 18 to 25 were in Higher Education; 37 were aged 18-21 and 38 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-experienced peers.

53% of the care leavers at University are former unaccompanied minors, which is a more balanced position than in 2018 when 70% of young people in higher education were former unaccompanied asylum seeking minors.

## **Next Steps**

- 3.12 Within the next month a multi-agency NEET panel will be operational, in order to
- Track all young people who are NEET and their journey into education employment or training
  - Understand the barriers for young people moving into EET (such as substance misuse, health, disabilities, parenting) and ensuring they are supported to access appropriate support
  - Understand the systemic or structural barriers for the wider cohort

## **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

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**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:** None

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None