

**16 April 2024****Agenda Item: 12****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND  
INCLUSION****DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 12-13 LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE COHORT  
2023 – 2024****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the education destinations of Nottinghamshire looked after young people who left statutory education at the end of the academic year 2022-2023 and went into Year 12, and those in Year 13 of post-16 education for academic year 2023-24. The Panel is asked to consider whether there are any further actions it requires arising from this information.

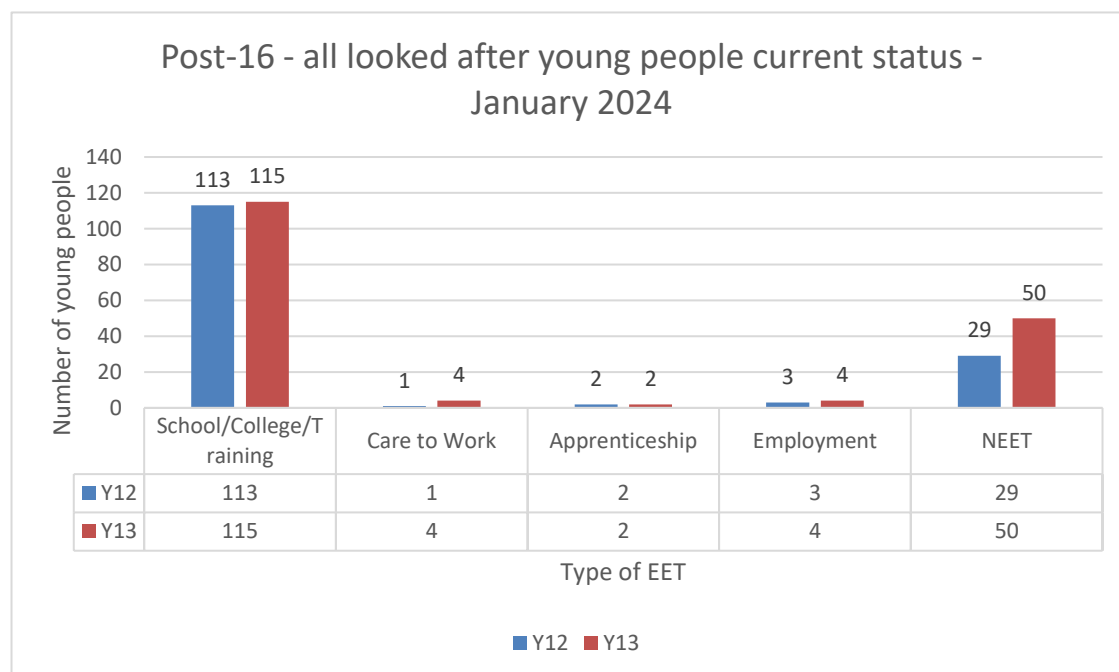
**Information**

2. Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel act as corporate parents to the children and young people looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council and therefore receive regular reports on the academic successes of our children and young people.
3. Despite changes to education legislation regarding the age of participation (Education Acts 2008/2011, introduced the raising of the participation age), statutory school age has not been changed; a child must start statutory schooling the term after they turn five years old and remain in education until their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday (finishing on the last Friday in June of that year). However, all pupils leaving statutory schooling are required to participate in education, employment or training until 18 years of age. Should a young person not secure GCSE grade 4 or above in English and/or mathematics at the end of statutory schooling, the young person is also required to continue studying these subjects until they are 18 years of age or until the required grade is obtained.
4. The law for post-16 education requires young people to undertake one of the following until they are 18 years old:
  - stay in full-time education, for example at a college
  - start an apprenticeship or traineeship
  - spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training.

5. There is a joint responsibility and established collaborative working relationship between the Achievement Service and the Virtual School in Nottinghamshire to support the 16-18 year old cohort across all social care teams working with looked after children and care leavers. The support to settings and young people includes termly meetings with the designated person for looked after students, termly network meetings for colleges, advice and guidance to individual students and attendance at Personal Education Plan meetings where needed.
6. All looked after pupils throughout their statutory schooling and post-16 education are supported at every stage through the Personal Education Planning process until they are 18 years old. Nottinghamshire Personal Education Plans are held on an online platform which enables data analysis for the whole cohort. Personal Education Plans are reviewed on a termly basis and it is a statutory part of the care planning for young people. Social workers, designated teachers, other education staff, carers and the young person are all part of the meeting to review the Personal Education Plan. This meeting reviews the achievements to date and areas that will need extra support to ensure the young person reaches their full potential. As part of these meetings, preparation for adulthood is a key focus. In line with a strengths-based approach, this includes asking questions around skills and strengths of the young person and how these may be encouraged and built upon to meet the goals they may have for their future.
7. During the secondary phase, pupils are encouraged and supported to consider their post-16 education choices as soon as Year 7 as part of their Personal Education Plan. Schools must provide careers information, advice and guidance to inform these decisions. Schools are also required to ensure pupils achieve the most appropriate qualifications for their post-16 studies.
8. Nottinghamshire Virtual School and the Achievement Service work with a range of partners to support early post-16 planning and transition for our looked after young people. Work includes: open days at universities for care experienced students, additional careers advice and guidance sessions when needed, bespoke visits to local colleges, summer transition projects with local colleges, and employability briefings with local businesses.

## Breakdown of education destinations – correct as of January 2024

9. The graph below gives a breakdown of Year 12 and Year 13 looked after young people's current status with regards to education, employment and training (EET). It also indicates those not in education, employment or training (NEET).



10. 76% of all Year 12/13 young people are in education, employment and training (244/323); this compares with 73% (220/303) in January 2023). For the 903 cohort who were in care on 31 March 2023, 83% of our Year 12 and 13 young people are in education, employment and training.
11. 93% of our 244 young people who are in education, employment and training are attending further education colleges, training providers and school 6<sup>th</sup> forms or an education setting. 24% of our young people are not in education, employment or training (79/323), which has decreased by 4% when compared with January 2023. The cohort of looked after children and care leavers in this age group has also increased when compared with 2023 which is a trend. 29% of young people who have not in education, employment or training status came into care during 2023.

## English and mathematics Key Stage 4 grade 4 results for current Year 13, 2022

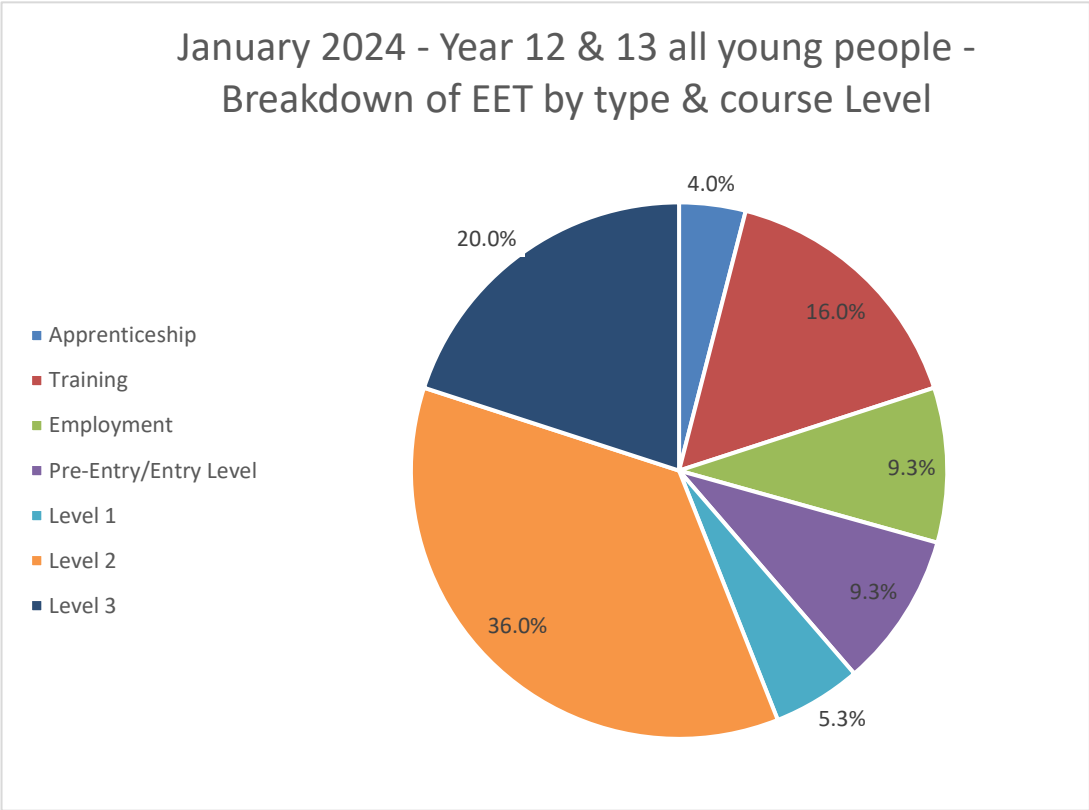
	English & maths 4+	English & maths 5+
Notts 903 Cohort	22%	12%
National CLA	22%	11%

12. The table above shows the end of Key Stage 4 outcomes from 2022 for the current Year 13 cohort. Validated end of Key Stage 4 outcomes from 2023 for the current Year 12 young people are released in March 2024.

13. 22% of our young people in the 903 cohort (in care on 31 March) achieved a grade 4 in both GCSE English and maths at the end of Year 11 in 2022. 12% of the same group achieved GCSE 5+ in both English and maths which is 1% above the national average.

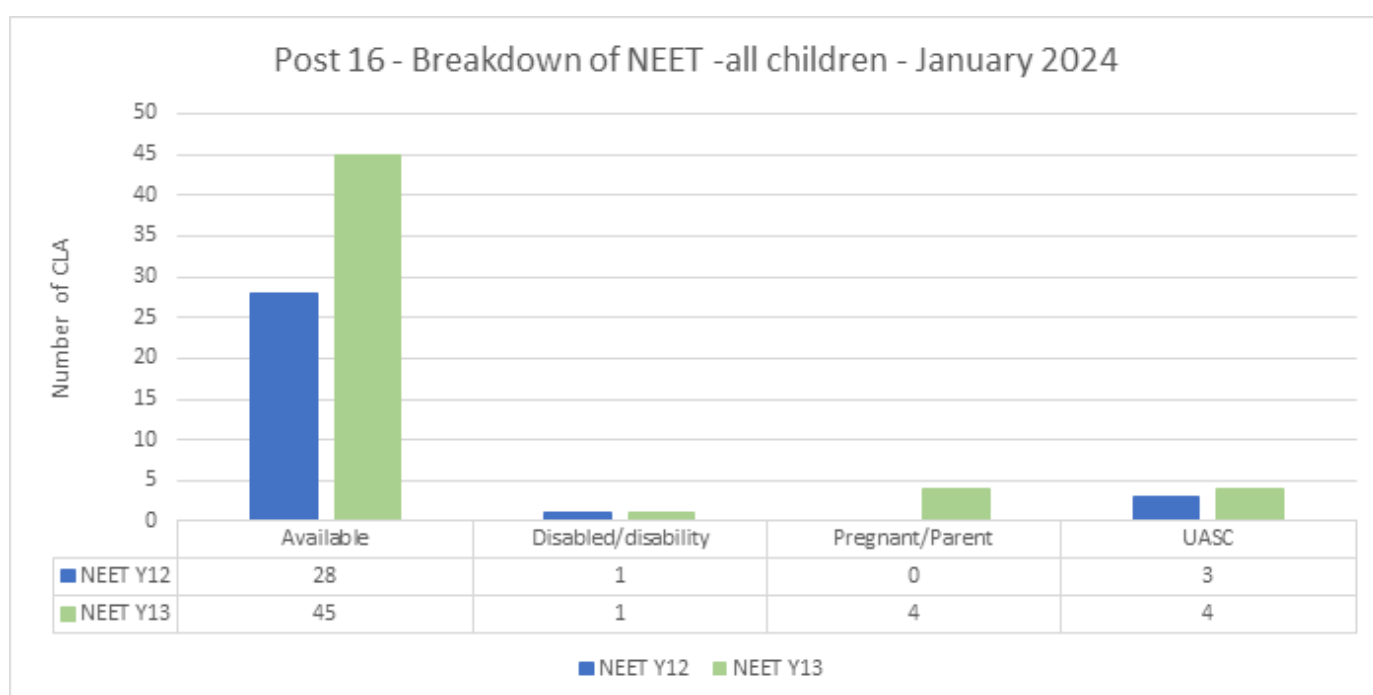
**Breakdown of courses – correct as of January 2024**

14. The chart below shows the level of course at which our young people are studying, or whether they are employed or in an apprenticeship. Level 1 qualifications are the equivalent of grade 1-3 at GCSE, Level 2 equates to GCSE grades 4-9 and Level 3 are A Level or equivalent qualifications. The proportion of our young people accessing higher level courses (Level 2 and Level 3) has increased when compared with the last academic year.



## Not in education, employment or training (NEET) – correct as of January 2024

15. The graph below indicates those young people who are not in education, employment or training. 'Available' status indicates that the young person is able to seek education, employment and training but has not secured this at the point of producing this data. At the time of writing, 5/7 unaccompanied young people seeking asylum who are not in education, employment or training were new to the country and undergoing assessments to determine correct college course level.
16. Our young people who are not in education, employment or training are allocated an Achievement Adviser from the Achievement Service or an Achievement Officer from the Virtual School who is able to offer support in securing education, employment and training status working alongside a range of other teams and services, including the social worker, personal adviser or transitional personal adviser.



## Children who are unaccompanied and seeking asylum

17. There are 97 Nottinghamshire unaccompanied children seeking asylum (compared with 69 in 2023) and 83 of those are in our post-16 cohort in Year 12 and 13. 92% of the post-16 cohort are in education employment or training. 68% of those in education or training attend Nottingham College or Catch 22 studying ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses. Those who are not in education, employment or training are either new to the country and applications for colleges are being processed or they are being supported by the Achievement Service to explore their education and training options.
18. The Achievement Service and Virtual School work in partnership to support our unaccompanied children seeking asylum in education and training. Joint working this academic year has included bespoke Personal Education Planning training for ESOL

course providers and settings, and summer ESOL sessions provided by Winchmore Tutors at Nottingham Trent University accessed by 16 young people.

### **Post-16 Pupil Premium**

19. Nottinghamshire Virtual School began the post-16 Pupil Premium pilot in September 2021, part of the grant was used to introduce a new embedded mentor/wellbeing coach role which is part of the care experienced offer at West Nottinghamshire College. The Virtual School commissioned the Educational Psychology Service to train Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) in West Nottinghamshire College and Nottingham College, working with colleagues from Nottingham City. Building Relational Colleges: Attachment Aware & Trauma Informed training in 2022-23 was accessed by four post-16 settings and follow up supervision sessions are ongoing during 2023-24. Much of this work has supported West Nottinghamshire College's inclusive and relational approach supporting care experienced students to excel. The College regularly shares their good practice in termly college network meetings and delivered a workshop.
20. Post-16 Pupil Premium Plus has also enabled Further Education settings to purchase laptops and other resources for individual students to support effective access to courses and enabling work from home.

### **University**

21. There are 36 Nottinghamshire care leavers aged 18-25 years who are undertaking their undergraduate or post-graduate degrees this academic year. 8 of our young people secured first year university places in September 2023. At the time of writing, 17 looked after young people/care leavers have submitted first year applications to universities for the academic year 2024-25.
22. It is recognised by a number of universities including Nottingham, Nottingham Trent and De Montford (Leicester), that Nottinghamshire County Council has one of the best packages to support young people accessing university. The Leaving Care Team remains involved with those young people who require any additional support throughout their studies. Students in Year 12 and 13 planning to go to university are allocated an Achievement Adviser to support them from their application process, student finance, moving in, and support them during their studies.
23. To encourage aspiration to attend university, young people are offered visits either on an individual basis or as a group to any of the local universities; the Virtual School and Achievement Service maintain close links with local universities. Opportunities are shared with Designated Teachers in schools and colleges regularly to promote visits to university for our young people; and questions in Personal Education Plans include prompts from Year 7 about going to university. In December 2023, the Virtual School and Achievement Service worked with Nottingham Trent University to facilitate an open day for our young people. The event included a tour, insight into a variety of courses and hearing from care experienced university students. 27 young people attended the event. One attendee was reluctant to attend the event initially but they enjoyed the day, they want to visit again and they are now considering university.

## **Future actions to support our Post 16 cohort of looked after young people**

24. In order to further develop the effectiveness of smooth transition for young people over the Year 11 to post-16 period, the Virtual School and Achievement Service will work together to implement good practice. This will include:
- Further development of transition processes with Further Education settings
  - Further development of post-16 pupil premium+ funded interventions
  - More effectively monitor progress, attainment and attendance of the post-16 cohort through the new Personal Education Plan platform.

## **Other Options Considered**

25. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

26. The report provides an opportunity for the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

28. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there are any further actions it requires arising from the information contained in the report.

**Peter McConnochie**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Inclusion**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Steph McGill  
Assistant Head of the Virtual School  
T: 0115 8040644  
E: [stephanie.mcgill@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.mcgill@nottsc.gov.uk)

**Constitutional Comments (CD 03/04/24)**

29. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel by virtue of its terms of reference.

**Financial Comments (SS 03/04/24)**

30. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

CF0166