

10th February 2020

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 12-13 LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE COHORT 2019 – 2020

Purpose of the Report

1. This report informs Committee of the education destinations of Nottinghamshire looked after young people who left statutory education at the end of the academic year 2018-2019 into Year 12, and those in Year 13 of post 16 education. The report asks Committee to consider whether there are any further actions it requires arising out of this information.

Information

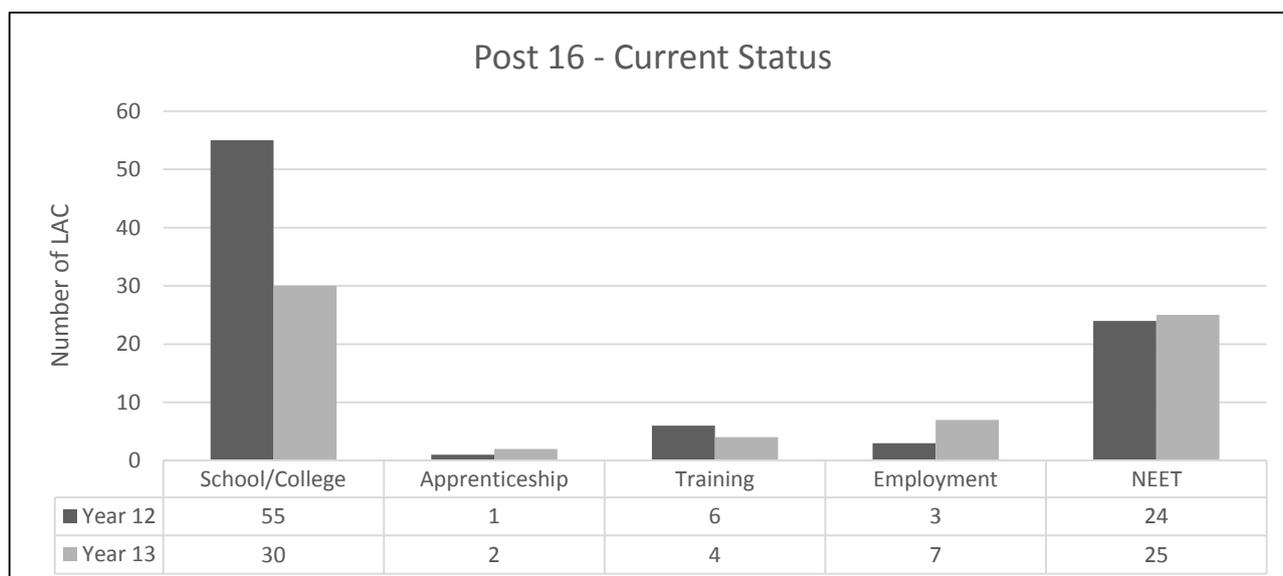
2. Members of the Children and Young People's Committee act as corporate parents to the children and young people looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council and therefore receive regular reports on the academic successes of these children and young people.
3. Despite changes to education legislation 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 16th 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 level 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 level is obtained.
4. The change to 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. All looked after pupils throughout their statutory schooling are supported at every stage of their education through the Personal Education Planning process (PEP). This plan is

reviewed on a termly basis and is a statutory part of the care planning for that young person. Social workers, designated teachers, other school staff, foster carers and the young person are all part of the meeting to review the PEP. This meeting reviews the achievements to date and areas that will need extra support to ensure the pupil reaches their full potential. As part of these meetings, preparation for adulthood is a key focus. This includes asking questions around skills and strengths of the pupil and how these may be encouraged and built upon to meet the goals the pupil may have for their future.

6. At these meetings pupils are encouraged and supported to consider their post 16 education choices. Schools must provide 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.
7. Whilst there is not a dedicated PEP document supporting the post 16 cohort, their statutory Pathway Plan is a document that is used to ensure education, employment or training is discussed and planned for at regular intervals with the young person.
8. The post 16 cohort is supported by an Achievement Adviser who is based in the looked after team for social care, with close links to the virtual school. The virtual school collates termly data from post 16 settings to monitor and track the young people in the post 16 cohort. This information supports the work of the Achievement Adviser and the virtual school to identify those young people at risk of underachievement or exiting their courses.

Breakdown of education destinations – correct as of December 2019

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).



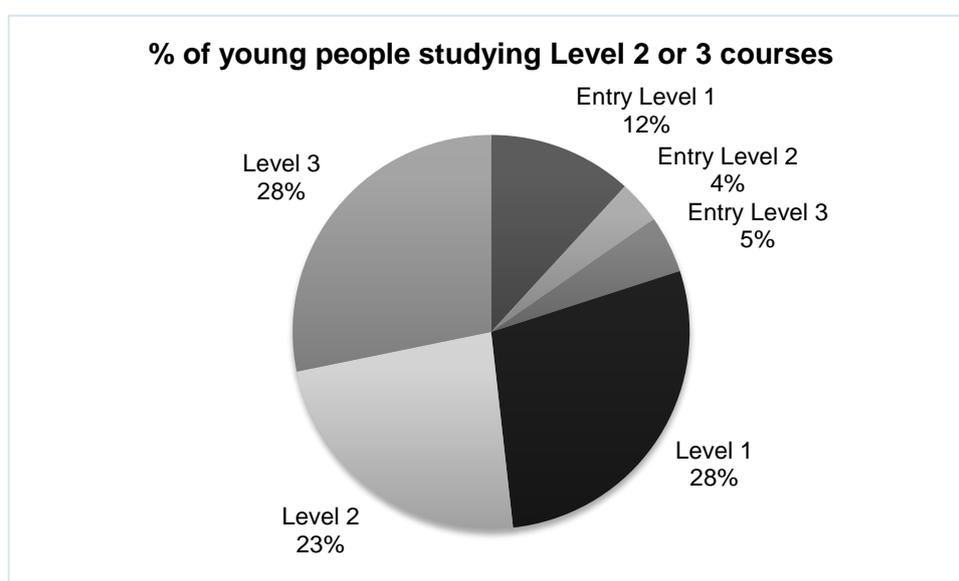
10. It can be noted that 69% of Year 12/13 young people are EET (108/157). 55% of young people are currently attending further education colleges or school 6th forms (78 in colleges and 8 in school 6th forms). 31% of the young people are NEET (49/157).

English & Mathematics Grade 4 results for both Year 12 and 13

11. 24% (37/157) of the current cohort have already obtained at least a grade 4 in GCSE English and 21% (33/157) have already obtained at least a grade 4 in GCSE mathematics. 17.2% of the cohort (27/157) achieved both English & mathematics.
12. All young people who are EET who have not obtained the GCSE level 4 mathematics and English qualification are following courses at the appropriate level (ranging from Entry level 1 to GCSE retakes).

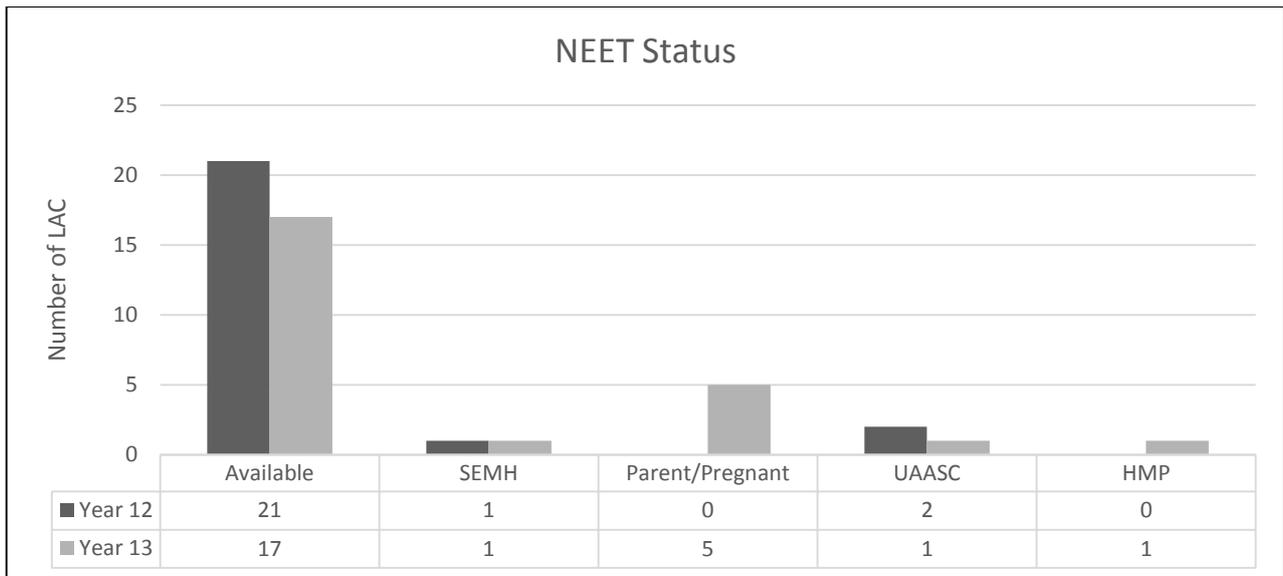
Breakdown of courses – correct as of December 2019

13. The chart below shows that over 50% (46/85) of young people in college or 6th form are studying either Level 2 or 3 courses. 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.



Not in education, employment or training (NEET) – correct as of December 2019

14. The graph below indicates those young people who are NEET. 'Available' status indicates that the young person is able to seek EET but has not secured this at the point of producing this data. Unaccompanied asylum seeking young people (UASC) often do not have the legal status to be able to seek EET, therefore, will remain on the NEET statistics until the asylum claim has been processed (3 young people).
15. Any young person who is NEET may be supported by a range of services, including the NEET service, achievement adviser, social worker, personal adviser (PA) or Transitional PA, in order to gain EET status.



University Planning

16. There are currently six students who have either applied for or secured university courses. The courses include social work, forensic sciences, business management and economics.
17. It is recognised that Nottinghamshire County Council has one of the best packages to support young people accessing university and the leaving care team remains involved with those young people who require any additional support throughout their studies.

Future actions to support the Post 16 cohort of looked after young people

18. 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 Children's Social Care teams will work together to implement good practice. This will entail:
 - jointly identifying Year 10 looked after young people at greatest risk of NEET who might benefit from targeted intervention
 - continuing to pilot work to develop an extensive work readiness programme that helps prepare Looked After Children and Care Leavers for work experience, apprenticeships and permanent employment, including developing mentoring, bespoke work experience opportunities and dedicated job opportunities for care leavers.

Other Options Considered

19. No other options have been considered

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider whether there are any further actions it requires.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any further actions it requires arising out of the information contained in the report.

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Constitutional Comments (AK 22/01/20)

23. The report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 22/01/20)

24. There are no financial implications arising directly 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.
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