

7th March 2022

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 12-13 LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PEOPLE COHORT 2020 – 2021

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 2020-2021 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.

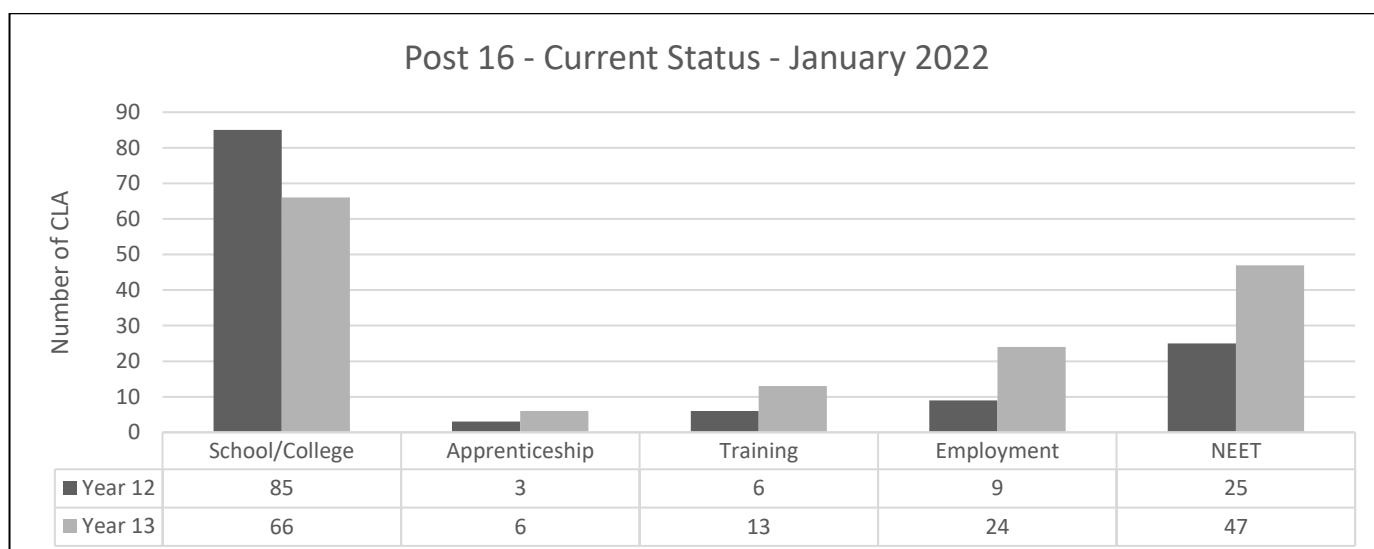
Information

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 and post-16 education are supported at every stage through the Personal Education Planning process. This strength-based 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 education staff, foster 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 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, during the secondary phase, pupils are encouraged and supported to consider their post-16 education choices as soon as Year 8. 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. An Achievement Adviser, based in the Leaving Care team and who holds a full-time position, supports the 16-18 year old cohort based within the looked after team. There is a joint responsibility and established collaborative working between the Achievement Service and the Virtual School to support the 16-18 year old cohort across all social care teams. 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 Plans where needed.
8. From January 2022 the Personal Education Plans for 3-18 year olds are now held on an online platform (ASSET) to provide efficient analysis of the educational data contained within the document. The platform holds Nottinghamshire's Personal Education Planning documents to maintain the strength-based approach and enables data analysis for the whole cohort.

Breakdown of education destinations – correct as of January 2022

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. 75% of Year 12/13 young people are in EET (212/284; this compares with 199/283 in January 2021). 53% of young people are currently attending further education colleges or school 6th forms (137 in colleges and 14 in school 6th forms). 25% of our young people are NEET (72/284), which has decreased from 30% in January 2021.

English and mathematics grade 4 results for Year 12, 2021 (teacher assessment due to COVID-19 and data is for all our young people not the reportable 903 cohort)

	English 4+	Maths 4+	English & Maths 4+
All	33%	29%	23%
903 Cohort	34%	31%	24%

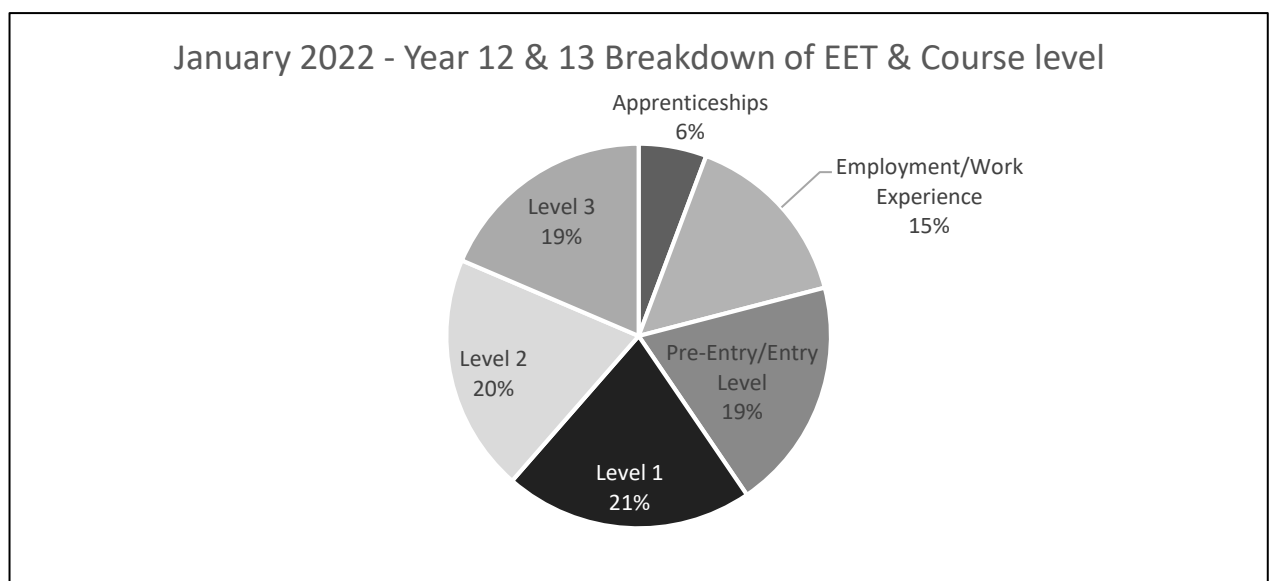
	English 5+	Maths 5+	English & Maths 5+
All	16%	15%	8%
903 Cohort	20%	15%	10%

11. 33% (40/120) of the current Year 12 cohort achieved at least a grade 4 in GCSE English at the end of Year 11 and 29% (35/120) of the current Year 12 cohort achieved at least a grade 4 in GCSE mathematics at the end of Year 11. 23% of the cohort (28/120) achieved both English and mathematics.
12. All our young people who are in EET and have not achieved the required GCSE level 4 mathematics and English qualification are following courses at the appropriate level (ranging from Entry Level 1 to GCSE retakes) to work towards the required standard.

Breakdown of courses – correct as of January 2022

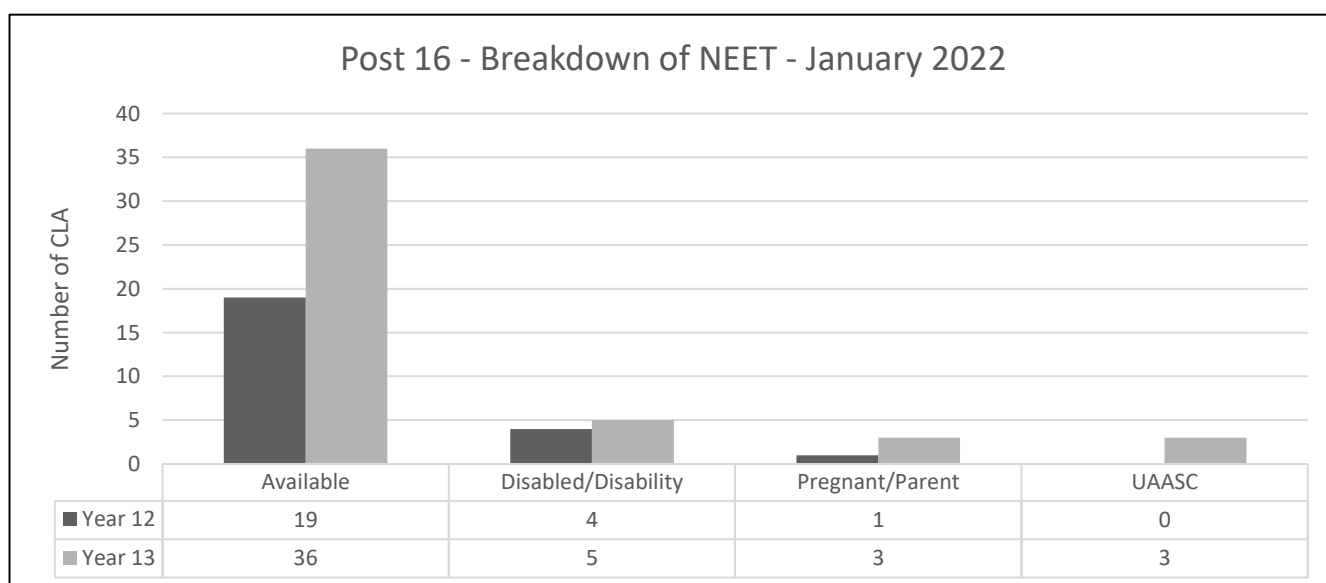
13. The chart below shows the level of course our young people are studying at or whether they are employed or in an apprenticeship. Level 1 qualifications are the equivalent of grade 1-3 at GCSE, Level 2 equates to GCSE grades 4-9 and Level 3 are A Level or equivalent qualifications.

January 2022 – Year 12 & 13 Breakdown of EET & Course Level



Not in education, employment or training (NEET) – correct as of December 2020

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). Whilst UASC young people are under 18 there are a number of courses at colleges and voluntary organisations which remain available and open for this cohort of learners. Beyond 18, if asylum is not processed and granted at this point then work is not available although the voluntary sector and college courses are still available to be accessed. These young people continue to be supported through the Council's Leaving Care team up to the age of 25 if required, this includes accommodation, advice and guidance for EET options and allocated personal advisors who will support all areas of their lives until their legal status is resolved.
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 or transitional personal adviser, in order to gain EET status.



University Planning

16. There are currently 17 students who have either applied for or secured university courses for September 2022. This is an increase of eight when compared with university applications for September 2021.
17. 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 and the Leaving Care Team remains involved with those young people who require any additional support throughout their studies.
18. 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, who both the Virtual School

and Leaving Care team have close links with. Should a young person wish to attend a university further afield then visits can be arranged with these establishments through the participation teams all universities are required to have.

19. Nottingham Trent University also offers student mentoring for pupils from Year 11 upwards which provides support with academic studies, aspiration of university and general support through Year 11 to Year 13. The Virtual School has links with local universities who offer opportunities to visit and online sessions about going to university from Year 8 onwards.
20. There are 33 young people who are now studying at university who are care leavers to Nottinghamshire County Council which is a very positive picture for the outcomes of our young people.

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

21. 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 include:
 - Nottinghamshire Virtual School was successful in the bid to take part in a Post-16 Pupil Premium Pilot. Analysis of outcomes and measuring impact will allow us to continue to support our young people's achievement using evidence-based interventions and practice.
 - More effectively monitor progress, attainment and attendance of the post-16 cohort through the new Personal Education Plan platform.

Other Options Considered

22. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Members consider whether there are any further actions required arising out of the information contained in the report.

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 16/02/22)

26. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (MDN 04/02/22)

27. 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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