



# Nottinghamshire County Council

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**Title: Raising the Participation Age Strategy**

**Aim / Summary:**

### Document type (please choose one)

Policy		Guidance	
Strategy	√	Procedure	

**Approved by:**

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### Subject Areas (choose all relevant)

About the Council		Older people	
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### Please include any supporting documents

1.

2.

3.

**Review date**

**Amendments**




# Raising the Participation Age Strategy

## Foreword

“We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where everyone is able to enjoy a good quality of life. Ensuring that children, young people and families are supported as an investment in our future, for all residents in Nottinghamshire. This investment needs to ensure that services that support attainment and achievement are primarily focussed toward those young people, families and communities in greatest need.” **Strategic Plan 2014-18**

Through the Local Authority Strategic Plan, Nottinghamshire has made clear its commitment to working in partnership with schools, academies, further education and skills providers and employers to ensure young people make a successful transition into adult life. This means young people gaining the skills, qualifications and experience they need to enter the labour market with confidence and ambition.

Our strategic Plan makes a particular commitment to use the increasingly scarce resources available to the Local Authority to direct support to children and young people from the most deprived areas and with the greatest need.

The case for raising the participation age was made by the Department for Education in their publication **“Raising Expectations: staying on in education and training post-16 From Policy to legislation”** (DfE November 2007) which stated:

‘The benefits of participating in learning post-16, both to individuals and to the economy and society at large, are significant and growing. Our ambition is to realise those benefits for all young people. It is time to make a reality of our long held ambition for all young people to stay on in learning until 18’.

‘Raising the Participation Age’ (RPA) was introduced through the Education and Skills Act 2008. The Legislation brought about a change in the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning.

RPA is being introduced in two phases. Since September 2013, young people are required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, or until completion of a full Level 3 (defined as two or more A Levels or their equivalent in vocational qualifications), whichever is the sooner.

From 2015, they will be required to continue in learning until their 18th birthday.

RPA does not necessarily mean young people must stay in school beyond the age of 16; they are able to choose from one of the following options:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.
- An Apprenticeship.

The duty to participate resides with the individual young person. An intention outlined in the legislation to apply enforcement options on young people and employers who fail in their duties are not being implemented at this stage, but remain in statute and could be introduced in the future.

### **Responsibilities for Local Authorities:**

The Education and Skills Act 2008 placed the following duty on Local Authorities:

- To promote the effective participation in education or training of young people in their area.
- To make arrangements to identify young people not participating in education, employment or training (NEET) – i.e. maintaining a comprehensive tracking system at primary, secondary and post 16.

These complement existing duties to:

- Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all 16-19 year olds.
- Have processes in place to deliver the September Guarantee.
- Track young peoples' participation.

### **Responsibilities for Schools, Academies and Post 16 Learning Providers:**

The Act placed the following duty on learning providers:

- To promote good attendance of 16 and 17 year olds.
- To inform local authority support services if a young person has dropped out so that they can be contacted swiftly and offered support.

### **Responsibilities for Employers:**

Employers must ensure that where a young person is employed for more than 20 hours per week, they allow them to undertake accredited training for a minimum of 280 guided learning hours per year (equivalent to one day per week). If the 16 or 17 year old is working less than 20 hours per week or less than 8 weeks in a row there is **no requirement**.

If the employer is not providing accredited training then they are required to:

- Check that the young person is enrolled on some accredited learning/training;
- Agree reasonable hours off work to allow access to training

## 1. Context

- ✓ There are 785,802 people living in Nottinghamshire County Local Authority Area.
- ✓ According to the 2011 ONS Census almost 20,000 of these are aged 16-17.
- ✓ Almost 40,000 young people aged 16-19 live in Nottinghamshire. (2011 Census)
- ✓ There are about 8,500 young people in the Year 11 cohort for all maintained schools and academies in Nottinghamshire.

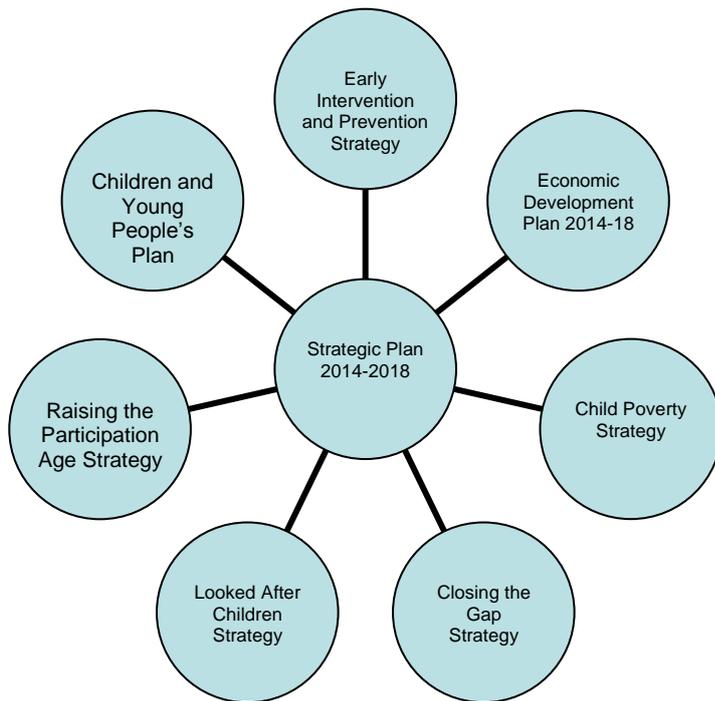


- ✓ NEET for 16-18 year olds in Nottinghamshire is low and remains below the England Average.
- ✓ Participation rates for 16 and 17 year olds remain stable at about 90%
- ✓ The proportion of young people whose Education, Employment or Training status is not known to the Authority is below the England average
- ✓ According to the new destination measures, Nottinghamshire is above the national and regional average for students leaving year 11 and moving into a sustained Year 12 Education and Training destination (sustained over two terms).

- ✓ Levels of persistent absence in Nottinghamshire declined slightly between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years but remains above the England Average
- ✓ Overall absence rates are broadly in line with the England and Regional Averages
- ✓ KS4 Attainment has been improving year on year and is now above the England average for the proportion of pupils achieving 5 A\*-C Grades at GCSE including English and Maths
- ✓ The proportion of young people with a L3 Qualification at 19 has been increasing year on year but remains below the England Average.



## RPA Strategy and links to other Corporate and Partnership Plans and Strategies:



This Raising the Participation Age Strategy does not stand alone.

It is one of a number of plans and strategies for Nottinghamshire that aim to:

- ✓ increase aspirations within local communities
- ✓ address poverty and deprivation
- ✓ engage with employers and support the local economy
- ✓ close the attainment gap for young people
- ✓ ensure the most vulnerable children and young people are supported.

Within Nottinghamshire's overarching Strategic Plan 2014-18, the Local Authority has made a number of commitments in relation to children and young people including that:

- The most vulnerable children will be effectively protected and supported
- More young people will be in work, education or training. Closer working relationships between schools, academies further education and skills, employers and higher education, to develop young people for early identifiable career pathways
- Our children and young people will attain higher educational standards than the national average in good and outstanding schools
- Additional school places will be available where they are most needed
- Children and young people receive the help and support they require to be safe and thrive
- Young people are supported to reach their potential.

Nottinghamshire Local Authority and its partners have committed to increasing the skills of its young people by offering:

- high quality information, advice and guidance and guidance (IAG), and
- support and provision that meets the needs of young people, and the demands of local employers.

In addition, through our 'Early Help' arrangements, there will be targeted support and early intervention for vulnerable young people and their families to address any issues which could become barriers to participation.

## 2. Our strategy for RPA for Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire Local Authority recognises it has a new relationship with schools, academies, further education and skills providers who enjoy increased autonomy.

Within this context, the authority remains committed to working together with partners to ensure young people have an experience of education which is positive, and that enables them to reach their potential, and that equips them with the skills, qualifications and confidence they need in readiness for the world of work.

The ambition is that partners will work together, with a common purpose, to help raise young people's aspirations and, to ensure the right opportunities and support are available to fulfil those aspirations.

To support this ambition the authority will:

- Maintain our drive to improve educational outcomes across the full range of providers serving Nottinghamshire's children and young people, with a particular focus on attainment at KS4 and at age 19.
- Maintain our understanding of the needs of young people in Nottinghamshire so that they are able to participate in learning up to the age of 18. with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.
- Influence wherever possible, the local education and training landscape to ensure that the appropriate provision is available, and in the right locations. So that it is accessible to all who need/wish to participate.
- Ensure that there is a variety of vocational pathways and accreditation models available which encourage young people to want to stay on in learning to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding, that enables them to move on to the next stage of their lives at 19 years of age.
- Support the provision of high quality careers guidance from age 13 to all learners so they all make the right choices first time.
- Provide Strategic Leadership that encourages Nottinghamshire's education and training providers, and employers, to work together collaboratively to raise attainment, and support the most vulnerable learners.
- Maintain data and tracking mechanisms that support the early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET, and, to support sustainable progression by putting in place early intervention strategies.
- Provide 'Early Help' to the most vulnerable young people that enables them to engage with and participate in learning.
- Ensure young people, parents, employers and education and training providers are clear about their duties under the Raising of the Participation Age.

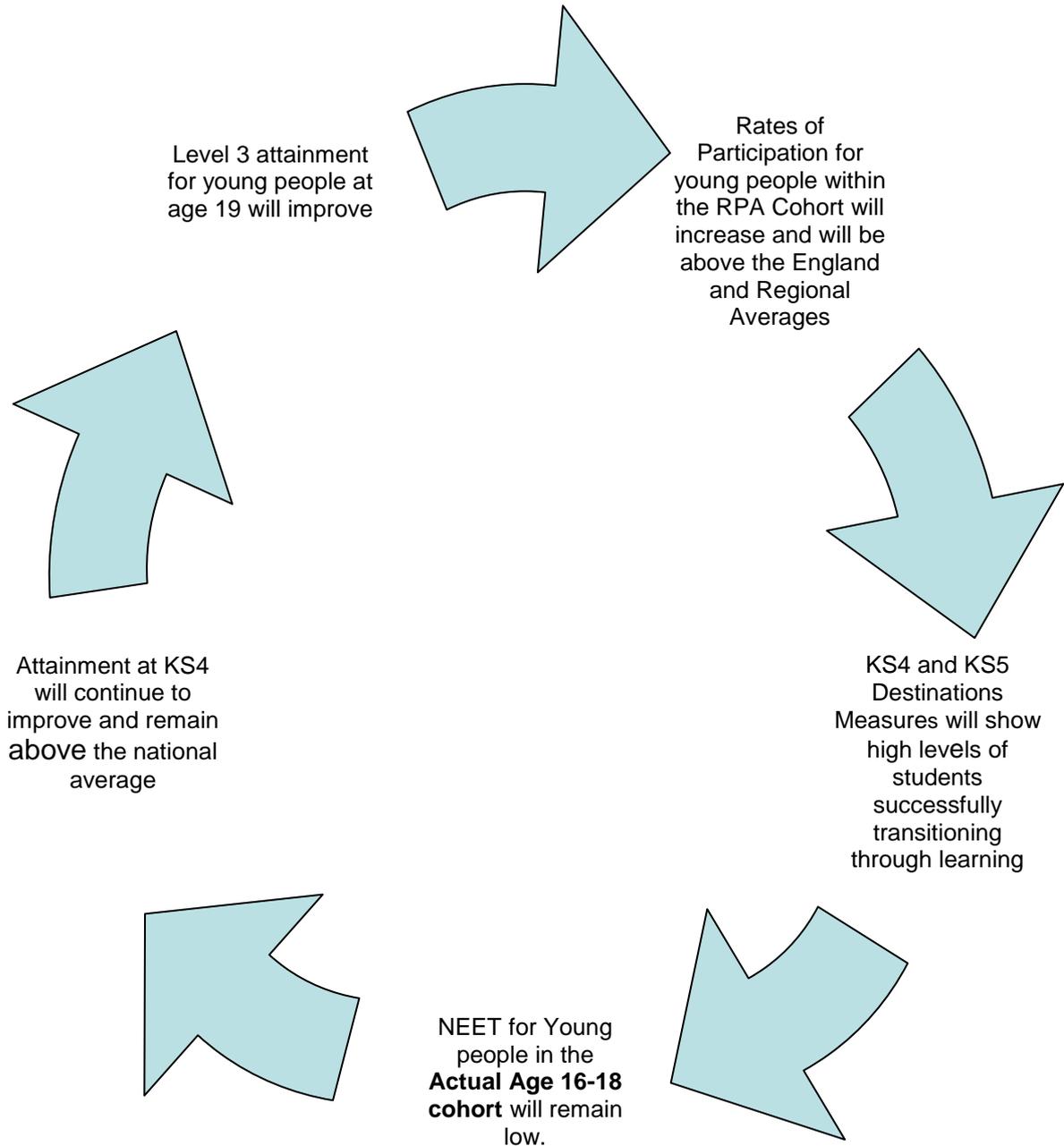
### 3. How we will deliver the Strategy

What we aim to achieve	What we will do	How we will measure success
Support the provision of high quality careers guidance from age 13 to all learners so they all make the right choices first time	<p>Provide support and challenge to schools and post 16 providers, to ensure they meet their duty to offer independent and impartial careers guidance</p> <p>Work with the National Careers Service provider to help broker links between schools, further education and skills and local employers</p> <p>Provide careers advice for Looked After Children who require support for their successful transition</p>	<p>The proportion of young people remaining in learning after KS4</p> <p>Post 16 progression measures for Nottinghamshire indicate a high level of retention in learning post 16</p> <p>The proportion of Looked After Children who are NEET</p>
Provide strategic leadership that encourages education and training providers, and employers to work together collaboratively to raise attainment, and support the most vulnerable learners	<p>We will work with schools to challenge poor standards and provide support to help deliver improvements</p> <p>We will ensure that support is targeted where there are the most profound gaps in educational attainment</p>	<p>Increase the % of children achieving 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE - including both Maths and English</p> <p>Narrow the attainment gap at ages 11 and 16 between pupils eligible for free school meals and the rest</p>
Maintain our drive to improve educational outcomes across the full range of providers serving Nottinghamshire's children and young people with a particular focus on attainment at KS4 and at age 19	<p>Work in partnership with education and training providers and employers to ensure a varied and engaging post 16 curriculum is in place</p> <p>Work in partnership with schools through our 'Early Help' offer to address pupil absence</p>	<p>Increase level 3 Attainment at 19 to be above the England Average.</p> <p>Reduce overall and persistent absence to below the England average.</p>
<p>Influence wherever possible, the local education and training landscape to ensure the appropriate provision is available, in the right location. so that it is accessible to all who need to participate</p> <p>Ensure that there is a variety of vocational pathways and models of accreditation available which that encourage young people to want to stay on in learning to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding which enables them to move on to the next stage in their lives at 19 years of age</p>	<p>We will work with post 16 skills providers to challenge poor standards and provide support to help deliver improvements</p> <p>Work in partnership with Providers delivers NEET reduction activity including the DWP, the Youth Contract and ESF.</p> <p>Work with employers to increase training opportunities for young people, particularly through traineeships and apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire providers of further education and skills will be graded 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted</p> <p>Reduction in the proportion of young people in NEET.</p> <p>Increase the number of young people engaged in traineeships and apprenticeships across Nottinghamshire.</p>

What we aim to achieve	What we will do	How we will measure success
Provide 'Early Help' to the most vulnerable young people that enables them to engage with and participate in learning	Implement a Risk of NEET Indicator tool using Family Fisher Trust Student Explorer data so that these young people can be targeted for support with transition during KS4.	Low levels of NEET at the end of KS4 particularly for vulnerable groups
	Reduce the % of children not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the <b>Actual Age 16-18 cohort</b>	Maintain low levels of NEET
	Reduce the numbers of young people who are missing education, with a focus on those not receiving their full education entitlement	Reduce the number of young people, known to the authority, not receiving their full educational entitlement.
	Introduce Education, Health and Care Plans for young people with complex SEND needs, and ensure that a local offer is in place, that can be easily understood by parents and young people.	
	Support young people with BESD through local behaviour partnerships that enable them to remain engaged with learning	Reduction in the number of young people who are excluded from school
Maintain data and tracking mechanisms which support early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET and to support sustainable progression by putting in place early intervention strategies	Track young people who drop out of learning post 16 and provide support	Maintain relatively low levels of 'not known' within the available resources, and maintain low NEET.
Maintain our understanding of the needs of young people in Nottinghamshire so that they are able to participate in learning up to 18 years of age, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups	Share destinations data with schools and academies to support the identification of young people who are NEET. What about FE and skills?	Reduce the gap in the proportion of young people from vulnerable groups who are NEET compared to the overall cohort
Ensure young people, parents and education and training providers are clear about their duties under the Raising of the Participation Age	Deliver a communications plan that raises awareness of RPA for parents and young people and alerts education and training providers and employers of their duties	The duties and responsibilities around RPA are understood by: parents, young people, schools, academies, further education and skills providers and employers across Nottinghamshire

#### 4. How you will know that we have achieved this

You will know that we are successfully implementing the Raising of the Participation age because:



## Related Documents/Web links

- Increasing opportunities for young people and helping them to achieve their potential: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-opportunities-for-young-people-and-helping-them-to-achieve-their-potential>
- Increasing the participation of young people in education and training: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151655/http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/laupdates/a00201156/participation-yp-in-et>
- Building Engagement-Building Futures; <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151655/http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/a00200853/building-engagement-building-futures>
- Increasing the participation of young people in education and training; <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/laupdates/a00201156/participation-yp-in-et>
- The Importance of Teaching: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-teaching-and-leadership>
- 'Hidden Talents: exploiting the link between engagement of young people and the economy'; NFER; March 2011; [http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/HITA01/HITA01\\_home.cfm](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/HITA01/HITA01_home.cfm)
- Supporting Youth Unemployment: An overview of the Coalition Government's Approach ; HM Government ; May 2011; <http://fskills.idoxgroup.com/sds/search/download.do;jsessionid=2222A8BA6170819A779914A780A15F83?ref=B20649>;
- Increasing the number of academies and free schools to create a better and more diverse school system; <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-academies-and-free-schools-to-create-a-better-and-more-diverse-school-system>
- Reforming qualifications and the curriculum to better prepare pupils for life after school; <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-qualifications-and-the-curriculum-to-better-prepare-pupils-for-life-after-school>
- Raising the achievement of disadvantaged children <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/raising-the-achievement-of-disadvantaged-children>
- Increasing options and improving provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-options-and-improving-provision-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-sen>
- Improving the quality of further education and skills training; <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-further-education-and-skills-training>

- Richard Review of Apprenticeships; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-richard-review-of-apprenticeships>
- Skills for sustainable growth: strategy document; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-for-sustainable-growth-strategy-document>
- 16 to 19 study programmes: work experience; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-work-experience-as-a-part-of-16-to-19-study-programmes>
- Careers guidance provision for young people in schools; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-for-young-people-in-schools>
- Careers guidance: advice for schools; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-advice-for-schools>
- Research into the phase 4 locally-led delivery projects for raising the participation age; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-into-the-phase-4-locally-led-delivery-projects-for-raising-the-participation-age>
- Participation of young people: education, employment and training; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-of-young-people-education-employment-and-training>
- Going in the right direction? Careers guidance in schools from September 2012 (Ofsted); <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/going-right-direction-careers-guidance-schools-september-2012>