

POST 16 PARTICIPATION, NEET AND UNKNOWN STATUTORY DUTIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

STATUTORY DUTIES

Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. These are:

- To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained.
- To make available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those between 20 and 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of ESA 2008.

Tracking young people's participation is a key element of these duties. Local authorities are required to collect information about young people so that those who are not participating, or are NEET, can be identified and given support to re-engage. Robust tracking also provides the local authority with information that will help to ensure that suitable education and training provision is available and that resources can be targeted effectively.

- Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
- Local authorities must make arrangements – i.e. maintain a tracking system (CCIS – Client Caseload Information System)- to identify 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating in education or training (NEET and Unknowns)
- DWP have a duty to support all 18-25 young people not in education, employment and training.

N.B. This duty is relevant to young people aged 16 and 17 years old who live within Southampton City Council authority area only. Any young person living in another authority will be tracked and supported by the LA they live in.

STATUTORY RETURNS

Local authorities are also required to submit a number of statutory returns that support and underpin the duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate. These include:

- Monthly MI (Management Information) return of data including years 16 and 17 year old NEETs (up to 25 years for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP))
- Year 11 fixed cohort (May MI return) which includes all year 11s attending a Southampton school, Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) or Electively Home Educated (EHE)
- Year 11 Intended Destinations (non-statutory since 2020 but local collection encouraged to support participation tracking)

- Year 11 and year 12 September Guarantee (September MI return) all offers of learning given to young people in cohort
- Year 11 Activity Survey (November) covering Post-16 progression - destinations of year 11 leavers
- New academic year 12 and 13 tracking (September to December)
- DfE nationally published NEET/Unknown data (an average of the Dec, Jan and Feb MI returns)
- Post-16 participation in learning data (March MI return)

NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

All young people in year 12 and 13 (age 16 and 17) living within the Southampton City Council boundary are tracked and recorded, the cohort is approximately 4500. Those that are recorded as NEET are divided into 2 categories;

- NEET – available for work, including

Working not for reward
Not yet ready for work or learning
Start date agreed
Seeking employment, education or training

- NEET – not available for work, including

Carer
Teenage parents
Illness
Pregnancy
Religious grounds
Unlikely to be economically active

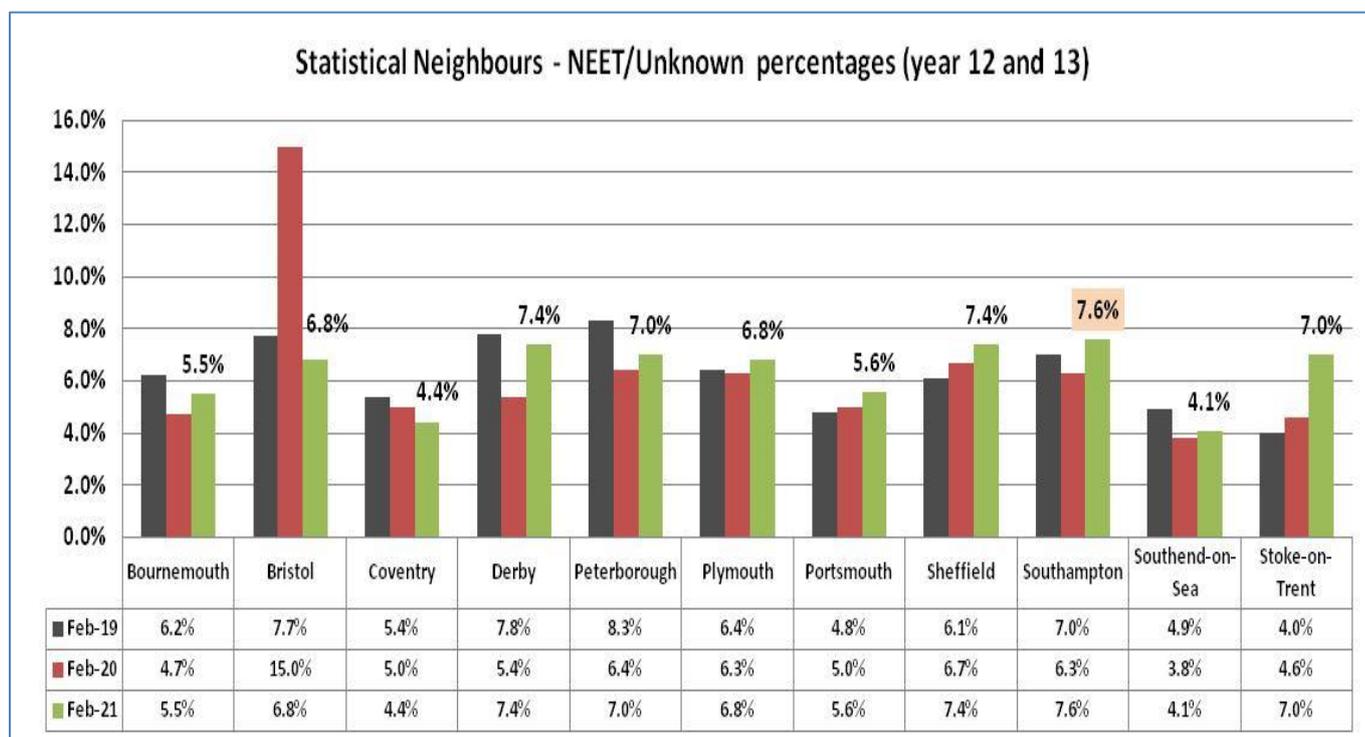
N.B. Young people in year group 14 and above (18+) who are NEET sign on and are the responsibility of the DWP to support into work. In Southampton, the Employment Support Team take a supporting role to achieve this.

The Post 16 Team is not funded to undertake work beyond the statutory duties set out above.

Southampton Participation, NEET and Unknown (Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)

- The combined NEET and Unknown data is based on **Southampton residents only** in the academic year groups 12 and 13 (academic age 16 and 17).
- The cohort is approximately 4500 young people.
- The percentage of those participating in EET (Education, Employment and Training) is 90% (4050).
- The combined NEET/Unknown percentage for 2021 was 7.6% (DfE published data as an average of the months Dec, Jan and Feb).
- NEET = 4.4% (average of 196 young people).

- Unknowns = 3.2% (average of 136 young people).
- Looked after = 44 of which 9 were NEET in Feb 2021
- Care Leavers = 1 who was NEET in Feb 2021
- SEND (EHCP) aged 16-17 = 158 of which 17 were NEET in Feb 21
- 12 of the NEET young people in February 2021 were working with the Youth Offending Service at the time.



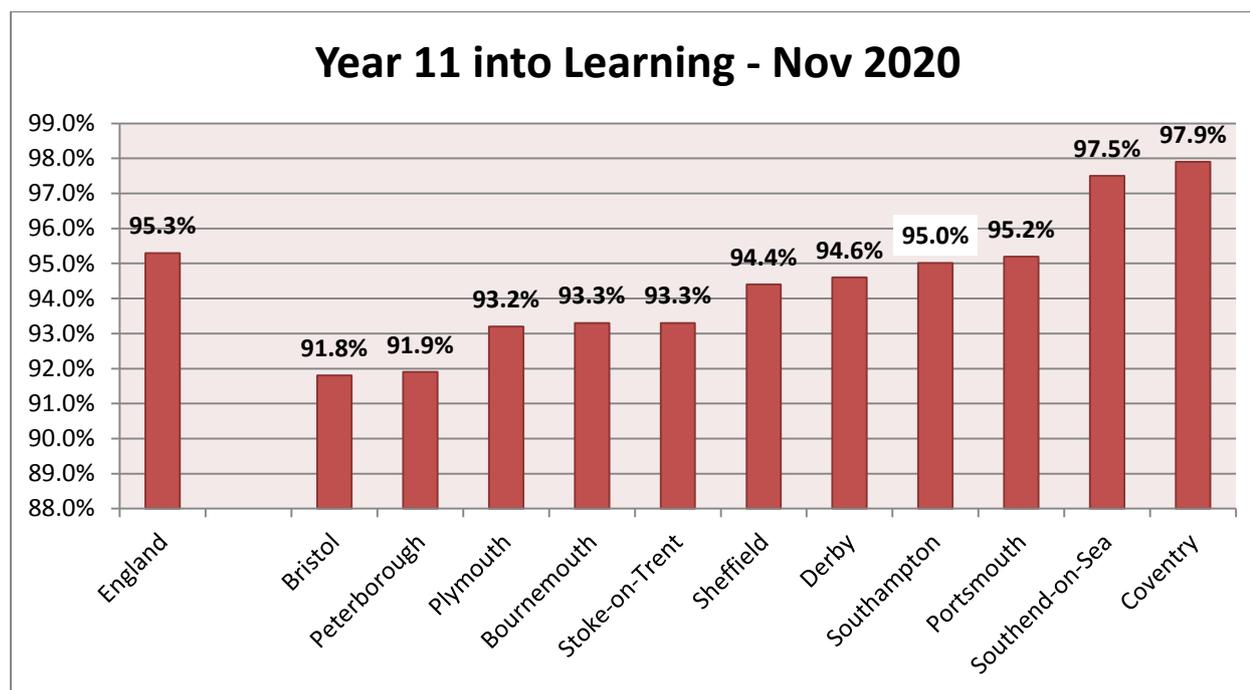
- Although Southampton's NEET/Unknown figure has risen this year, so have 8 of the 10 Statistical Neighbours, with Stoke on Trent with the biggest rise.
- The largest increase is Stoke-on-Trent with 2.4%, Southampton had a rise of 1.3%.
- Southampton have the highest NEET percentage in 2021 of all statistical neighbours
- The pandemic has exacerbated the issue. For example:
 - Limited face to face contact and support with NEET group
 - Limited late entry college places
 - Limited new apprenticeship starts
 - Limited new employment opportunities.

YEAR 11 PROGRESSION INTO LEARNING

The post-16 destinations of all year 11 leavers from a Southampton School are tracked, recorded and submitted to the DfE in December each year. The following data is the percentage of the pupils that progressed into a Learning Opportunity, that is either college or sixth form, an apprenticeship, a full-time training opportunity or fulltime employment with accredited training.

	November 2018	November 2019	November 2020
Year 11 Progression into Learning	92.65%	93.81%	95.01%

Statutory Neighbour comparisons



YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13 NEET COMPARISON

	Year 12	Year 13
2019	82 (44.6%)	102 (55.4%)
2020	78 (42.2%)	106 (57.6%)
2021	67 (34.2%)	129 (65.8%)

- Year 12 NEET % is reducing year on year, while Year 13 is increasing.
- Possible reasons:
 - Students struggle with college learning environment
 - Several moves between courses, students not settling
 - Level 2 to Level 3 transition is a big jump academically
 - Introduction of exam element in vocational courses
 - Not meeting entry requirements to progress
 - Lack of student engagement
 - Poor attendance in Maths and English courses
 - Students suffering with poor mental health, low resilience

ACTION ALREADY TAKEN TO ADDRESS 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD NEETS

- Moved the Post 16 Team into the Education Team
- Strengthened relationships with Post 16 providers
- Southampton NEET / Participation is a standing agenda item on Southampton Education Forum (SEF). Schools and colleges supporting and holding each other to account.

- Development of Individual Pathways in mainstream secondary schools – funding for schools to develop bespoke pathways for students at risk of permanent exclusion.
- Windmills iCan Training – in schools and in SCC
- Improved information sharing and Year 11 transition arrangements – taster days, open days, independent careers information, advice and guidance.
- Strengthened partnership working with outside agencies – National Citizenship Service, Itchen STEP, Saints Foundation etc.
- Development of Flying Start website – information for young people moving from school to positive Post 16 destinations.

LONGER TERM PLANS

- Employed 3 FTE Engagement Officers (starting on 27th September 2021) to support and reengage young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, or who are NEET.
- The Post 16 team is currently scoping out the possibility of employing a Kickstarter to resurrect the SCC Work Experience offer to young people in schools.
- Development of Care Leavers Guarantee – in progress.
- Audit the current quality of Careers Information Advice and Guidance in schools
- Establish a traded Careers Information Advice and Guidance service for schools and colleges.
- We have been successful in a bid for £200K to address the educational inequalities as a result of Covid-19. Some of this funding will be used to enhance existing NEET prevention initiatives in schools and colleges.