

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	POST 16 EDUCATION AND TRAINING		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 TH FEBRUARY 2016		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
This report provides an overview of post-16 education and training for Southampton young people including progress, performance, actions undertaken and emerging issues.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Panel consider and challenge the position relating to post 16 education and training in Southampton.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of outcomes for children and families in Southampton.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
	Context		
3.	Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to ensure that there is enough, suitable education and training provision in their area to meet the needs of young people aged 16-19 (and up to 25 for those with learning difficulties or disabilities), and to oversee the provision and take-up of education and training so that young people meet their duty to participate up to age 18. Comparatively, Southampton, as an urban area, is well served with the majority of education and training choices within a reasonable travel to learn distance. The primary role of the Council to date, therefore, has been partnership working to track and support young people's progression and retention in post 16 provision, including those who are at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET); to maximise external resource for local provision for all young people; and to strategically influence Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), government departments, local agencies, businesses and providers to ensure that provision meets the needs of learners and the local labour market. The Council does not have specific responsibility regarding inspection or quality assurance of post-16 provision, but would see its role as a strategic partner to address under- performance if		

	local provision was not of a suitable quality to meet the needs of its young people.																																																
	Cohort and destinations post-16																																																
4.	In 2015, 1,947 pupils attended a year 11 provision within Southampton. The number of young people in this cohort has been reducing over a period of 12 years from 2530 in 2004. It is forecast that the year 11 cohort will reach its minimum size in 2016/17 before increasing from this point onwards.																																																
5.	Every year, the Local Authority tracks the destinations of young people to post-16 provision. In 2015, the number of young people that met their duty to participate in education or training post-16 (under the Raising the Participation Age legislation) was 1893, equating to 94.65%. This was a rise of almost 3% compared to 91.8% in 2014. South East and England comparisons for post-16 participation are not yet available for 2015; however, in 2014 they were 93.2% and 93.4% respectively; therefore, it is anticipated that Southampton's increased participation rate this year should now be broadly in line with, or exceeding England or South East averages.																																																
6.	As given in table 1, below, the percentage of the cohort in some form of further education has fallen very slightly, so the increase has been made through the percentage into employment with training, along with those in full time training (the way in which employment without training is recorded has changed this year).																																																
7.	The number of young people who left compulsory education and were NEET on the 1 st November 2015 has remained similar to 2014. There were 57 (2.85%) young people in this group made up of 47 available for work and 10 not available due to reasons such as becoming parents and illness.																																																
	<p>Table 1 - Destinations of Southampton Y11 Leavers 2011-2015</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FE College/Sixth Form College/School Sixth Form</td> <td>88.3</td> <td>89.2</td> <td>89.2</td> <td>88.2</td> <td>88.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government Supported Training (Non Employed)</td> <td>1.8</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>1.8</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employment with training (including apprenticeships)¹</td> <td>1.8</td> <td>2.9</td> <td>3.5</td> <td>3.8</td> <td>4.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Re-engagement</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>0.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employment without training</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>0.7</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>1.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEET</td> <td>5.0</td> <td>3.2</td> <td>2.5</td> <td>2.8</td> <td>2.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>2.4</td> <td>3.1</td> <td>1.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(¹ Included employment with local non-accredited training up until 2014.)</p>		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	FE College/Sixth Form College/School Sixth Form	88.3	89.2	89.2	88.2	88.15	Government Supported Training (Non Employed)	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.3	2.0	Employment with training (including apprenticeships) ¹	1.8	2.9	3.5	3.8	4.4	Re-engagement	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	Employment without training	1.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	1.2	NEET	5.0	3.2	2.5	2.8	2.85	Unknown	0.9	2.2	2.4	3.1	1.3
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8.	Progression from Southampton schools to employment, training and education post- 16 varied considerably this year, as given at Table 1 in Appendix 4. The highest rates of progression to full time education were from St Anne's (98.5%); Regents Park (97%) and Upper Shirley High (96.7%). The highest rate of Apprenticeship progression was from Oasis Lord's Hill (11.2%), Woodlands (9.8%) and Oasis Mayfield (7.5%). Rates of progression to NEET varied from 11.7% at Compass to 0% at St Anne's.																																																
9.	There are marked variances in progression patterns relating to gender and ethnicity as given at Tables 2 and 3 of Appendix 4. 91.3% of females progressed to full time education against 84.8% of males, whereas																																																

	<p>apprenticeships progression for males was 5.6% against 3.3% for females. On the other hand, 96% of black and minority ethnic (BME) young people progressed to full time education against 86.5% of white young people, whilst 2% of BME young people progressed to an apprenticeship against 4.9% white.</p>
	<p>16-18 Education travel to learn</p>
10.	<p>There are three Further Education Colleges in Southampton: Southampton City College, which is a General Further Education (GFE) College delivering a primarily vocational curriculum, Richard Taunton's Sixth Form College and Itchen College that are both Sixth Form Colleges primarily providing an A level, academic curriculum. In addition, two schools have sixth form provision: St Anne's and Bitterne Park.</p>
11.	<p>Young people from Southampton schools attend a variety of educational establishments within and outside of the City, as indicated at Table 4 in Appendix 4. This year, Richard Taunton's Sixth Form College took 388 young people from Southampton Schools, Itchen College 337 and Southampton City College 334. Numbers progressing to the two Southampton sixth form schools have reduced since 2014. Progression from Southampton schools to Hampshire colleges this year included 275 to Barton Peveril College, 101 to Eastleigh College and 97 to Peter Symonds College. Every year, a number of young people attend Sparsholt College for courses (particularly agriculture/animal care) that are not available in the City.</p>
12.	<p>Additionally, young people from Hampshire schools attend Southampton colleges. This information is not yet available for 2015, as we rely on information from Hampshire County Council. Indications are that whilst Southampton continues to be a net 'exporter' post-16, the number into and out of the City are similar, and retention in the City is increasing.</p>
13.	<p>For the past four years, the Council has delivered a subsidised bus travel scheme for young people attending Southampton colleges, in partnership with the three colleges and the bus companies. This was introduced when Educational Maintenance Allowance was abolished nationally, as a result of a local survey with a response from 1300 young people that identified that cost of travel would impact on college take-up. The Council subsidy has come from the external Local Sustainable Transport Funding, and more than 2,000 reduced fare bus tickets have been sold each year.</p>
	<p>Post-16 Area Reviews</p>
14.	<p>In 2015, the National Audit Office reported on a significant risk in the viability of the FE College sector. There were further concerns regarding the potential impact of the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review regarding college funding. Therefore, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced a national review of post-16 college provision, to commence in November. Reviews were to be based on LEP areas, and the Solent area was selected to be in the first tranche, to report in April 2016.</p>
15.	<p>The explicit intention of the review is to rationalise the sector and "move towards fewer, often larger, more resilient and efficient providers and more effective collaboration across institution types". The reviews focus on General Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges, although other post-16 providers may choose to opt- in. Reviews are led by a local steering group Chaired by the FE Commissioner, consisting of college Principals and Chairs</p>

	of Governors, LEAs, Local Authorities, FE and Sixth Form College Commissioners, Regional School Commissioners, Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency.
16.	<p>It is intended that the reviews should deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions which are financially viable, sustainable, resilient and efficient, and deliver maximum value for public investment • An offer that meets each area's educational and economic needs • Providers with strong reputations and greater specialisation • Sufficient access to high quality and relevant education and training for all • Provision which reflects changes in government funding priorities and future demand (including creating the capacity to support the delivery of 3 million apprenticeships).
17.	Governing bodies will be responsible for deciding whether to accept agreed recommendations in relation to their institutions. There will be national revenue and capital funding for colleges to develop formal collaboration; this will only be available as part of the review, and any colleges which do not propose plans or accept recommendations during the review timescale and subsequently fall into financial hardship will receive no funding support and will be left to insolvency. Separately, there will be national capital funding for the establishment of Institutes of Technology and National Colleges as recommended through the reviews to deliver high level provision.
18.	The three Southampton colleges have been in scope for the Solent review. Three steering group meetings have been held to date, and colleges across the area are considering options for collaboration including shared services, mergers and federations. Sixth Form Colleges will have an additional option of academisation. The guidance is yet to be published, and colleges are awaiting further clarification.
19.	Southampton City Council has been fully involved and will consider emerging proposals and recommendations in the light of the needs of young people and outcomes for the City.
	Performance
20.	Southampton FE performance at GCE A level and Level 3 of all state-funded students aged 16 to 18 is lower than National across all areas. The gap between Southampton and National has widened in 2015 from 2014 for both the Level 3 Average Points Score per student and Level 3 Average Points Score per entry indicators.
21.	Compared to the other 152 Local Authorities, the best ranking overall achieved by Southampton was 131 st in the "Percentage of students achieving at least 2 substantial level 3 qualifications".
22.	Southampton's Level 3 Average Point Score per student of 592.1 is 67.3 below the Statistical Neighbour average of 659.4. Southampton's Level 3 Average Points Score per entry (198.4) is 12.1 below the average of its Statistical Neighbours (210.5), which ranks Southampton last against its Statistical Neighbours. Southampton has ranked last against Core Cities in all key indicators measures. Further statistical analysis is provided in Appendices 1-4.

	Progression to Higher Education
23.	Local Authorities do not keep destination data to Higher Education (HE) from 18 onwards; this information is held on a national basis via UCAS (and is therefore incomplete as it does not include direct entry to HE for those who do not apply via UCAS.) The national data indicates that access to HE for Southampton residents is 10 percentage points below the national average.
24.	Colleges and school sixth forms keep information on HE progression of their students, where known, and locally they believe this information to be 60% accurate. Southampton Education Forum are undertaking piece of work with Children's Data Team to refine the local information held on HE progression. It is suggested that Southampton colleges and school sixth forms are asked to supply the information they hold for a future meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.
	NEET
25.	The nationally published NEET figures for local authorities are measured against an average of the monthly returns for November, December and January. This dataset is used as it gives time for local authorities to track and record the current destination of all young people of academic age 16, 17 and 18 after the end of each academic year when their existing destinations expire.
26.	Up until 2010 Southampton had one of the highest NEET percentages of all local authorities at nearly 4% above both national and regional figures, but more emphasis on close partnership working and better tracking has brought this down significantly to a level close to both national and regional levels.
27.	The 16-18 cohort is made up of approximately 6800 young people who reside within the Southampton City boundary and of those the NEET group equates to around 340 each month, with a third of them 'Not Available to Look for Work' due to being or about to become teenage parents, illness and young carers.
28.	Southampton's NEET figures compare favourably against its statistical neighbours and core cites on a monthly basis. The latest accurate data is for July 2015, as given in Tables 4 and 5 of Appendix 4, when Southampton was 3 rd lowest of 11 against the statistical neighbours and the lowest of 9 core cities.
29.	The DfE also publish figures for the number of 'Unknown' young people recorded on each local authorities database for the same period of November to January and Southampton's percentage of unknowns has continued to fall, down to a five year low of 4.5% in August 2015 compared to 13.5% for the same month in 2014.
30.	Within the Authority, Data and Tracking officers undertake significant work contacting young people and receiving returns from schools, colleges, providers, Jobcentre Plus and other local authorities to record whether Southampton young people are participating in education, employment and training. Additionally, work is undertaken with schools to identify all those at Risk of NEET in year 11, so that they can receive additional support on transition to, and within further education and training. Support services including the Council's City Deal Youth Team and City Limits Employment provide targeted support for those who are most vulnerable. Since the

	reduction of Council provided Youth Support and Connexions Services, the Authority relies on referring NEET young people to external providers; however, funding and services are reducing. The Council also takes a primary role in the co-ordination of NEET and prevention services through a NEET Hub, and through influencing the quality and availability of the Information, Advice and Guidance provided by schools. However, the latter is variable across schools, leading to young people not receiving the guidance or aspiration they need to make informed choices.																				
	Care Leavers																				
31.	The Council has had a focus on improving the employment, training and education outcomes of care leavers, through partnership working across Council teams and with external agencies, and there has been progress in outcomes for this cohort. A report to Corporate Parenting Committee, February 2016, identified that 89% of 16-17 year olds were in education, employment or training. The statutory return to DfE is for 18-21 year old care leavers, so the national comparison is only available for this age group. The report showed that 50% of 18-21 year old care leavers were NEET; whilst there is an imperative to improve on this figure, the performance is better than the national care leavers NEET performance at 55%.																				
	Apprenticeships																				
32.	Further to an Apprenticeship Scrutiny Inquiry in 2013, the Council has been delivering an Apprenticeship Action Plan to increase the availability and take-up of apprenticeships by employers and young people in the City. Activities have included promotion of apprenticeships in schools and colleges, development of a website, films and promotional materials, recruitment of young people to be Apprenticeship Ambassadors, the introduction of an annual Apprenticeship Awards ceremony, a new Apprenticeship First policy for Council recruitment, and incentives for employers to take Southampton young people from target groups. As a result, Southampton has seen the highest apprenticeship recruitment in the South East.																				
33.	In 2014/15, there were the following apprenticeship starts in Southampton: 16-18: 470 19-24: 600 25+: 920																				
34.	The primary occupations were as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1601 1173 2016"> <tr> <td>Health, Public Services and Care</td> <td>640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business, Administration and Law</td> <td>590</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retail and Commercial Enterprise</td> <td>330</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction, Planning and the Built Environment</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leisure, Travel and Tourism</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information and Communication Technology</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education and Training</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arts, Media and Publishing</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some 150 private providers deliver apprenticeships in Southampton.</p>	Health, Public Services and Care	640	Business, Administration and Law	590	Retail and Commercial Enterprise	330	Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	200	Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	110	Leisure, Travel and Tourism	50	Information and Communication Technology	40	Education and Training	30	Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	20	Arts, Media and Publishing	10
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	S106 Employment and Skills Plans
35.	The Council requires a S106 Employment and Skills Plan for all major developments, to ensure that residents, particularly young people, can gain access to the skills and jobs being created. To date, through 61 developments ranging from IKEA to the new Arts Quarter, 353 apprenticeships have been created, 11,000 young people have attended an employer-led curriculum event, and 137 work placements have been provided for young people in schools and colleges. Additionally, developers are required to provide supported employment to vulnerable young people through organisations including the Rainbow Project and Princes Trust.
	Conclusions and emerging issues
36.	In Southampton, post-16 education and training has the following strengths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At nearly 95% progression to education post 16, participation by Southampton young people is high • There is a good mix and balance of provision, allowing for learner choice within a reasonable travel to learn area • The percentage of young people who are NEET aged 16-19 is below national average and core cities • The percentage of care leavers aged 18-21 who are NEET is below the national average • Apprenticeship starts are high • The economy is buoyant with key strengths, enabling good vocational options
37.	However, there are the following challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance at Key Stage 5, on all measures, is low, ranking Southampton 131st out of 152 local authorities • Progression to Higher Education for Southampton young people is 10% below the national average; however, detailed local information is not held, and further work could be undertaken to understand patterns of progression for cohorts of young people in the city. • Progression varies by cohort (e.g. there is a higher progression to full time education by girls and BME communities) • Care leaver NEET percentage, whilst 5% below national average, is disproportionate to wider population • College structures and delivery may be disrupted whilst the post-16 review is implemented • Careers guidance is inconsistent • The Authority is reliant on externally funded support services for those at greatest risk NEET; however, funding and services are reducing.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
38.	None as a result of this report.
<u>Property/Other</u>	

39.	None as a result of this report.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>		
40.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.	
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>		
41.	None as a result of this report.	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS		
42.	Post 16 education and training in Southampton will have a significant impact on the council achieving its priorities. In particular the following priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs for local people 	
KEY DECISION		No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
Appendices		
1.	Revised Headline Results Briefing	
2.	Level 3 Points Scores – 2013/2015	
3.	Provisional KS5 Southampton performance by college or school	
4.	Key Stage 5 statistics	
Documents In Members' Rooms		
1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out.		No
Privacy Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.		No
Other Background Documents		
Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	