



Derby City Council

**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE**  
**23 February 2016**

# ITEM 11

Report of the Acting Strategic Director for  
Children and Young People

## **Education, Employment and Training of Children in Care and Care Leavers**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The city has had a NEET and participation strategy in place for 12 months to ensure that historical under performance in this area is addressed and that the numbers of young people who are engaged in recognised forms of education, employment or training (EET) when they leave school is increased.
- 1.2 The strategy has had a positive impact across the city, particularly with regard to performance against groups of young people who are more vulnerable to NEET. Of these groups, Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers (CL) are two of the groups more likely to have difficulty in accessing and maintaining EET successfully and to have an impact corporately on the Local Authority, as the current OFSTED single inspection framework (SIF) has a strong focus on performance in relation to Children in Care and Care Leavers, including performance relating to NEET. Derby also has Care Leavers NEET as a local performance measure.
- 1.3 This report provides an update in relation to EET performance of Children in Care and Care Leavers and provides an overview of on-going work in this area.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 For the progress of work and performance in relation to Children in Care and Care Leavers to be considered and commented upon by the EIIS HOS group/Departmental Management Team.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure the EIIS HOS group/Departmental Management Team are provided with an opportunity to comment upon progress made, on-going work planned and whether any further considerations are needed for these groups in order to build on performance to date.
- 3.2 To keep the EIIS HOS group/Departmental Management Team aware of developing strategies within the CYPD.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The NEET strategy has been in place for just over 2 years and in that time it has made a positive impact on key performance measures and outcomes pertaining to the NEET agenda, such as reducing the NEET figure for the city to 4.9% and the unknown destination figure to 4.5% by February 2015. Quarterly average data for Unknown destinations are better for Derby than the national average, our comparator authorities and the East Midlands authority average. In relation to NEET quarterly average data, Derby has better figures than the national average, our comparator authorities and is 0.1% behind the East Midlands' authority average.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA) data has also seen improvements over that time, in December 2015, 91% of 16-19 year olds in the city were meeting the duty to participate.

However, over the past 3 years, EET performance in relation to Children in Care and Care Leavers has seen some fluctuations in performance, which are outlined as follows:

December 2013 – CIC – 82.2%  
December 2014 - CIC 84.6%  
December 2015 - CIC – 73.5%

December 2013 – CL – 48.7%  
December 2014 – CL – 72.2%.  
December 2015 – CL – 52.6%.

- 4.2 The performance in relation to Children in Care has been consistently stronger and more stable than that seen for Care Leavers, which has seen fluctuations over the 3 years, particularly between 2013 and 2014. However, it should be noted that in December 2013, Derby's performance in relation to NEET generally required significant improvement and the data available was not as reliable as it is currently.

4.3 Derby's Care Leavers EET performance does not compare favourably against the East Midlands average. As of September 2015, Department for Education data showed that Derby had 38% of Care Leavers in EET, whilst the East Midlands average was 55%. However, as can be seen from the data above, performance had improved to 52.6% by December 2015.

4.4 The last annual set of Department for Education performance data for Care Leavers EET dates back to 2013-14 and compared Derby's performance against its comparator authorities. The picture was more positive, as Derby saw EET performance at 58%, which was better than the comparator average of 39%. NEET performance for Derby was 30% compared to the comparator average of 37%. The national average for EET that year was 45% and NEET was 37%, which are outperformed by Derby's figures. The figure for Unknown destinations of Care Leavers for Derby was 8%, which compared favourably to the national figure of 17% and the comparator average of 22%. Figures for the year 2014-15 are not yet available to identify whether Derby's performance remains ahead of its comparator

authorities. No data is available on Derby's comparator or neighbouring authorities in relation to EET/NEET performance for Children in Care.

Over this period of time the NEET strategy has been refreshed and a Connexions Personal Adviser has been allocated to all post 16 Care Leavers in order to engage them in EET and this arrangement will continue going forward. The Adviser works with Social Workers in the Children in Care Team and Leaving Care Team to ensure that plans for children and young people include a package of support around education, employment and training. A plan is in place for the quality of young people's plans in the Children In Care and Leaving Care Teams to be audited to assess quality of plans, particularly for those who are NEET to ensure risk factors are identified and addressed.

4.5 A further element of the refreshed NEET strategy was to develop a plan to ensure more Care Leavers take up city council apprenticeship opportunities. In September 2015, a report was brought to DMT regarding the creation of Care Leavers apprenticeship scheme, similar to schemes ran by other Local Authorities in the East Midlands. This was agreed on the basis of the Council providing 6 ring fenced apprenticeships for Care Leavers per year. This was agreed by departments across the council but further work needs to take place with these departments in order to operationalise this scheme. This work is now an action in the Care Leavers improvement plan. A separate report will be prepared for DMT in order to feedback on progress made in relation to this. There is currently X 1 Care Leaver in a city council apprenticeship.

4.6 The breakdown of the cohort of Children in Care and Care Leavers who are NEET is as follows:

23.8% are in year 12 and 38.1% each in years 13 and 14, which follows the city wide pattern (and national pattern) of seeing NEET figures rise as young people progress past the age of 17.

4.7% are aged 16, 33.3% are aged 18, 42.9% are aged 18 and 19.1% are aged 19, which follows the numbers relating to year groups presented above.

71.4% of the NEET cohort is male and 28.5% are female. This is a more significant NEET difference than that seen in the broader NEET cohort across Derby.

14.3% of the cohort has an ethnicity not known/not recorded, 4.7% are recorded as White/Asian, 4.7% are recorded as White/Black and 76.3% are White British.

19% have Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) and would therefore have an Education, Health and Care Plan. 81% have no diagnosed SEND.

All of these young people are on the caseload of a Connexions Personal Adviser, 66.6% with Clara Morley (PA linked to CiC and LCT) and 33.3% with other Connexions PA'S.

4.7 The fluctuations in performance (particularly pertaining to Care Leavers) over the past 2 years and Derby's performance when compared to neighbouring authorities

identifies a need for further work to improve and stabilise performance. Given that this is a cohort with a number of potential barriers to successful EET transition, a small but achievable number of robust actions are likely to have a positive impact in this area. These actions are contained within a supporting action plan, which is located at appendix 2.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The options for improvement outlined in this report are mainly contained within the existing resources of the Local Authority and some partner agencies and offer the most realistic and achievable methods of improving performance in this area. It also ensures that partners join up work in a more meaningful way to affect outcomes.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

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| <b>Legal officer</b><br><b>Financial officer</b><br><b>Human Resources officer</b><br><b>Estates/Property Officer</b><br><b>Service Director(s)</b><br><b>Other(s)</b> | Andrew Kaiser - Head of Service – Locality 1 and 5   |
| <b>For more information contact:</b><br><b>Background papers:</b><br><b>List of appendices:</b>  | Andrew Kaiser 01332 641340 <a href="mailto:andrew.kaiser@derby.gov.uk">andrew.kaiser@derby.gov.uk</a><br>None<br>Appendix 1 – Implications<br>Appendix 2 – Action Plan |

## **Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 There are no significant financial implications at this point in time, the resources delivering the NEET strategy are in place already and the resources needed to develop the Care Leavers apprenticeship scheme are to be addressed in a separate DMT report.

## **Legal**

- 2.1 The Local Authority completes returns to central Government on NEET and Unknown numbers as part of legal requirements and information is shared between agencies involved in the NEET strategy following legislation (the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the Education Act 1996) and local policy/information sharing agreements.

## **Personnel**

- 3.1 There are no implications as regards requesting additional personnel to deliver this work. The personnel are in place already.
- 4.1 There are no IT implications in relation to this area of work.

## **Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 The impact of the work should be a positive one in relation to its focus on groups of young people who are more vulnerable to NEET, i.e. Care Leavers and Children in Care, a number of whom have disabilities, come from BME backgrounds and are involved in youth crime. The focus is on improving life chances for these groups with the resources available.

## **Health and Safety**

- 5.1 There are no significant health and safety implications brought about by this report.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 There are no significant environmental sustainability implications brought about by this report.

## **Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 There are no significant property and asset management implications brought about by this report.

## **Risk Management**

- 8.1 There is a risk of a negative inspection outcome if performance relating to EET is not improved for Care Leavers and Children in Care. This is likely to impact on

confidence in Derby's Children's workforce, particularly in its ability to provide effective EET advice, support and guidance to vulnerable groups.

### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 Corporate objectives from the council plan that are linked to this report are:

- A thriving sustainable economy.
- Achieving their learning potential.
- A strong community.