



Derby City Council

**Children and Young People Board**  
**22 January 2013**

Report of the Strategic Director Children and  
Young People

# ITEM 9

## **RPA/Participation in Education or Training and NEET 16-18**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The first phase of RPA becomes statutory in 2013 with the second phase in 2015
- 1.2 The LA has statutory duties (Education Act 2008 and 2011) to fulfil its RPA responsibilities which will need resourcing and capacity
- 1.3 In addition to the RPA duties there are continuing responsibilities around supporting young people, ensuring sufficient and appropriate provision post 16, delivering the “September Guarantee” and encouraging assisting and enabling young people to participate
- 1.4 The current data around “NEET” and “Unknowns” is showing greater numbers of young people in these categories. The DfE are proposing to change the counting methodology from April 13 which adversely affects our NEET figures.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Scrutiny Board to consider and comment upon:

- 2.1 The statutory and performance monitoring requirements
- 2.2 The staffing structures, roles and responsibilities that reflect the service requirements which will enable the LA to fulfil its statutory duties
- 2.3 The statutory reporting and tracking requirements and how these are incorporated into the IT developments currently underway across the Council.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The outcomes in terms of participation, attainment and work readiness for young people will be improved
- 3.2 The LA’s performance in fulfilling its statutory duties will be monitored and published by DfE. If an LA has “Unknown” figures above 10% this may lead to the DfE contacting the LA to explore the reasons why.



## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 4.1 RPA implementation:

- For 16 year olds –participation to the end of the academic year in which they are 17 from Summer 2013
- For 17 year olds to their 18th birthday from Summer 2015
- Applies to all those resident in England
- Enforcement deferred

#### **What counts as participation?**

- full time education (school, college or independent provider for at least 540 hours)
- home education
- Apprenticeship
- full-time work including at least 280 hours of education

### 4.2 The Education and Skills Act places duties local authorities, in relation to RPA. LAs will be required to:

- Promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area; and
- Make arrangements to identify young people resident in their area who are not participating.

These complement the existing duties to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all 16-19 year olds and to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate, and the processes in place to deliver the 'September Guarantee' and to track young people's participation. LAs will be supported by duties on learning providers to notify them when a young person leaves learning.

### 4.3 In fulfilling their statutory duties, local authorities should take a leadership role / champion the education and training needs of young people in their area by:

- influencing and shaping the provision on offer and helping to develop and improve the education and training market;
- promoting any necessary structural change in the local education and training system;
- supporting the improvement of the quality of the education and training of young people aged 16-19;
- supporting employer needs, economic growth and community development working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as appropriate; and
- supporting the development of provider and stakeholder networks that help to deliver the RPA targets.

- 4.4 As part of the current reform programme there two significant associated changes which are being implemented with RPA; curriculum changes (the introduction of 16-19 Study Programmes); and funding changes to the way 16-19 education and training is resourced. Both of these are opportunities to increase participation.
- 4.5 Currently we sub contract from Derbyshire the CCIS reporting/tracking system. As Derbyshire move towards a new IT system this will not continue. We are making preparations to have our own participation reporting system but we need to ensure that we can fulfil our own statutory requirements as the Council moves towards procuring its own single IT system.
- 4.6 New reporting measures were introduced for NEET and Unknowns from April 2012. These reflect Academic Age based on three cohort groups as well as actual age 16-18. NEET and Unknown figures follow peaks and troughs but the targets and achievements are outlined below:

2009/10 Target 7.0% Achieved 6.8%  
2010/11 Target 6.9% Achieved 6.8%  
2011/12 Target 8.4% Achieved 8.0%

The Unknown figure in Derby in 2011 was 8.0%, comparator LAs 7.2%, National 10%

If the change in calculation methodology is not considered performance has remained consistent over the past 3 years despite current economic climate and budget reductions to services.

Further changes to how “Unknowns” are counted in relation to NEET figures are going to be introduced from April 2013 which will increase our % NEET figures.

In terms of participation figures the progression from Y11 into EET has risen to 97% but the issue is the retention of these learners by age 17 as the EET % has fallen to around 85%.

Participation data to monitor RPA will be published on a quarterly basis – Sept, Dec, March and June.

- 4.7 A “Turning the Curve” Implementation Plan is being developed to look at strategies to improve the NEET and Unknown statistics. Some of this activity will be:
- Reshaping the current 16-19 provision to reflect the needs of learners
  - Strategies to encourage better retention in post 16 settings
  - Having in place Data Sharing agreements with young people and providers so we can more effectively link young people with provision
  - Looking at the feasibility of how social media can be used to track young people
  - Peer review of our current practice in tracking and recording

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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5.1 None.

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

<b>Legal officer</b>	N/A
<b>Financial officer</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	N/A
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Andrew Bunyan
<b>Other(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – NEET adjustment: Technical Note

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 Financial costs will include staffing and IT infrastructure

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Local Authority needs to fulfil the statutory duties around RPA

**Personnel**

- 3.1 Staffing structures need to be able to meet service requirements

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 None arising from this report

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None arising from this report

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None arising from this report

**Asset Management**

- 7.1 None arising from this report

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 None arising from this report

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 None arising from this report

### Young people whose current activity is not known

All records held on CCIS are time limited. If a young person's activity has not been confirmed within a set period of time, their record expires. The period of time a record remains 'current' ranges from 1 year for those settled in education to 3 months for a young person NEET. If their status is not re-confirmed within these timeframes their status changes automatically to 'not known'.

Young people may also be recorded as 'not known' if they have left their last activity and it is not known what they went on to do next.

### *Proposed change:*

Records for young people who are NEET would no longer automatically lapse into 'not known'. Instead, young people would remain NEET until they are known to have progressed to another activity. There would be no change to the existing arrangements for young people in education, employment or training.

### NEET adjustment

The Department has applied an adjustment factor to the NEET figures since 2003 when the arrangements above were introduced in order to reduce the impact of high not known figures artificially suppressing the number of young people who are NEET. This is done using the formula below:

Adjusted NEET: NEET  
+ 8% of those previously EET whose records have expired  
+ 58% of those previously NEET whose records have expired

Adjusted EET: EET  
+ 92% of those previously EET whose records have expired  
+ 42% of those previously NEET whose records have expired

% NEET: 
$$\frac{\text{Adjusted NEET}}{(\text{Adjusted EET} + \text{Adjusted NEET})}$$

### *Proposed change*

We also propose to replace the formula above with one that takes account of all 'not knowns' and not just those whose currency has expired.

The proposed, and very much simpler, formula is:

Adjusted NEET: NEET + 50% not knowns

% NEET: 
$$\frac{\text{Adjusted NEET}}{\text{Total cohort}}$$

