

<b>12 February 2019</b>		<b>ITEM: 9</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Post – 16 Landscape in Thurrock</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<b>Report of:</b> Kate Kozlova-Boran, Interim Strategic Lead of Learning		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Michele Lucas, Interim Assistant Director of Skills, Learning and Inclusion		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

The Post-16 landscape in Thurrock is providing a very positive picture.

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse and support the current approach to the Post-16 provision in Thurrock.**
- 1.2 That Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee review and evaluate the current approach around the current services to vulnerable, SEND, LAC learners through an innovative individualised, young person led and sustainable targeted support programme.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 Local Authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. Specifically they are:
  - To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Act 1996.
  - 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.

- Local Authorities are required to collect information about young people (i.e. maintain a tracking system) so that NEET young people can be identified and given support to re-engage (ESA 2008).
- Local Authorities, under the ESA 2008, must promote effective participation in education and training of 16-17 year olds.

2.2 There are large differences in youth unemployment and inactivity across countries; reducing NEET rates is a great challenge for governments, as youth who remain jobless for long periods typically come from more disadvantaged backgrounds, have low levels of educational attainment, and are in many cases inactive. There is substantial evidence, however, that even the most disadvantaged youth can benefit from a variety of targeted interventions, including for instance special education programmes and mentoring.

2.3 Internationally, the United Kingdom as a whole appears to perform poorly in rates of participation in education and training beyond the age of 15. The OECD measures participation rates in member and partner countries and produces comparative tables. Although any such data are dogged by differences in terminology and classification, only six countries (Spain, Italy, Mexico, Colombia, Turkey and Costa Rica) had a higher NEET percentage than the UK in 2017 (OECD, 2018)

### 3. Performance

3.1 Thurrock NEET and Unknown is ranked at 2 in the national rankings. (Fig.1)

(Fig.1)

NEET /Unknown	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	June 18	July 18	Aug 18	Sept 18	Oct 18	Dec 18
Thurrock	9.0%	2.4%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%	8.8%	2.0%	<b>1.6%</b>
SN	18.5%	9.8%	8.1%	7.4%	7.1%	7.4%	7.3%	7.4%	7.3%	7.7%	21.4%	26.4%	13.7%	<b>7.8%</b>
East of England	12.5%	6.0%	5.1%	4.7%	4.6%	4.8%	4.9%	5.2%	5.3%	6.8%	9.4%	20.6%	9.4%	<b>5.5%</b>
England	15.8%	8.4%	6.7%	5.8%	5.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%	6.0%	6.7%	13.0%	31.2%	14.2%	<b>8.3%</b>

Data source NCC

3.2 Department for Education released characteristics of young people who are long-term NEET (DfE: 'Characteristics of young people who are long-term NEET, February 2018) as well as identifying the most relevant groups in the NEET cohort: Looked After Children (LAC) (NEET constituted 37% of the total LAC cohort), those who attended PRUs/alternative provision/excluded and SEND learners were other groups where approximately a fifth of the cohort were NEET.

3.3 Thurrock performance figures support this data and provide evidence for a need of a more targeted support to the above vulnerable groups.

### 3.4 Thurrock SEND (EHCP and statemented)

Young people with SEND make up 4.5% of the total 16 – 18 cohort.  
Performance figure of 3.6% NEET/Unknown, though substantially lower than national indicators, is still double compared to mainstream NEET.

December 2018	Yr 12	Yr 13	Total Yr 12 – 13	Yr14	Yr 15	Yr 16+	Yr 14 to 16+	Total ALL
<b>SEND Total Cohort</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>379</b>
SEND Education	72	67	139	56	38	18	112	251
SEND Employment	3	11	14	23	23	16	62	76
SEND Training	3	3	6	3	2	1	6	12
SEND Re engagement	2	0	2	2	1	1	4	6
SEND NEET available	3	2	5	6	7	8	21	26
SEND NEET not available	0	1	1	1	4	2	7	8
<b>SEND NEET Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lapsed EET and Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unknown %</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>In Learning %</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>91.7%</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	<b>69.3%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
<b>NEET %</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>NEET/Unknown%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

#### SEND Comparative data Year 12 to 13

This is the latest comparative data available. Thurrock's In Learning % is higher than all national indicators. Unknown and NEET/Unknown is lower than all comparators.

September 2018	% In Learning	NEET %	Unknown %	% NEET/Unknown
East of England	79.6%	5.3%	15.6%	20.9%
England	64.4%	4.4%	29.9%	34.0%
SN	70.8%	3.2%	25.3%	28.5%
Thurrock	83.3%	3.6%	8.3%	11.9%

### 3.5 Thurrock LAC (Looked After Children)

21.1% of Thurrock LAC young people are NEET – the figure indicates that LAC young people are more than 10 times likely to be NEET than mainstream young people.

	Apr '18	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec '18
EET (%)	71.4	70.7	68.9	72.1	70.5	69.3	70.1	70.4	69.6
NEET (%)	28.6	26.8	26.2	24.4	25.7	24.4	23.1	21.6	21.1
Unknown (%)	0.0	2.4	4.9	3.5	3.8	6.3	6.1	7.4	8.2
Missing Data (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6	1.2

#### **4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 In recent years Thurrock has completed substantial progress in reducing its NEET (from 13.8% in 2008 to 1.7% in 2018) which is demanding a change in focus of the work. Young people who are NEET in 2018 differ from NEET young people in 2008 – as Thurrock Careers are working with young people and children from Year 7 and onwards, young people are now identified early and placed into provision. The 1.7% who are still NEET are furthest removed from the job market and training provision due to the extent of their vulnerability - a traditional Careers service is unable to meet the demands of these young people.
- 4.2 23.7% of all NEET in Thurrock is classed as 'unavailable', i.e. in categories of carer, pregnancy, teenage parent, illness. The young people in this cohort are hardest to reach, furthest from the job market and often require a multi-agency and targeted support.
- 4.3 It seems that additional resource is needed to be identified to support the targeted work with the 1.7% NEET, with a focus on the vulnerable groups of SEND and LAC, whilst maintaining the mainstream careers provision to keep the NEET and Unknown overall figure low and in the top 5% of the country.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 Reducing the number of young people not in education employment and training is a key element in reducing long-term child poverty. Thurrock is performing well in ensuring that more young people will have an opportunity to fulfil their potential. Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to comment on the current performance position and endorse a more targeted approach to the work.

#### **6. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

N/A

#### **7. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

N/A

#### **8. Implications**

##### **8.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **David May**  
**Management Accountant – DSG and Schools**

There are no direct financial implications in this report. This report requires the Committee to note its contents only. No decision is required. However, there are relevant general duties on the Council, as identified by legal below, which have the potential to have financial implications with no identified resource available.

## 8.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**  
**Education Lawyer**

There are no direct implications in this report.

This report requires the Committee to note its contents only.

## 8.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities**

Thurrock Council is committed to working with vulnerable young people - we recognise that for many of our young people a range of barriers does not allow them to progress into employment opportunities. Thurrock has some large regeneration programmes and we would want to ensure that we provide opportunities to all young people recognising that for some of our more vulnerable learners a different range of support needs to be provided to ensure that they can engage and take part in the opportunities available locally.

We work hard to ensure that SEND, Care Leavers and other vulnerable groups have more tailored individual support packages by identifying the range of barriers young people face that call for individualised support to ensure that this cohort can access the vast range of local education, employment and training opportunities.

## 8.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

N/A

## 9. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- OECD (2018), Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (indicator). doi: 10.1787/72d1033a-en (Accessed on 02 January 2019)

- Characteristics of young people who are long-term NEET, DfE, February 2018
- Participation of young people in education, employment or training, Statutory Guidance for local authorities, DfE, September 2016
- Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England, DfE, June 2018
- Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017, DfE, June 2014

## **10. Appendices to the report**

N/A

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