

Briefing for Local Economy & Life Long Learning Scrutiny Commission

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and post 16 pathways in Southwark

Numbers of children recorded as NEET

1. Southwark has low levels of young people aged 16/17 who are not in not in education, employment or training (NEET). In the most recently published national data, the NEET rate for Southwark stood at 1.5% compared with 2.7% for England.
2. In September 2018 Southwark had a cohort of 5091 16/17 year old residents. 98.4% of those had an offer of education and training for the academic year ahead, this was an improvement on the previous year.
3. Southwark is currently confirming the actual destinations of all of the 5091 current 16/17 year olds. As of December 2018, the NEET figure was 1.07% - equating to 54 young people.
4. At any one time there will be a small number of young people unable to engage with education, employment or training due to factors such as mental health issues, serious medical conditions and involvement with the criminal justice system. A 0% NEET rate is therefore not feasible, but Southwark is committed to reducing this rate to the minimum possible.
5. The biggest challenge in terms of tracking young people is that 64% study outside of the borough, which makes monitoring participation complex. In addition Southwark is a borough with high levels of population mobility – an estimated 12% of the population migrated out of Southwark in 2017, compared with 5% for London (source: Office for National Statistics, Local Area Migration Indicators, 2018). As a result the NEET status was unknown for 7.2% of young people last year.
6. New strategies are being put in place to reduce the numbers of young people whose status is not known, chiefly through improving sharing from schools and other education and training providers.

Number and proportion of 16-17 year olds NEET or not known

Local Authority	NEET	Not known	Combined NEET and N/K
Southwark	1.5%	7.2%	8.7%
London	1.8%	3.2%	5%
England	2.7%	3.3%	6%

Source: NEET and participation: local authority figures 2017/18 (DfE)

Local Authority support

7. Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Education and Skills Act (2008) to increase the participation of young people in education, employment or training and

reduce the proportion of NEET (not in education, employment or training). Delivering this entails:

- Tracking all 16 and 17 year olds and submitting data to the Department for Education.
 - Identifying young people not in education, employment or training or at risk of not participating;
 - Providing information advice and guidance (IAG) to young people to support their engagement in education and training post 16.
8. In Southwark the lead on meeting this duty is taken by the Southwark Choices service (formerly Connexions) within Children's & Adults' Services (Education). The service directly provides advice and support to targeted young people as well as working with schools and collecting data.
 9. Southwark Choices deliver three statutory data returns to the DfE each year. This data enables the Local Authority to identify NEET young people and those at risk and offer them impartial information advice, guidance and support to engage in education and training post 16.
 10. Young people are allocated a named advisor to provide one to one support. The team also offer a drop in service for young people, parents and carers two days a week.
 11. The team work with the Pupil Licensing and Tracking team (Education Access) to ensure young people who are missing from education or are home educated are offered advice and guidance in year 11 on post 16 options and support to apply.
 12. Advisory members of the team are invited into schools on GCSE results day to support those young people who do not have a post 16 offer or who have not achieved the required grades to secure their place. This also supports the collection of destinations data.
 13. The team offer advice to schools on statutory data collections, careers delivery and information on events/activities which will support them to meet the requirements of the new Careers and Skills Strategy guidance.
 14. Advisory staff go to schools to talk to students, and parent/carers, about options including apprenticeships via assemblies, careers events and parents evenings.
 15. The team have successfully delivered a number of targeted programmes to offer intensive support to the most vulnerable young people who are risk of NEET/NEET funded through the European Social Fund.
 16. The service is facing funding challenges as a result of ESF funding coming to an end - new grant funding opportunities and further development of a traded careers service for schools are being explored.

Progression pathways post 16

17. Most Southwark young people move on from school year 11 to post-16 education provision. The top 3 destinations for year 11 students in Southwark, accounting for 93% of young people, are:
 - a. School Sixth form
 - b. Further Education college

c. Stand alone Sixth form college

18. There are a large number of school sixth forms across Southwark and neighbouring boroughs which is where the majority of Southwark residents study post-16.
19. The borough does not have an independent sixth form but a large number of young people travel to these providers in the boroughs of Lewisham, Lambeth and Wandsworth. FE colleges are also very popular and Southwark residents attend a number of different colleges across London.
20. Only 36% of Southwark 16/17 year olds study within their own borough, the 4th lowest rate among all London boroughs and comparing with a London borough average of 52%. The remainder travel to education provision out of borough, with the most popular destinations (in descending order of numbers) being providers in Lewisham, Westminster, Lambeth, Wandsworth and Camden (source: London Client Caseload Management Information System, May 2018).
21. There are a number of apprenticeship opportunities available in and around Southwark, take up of these was slow but we are starting to see more 17/18 year olds applying for apprenticeships. Since January 2018, young people in school are expected to be provided with information on technical and vocational education, including apprenticeships.

Confirmed destinations of 2017/18 Year 11 students:

Destination	%
Education (Sixth Form/FE College)	93.3%
Training	1.7%
Employment with Training	1.3%
Employment without Training	0.2%
Other not EET or NEET	0.1%
Unemployed	1.2%
Not Known	2.2%
Grand Total	100.0%

Source: Southwark local data, January 2019.