

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	17th May 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Update on NEETs Performance	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: N/A		

1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1. The Council are required to track, record and report the education, training and employment activities for young people. We also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people's participation in education and training (Section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008). For young people with special education needs or disabilities (SEND), the requirement will remain that we track education, training and employment up until their 25th birthday. The Scrutiny Panel have requested an update on the Council's performance against these criteria.

2. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 2.1. No current resource implications.

3. STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 3.1. As outlined above (1), the Council has a duty to report the levels of NEET's in its area as well as a duty to assist young people into employment, education and training. Data and activity for NEETs are compiled and coordinated by the Youth Connect Service, although there are close links with the Leaving Care Team,

who work with young people in the process of leaving foster care to ensure they have appropriate levels of support as they develop career plans and plans for further education as they leave College and foster care.

Under the ‘Raising Participation Age’ (RPA) legislation, young people are now required to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. There is no obligation on young people to participate in education beyond their 18th birthday or to make themselves known or available to their LA.

4. THE REPORT

The current cohort of young people in BaNES in the 16 – 18 year old category is 5035, of this group, 187 are classified as NEET. Therefore the percentage of NEETs currently in BaNES (March 2016) is 4.1%. The table below provides comparisons for this measure:

Region/LA	% NEETs
England	4.3%
South West	4.2%
BaNES	4.1%

Of the 187 young people, we are in touch with 92.6%, meaning that the activity of only 7.4 % (5 young people) is not known. In the context of the reductions made to the Connexions Service in 14/15, this represents a good level of performance in terms of demonstrating that NEET figures are below national and regional figures. In addition, the work undertaken by Youth Connect to ensure that meaningful engagement is sought with the remaining cohort of NEETs is also impressive. This compares to the following national/regional statistics:

Region/LA	% of NEET whose activity is not known
England	8.4%
South West	8.2%
BaNES	7.4%

5. SUMMARY

The above data relating to BaNES FROM March 2016 but is compared to the most recently published national and regional data from 14/15. The national and regional data from 15/16 will not be released until the Autumn. However these figures do allow reasonable comparisons in terms of direction of travel and in relation to the progress being made by the Youth Connect Service with young people at risk of NEET.

As previously highlighted, given that the Connexions service was significantly reduced in 2014, the current performance is positive.

Contact person	Richard Baldwin, Divisional Director, Children and Young People Specialist and Targeted Division, 01225 396289, Richard_baldwin@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	None
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