
PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING UP TO 18 YEARS

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the move to full participation in education and training up to age 18, in line with the requirements of the Raising of the Participation Age, to look at the impact locally and to detail the work being undertaken to meet the local authority's responsibilities.

Summary

2. This report outlines the requirements of RPA, the current position regarding participation and the actions being undertaken to ensure that the local authority meets its requirements.
3. The Education and Skills Act (2008) placed a duty on all young people to participate in education and training until their 18th birthday, this is known as the 'Raising of the Participation Age' (RPA).
4. The act also places a duty on local authorities to 'promote the effective participation in education and training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area'.
5. Participation in Darlington is increasing and is above the national average, however, NEETs figures remain relatively high but are reducing slowly.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Children and Young People Scrutiny note the content of the report and the actions being undertaken.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

S17 Crime and Disorder	Increased engagement in education and training could have a positive impact on crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	Increased engagement in education and training could have a positive impact on health and well-being.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	This report does not impact on a particular ward, but Darlington as a whole.
Groups Affected	16 and 17 years olds and any employers of those young people.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Relevant to the education and skills outcomes of the sustainable community strategy.
Efficiency	This report does not identify any efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Background

7. From summer 2013, young people were required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turned 17 and from 2015 until their 18th birthday. This doesn't necessarily mean staying on in school. Young people are able to choose how they participate post 16, which could be through:-
 - (a) Full-time education such as school, college, other training provider or home-education (a minimum of 540 hours per year).
 - (b) An Apprenticeship.
 - (c) Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.
8. The Education and Skills Act places duties on local authorities, in relation to RPA, who are required to:-
 - (a) promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area; and
 - (b) make arrangements to identify young people resident in their area who are not participating.
9. These complement the existing duties to:-
 - (a) Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all 16-19 year olds.
 - (b) Encourage, enable and assist young people to participate.
 - (c) Put processes in place to deliver the 'September Guarantee' and to track young people's participation. Local authorities are supported by a duty on learning providers to notify them when a young person leaves learning.

Participation Data

10. The Department for Education publishes details of local authority participation levels for March, June and December each year. The latest national data (June 2015) shows that in Darlington:-
 - (a) 93.9% (88.6% - June 2013) of 16 year olds participated in education or training, above the North East average of 93.8% and the national average of 93.1%. Provisional January 2016 data has the Darlington figure now at 95.2%.

(b) 86.6% (81.2% - June 2013) of 17 year olds participated in education or training, below the North East average of 88.0% but above the national average of 85.9%. Provisional January 2016 data has the Darlington figure now at 92.4%.

11. This means that 2,210 (90.2%) Darlington resident 16 and 17 year olds continued to participate in education and training out of a cohort of 2,450 (June 2015 data), up 5.3% against the June 2013 figure. Provisional January 2016 data has the Darlington figure now at 93.8%.
12. Local data for January 2016 shows that 94.91% of the Year 12 cohort and 90.57% of the Year 13 cohort (under 18) were participating. The data is broken down as follows:

RPA Participation: Jan 16 (Jan 15 Data in Brackets)	Year 12	Year 13 (Under 18)
Cohort	1,198 (1,213)	722 (728)
Participating	94.91% (96.37%)	90.57% (89.15%)
Working Towards	0.25% (0.33%)	0.97% (1.24%)
Temporary Break from Learning	0.25% (0.33%)	1.39% (1.24%)
Not Known	0.08% (0.08%)	0.14% (1.24%)
Percentage NEET	2.42% (2.14%)	4.16% (3.85%)
Number of Young People NEET	29 (26)	30 (28)

13. There are a number of issues that impact on the implementation of RPA. These include:-

- (a) There has been no actual change to the statutory school age.
- (b) The local authority has no enforcement rights where young people fail to participate.
- (c) The local authority has no enforcement rights where employers fail to ensure that young people they employ are participating in part-time education or training.
- (d) The fact that some young people go into employment without training
- (e) A reduction in the number of training providers and the training offer for the most hard to reach young people.
- (f) The high youth unemployment rate.

14. In addition there is a small percentage of young people who may have a 'reasonable reason' for non-participation. This category could include those medically ill, in final stages of pregnancy, in custody etc.

15. To support schools in increasing participation the DFE now publishes annual destination data for all school leavers. The latest data published in January 2016,

for 2012/13 KS4 leavers, shows that in 2013/14 90% of all Darlington school leavers went into a sustained education, employment or training placement. However this varies across schools:-

School	Sustained Destination (2013/14)
Carmel	95%
Hummersknott	92%
Longfield	92%
Hurworth	91%
Polam Hall School	89%
DSMS	88%
Haughton	88%
Beaumont Hill Academy	84%
St Aidan's	81%
Darlington overall	90%
England overall	92%

Responsibilities

16. This promotion of RPA sits alongside existing work to increase participation (and skills levels) that is being undertaken by the local authority, schools, post 16 providers and other partners. This includes the work of:-
- (a) The Council's 11-19 Learning and Skills Team who lead on RPA and the statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient high quality education and training available, as well as acting as the link between the local authority, the 11-19 Partnership and post 16 providers.
 - (b) The Early Intervention Teams who have responsibility for engaging those at risk of becoming NEET, those young people who are not participating and for co-ordinating the September guarantee (ensuring the offer of a place in education or training for 16 and 17 years olds).
 - (c) The Economic Regeneration Team and their work around the skills and employment agenda, particularly through Foundation for Jobs.
 - (d) Providers to facilitate early identification of young people at risk of disengaging and quicker reporting of those who drop out of provision.
 - (e) Schools to promote participation in education and training post 16 and provide good quality appropriate careers guidance.
17. Those listed above work closely with other teams and external partners to encourage young people to participate in education and training and develop their understanding of local skills needs.

18. A Full Participation Strategy is produced bi-annually along with an Action Plan in conjunction with the 11-19 Partnership. The action plan details the strategy outcomes, actions and evidences impact. These actions include:
- (a) Encouraging improvements in careers education and better use of labour market information.
 - (b) Fully utilising the Foundation for Jobs offer.
 - (c) Promoting STEM opportunities.
 - (d) Securing external funding to support the most hard to reach into education and training.
 - (e) Promoting apprenticeship opportunities.
 - (f) NEET Analysis
19. The January 2016 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) data - Year 12 to Year 14 (which includes some 18 year olds), shows that Darlington currently has a NEET figure of 5.82% (210 young people) against a Tees Valley average of 6.09%). It should be noted that NEET data and participation data are calculated differently and are therefore not comparable.
20. Analysis of the December 2015 NEET data showed that of the 192 young people who were classed as NEET available:-
- (a) 73% were male.
 - (b) 58% were in Year 14 (18 years old).
 - (c) 59% had been NEET for less than three months.
 - (d) 65% were only seeking employment and not training.
 - (e) 95% were white British.
21. A number of the young people that are NEET often have multiple social barriers that prevent them engaging in education and training. In January 2016 figures for Y12-Y14 (*January 2015 figures in brackets*) showed that:-
- (a) 63.64% of teenage parents (42) were NEET (66.7% - 54).
 - (b) 41.41% of young offenders (14) were NEET (46.9% - 23).
 - (c) 36.29% of care leavers (10) were NEET (29.6% - 8).
22. In January 2016 the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rate for 18-24 year olds in Darlington was 4.4%, over double the GB average of 1.8% and much higher than the Darlington claimant rate of 2.8% for 16-64 year olds.
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Conclusion

23. Participation at 16 and 17 is rising and is above the England average. NEET figures are relatively high, and above the England average, but are falling.
24. There remains a core of young people, often with complex social needs and a history of poor engagement in education, who continue not to participate in further education or training despite the potential economic benefits. To continue to increase levels of engagement is becoming more difficult due to the levels of support required and the absence of any sanctions on young people to engage.
25. The largest number of NEETs are in the 18 year old group and these young people are only seeking employment opportunities which are limited in the local area.