

### Date: Friday 9 February 2024 at 10.00 am

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TU

## Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair) Cllr Carol Clark (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Pauline Beall Cllr Mick Moore Cllr Sally Ann Watson Cllr Alex Griffiths Cllr Hilary Vickers

# AGENDA

1	Evacuation Procedure	(Pages 7 - 8)
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4	Minutes	
	To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 October 2023.	(Pages 9 - 12)
5	Corporate Parenting Self-Assessment	
6	Corporate Parenting strategic priorities and strategy development	
7	LGA Peer Challenge Next Steps	
8	Progress Update on Service for Care Experienced Young People	(Pages 13 - 16)
9	Education, Employment and Training Post 16	(Pages 17 - 24)
10	No Limits Programme	
11	Employability Pledge for Care Experienced Young People Aged 16-25	
	To follow	



# 12 CPB membership, terms of reference and dates, time and venue going forward

13 Forward Plan

(Pages 25 - 26)



#### Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

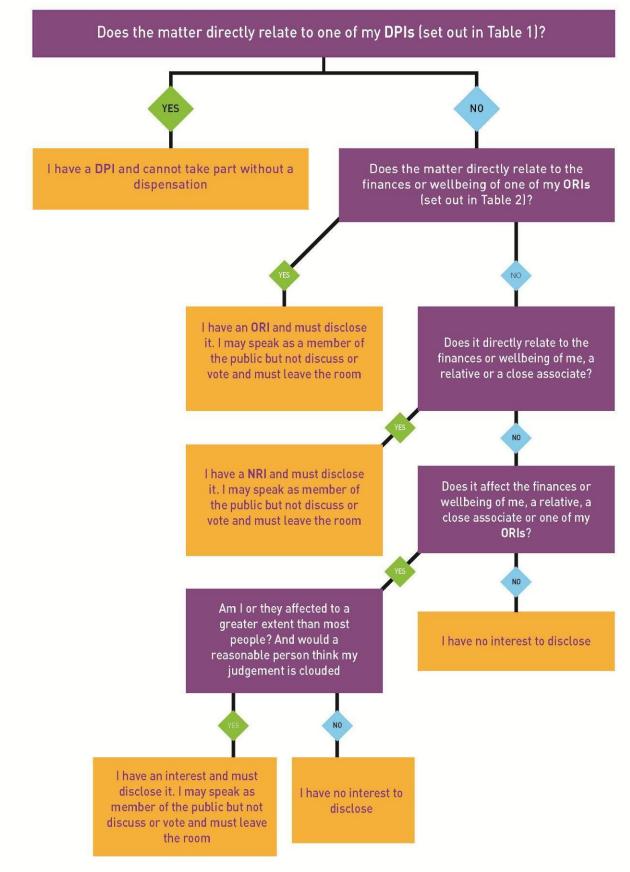
Contact: Scrutiny Support Officer Rachel Harrison on email rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk



#### KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

### Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance





# **Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or
Contracts	<ul> <li>a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council</li> <li>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</li> <li>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</li> </ul>
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.



# Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

- c) any body
- (i) exercising functions of a public nature
- (ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

# Agenda Item 1

## Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

If the fire or bomb alarm should sound please exit by the nearest emergency exit. The Fire alarm is a continuous ring and the Bomb alarm is the same as the fire alarm however it is an intermittent ring.

If the Fire Alarm rings exit through the nearest available emergency exit and form up in Municipal Buildings Car Park.

The assembly point for everyone if the Bomb alarm is sounded is the car park at the rear of Splash on Church Road.

The emergency exits are located via the doors between the 2 projector screens. The key coded emergency exit door will automatically disengage when the alarm sounds.

The Toilets are located on the Ground floor corridor of Municipal Buildings next to the emergency exit. Both the ladies and gents toilets are located on the right hand side.

## Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when directed to speak by the Chair, to ensure you are heard by the Committee.

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# Agenda Item 4

# **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

A meeting of Corporate Parenting Board was held on Friday 13 October 2023.

- Present: Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair), Cllr Carol Clark (Vice-Chair), Cllr Alex Griffiths, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (sub for Cllr Pauline Beall), Cllr Hilary Vickers and Cllr Sally Ann Watson.
- **Officers:** Elaine Redding, Ruth Lacey, Adele Moore, Jane Smith, Debbie Farrow, Janet Wilson, John Devine and Judy Trainer.

# Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Pauline Beall.

## CPB/15/23 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### CPB/16/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### CPB/17/23 Minutes

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## CPB/18/23 Corporate Parenting Peer Review

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Parenting Peer Review which would be taking place during November and December 2023.

The peer review would be undertaken in partnership with the LGA and would comprise a self-assessment, followed by a bespoke, tailored package of support to address the issues identified. The self-assessment process would be informed by members of the Corporate Parenting Board through a series of facilitated workshops to be held during November 2023. Children and young people's voice and lived experience would also inform the self-assessment. The themes of the self-assessment were as follows:

- Health and Wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers
- The Voice of Children in Care and Care Leavers
- Aspiration and Achievement
- Quality, Planning, Stability and Permanence
- Care Leavers and Transition
- Governance and Board Effectiveness

Following completion of the self-assessment, a bespoke programme of support would be developed which would address the key issues identified and support the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy priorities and approach. Members acknowledged the need to widen the membership of the Board and include representatives from all relevant partners and children and young people. Decisions around membership changes would be made following the Peer Review.

RESOLVED that the proposed approach be endorsed.

### CPB/19/23 Engagement with Young People

The Interim Director of Children's Services reiterated the importance of the voice of the child and lived experience and outlined actions that were being taken to strengthen engagement.

The Board acknowledged that they need to demonstrate that the views of young people were being acted on and that this should include all young people and groups including SEND and Asylum Seekers.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

### CPB/20/23 Children's Homes Update

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of the arrangements for supported accommodation for care leavers aged over 18 in Stockton-on-Tess. Specifically:

• A summary on the use of supported accommodation services including a snapshot of young people accessing the service and assurances around suitability for these young people

• An update on monitoring and assurances arrangements

• Sufficiency and commissioning updates, including areas of need and development to ensure appropriate services for young people

• An overview of the introduction of Ofsted regulations for 16- and 17-year-old supported accommodation services, and a corporate approach to addressing fee uplift requests

The Board discussed some examples of the type of support that was provided to care leavers in other Local Authority areas. This included arrangements with developers to donate a proportion of new build properties and show home furniture, help with driving lessons, recruitment and council tax exemptions. The need for a dedicated service and consistent offer was acknowledged and a vision meeting to learn from outstanding Local Authorities was supported.

RESOLVED that update be noted.

# CPB/21/23 Update on No Limits Scheme

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

# CPB/22/23 Forward Plan

The Board were advised that the Forward Plan would be reviewed following the Peer Review.

RESOLVED that update be noted.

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# Agenda Item 8

#### **AGENDA ITEM**

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

## **PROGRESS UPDATE – SERVICES FOR CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Corporate Parenting Board members are asked to note the detail contained within the report.

#### DETAIL

- The ILACS inspection highlighted that the decision to merge our Care Leavers Service into Youth Support had "diluted" the time practitioners had for our Care Experienced Young People, the expertise Personal Advisors (PAs) had around services, the offer and the experience of young people leaving care was variable and therefore concluded that our Care Experienced Young People were not all receiving a high quality service and were in receipt of a service that was not good enough.
- 2. Our offer for Care Experienced Young People is therefore an Ofsted Improvement Priority and is cited within our Strengthening Services Plan as a priority for the directorate.
- 3. As part of our plan for improvement, in December 2023 the service moved from Targeted Support and into Children's Social Care, co-located with our Children in Care Teams and we began the process of introducing young people to their new PA where required with a focus on doing this based on individual need, requirement and existing relationships. The service is now staffed with a Team Manager and overseen by the Services Lead for Children in Our Care.
- 4. As part of the induction process for the team we have been focussing on ensuring we know ourselves well, what we need to improve and therefore offering a service that meets need and is prepared for scrutiny from our regulator, in particular a focussed visit, given the priority for improvement status. This paper sets out to update the board of our plans to develop and prepare the service now it is in place.

#### Work Undertaken to Date and next steps

5. Work to date has included:

- Targeted Youth Workers expressed a preference between moving to the Care Leavers Service or staying with in Youth Support. Practitioners then undertook a skills discussion before being assigned to their respective teams in line with their preference, skills and expertise.
- Those young people who were allocated to practitioners staying within the Youth Service were identified and re-allocated to dedicated PAs.
- Transition for those young people impacted by having a change of worker was discussed on an individual basis and plans for a seamless and personalised handover were set, with the priority being the needs of the young person and the importance of minimising the impact on relationship.
- We opened the doors of a dedicated building, that care experienced young people named the No Limits Hub and will continue to co-produce the design and use of the premises.
- In December the team moved to Billingham to be co-located with the Social Work Teams, this is to develop relationships and shared practice goals and improve transition across to the service from the social work teams.
- We have begun a quality assurance in order to understand better the quality of service young people are receiving, this included individual collaborative audits, thematic audits and voice from those experiencing the service. This will further inform our focus for improvement and development.
- Practitioners will, as part of their induction, be given information around the key lines of enquiry and performance indicators considered, as part of our internal evaluation, but also the approach Ofsted will come from, as per the handbook, so they are prepared for a focussed visit, should one occur.
- An Instagram page has been developed for the children in care council 'Lets Take Action' this will be aimed at age 14+. This will provide opportunity to share what's on at the hub and generate interest in Let's Take Action.
- The recruitment for a Team Manager was completed and the officer took up post on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.
- As the Board are aware, the ongoing LGA peer review is supporting a review of the function and impact of the Corporate Parenting role including that of CPB. Further work is needed to ensure that children and young people and key partner agencies are part of CPB.

#### Progress against the Service Improvement Plan and Practice Development Plans.

6. Personal Advisers are having weekly development sessions with managers focusing on issues such as writing good case summaries, Pathway Planning, working with care experienced parents etc. There is a development plan in place to outline these sessions. There is inconsistency between PAs in understanding of legislation and practice.

- 7. There is a weekly Mentoring arrangement in place for the two Lead Practitioners who have supervisory responsibility for Personal Advisers. There is weekly Mentoring in place for the Team Manager to focus on progress against the Improvement Plan and service development. This is separate from the required supervision.
- 8. Clear standards are being set with Personal Advisers around issues such as frequency of statutory visits for care experienced young people.
- 9. An audit tool has been developed for this service area and is being used to increase understanding of the quality of case work. However operational demands have impacted on number completed. The Children's Services Improvement Consultant and Quality and Practice team have agreed to assist. Audit work is being undertaken by managers with the minimum rate of 2 cases per month per manager.
- 10. A data set is being developed for this service area, to help us to know the service and focus improvement activity.
- 11. The care leavers offer is at final draft stage and will be shown to young people to obtain their views. Once finalised, young people will be able to access it via a QR code. Young people will also be provided with a hard copy.
- 12. The work of the Pathway Plan Reviewing Officer has been considered and alternative arrangements are being made to improve her capacity. This means that where an urgent review is needed within 28 days, that this will be done by the Team Manager, and all reviews for care experienced people over 21 will soon be done by the Lead Practitioners, following some development sessions with them to broaden their skill set and give them confidence in this area. This will mean that the Reviewing Officer will have the capacity to undertake good quality reviews and escalate matters appropriately, holding the service to account. Further work is required to ensure all young people will be present for their own review and actively participating in their own planning.
- 13. An escalation policy for the service reviewing officer is being drafted to ensure that there is a clear process with escalations graduated to Team Manager, Service Lead, and AD according to seriousness and persistence of the issue. Escalations will provide additional practice feedback.
- 14. The Assistant Director HR is leading on work experience and apprenticeships for our young people. One young person started work experience to help him get 'work ready' for an apprenticeship this September. There are two care experienced young people in apprenticeships in Children's Services currently. Adult Services have offered work experience within residential and day provision for adults in need.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific financial implications arising from the detail in this report.

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. This ongoing development work assists the Local Authority to comply with its legal responsibilities arising from primary legislation including the Children Act 1989 and the Children and Families Act 2014. It also supports compliance with the wide range of regulations and statutory guidance that exists to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in our care and care leavers.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

17. As a highly regulated sector, Ofsted scrutinise the role of the local authority in putting the right support and services in place for care experienced young people. This is considered at a strategic leadership and management level as well as at practice level. Our ILACS inspection earlier this year noted a number of areas of improvement that directly impact upon the experience and progress of care experienced young people. Alongside our moral and ethical responsibility to the young people who we care for, it is also important that we continue to evidence our commitment and strengthen our approach as failure to do so may result in heightened scrutiny by Ofsted.

#### CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

18. The development of the service for care experienced young people has oversight from the Lead Member for Children's Services and this report provides an update for all CPB members. Alongside this, care experienced young people are actively involved in the design and development of the service as are representatives from key partner agencies.

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Post Title:	Interim Assistant Director – Children in Our Care and Care
	Leavers
Email address:	ruth.lacey@stockton.gov.uk

# Agenda Item 9

#### **AGENDA ITEM**

REPORT TO CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

#### EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (EET) POST 16

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to make CMT aware of the NEET and Not Known performance for Stockton. This is influenced by a range of factors, one of which is the varied impact of Careers Guidance in schools.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Management Team:

- 1. Note the rising numbers of young people experiencing NEET and are aware of the needs and profile of young people who have become NEET.
- 2. Consider the Education, Employment and Training (EET) of young people to be a key part of Powering Our Future.

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **Preparation for leaving school**

Appendix 1

- Following the demise of Connexions services across England and Wales by 2012, central government created the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) to support schools and colleges in implementing the recommendations of the Gatsby Report. This set out eight key functions of an effective careers programme, called the Gatsby Benchmarks. Briefly, the benchmarks are as follows:
   GB1 A stable careers programme
   GB2 Learning from career and labour market information
   GB3 Addressing the needs of each pupil (this includes Destination data)
   GB4 Linking curriculum to careers
   GB5 Encounters with employers and employees
   GB6 Experience of workplaces
   GB7 Encounters with FE and HE
   GB8 Personal guidance
- 2. CEC collect self-assessment data from schools and colleges using their Compass tool and results for the last academic year are shown here and there is a clear disparity between this information and the information and intelligence collected by SBC. See

- 3. Schools are struggling to ensure all their pupils go on some form of work experience (GB6) and visit colleges and universities (GB7) post-covid. This would question if young people are given the advice and support that would meet local labour market needs.
- 4. Careers Guidance: 18 of 19 schools and colleges self-assessed as providing this to 100% of their pupils; only 84.9% of students told us they had received any (the lowest performance of any school was where only 42.9% of Y11s had 1:1 Guidance).

#### **Regional and National Picture:**

- 5. The table below highlights the Stockton on Tees performance in comparison to its regional neighbours.
- 6. Other than Redcar, all Tees Valley and most of the North East have seen rises in NEET. We expected to see this, but are surprised at some of the increases – Middlesbrough (much higher than Stockton on Tees when numbers were the same last year), Hartlepool (we traditionally have higher numbers and % than Hartlepool) and specifically Darlington, who have gone from best in NE to worst in NE in a year.

NEET & NK	San 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Nov 22	Difference
Combined	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov-22	Difference
ENGLAND	34.6%	16.0%	8.5%	9.5%	1.0%
NORTH EAST	20.9%	10.5%	6.8%	6.1%	0.7%
County Durham	12.0%	7.7%	6.8%	6.5%	0.3%
Darlington	<mark>30.7%</mark>	<mark>16.2%</mark>	<mark>9.7%</mark>	<mark>4.0%</mark>	<mark>5.7%</mark>
Gateshead	21.1%	16.9%	6.3%	7.1%	1.2%
<mark>Hartlepool</mark>	<mark>11.3%</mark>	<mark>7.2%</mark>	<mark>7.3%</mark>	<mark>4.8%</mark>	<mark>2.5%</mark>
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<mark>79.0%</mark>	<mark>35.8%</mark>	<mark>8.2%</mark>	<mark>5.9%</mark>	<mark>2.3%</mark>
Newcastle upon Tyne	20.5%	11.3%	7.6%	6.7%	0.9%
North Tyneside	15.5%	6.7%	5.9%	5.2%	0.7%
Northumberland	13.4%	8.5%	6.7%	6.1%	0.6%
Redcar and Cleveland	<mark>7.3%</mark>	<mark>5.5%</mark>	<mark>5.4%</mark>	<mark>7.1%</mark>	<mark>1.7%</mark>
South Tyneside	6.9%	5.9%	5.6%	6.2%	0.6%
Stockton-on-Tees	<mark>33.0%</mark>	<mark>7.1%</mark>	<mark>7.2%</mark>	<mark>5.9%</mark>	<mark>1.3%</mark>
Sunderland	21.8%	8.8%	6.2%	6.1%	0.1%

7. The NEET figures are often masked by high not knowns, the only way to accurately compare is to combine the 2 totals

## Risk Of NEET Indicator (RONI):

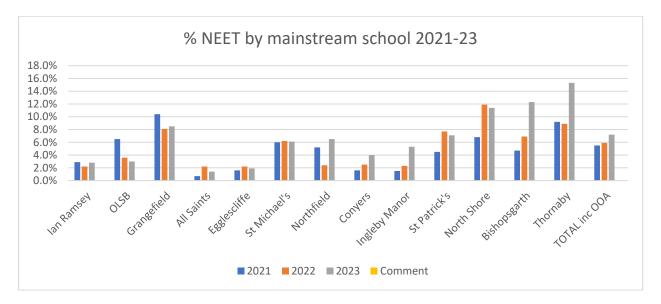
8. Since 2013 we have RAG rated the Y11 cohort by their statistical likelihood of becoming NEET, through our RONI. We provide 1:1 bespoke support to all Amber (medium risk of NEET) and Red (high risk of NEET) pupils across every type of provision including

specialist, EHE, out of area and Alternate Provision, this now amounts to over 20% of Y11 – over 500 young people.

- 9. Proportions of each group who are now NEET: Green = 2.0%; Amber = 11.0%; Red = 18.8%. These strongly suggest that the targeting system is accurate.
- 10. However, numbers from each group illustrate our NEET cohort in a different way: in Y12 there are 37 NEET who were Green on RONI; 29 NEET who were Amber on RONI; 30 NEET who were Red on RONI.

#### **NEET Performance by School**

- 11. From a record low of 3.9% in 2019, Stockton's NEET cohort has risen each year as expected through Covid, when employment opportunities for young people reduced dramatically, but even more so in the last year where NEET has risen from 5.2% in 2022 to 7.1% in December 2023.
- 12. This increase is seen across the whole of Stockton but is not distributed evenly. We consider schools to play the most vital role in preventing NEET and so often measure performance for Y12 and Y13 by school, as below:

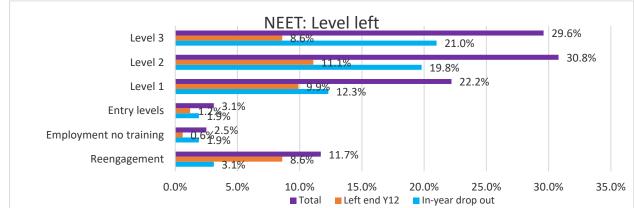


- 13. As we can see, three schools show NEET % decrease over the last three years Ian Ramsey, Grangefield and OLSB (though Grangefield's NEET was worryingly high in 2021). SBC Careers supported RONI-Green in two of those schools. Four schools have seen a slight increase: All Saints, Egglescliffe, Northfield and St Michael's, and SBC Careers supported RONI-Green in three of those. The remainder have seen very significant increases: Conyers, Ingleby Manor, St Patrick's, North Shore, Bishopsgarth and Thornaby. SBC Careers provided some RONI-Green support to Conyers alone out of these schools. The last three in particular are producing high proportions of young people who become NEET.
- 14. Recruitment by colleges has become less robust, especially due to Covid:
  - i) Fewer visits take place / more virtual visits are offered
  - ii) Colleges do not ask for references from schools
  - iii) Interviews are not always required: application = place offered

- iv) Alternatives are not explored, e.g., if the applicant may not get the grades needed, or the applicant has not fully understood the course content or means of assessment
- v) Applicants are not having to explain their choices so the risk of making the wrong choice is increased
- vi) Enrolment has become depersonalized and often takes place en masse (hundreds of students all enrolling on the same morning), increasing the risk of students who are anxious not wanting to enroll.

### **Profile of NEET**

- 15. The table below shows where our NEET cohort come from: over 60% have left level 2 or level 3 provision. The majority of our NEET population are not low-level learners; when young people tell us at Easter of Y11 that they are worried about getting the grades needed we can see below why we have to take this concern very seriously, as this is likely to have one of two results:
  - a) The young person does get the grades needed, but only just, and struggles academically and ends up leaving the course early in the Autumn term or makes it to the end of the academic year but has low grades and leaves at the end of the year to NEET, not another opportunity.
  - b) The young person misses the grades needed, is offered a lower-level course which they have not prepared for, and they decline this and become NEET, or they start Y12 but leave soon after, as the course isn't what they wanted. Really good Careers Guidance addresses this, as do more robust college visits and recruitment programmes.
- 16. We can also see in the below table two very different types of becoming NEET: leaving early due to in-year drop-out and leaving at the end of the academic year (usually having completed successfully a L1 or L2 course or passed the first year of a two-year L3). Drop-out mainly happens between September and November, with an additional spike in March each year.



- 17. The single biggest reason for becoming NEET is completing an academic year over a third of our NEET cohort became NEET for this reason. Year to year progression is as big a priority as any other measure.
- 18. The concept of low-level (academically and aspirationally), long-term unemployed young person from a third-generation unemployed household does not exist in any meaningful way fewer than 10 young people leave school each year and never do anything. Young people have aspirations and plans but the availability and type of provision can swiftly exclude many from purposeful engagement in EET.

- 19. To impact on the number of young people leaving learning, we have developed a RONI for post-16 which we have called the Risk Of Leaving Early Indicator (ROLEI). We have piloted this year and 92% of those who have become NEET in Y12 we identified as at risk of leaving early through this tool. The pilot is therefore considered successful, and we will launch ROLEI with providers, especially FE colleges, and use the intelligence gained to focus our staff on offering proactive support to the young people most at risk.
- 20. Another very significant factor in rising NEET is the lower levels of attendance and therefore achievement while in post-16 provision.
- 21. Young people who become NEET are very rarely job-ready: we deliver a proactive and highly supportive service aimed at taking a series of small steps toward full time engagement in learning or work. We cannot wait for them to come to us. The continued absence of a suitable drop-in setting places a further barrier to engaging NEET, as does the reduction then ending of funding for bespoke programmes which we could develop to re-engage those who needed help before they were ready to apply for opportunities.
- 22. Young people are leaving Level 2 and Level 3 provision having qualified, yet become NEET: we need to see better employability skills development, greater vocational awareness and focus; better networking with local employers to give these young people a smooth transition into traineeships, internships, apprenticeships and paid work, rather than have them becoming NEET then joining the workforce at a lower level after a period of time unemployed.

#### Conclusions

- 23. Our young people are the future of our borough, with lower school attendance, increased numbers experiencing social, emotional and mental health issues and the higher risk of exploitation. Education, Employment and Training of young people should be a high priority.
- 24. Young people have a key role in the economic prosperity and regeneration of our towns, if we want to meet local labour market needs, our young people need to be prepared and ready for the world of work.
- 25. The market for universal Careers Guidance is not working sufficiently well across Stockton, resulting in preventable NEET.
- 26. Student recruitment, particularly to vocational college programmes which produce half of all NEET, needs to be made more robust in order to recruit the right young people onto the right programmes.
- 27. Local provision reflects what has been offered in recent years, rather than what is needed in the local and regional economy.
- 28. Attendance in schools must be increased in order to facilitate higher attendance in post-16.
- 29. Schools and colleges need greater challenge in their Careers Education programmes, ensuring that higher numbers of students are experiencing full achievement of all the Gatsby Benchmarks. CEC / TVCA are happy to report on high achievement but rising

NEET and pupil feedback explicitly show disparities in what is self-assessed and what is experienced by the recipients of Careers Education.

Name of Contact Officer:David WillinghamTelephone No:01642 524834Email Address:david.willingham@

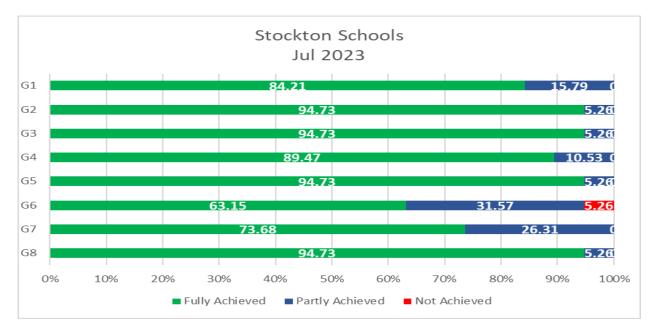
David Willingham 01642 524834 david.willingham@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix 1

School Reported Careers Data Compared with SBC Intelligence and Information

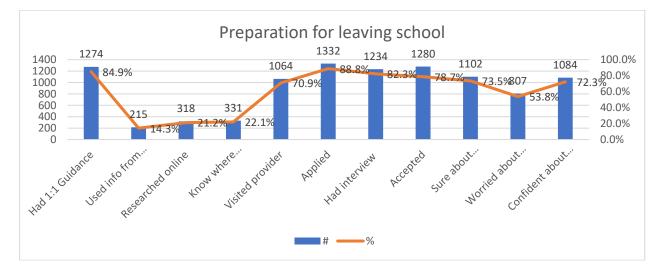
Fig 1

## School Reported Data:



## Fig 2

SBC Careers surveyed Y11s across all mainstream schools at Easter 2023 and some of the findings contrast significantly with the above school self-assessments:



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# Agenda Item 13

# **Corporate Parenting Board**

Data	Forward Plan
Date	Item
Friday 11 August 2023	
	Adoption Tees Valley Update (Vicky Davidson-Boyd)
	<ul> <li>Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022/2023 (Martin Gray)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Annual Report of the Fostering Panel and Fostering Service Report 2022 – 2023 (Debbie Farrow)</li> </ul>
	Inhouse residential provision (Debbie Farrow)
Friday 13 October 2023	Corporate Parenting Peer Review (Jane Smith)
Friday 8 December 2023	<ul> <li>Post 16 and Care Leavers support and accommodation report (Debbie Farrow)</li> </ul>
	Independent residential provision in Stockton (Debbie Farrow)
	Virtual School Update (Janet Wilson)
	<ul> <li>Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan - Update (Adele Moore)</li> </ul>
Friday 9 February 2024	
	<ul> <li>Corporate Parenting Self Assessment – (Ruth Lacey).</li> <li>Corporate Parenting strategic priorities and strategy development – (Jane Smith).</li> <li>LGA Peer Challenge Next Steps – (Chair.)</li> <li>Progress Update on Service for Care Experienced Young People - (Ruth Lacey.)</li> <li>No Limits Programme – (Ruth Lacey).</li> <li>CPB membership, terms of reference and dates, time and venue going forward – (Chair)</li> <li>Education, Employment and Training Post 16. (Ian Caley)</li> <li>EMPLOYABILITY PLEDGE FOR CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-25</li> </ul>
Friday 12 April 2024	
Friday 14 June 2024	

To be scheduled

Mockingbird Update.

Standing Items:

- Adoption 6 monthly Update (Vicky Davidson-Boyd) (Usually February and August each Year)
- Corporate Parenting Performance Update (Johanne Parker) (Usually February and August each Year)
- Virtual School Update (Janet Wilson) (Usually June and December each year)
- Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan Update (Adele Moore) (from October, usually each meeting)