

## Transitions Survey Summary - Analysis of Stockton Borough Post-16 Student Survey Data

The survey provided an insight into the factors influencing students' decisions when selecting a post-16 provider within and around the Stockton Borough. A total of 340 responses were analysed, offering a useful sample of current student experiences and decision-making processes by site

### Summary by site

Student Responses by Site	
College / Sixth Form	Number of Responses
Egglescliffe Sixth Form	139
Bede Sixth Form College (Billingham)	128
Stockton Sixth Form College	52
Conyers Sixth Form	21

### Findings

A significant number of respondents (around 83%) reported that their home postcode is within Stockton Borough Council, indicating that most students attending local post-16 institutions originate from the borough itself. This suggests that the borough's post-16 provision continues to serve primarily local demand and that students generally remain within their local authority area when progressing from secondary to further education.

### Importance of Open Events

Engagement with open evenings and recruitment events appears to play a substantial role in influencing student choice. Approximately 73% of respondents attended an open evening, while around 71% attended taster sessions before making their final decision. These figures demonstrate the importance of pre-enrolment engagement activities in supporting students' decision-making. Open events and subject tasters clearly provide valuable opportunities for prospective students to experience the college environment, explore facilities and interact with teaching staff.

### Studying outside of the Borough

The data also highlights that although many students stay within the borough, a considerable proportion (around 37%) considered studying outside Stockton, such as at neighbouring providers in areas like Middlesbrough. However, the majority ultimately chose to remain within the borough. This suggests that local colleges remain competitive, though cross-borough competition for students remains a factor within the wider Tees Valley post-16 landscape.

## **Transport**

Transport emerges as one of the most influential factors affecting students' decisions. Approximately 82% of respondents indicated that transport played a role in their college choice. This demonstrates the importance of accessibility and travel convenience when students and families evaluate post-16 options. Reliable transport links, particularly bus routes and commuting times, appear to be a key practical consideration alongside academic provision and campus experience.

## **Key Drivers**

Overall, the data indicates that three key drivers influence post-16 choice within Stockton Borough:

1. Accessibility and transport convenience
2. Positive engagement through open evenings and taster sessions
3. The availability of attractive local post-16 provision

While competition from neighbouring boroughs exists, most students sampled ultimately choose to study within Stockton, particularly when local colleges provide strong engagement opportunities and are accessible through convenient transport routes. The findings reinforce the importance of continuing to invest in recruitment events, strengthening transport accessibility, and ensuring that information about local post-16 opportunities is clearly communicated to students and families.

## **Next steps**

Whilst this sample provides an overview of students already studying within the borough, a fuller picture would be gained by also analysing the choices of students who progress to providers outside of the Stockton Borough Council postcode area. Further insight could be obtained through engagement with local schools and reviewing their progression data, or by working with relevant council teams to develop a more accurate understanding of the decisions students make at age 16.

## **Post 16 Transitions Group**

**16.03.26**