

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

18 OCTOBER 2024

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

NEET report for Care leavers Service

1. Purpose of the report

This report has been prepared to provide an oversight of the cohort of young people and adults who are care experienced between the ages of 17 and 25 and are either Relevant or Former Relevant in terms of their NEET status.

The chart below gives an overview of all 359 children/young people currently eligible to access a service from the Leaving Care team, 115 are recorded as NEET or EET. Not all children/young people are currently accessing services. Of the 359 Care experienced young people and adult only 226 are allocated and actively receiving a service.

There are 133 recorded as not recorded, this is due to them currently not being allocated a PA and engaging with services

Education employment and training for all age groups for relevant and former relevant

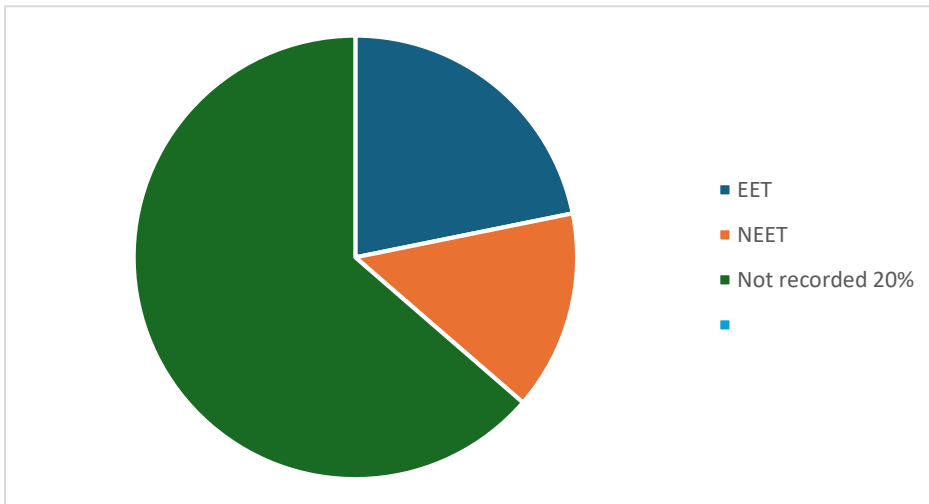


Table 1 Cohort of **359** Relevant and Former Relevant care leavers

EET - 173 (48%)

NEET -115 (32%)

Not recorded - 71 (20%)

2. Breakdown and analysis

17-18

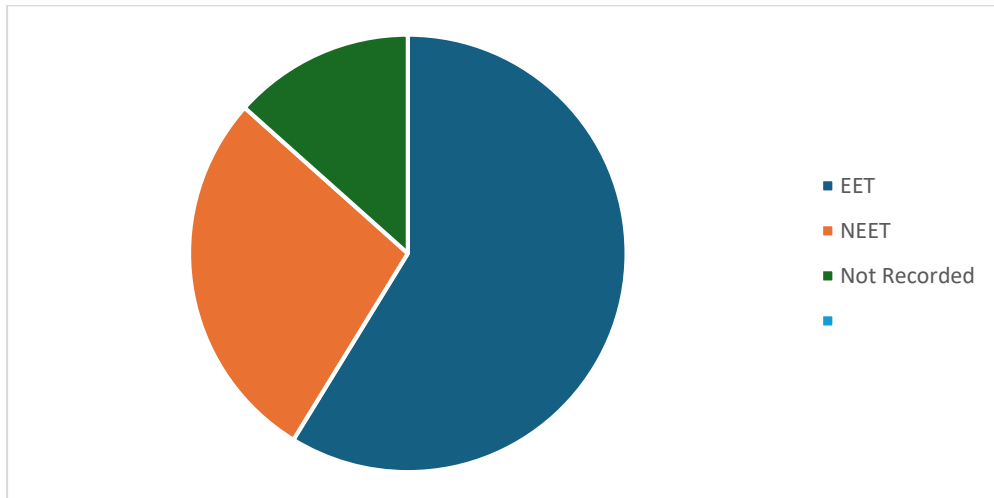


Table 2 Cohort of **61** Relevant Care leavers

EET – 26 (57%)

NEET – 22 (27%)

Not recorded – 13 (16%)

Analysis of the EET data shows that that there is an equal ratio of male and female

Rational for NEET

No Barriers	7
Actively looking for work and linked with progression advisor	4
Waiting for start date	2
Complex needs active to adult services	3
Young mum child under 2	2
Recent release from custody	1
In receipt of PIP	1
Recorded wrong EET	1
Other	1

19 – 21

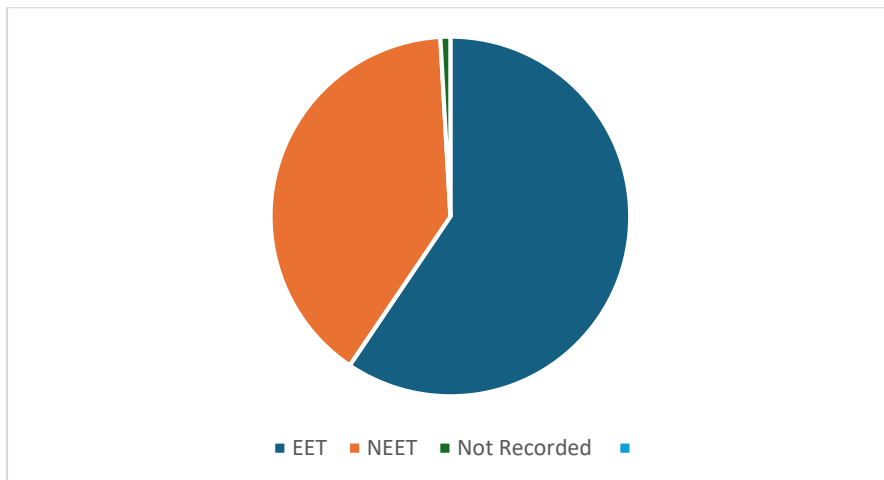


Table 3 Cohort of **164** relevant and former relevant Care leavers

EET 93 (57%)

NEET 62(38%)

Not Recorded 9 (5%)

There is an even ratio of male to females in this cohort

Rational for NEET

No Barriers	9
Actively looking for work and linked with progression advisor / Employment hub	10
learning needs / disability	5
Complex needs active to adult services	2
Young mum child under 2	8
Recent release from custody	2
In receipt of PIP / medical issues including MH	6
Recorded wrong EET	4
Custody	6
Completing undeclared work	3
Drug and alcohol issues	7

22yrs +

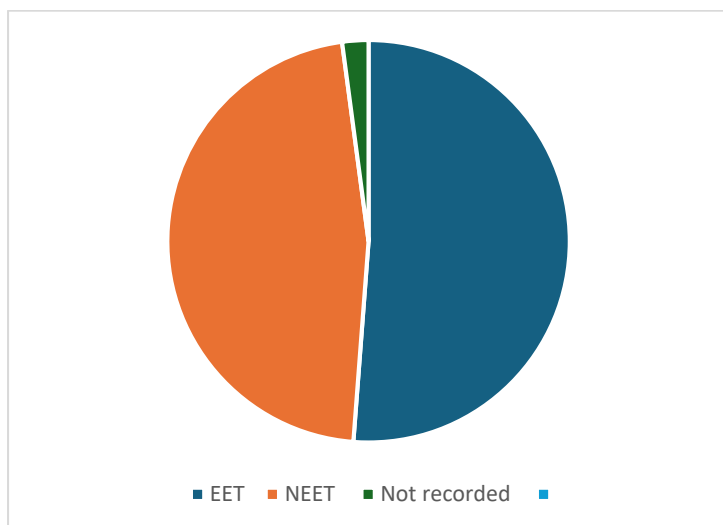


Table 4 Cohort of **114**

EET -34 (30%)

NEET – 31 (27%)

Not recorded 49 (43%)

Rational for NEET

Not all 22yrs + are active to Leaving Care although maintain their former relevant status. Of the 31 recorded as NEET only 5 are active to the Leaving Care Team. Information regards some of these care leavers is over a year old therefore may not be accurate

No Barriers	10
Recorded wrong	1
learning needs / disability	5
Young mum child under 2	2
Recent release from custody	2
In receipt of PIP / medical issues including MH	2
Unknown	3
Custody	4
Drug and alcohol issues	2

Analysis of the information around all care experienced who are recorded as NEET identifies that only 23 % of the Care experienced recorded as NEET have no barriers to them seeking education employment or training and are choosing not to access this or any support to access.

12 % are actively working with the employment hub and progression advisors to seek appropriate employment.

10% are young parents who do not wish currently to access education, training or employment wish to focus on caring for their children. We are however currently working with Learning and Skills to identify if we can access some accredited training that could be delivered via the No Limits Hub to open opportunities for these young parents when the time comes that they wish to seek employment.

7% of Care leavers are in custody and although they are accessing training as part of their sentence, they LCS system does not allow this to be recorded.

We also need to consider how we work better with the care experienced young people and adult whose barriers to work involved drug and alcohol addiction (8%) and those who are unable to work due to disability, mental health or leaning needs (17%)

What we don't do well is making preparation for care leavers leaving custody (4%) to ensure they can go straight into employment training or education on their release this will be a focus of further work in the team moving forward.

3.National and regional comparisons

% Total number in education, employment or training (EET)

Care leavers aged 17-18

	Stockton	Regional	Stat Neighbours	National	Teesside (4LAs) Avg
2020-21	58	63	61	65	63
2021-22	70	67	59	66	69
2022-23	55	63	60	66	59
2023/24	55				

Care leavers aged 19-21

	Stockton	Regional	Stat Neighbours	National	Teesside (4LAs) Avg
2020-21	47	50	51	52	47
2021-22	46	52	52	55	48
2022-23	48	52	54	56	45
2023/24	51				

The above figures are based on April to March average. SBC is showing an increase an annual average for 19- 21-year-olds. 17 – 18-year-olds has remained the same for the past 2 years however is a decrease from previous years shown.

In terms of the averages for regional, national and statistical neighbours SBC fall below all averages.

4.Services in place to support Care leavers accessing employment education and training

Careers team

The Careers team support for young people who are Care Experienced, this consists of three Progression Advisers who mainly work with this cohort from Year 11 through to the end of Y13. Virtual School provide funding support towards this staff team. The team also track and offer support to older young people who were In Care to Stockton using our Keeping in Touch (KIT) workers, and link in with Leaving Care Personal Advisers whenever those young adults wish to work with them or are seeking employment/education related support.

The service provides bespoke support to each young person, which is Careers- and positive progression- focused but invariably involves numerous 1:1 intervention to develop a relationship, exploration and assessment of barriers to future success in education or employment and then encouraging, enabling and empowering young people to make sustainable decisions based on achievable aspirations. In short, the team do whatever they can to help young people into worthwhile opportunities.

What we do as a corporate parent

Employability Pledge for Care Experienced Young People 16-25

On 9th February 2024 a report was presented to the Board outlining the Council's Employability Pledge to support care experienced young people aged 16-25 in the transition to living independently and achieve financial stability.

The pledge focuses on 4 areas of support:

1. Employability Support & Career Advice – from Children's Services & the Employment & Training Hub
2. Paid Work Experience Placements – within the Council to help support them into longer term employment.
3. Apprenticeships – offering a great entry level option to start employment
4. Interviews for Council Job Vacancies – a guaranteed interview for any Council vacancy provided the CEYP meets the Essential Criteria for the job role.

Work Experience Placements:

The Council pledged to support Care Experienced young people (CEYP) with a paid work placements to help prepare the support them into longer term employment. The placements can be flexible in terms of hours of work and duration to support the needs / circumstances of the individual.

Since January 2024, we have support 10 x CEYP with a paid work experience placement (4 ongoing). These placements have taken place in a variety of Council settings, including within the Employment & Training Hub, a Family Hub, Preston Park Grounds and Human Resources. Of the 5 who have completed their placement, 3 have gone on to secure an apprenticeship with the Council, and 2 are being supported by Children's Services with their options including returning to education. We have also just supported a care experienced young person in a paid work placement within our own No Limits Hub as an expert by experience to support the participation manager

Work is ongoing to identify suitable placements with services which can be advertised to our CEYP to start later this year. The CEYP will be supported with Employability Support and Career Advice alongside the work placement to help them gain longer term employment.

Apprenticeships

The Council have a proud track record of recruiting to Apprenticeship positions, with a total of 43 recruited to start employment in September 2024.

3 x CEYP have been successful this year in gaining an Apprenticeship position within the Council following successful work placements.

We also have 3 CEYP who were successful and started their apprenticeship in September 2023, who will complete their apprenticeship in 2025. Work is ongoing to support these individuals with securing longer-term employment.

5. Actions moving forward

Increased Lived experience Opportunities

- Improved participation in the No Limits Hub
- Working alongside services as a corporate parent to create opportunities
- Wrap around care for care experienced young people based on their need
- Drop in from agencies such as employment hub/ DWP/ CAB
- Feedback from young people/ adults

Understanding and overcoming barriers to Education, Employment and Training for Care Experienced young people

- There will be review of the young people who are care experienced and currently NEET
- Being creative with opportunities and recording of activity

EHCP's to support Adult Transitions

- Ensuring EHCP's are recorded with appropriate assessments, diagnosis and planning
- Enhance transition to adult services which includes consideration regarding ability to be engaged with EET

Improvement in Pathway Planning

- Pathway Plan to be updated to allow for recording in relation to EET to be concise
- Actions will be SMART and reviewed within Pathway Planning.
- Consideration for joined up working with providers, employment hub, DWP

Improving support to individual groups of Care experienced

- Identification of focused training for young parents that could be ran from the no Limits hub and would provide some level of accreditation.
- More robust preparation for Care experienced young people and adults leaving custody to ensure that they can transition into training or employment on release.

Working together with other service areas around joint planning

- Work together with Virtual school and Skills and sufficiency to consider support around early intervention and delivery of educational support to care experienced
- VS to consider provision of tuition
- VS to look at the delivery of functional skills
- VS to explore preparation for adulthood with SEN
- Ongoing work with DWP
- Offer provided by the employment Hub to be reviewed

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