

Report to CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY BOARD

Participation of Young People aged 16 – 18 in Education, Employment or Training

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Education and Skills

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Reason for Decision

The Annual Report is for information and an opportunity for members to scrutinise and challenge activities in the preceding academic year.

Executive Summary

The Annual Report is for information and an opportunity for members to scrutinise and challenge activities in the preceding academic year. This report will update the Board on current participation and NEET rates together with a summary on activity during the past academic year and planned in the future to ensure that we are shaping and influencing opportunities where possible for our 16–18-year-olds.

Recommendations

The Board to note the current landscape and experiences of 16–18-year old's which is impacting on their participation in education, employment, or training.

The Board is asked to note the range of interventions currently in place to support young people into EET and prevent the incidence of NEET increasing, given the highlighted issue in relation to sufficiency. To comment and discuss accordingly.

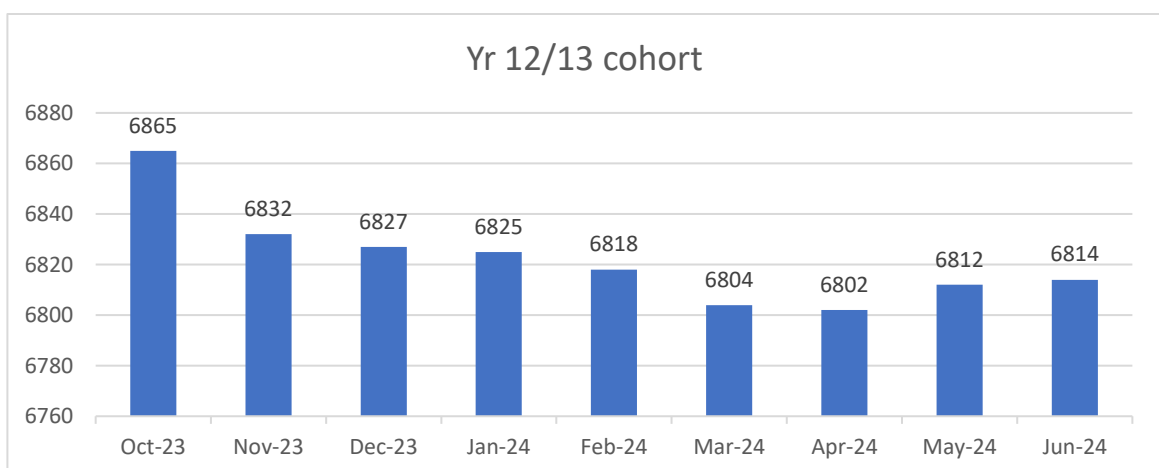
Participation of Young People aged 16 – 18 in Education, Employment and Training

1 Background

- 1.1 The LA continues to fulfil its duties around encouraging, enabling, and assisting young people to participate in education or training and tracking those aged 16 and 17 through the commission of the targeted support offer delivered by Positive Steps. This includes a small resource for our SEND (EHC plans) and Children Looked After (CLA) cohort. Due to the contract term coming to an end, the Local Authority (LA) is currently undergoing a procurement exercise, with the new contract being in place on 1 April 2025.
- 1.2 Our approach across partners in Oldham is to ensure that young people are empowered to access the advice and support they require; that we have opportunities available and to engage with our young people to hear their voices and respond as best we can. We do this using a partnership approach engaging organisations who work with our 16 – 18-year-olds and support them to participate.
- 1.3 This report will update the Board on Participation, NEET (not in education, employment or training) and unknown rates across the academic year that began in September 2023 and culminated in July 2024, together with a summary on activity planned in the future to ensure that we are shaping and influencing where possible for our 16–18-year-olds.
- 1.4 The report previously had covered a chronological calendar year. We feel discussion is more pertinent to be based on an academic year and therefore the year now covers the months of October – June when activity is recorded on the national database (NCCIS). Quarter 2 months are not recorded due to the inaccuracy of the data they provide. For example, in August NEET would be nearly 100% due to the summer holidays.
- 1.5 The work links to the Corporate Plan and Priorities, namely:
 - Resident First
 - Preventative Approach
 - Income
 - Safeguarding

2 Current Position

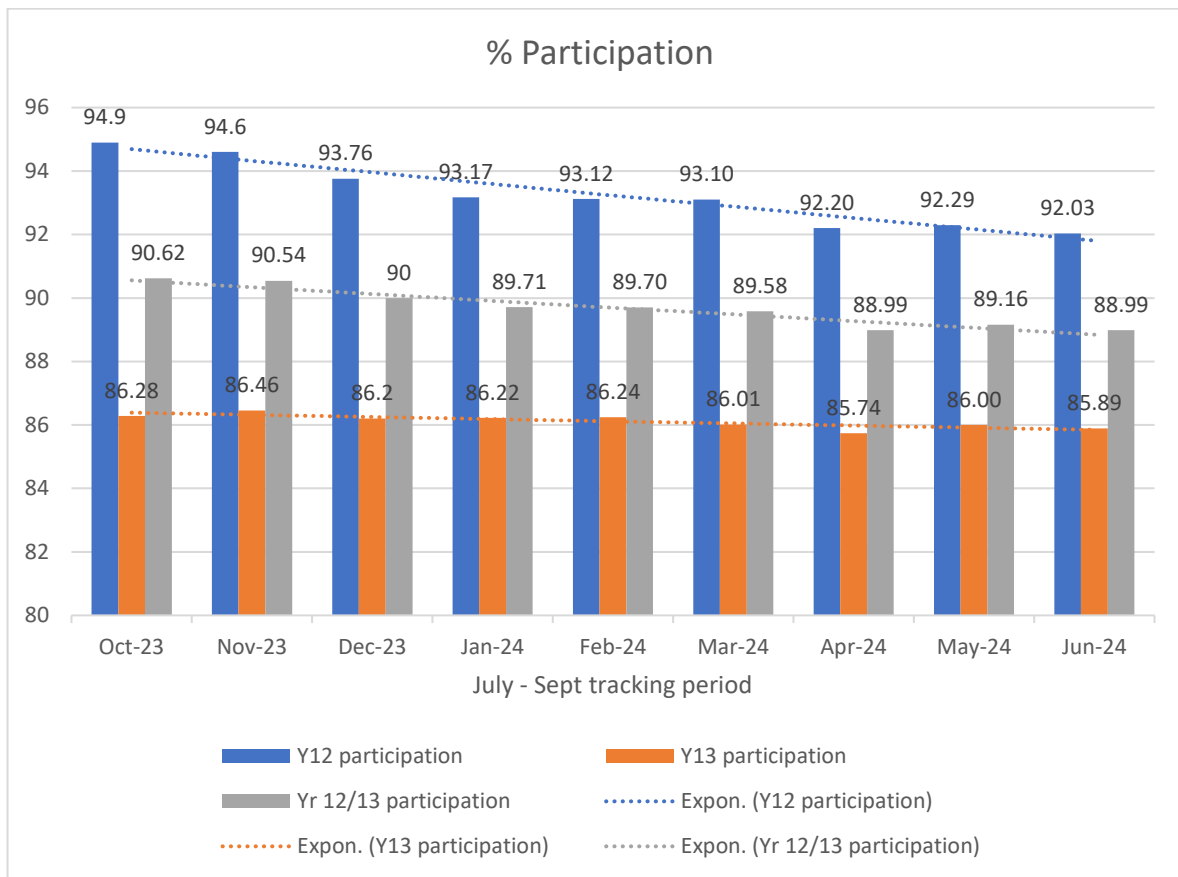
2.1 Cohort numbers



2.1.1 We have seen a notable increase in our cohort numbers for the academic year 23/24. The actual cohort numbers fluctuate month by month, and the trend appears to be downward, but the average cohort number across the academic year 23/24 for Y12/13 combined is 6822. The previous academic year's (22/23) average is 6619. This is an increase of 203 young people. This increase puts pressure on all service areas, including the LA in meeting its statutory duties, it increases competition for education placements, education providers need to offer more and differentiated places and increases caseloads for staff working to secure placements for young people.

2.1.2 Y12/13 cohort numbers are projected to continue to rise until the academic year 28/29. More on the population growth and its impact on our sufficiency duty can be found at section 2.7.11 and 3.2.

2.2 Y12/13 Participation Rates



2.2.1 Latest reported data (June 2024) indicates that 92.03% of our year 12s are participating in some form of EET (education, employment or training) activity. This % rate of participation has been reducing slightly over the academic year, indicating that our year 12's were in the most part settled in their destination following transition from school. However, we do need to acknowledge the downward trend across the year and ensure we are supporting young people who may have been less settled in their Y12 activity and support them to find activity more suited to their aspirations. Y12 average participation across the academic year 23/24 was 93.24%, which is an increase on 2023 which was 93.06%.

2.2.2 However, following a similar trajectory to the last two years, participation in our year 13 cohort is much lower. Y13 average participation during the 23/24 academic year was just 86.12%. Although an improvement on calendar year 2023 (84.21%), it highlights the continuing difficulties our Y13's have with sustaining participation. This cohort was in Year 9 when

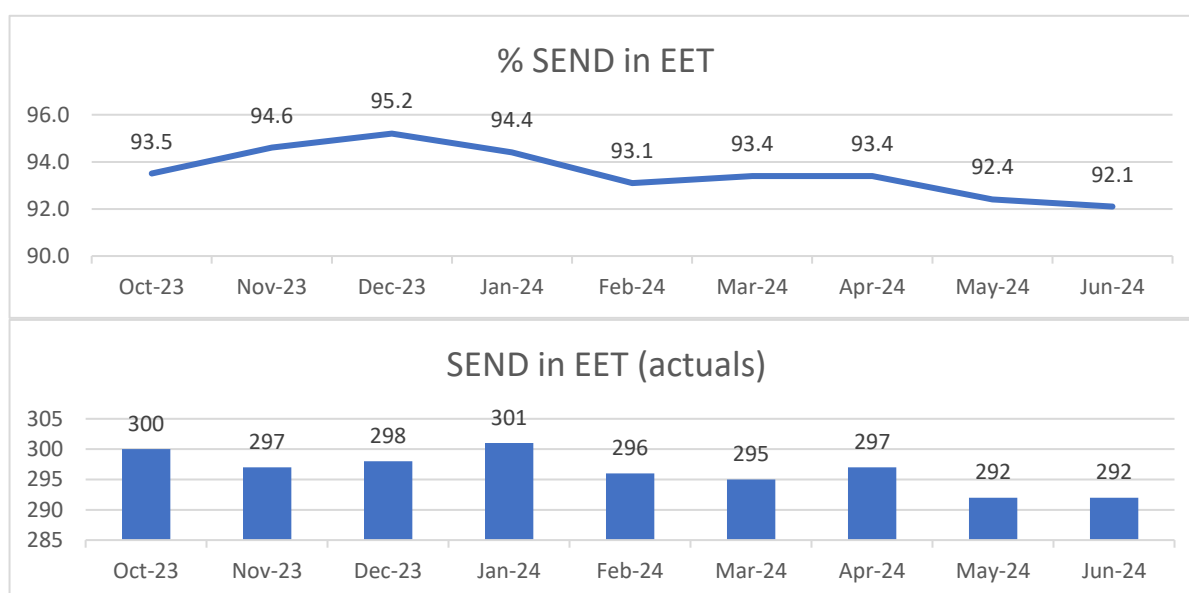
school closures were introduced during the pandemic, and this highlights the impact on young people's resilience and ability to sustain educational opportunities is still being felt.

2.2.3 Historically, there have always been young people that struggle with the transition from Y12 to Y13. To address this, we provide additional support at re-enrollment for those who needed to seek an alternative course for Y13. Information from Colleges on who would not be offered a Y13 place is requested so that young people could be contacted and offered support.

2.2.4 The careers advisors supporting the NEET cohort continue to work closely with young people across both Y12 and Y13 to introduce them to a range of providers able to re-engage them in EET or any appropriate local engagement programs that support young people back on their journey to EET, dependent on the stage of the young person journey, their aspirations and ability to engage.

2.2.5 The Empower Oldham program funded by UKSPF Skills funding via GMCA has provided an additional layer of support offer for these young people. Teams can refer young people to work with a careers coach or mentor. We have case studies of some excellent outcomes, providing us with evidence that if capacity is available to undertake the work and a young person is willing to engage and take on the practical and emotional support that a mentor can offer, they are able to re-engage in positive activity.

2.3 SEND Participation Rates

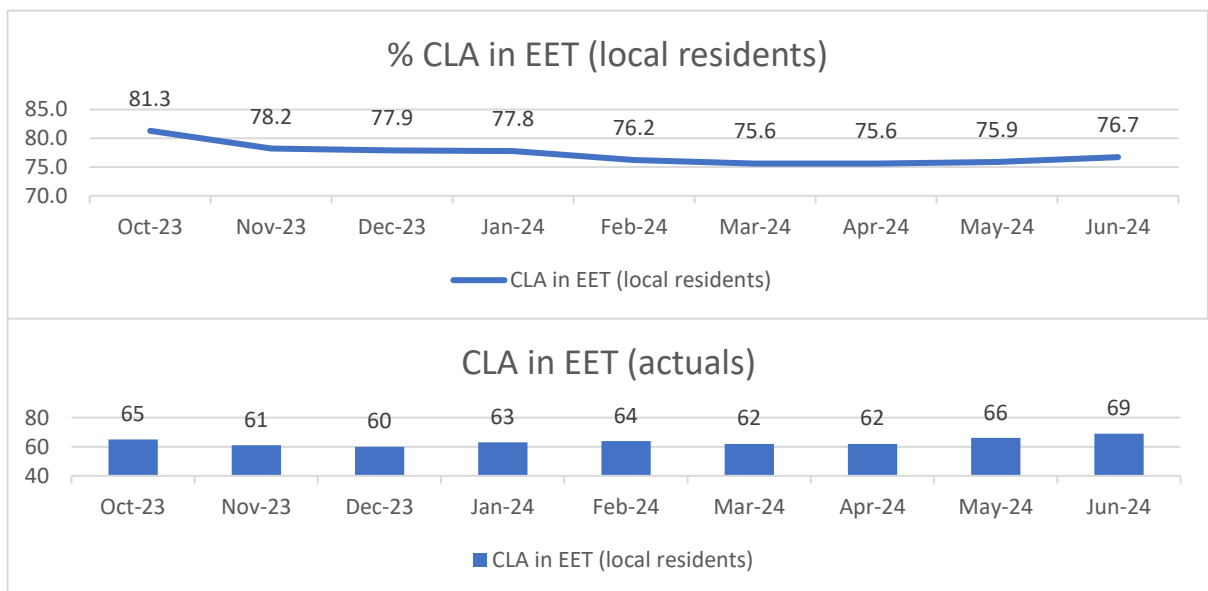


2.3.1 The actual cohort numbers fluctuate month by month across the year, but the average annual cohort number for Y12/13 SEND is 296, and the % participation is steady across the academic year, mirroring the wider participation trend of a slightly reduced % of participation at the end of the academic year.

2.3.2 The SEND Team co-ordinates education provision for young people aged 16 – 25 with an EHC plan to ensure they are accessing an education provision that meets the educational outcomes in their EHC plan and supports them to achieve their aspirations.

2.3.4 The Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Steering Group works in partnership with a wide variety of partners (and feeds into the SEND Programme Board) to improve outcomes for young people with SEND, including employment.

- 2.3.5 Oldham was successful in securing additional funding from the DfE to work on a Supported Internship program. The aims of the project are to increase the number and quality of Supported Internships available to young people in Oldham and we are currently in year 3 of the 3-year project. Oldham Council works closely with the two local delivery providers, DfE, Oldham Youth Service and Oldham Theatre Workshop to achieve project aims.
- 2.3.6 The Children’s with Disabilities Team have been working to develop a Transition’s booklet to support young people to be prepared for adult life. The team consulted with young people back in February 2024, to ensure we were collating the information young people want to know and understand.
- 2.3.7 The SEND Service has recently employed Family Liaison Leads within the team who are looking to re-engage young people with EHC plans not currently accessing education. They will work with the young people and their families to ensure that the next phase of their career is meeting the young person’s aspirations and career choice, providing support and signposting advice if required. If the decision is that the young person does not wish to return to education, the EHC plan can be ceased.
- 2.4 CLA Participation (local residents)



- 2.4.1 The average annual cohort number for CLA (16 – 18) in 23/24 academic year is 82. This is a significant rise in 2023’s figure of 45, again mirroring the general population growth and the impact this has on services. The smaller cohort impacts the data, but the participation trend follows the same trajectory as the universal cohort.
- 2.4.2 Given the additional barriers care experienced young people face we acknowledge the requirement for a higher level of support and our dedicated Careers Advisor support working with the Virtual School and our social care teams is essential to ensuring these young people are encouraged and supported to engage. We continue to provide the additional resource dedicated to this cohort.
- 2.4.3 Our Virtual School (VS) coordinates further support for the young people in our care to assist them to transition successfully into Post 16 provision. This is provided through a dedicated Post 16 Education Officer. The VS deliver a range of targeted activities and programmes to raise aspirations and participation, utilising information/data in Personal Education Plans (PEPs) on careers advice and guidance. Ongoing liaison with the Virtual School and Positive

Steps ensures that there is oversight of Oldham care experienced young people and the careers advice and guidance they have received or require.

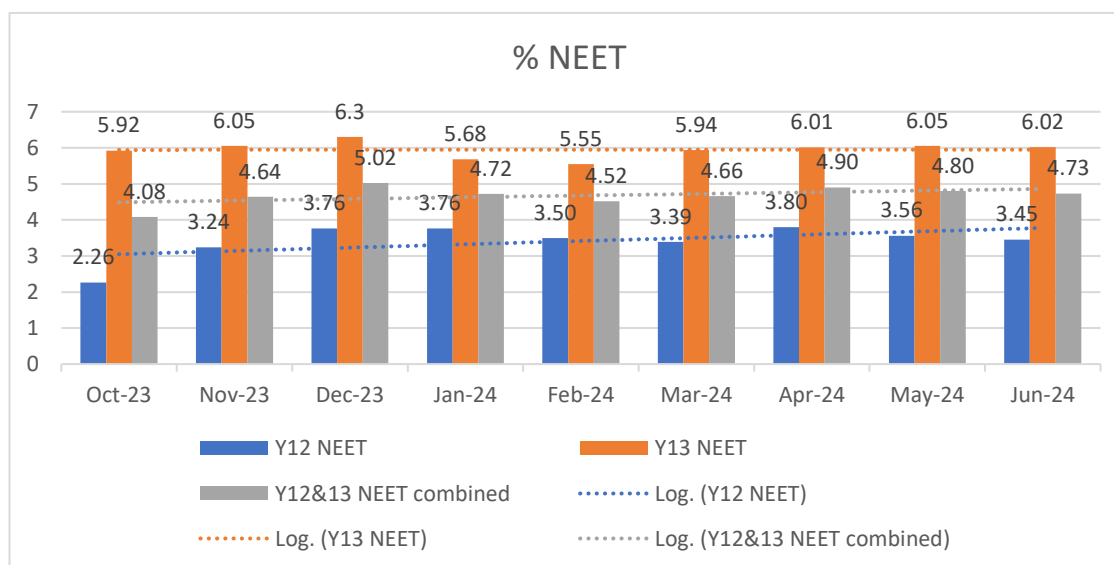
2.4.5 Whilst the program is outside of the Y12/13 age range, we have recently received funding to deliver a Care Leaver Multiply (numeracy program) to support care leavers aged 19+ to gain additional maths skills. Although the courses can only be delivered to 19+, the fund can be used to engage CLA young people who may benefit from this type of support in the months leading up to their 19th birthday. These young people will be identified at the Care Leaver NEET monthly meeting and support put in place. The programme continues, and whilst number of young people accessing are smaller than we had hoped, we are encouraged by the positive impact the programme has had on those who have attended.

2.4.6 Our recent ILAC inspection covered our Care Leaver NEET delivery programme, with a meeting specifically set to discuss our approach for our Care Leaver cohort. Whilst the inspectors were impressed with our outcomes and the ability to show our support for our young people, they did feel that an area that required a focus our support to increase the number of Care Leavers on apprenticeships within the Council. As a Corporate Parent, we recognise the need to rectify this and are committed to working on a programme with After Care, Get Oldham Working, Post 16 and Workforce Development to ensure we deliver a programme that supports and encourages our Care Leavers into Apprenticeships within the Council.

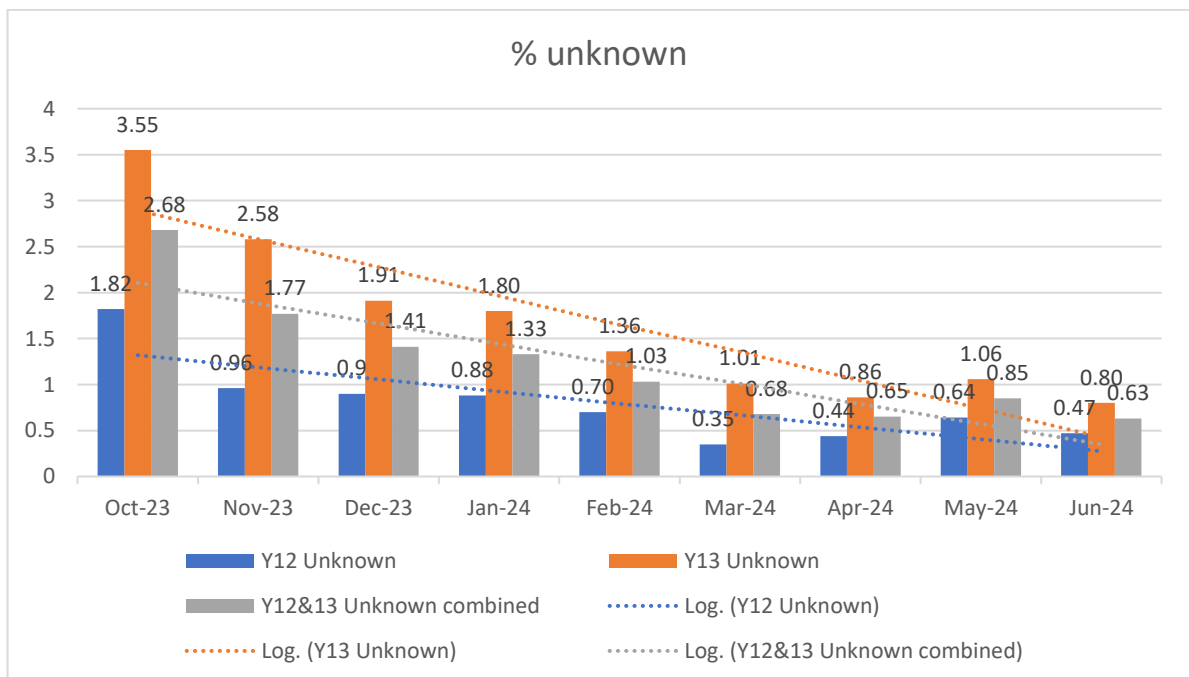
2.4.7 In July 2024, three of our care experienced Y10 students were given the opportunity to attend the Eton “Skills for Success” Summer School. Each year a number of places are available for students from Oldham to attend. The weeklong summer school is free of charge and pupils have the opportunity to stay in the Eton boarding houses (Eton pupils have already broken up for the summer) and experience engaging and exciting opportunities to build their skills, grow in confidence and make new friends from within their own cohort from Oldham, and the other new Eton Star Academy areas, Middlesborough and Dudley.

2.4.8 Eight young care experienced young people were provided the opportunity to attend a residential at Manchester University in July. They were accommodated in halls for two nights, to experience this before making the choice to attend university. Over the two days, the young people participated in in activities aimed designed to increase confidence, build teamworking skills, transition to HE readiness and feel a sense of belonging on an University campus.

2.5 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)



- 2.5.1 The latest reported (June 2024) Y12/13 combined NEET rate currently sits at 4.73%, with the average NEET rate across the academic year being 4.67%. We continue to receive monthly starter leaver information from providers to ensure that an advisor can contact young people who become NEET mid-year to re-engage, reducing the amount of time potentially spent NEET. In June 2024, there were 322 young people recorded as NEET. Of this figure, only 258 There are currently 343 young people recorded as NEET with only 258 “available to the labour market”.
- 2.5.2 Of the 258 young people “available to the labour market”, the majority are actively seeking opportunities to engage. There are however, 58 young people identified as “not yet ready for work and learning”. These young people are provided with the offer of additional support to help them to re-engage.
- 2.5.3 The 64 young people (June 2024 data) “not available to the labour market” again are in this position for several reasons, majority illness (mental health a significant contributor), with teenage parents and pregnancy being second highest reason young people are not available and young carers. Our Careers Advisors continue to offer support to these young people, but the intensity is reduced as the priority for these young people currently is engaging with EET activity.
- 2.5.4 In line with the participation data, the NEET data highlights the difficulties our Y13 cohort is experiencing with successfully accessing EET, with Y13’s levels 2.54% higher than our Y12 cohort (on average across 23/24 academic year).
- 2.6 Unknown (or “not known”)



- 2.6.1 Work to identify the unknown cohort has been a continued priority across 23/24 academic year, building on the success of work done in the previous year. This targeted focus has seen a significant drop in the numbers of unknown young people. As the graph demonstrates, we have reduced the Y12/13 combined % rate from 1.82% in October 2023 down to 0.63% in June 2024. The number of young people “not known” in June 2024 was 43.

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- 2.6.2 This reduction in “not known” means most of this cohort are now known to us, we know they are safe, and we can offer services if young people choose to engage with us and the wider offer.
- 2.6.3 It is difficult to ascertain the reasons for young people becoming unknown, and we will continue to use lived experience, research, peer to peer shared good practice to explore the reasons and work with partners to ensure young people become “known” and enable us to offer support.
- 2.6.4 Positive Steps try several and varied attempts at continued contact, but in some cases we have been required to make the young person unknown as we cannot ascertain a positive EET destination. Follow-up of these young people continues, but some cases cannot easily be resolved. For example, due to the guidance set out by the DfE, although we may have evidence that a young person no longer lives in Oldham, as we are unable to obtain a positive EET destination, we are required to continue to a) keep this young person on Oldham’s database and b) mark them as unknown in our data returns.

2.7 Key activity to support participation

- 2.7.1 Whilst our commissioned service continues to meet our statutory duties in relation to participation, it is acknowledged at both national and regional level that this cohort requires additional support to enable them to participate successfully.
- 2.7.2 GMCA are keen to continue to support this cohort and have provided funding direct to Local Authorities to deliver a programme. Funding is currently allocated until September 2025. Locally known as “Empower Oldham”, the offer will be for 15 – 19-year-olds (up to 25 with SEN and 21 if care experienced) who are at risk of or NEET, and will provide bespoke enhanced support, either individually or in groups to move them into a positive EET destination. As at June 2024, we had engaged 193 young people onto the programme and provided them with additional support to re-engage them in EET activity.
- 2.7.3 In line with GMCA’s commitment to supporting the NEET cohort across GM, each LA was provided with an additional fund to support EET activity, which required spending before March 2025. In Oldham, this fund has been distributed across three projects, one at Oldham College, which will support students from “dropping out of provision”, we have provided some capacity funding to a training provider (YMCA) to deliver from The Hive facilities for the academic year 24/25. We are also supporting a GM wide project via GMLPN to increase quality assurance in providers delivering training across GM.
- 2.7.4 GMCA’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding across GM has funded eleven community organisations in Oldham to deliver, small community-based projects that will support residents into either AEB activity or employment activity. Whilst most organisations deliver a 19+ service, we do have organisations who are able to provide support to young people aged 16+. The organisations are:
- Mahdlo: “Moving On with Mahdlo” innovative personal development project, underpinned by Choice Theory and Youth Work practice: Works at the young person’s pace, holistically integrates wellbeing, essential life skills development, social action, employability (including regular Careers Guidance), Includes one-to-ones, group work, individual challenges, residential, Connects and enhances other provision in Oldham.
 - Volunteer It: The proposal covers the delivery of refurbishment projects with local rugby league clubs all involving young people (aged 16+ and NEET or at risk of NEET) volunteering.

- WiFi North West: To deliver cooking courses aimed primarily at priority groups listed below. The course covers practical food preparation and cooking techniques, safe use of kitchen equipment, accredited food hygiene and first aid training, placement opportunities and training to enter a working environment.
- Outdoor Collaborative: The Outdoor Collaborative aims to empower young people through outdoor digital photography and video sessions. By combining creative exploration with valuable digital skills, the sessions focus on environmental awareness and personal development as well as practical tools for success in higher education and the job market.
- Upturn: the project aims to provide marginalised Oldham residents, who are difficult to reach and not engaging, with the skills, confidence, self-esteem, and capability to move into or towards employment, training, or education, or to move into better paid employment. It will also support the integration of new arrivals. We do this in a person-centered, non-judgmental way that tackles what are often complex long-term barriers to progression.
- Oak Community Development: The My Skillset for work project is designed as an engaging and empowering initiative to engage with individuals from the BAME community who are furthest from the job market and equip them with skills for work and enterprise through a programme of coaching/mentoring support, training and volunteering opportunities.

- 2.7.5 Engagement programs are essential for young people and provide an indispensable part of the pathway from NEET to EET. We currently have several organisations offering provision in Oldham or GM that young people can access that will support young people to engage and obtain skills for education, employment or training. Due to the number of funded projects available for young people in Oldham, we use our padlet; [Positive Steps \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com) which provides a visual of what's currently available to young people to support them to become EET continues to be used widely. The padlet is continually updated and is available for young people, parents and professionals to use.
- 2.7.6 Oldham's Post 16 Team, Get Oldham Working, Job Centre Plus and Positive Steps continue to work together to deliver Oldham's Youth Hub, finding ways to work collaboratively to expand the offer in place. The initiative works in a supportive, young person focused and positive outcome-based way that supports young people aged 16 – 25 years old to access support to enable them to participate in activity that will lead to an employment opportunity. The Youth Hub offer consists of support for Care Leavers, dedicated DWP Youth Coaches and access to a Careers Advisor from Positive Steps. The Youth Hub hosts our Youth Hub Collaborative, which is a network of agencies sharing information and service offerings to support young people to achieve.
- 2.7.6 The Employment and Skills Partnership Board is established, and the strategy and action plan developed. Work with our Comms Team on production of the strategy document with a view to a public launch in September 2024. Our strategy has 4 priorities, with young people's employment being priority one.
- 2.7.7 Following the success of the Young Person's Careers Event in September 2023, Leaders have agreed it will run again. We aim to be more ambitious with the scope of the event for 2024, with a wider representation of employers across the GM region being requested to attend.
- 2.7.8 Following the Inspection of Children's Services (ILAC) in June 2024, it was recognised that as part of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities we need to ensure Care Leavers can access appropriate apprenticeships with the Council. We are creating a programme with our colleagues from After Care, Get Oldham Working and Workforce Development to create an

inclusive programme that will create five opportunities per year for Care Leavers to access an apprenticeship within the Council.

- 2.7.9 Oldham via our Lifelong Learning Service continues to deliver the GM Care Leaver Multiply (bespoke maths course) Scheme. Whilst numbers of young people accessing are lower than we hoped, the young people accessing are benefiting from the course, far beyond just gaining maths skills. We are hoping to grow these numbers over the next academic year via positive engagement.
- 2.7.10 Our pilot transition programme was undertaken in the Summer Term of 23/24 academic year. This pilot is aimed at Year 10 students who would particularly benefit from accessing some vocational provision early and therefore keep them engaged in education. Unfortunately, only one of the three secondary schools identified were able to participate and the pilot commenced with four students on programme. The students had a positive experience, and we intend to present our findings to Secondary Heads in the Autumn Term 24/25, to raise awareness and widen the scope of the scheme. Due to the smaller reach, we did not get opportunity to refine information sharing processes between schools and Colleges to improve the support put in place by both school and College to enable students to successfully transition to post 16 placements. This will be revisiting with both Oldham College and the Sixth Form College in the new academic year.
- 2.7.11 Within the statutory guidance on duties relating to the participation of young people in EET, local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training.

One of these duties is to:

- Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and care plan is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Action 1996. To fulfil this, local authorities need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.

Oldham is still experiencing a gap in its offer for 16 –18-year-olds, namely Entry Level/Level 1 study programmes. We have worked with local providers and have managed to secure two new provision bases in Oldham Town Centre, so we have managed to reduce the urgency of provision. YMCA will now have a base within The Hive for the next academic year, enabling them to deliver provision to young people. In addition, Oldham College have developed a study programme they will be delivering from the Positive Steps base to appeal to young people who may not wish to access the larger College site yet.

- 2.7.12 Although the proposed Eton/Star Free School will deliver 240 post 16 placements from September 2026, the provision is very different to the offer training providers deliver and services a completely different cohort of young people. Therefore, Eton/Star doesn't replace our training provision and enable us to provide the appropriate provision this cohort of young people need.
- 2.7.13 However, as item 2.1 suggests, we are currently also experiencing a growth in population numbers for 16 – 18-year-olds, therefore additional provision wider than the new YMCA/Oldham College provision is required. We intend to undertake a technical gap calculation during 24/25 to assess our status.
- 2.7.14 In addition to the reputational risk our gap in provision identifies, it also highlights a potential risk to families. The lack of placements, particularly for activity that has multiple start dates during the academic year, may impact family household budgets via the ceasing of child benefit if a young person is NEET.

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- 2.7.15 If a young person is NEET but engaged with services, the family can apply for a child benefit extension of 20 weeks, providing evidence the young person is working with a TIIAG provider to the DWP. If an appropriate placement is not identified, there is no mechanism we are aware of for extending this benefit. This could impact household budgets as it would trigger the loss of child benefit and potentially associated tax credits.
- 2.7.16 The offer available from post 16 settings is not dissimilar to last year, although the landscape is beginning to change to meet the requirements of the Skills and Post 16 Act. The pause and review of cancellation of B-Tec (and other) courses is welcomed, whilst the continued roll out of wider T-Level courses is embedded within the educational landscape.

3 Priorities over the next 12 months and plans

3.1 Whilst item 2.7 highlights our key activity for the next 12 months, some of the issues we are currently facing require prioritisation due to the risk factors they present to young people's participation. We believe the following five items are the priorities we need to focus on for the next 12 months.

3.2 Sufficiency

3.2.1 Oldham's current sufficiency gap is our highest priority for us to continue to address over the next 12 months. If sufficiency is not addressed, we will not have appropriate provision to move young people into when they are ready, which will increase our NEET rate.

3.2.2 Whilst work has been undertaken with some successful projects developing, namely YMCA delivering study programmes from The Hive and Oldham College delivering offsite provision at Positive Steps. The addition of Eton Sixth Form in September 2026 will support our sufficiency in the future; however, we need to understand our sufficiency gap in more detail.

3.2.3 During 24/25 academic year, we intend to undertake a technical calculation of our sufficiency (courses available vs. population growth) to assess the gap and what further work is required to ensure young people have the variety and numbers of educational provision on offer in Oldham to enable them to participate.

3.3 Employment and Skills Strategy and Partnership Board

3.3.1 The public launch of the strategy and communication of the Board, its members and the programme of work to be undertaken by the Board will be a priority for the next 12 months.

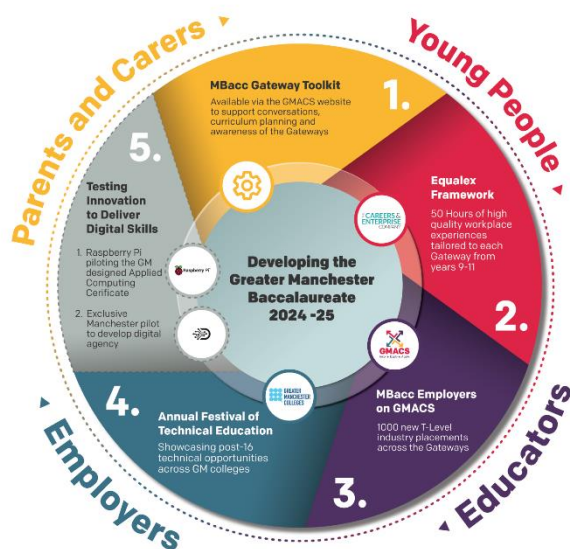
3.3.2 The partnership board has an action plan of work across the four priority areas (young people, economic inactivity, securing skills for the future economy and employers' role in the curriculum). Ensuring the work across the four areas of the action plan is delivered will be a key focus for our team over the next 12 months, as all the priority areas will have a link/dependent to NEET provision.

3.4 GM Integrated Technical City Region and the Manchester Baccalaureate

3.4.1 The Greater Manchester Mayor and GMCA committed to developing an education, skills and work system that not only supports productivity and inclusive economic growth but prepares young people for the future and builds hope and aspirations.

3.4.2 As part of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, Greater Manchester will have further oversight of post-16 technical skills, allowing local leaders to better shape how the city-region supports the one in three young people who do not want to go to university and match them into the skilled jobs being created in the local economy.

- 3.4.3 GMCA has outlined new ambitious plans to create two equal pathways for young people when they make their GCSE choices – one academic and one focussed on technical careers.
- 3.4.4 Currently, the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) provides an academic route that is valued, widely understood, and provides a pathway via A-Levels to University degree qualifications.
- 3.4.5 The Manchester Baccalaureate (MBacc) intends to offer a clearer route via technical education into high quality skilled jobs with qualifications (T-Levels, Apprenticeships, and other technical qualifications) respected by GM Employers, as a high value alternative to the EBacc.
- 3.4.6 Almost two-thirds of 14-year-olds in Greater Manchester do not pursue or achieve an EBacc. MBacc is designed to offer most young people in GM a clear route into quality, skilled jobs, or higher education via an equally respected pathway, linked to the GM Economy.
- 3.4.7 The development of MBacc currently has five elements highlighting ways stakeholders can get involved and contribute. Following the event held in July 2024, this is now the next phase of implementation.



- 3.4.8 From September 2024, various parts of our technical education system will be trying out new approaches and using new tools to see how they can make MBacc work.
- 3.4.9 In co-ordination with GM Chamber of Commerce, GMCA have formed an Employer Integration Board representing businesses committed to sharing sector insight and changing the local skills system, ensuring continued growth and be representative of the 7 sectors agreed to be the most significant to the GM Economy:
1. **Factory International and WPP** - Creative, Culture & Sport
 2. **Booking.com and Cloud Imperium Games** - Digital & Technology
 3. **J Murphy & Sons and Siemens Energy Ltd** - Construction & Green Economy
 4. **EY and BNY Mellon** - Financial & Professional
 5. **NHS GM and Persona Care Support** - Health & Social Care
 6. **Nexperia and Miliken & Co** - Manufacturing & Engineering
 7. **Manchester Metropolitan University** - Education & Early Years
- 3.4.10 The Labour Manifesto sets out three interlinked key policy changes which will support the development of MBacc. Namely:

- Curriculum and Assessment Review, with the aim to allow vocational subjects to be studied from Year 9.
- Transform FE Colleges into Technical Excellence Colleges (with anticipated specific specialisms)
- Post 16 Education Strategy, intended to increase opportunities for young people, student mobility and engage in skills development.

It is expected that the MBacc will be approved as a pilot for a national scheme that will set out the roadmap to creating the equal pathway for technical education for the future and remove barriers to developing a post 16 education landscape that meets the needs of young people, parents and carers, educators and employers.

3.4.11 Oldham's priority will be to continue to engage with GMCA and the proposals for the Integrated Technical City Region to enable us to take part and shape the implementation to support our young people and ensure that the opportunities created by MBacc can be realised for young people from Oldham.

3.5 TIIAG Commission and budget saving

3.5.1 Due to the contract ending in March 2025, we are currently out to tender for a new commission to deliver our TIIAG service from 1 April 2025.

3.5.2 This contract includes the delivery of our statutory duties in relation to participation, tracking, reporting and support for our NEET cohort.

3.5.3 All services are required to improve efficiencies, modernise, and make significant savings and therefore the new specification for our TIIAG service has been written with a focus on a digital offer at its forefront, reducing the face-to-face level of support that was expected from previous contracts.

3.5.4 Our priority is to work with the Commissioning and Procurement Teams to ensure a smooth implementation of a new contract, with minimal disruption to young people.

3.6 Empower Oldham Funding

3.6.1 Our Empower Oldham project, which is essential to ensure we have capacity to support young people to participate is currently due to end in September 2025.

3.5.2 GMCA and the 10 local authorities across Greater Manchester are working together to ensure a good business case is put forward to secure funding beyond September 2025.

3.5.3 Our priority is to continue to create the business case for GMCA or seek alternative funding to continue to deliver this programme of work.

4 Options/Alternatives

4.1 The report is to advise members on the current landscape and experiences of 16–18-year old's which is impacting on their participation in education, employment, or training. No options or alternatives are to be considered.

5 Preferred Option

5.1 N/A

6 Consultation

6.1 The report is to advise members on the current landscape and experiences of 16–18-year old’s which is impacting on their participation in education, employment, or training. No consultation has been undertaken.

7 **Financial Implications**

7.1 None

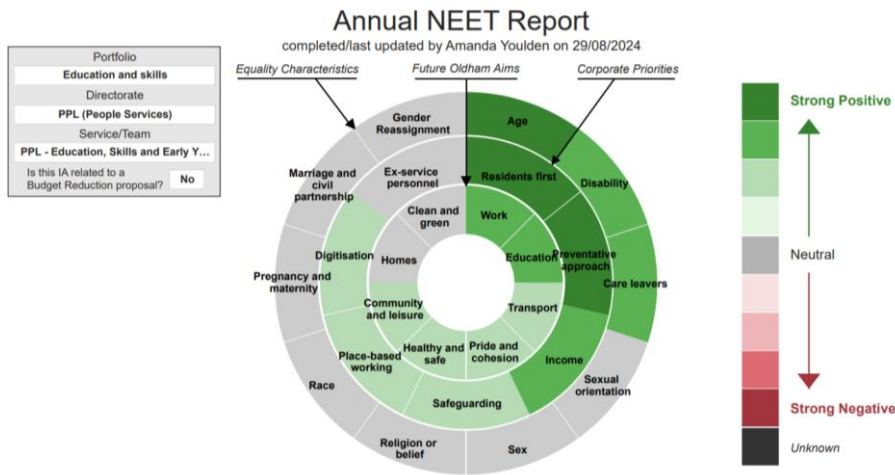
8 **Legal Implications**

8.1 None

9 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

9.1 Yes

9.2



10 **Key Decision**

10.1 No

11 **Key Decision Reference**

11.1 N/A

12 **Background Papers**

12.1 N/A

13 **Appendices**

13.1 N/A

Signed _____ Cabinet Member (specify whom)	Dated _____
Signed _____ Executive Director/Deputy Chief Executive	Dated _____