

Recommendations of the Children, Families and Skills Committee 1 November 2023

At its meeting of the 1 November 2023, the committee considered a report on Young People in Education, Employment or Training and Young People not in Education, Employment or Training. A written response has been provided to the recommendation of the committee by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and responses to the actions for officers are detailed below.

Item 4 – Young People in Education, Employment or Training and Young People not in Education, Employment or Training

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

The Youth Futures Team be invited to attend a future meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee to talk about their work, the progress they have made and any challenges and barriers they have faced.

The Youth Futures Team will be invited back to attend a future meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate time.

Actions for officers:

KS4 to KS5 Transition Booklet to be emailed out to committee members.

A copy of the December 2023 booklet is attached to this response – See **Appendix 'D'**.

A request to the colleges for any data held on young people in EET, specifically relating to Refugees to be shared with the committee.

There is no specific requirement to capture the refugee status of students at colleges, so it is not possible to provide any data to support this response. As such, not all colleges are aware of whether any of their students may be from a refugee background. The information received is based on anecdotal feedback.

Of those students the colleges are aware of, they are following a mix of provision, ranging from ESOL courses (which include English, Maths and basic ICT) to A levels or BTECs. As with the general cohort of students, these young people can access financial support through the colleges' bursary funds, and they can also access free college meals. The progress of these students is monitored regularly in relation to attendance, support needs, and individual interventions as outlined in the KS4 transition booklet.

In regard to Tables 7 – 9 in the report showing the successful outcomes/progression routes achieved by the cohort of Lancashire's young people in care or leaving care who are engaged with the Employment and

Support Team, if there a reason why it appears public sector opportunities in Lancashire are reducing?

The Employment and Support Team have confirmed that there are three key reasons as to why these opportunities have reduced:

- As stated below the tables in the report, the decline is due to teams no longer working in County Hall every day. It is not suitable for someone in their first role to work from home as an apprentice. We tried it during Covid but it didn't work as the young people found it hard to log into work and stay motivated during the day when at home.
- Since COVID, working patterns for teams at County Hall have changed meaning that we are unable to offer the sorts of Apprenticeship opportunities we once did.
- Since the Business Administration Apprenticeship is now only offered at a Level 3 standard, it is more difficult for our young people to achieve this or have a role that meets the criteria of that standard. Since the Level 2 was disbanded, it means some of our young people are not at this level to apply for business admin roles as an apprentice.
- Our Apprenticeship team was concerned about the number of CLA young people who started an apprenticeship but then dropped out and didn't finish the training. There was around a 50% drop out so we had to work on how to change this was a concern for the apprenticeship training providers compared to other stable Lancashire County Council staff members. It was agreed that they would do a 6-month work placement, funded by the Employment Support Team, but they wouldn't start on an apprenticeship. The young people would be allowed to settle into the role and then at the end of our funding, teams/services would take over the salary commitment and put the young person on a suitable apprenticeship. Due to the other two points above, this hasn't happened very often hence the low numbers we now have.

The only services the Employment Support Team can approach in terms of apprenticeship are front line service such as Care and Libraries. Unfortunately, these are not appealing to everyone hence why there is a low uptake of opportunities.

It should be noted that there is an aim in the CLA/CL EET action plan to increase the number of opportunities in the local authority for our CLA/CL young people. We need to work with the services across the council to increase the number of work placements available which may lead to an apprenticeship. Services must also be in a position to ensure they can provide the right support for the individual young person.