

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 17 May 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Supporting economic growth;

Young People in Education, Employment, or Training

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report has been jointly produced by the Education Improvement Service and the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, which supports the work of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership across Lancashire, Blackpool, and Blackburn with Darwen local authorities.

This report seeks to provide an update on the current position in relation to the number of 16 and 17 year old young people in education, employment, or training (EET) after they have completed their compulsory school education and the steps being taken to improve this.

Whilst the statutory duties around this work sit with the local authority, a strategic theme of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub is the Future Workforce, which focuses on raising the career aspirations of young people and enabling them to make informed choices about their pathway into the world of work. As a result, Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub work in partnership on a range of projects and initiatives to help young people achieve the best outcomes for their futures.

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Reflect on the information provided; and
- ii. Consider ways to further support work in this area.

Detail

Lancashire County Council's vision is that *we are helping you to make Lancashire the best place to live, to work, visit and prosper*. This is based on the aspiration to make our county the place where people want to create a home, raise children, develop a career, and grow old in.

We have high aspirations for all our children, whatever their starting point. Access to quality learning from childhood through to adulthood enables children to thrive and develop the life skills that will support them into a productive and happy adulthood.

Lancashire Education Strategy 2022-2025¹ sets out our ambition for our children and young people. The strategy supports integration across services so barriers to learning can be addressed, particularly for young people in vulnerable groups.

We are making it our mission to improve access, quality, and outcomes for all children and families in our county in the next three years. By working with our partners, we will do all that we can to drive educational excellence. The strategy aims to bring together services, schools, and settings including colleges, to work together to address any barriers to learning and to support local priorities, which may differ depending on the needs of specific communities.

The Education Strategy sets out the following five key priorities:

1. Improved outcomes in early years
2. Further reduce exclusions, both permanent and suspensions
3. Address risks associated with rising numbers on Elective Home Education, where this is not in the best interests of the child
4. Improve outcomes for vulnerable groups including those eligible for Free School Meals, Children in Need, children with a care plan, and Children Looked After, as well as those with special educational needs support and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
5. Increase the number of children and young people in EET.

The Education Strategy's annual delivery plan is currently being developed and this will include activities and actions which relate to post-16 provision.

A collaboration between Lancashire County Council services combined with partners within the five Team Around the Schools and Settings, Place Based Partnerships will deliver the aspirations articulated within the strategy and realise the shared ambition for all children and young people set out within the vision statement.

Alongside this, the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub's Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework, which was first published in 2016 and refreshed in January 2021, highlights four strategic themes:

¹ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/children-education-and-families/lancashire-education-strategy-2022-2025/>

1. **Future Workforce** – working with education and business to establish a talent pipeline and future workforce that meets the current and future demands of the local labour market.
1. **Skilled and Productive Workforce** – working with business to drive up skills in Lancashire's workforce to boost productivity, in-line with the needs of Lancashire's growth pillars.
2. **Inclusive Workforce** – supporting unemployed and economically inactive residents into sustainable employment, driving up digital skills, and embedding social value to level up areas of Lancashire and accelerate inclusive growth.
3. **An Informed Approach** – taking an evidence-based approach to identifying skills and employment issues facing Lancashire's businesses and industries, prioritising and influencing locally and nationally, and working with partners to identify best practice.

This paper focuses on priority 5 of the Education Strategy and the Future Workforce strategic theme of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework. Appendix 'A' provides more detail regarding Lancashire County Council's work in this area and Appendix 'B' provides more detail regarding the work of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub.

Improving the sustained participation of young people in post-16 EET and being aware of the destinations of all 16 and 17 year olds after they leave compulsory school age is a priority for Lancashire County Council, as well as for our educational institutions, partners, and stakeholders. Priority 5 also has clear links to our statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable education and training provision to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area by influencing and shaping provision through local partnerships and by identifying gaps, enabling new provision, and developing the market. The young people covered by this statutory duty are those aged 16-19 and those aged 19-24 who have an EHCP.

The Future Workforce strategic theme and the role of the Lancashire Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network are focused on raising the career aspirations of Lancashire's young people and building our future workforce in-line with business needs and future labour market forecasts.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

There are no financial implications regarding this report.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		