

**Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee**  
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 1 November 2023

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring for the Vulnerable;  
Supporting Economic Growth

**Young People in Education, Employment or Training and Young People not in Education, Employment or Training**  
(Appendix 'A' - 'B' refers)

Contact for further information:

Aby Hardy, Tel: 07890 415909, Head of Education Improvement,  
[aby.hardy@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:aby.hardy@lancashire.gov.uk)

Sarah Hirst, Tel: 01772 531842, 16-18 Education and Skills Lead,  
[sarah.hirst@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hirst@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Brief Summary**

This report seeks to provide an update to the one provided for the April 2023 meeting on the work the council is doing to support young people into education, employment, or training (EET) after they have completed their compulsory school education.

**Recommendation**

The Children, Families and Skills 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 (LCC) vision is that we are helping to make Lancashire the best place to live, 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.

LCC's Education Strategy for 2022-2025 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. By working with our partners, we will do all that we can to drive educational excellence.

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 priorities for the 2023/24 academic year will be Priority 3, addressing rising numbers on EHE, and Priority 5, increasing EET. With regard to Priority 5, an Increasing EET Action Plan has been developed to support this work. The action plan can be seen in Appendix 'B' and further background information can be seen in Appendix 'A'.

As outlined in the April 2023 report to the committee, the local authority has a number of statutory duties related to young people aged 16 and 17 and their participation in education, employment or training. These include the tracking of participation for all 16 and 17 year olds resident in Lancashire and supporting those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to reengage in a positive destination.

The Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub (the Skills Hub) has recently undertaken a series of consultations with key partners and stakeholders to inform the refresh of its Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework. The framework has four strategic themes, one of which is focused on the Future Workforce. This contributes to increasing EET and, as such, LCC and the Skills Hub work in partnership on a range of projects and initiatives to help young people achieve the best outcomes for their futures. This will also be the case for joint projects and activities linked to Lancashire 2050.

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 LCC, as well as for our educational institutions, partners, and stakeholders. Appendix 'A' provides more detail on how the local authority, as well as the Skills Hub, is supporting young people into EET after they have completed their compulsory school education.

## Appendices

Appendices 'A' - 'B' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire County Council's Priority to Increase the



	Number of Young People in Education, Employment, or Training
Appendix 'B'	Increasing EET Action Plan

## Consultations

N/A

## Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## Risk management

Impact on economic growth and outcomes for young people.

To help ensure Lancashire is able to meet its future skills needs and the needs identified by employers across the county, it is essential that as many young people remain in EET as possible. When young people are not engaged in EET, their opportunities to move into well paid, skilled and sustainable employment are reduced. This increases their chances of being unemployed, receiving low wages or being in a low skilled/low quality job. Being NEET can also have a negative impact on a young person's physical and mental health.

We need to focus on ways to support young people to remain engaged in a positive destination, enabling them to achieve to the best of their ability and improving their outcomes.

There are also possible safeguarding implications of young people being NEET and also where their destination is classed as not known. This further demonstrates the importance of improving outcomes for young people and ensuring as many young people are supported into EET as possible.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A	N/A	N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

