



Target Period NEET Report

Education, Learning and Skills Statement
Kingston upon Hull
2023 – 2024

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TECHNICAL REPORT: Target Period NEET Report

REVISION HISTORY

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April 2024	April 2023	Version 10	Updated data and statistics for the 2023-2024 academic year.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report contains details of young people resident in Hull who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Specifically, it shows the proportion of year groups 12 and 13 who are NEET or Not Known and compares Hull's performance against regional and national figures and that of its statistical neighbours.

The Department for Education monitors the participation of young people in employment, education or training in all local authority areas. This data is supplied by each local authority all of whom have a statutory duty to do so on a monthly basis. The overall performance measure used is a combined average figure of young people who are NEET and Not Known over a three month period (December 2023 to February 2024) as this accurately reflects the number participating.

2. HULL NEET, NOT KNOWN & IN LEARNING STATISTICS

2.1 Combined NEET and Not Known

The Department for Education now measures the performance of each local authority based on a combined NEET and Not Known figure. Previously, performance was based on the NEET figure only as the Not Known figure was considered separately.

Although the local authority reports on both NEET and Not Known figures on a monthly basis, its annual performance is judged on a three month average figure taken from December to February.

Hull's annual performance for 2023/24 is a combined figure of **8.1%** (NEET **7.6%** and Not Known **0.5%**). This was significantly higher than the England average (**5.4%**), and the regional average (**5.8%**), but slightly lower than our statistical neighbours' average (**8.2%**)

It is **1.4%** higher than last year's three monthly average of **6.7%** for Hull. It is also higher than the annual performance figure for 2021-2022 (**5.6%**).

2023/24 annual figures	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Not Known	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
(% and no. of young people)	38	35	34
NEET	7.5%	7.8%	7.5%
(% and no. young people)	496	513	496
Combined	8.1%	8.3%	8.0%
3 Month Average			8.1%

Figure 1: Hull's annual three monthly combined NEET & Not Known data for 2023-2024

2022/23 annual figures	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
Not Known	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%
(% and no. of young people)	36	32	25
NEET	6.3%	6.3%	6.1%
(% and no. young people)	398	397	387
Combined	6.9%	6.8%	6.5%
3 Month Average			6.7%

Figure 2: Comparison annual three monthly combined NEET & Not Known data for 2022-2023

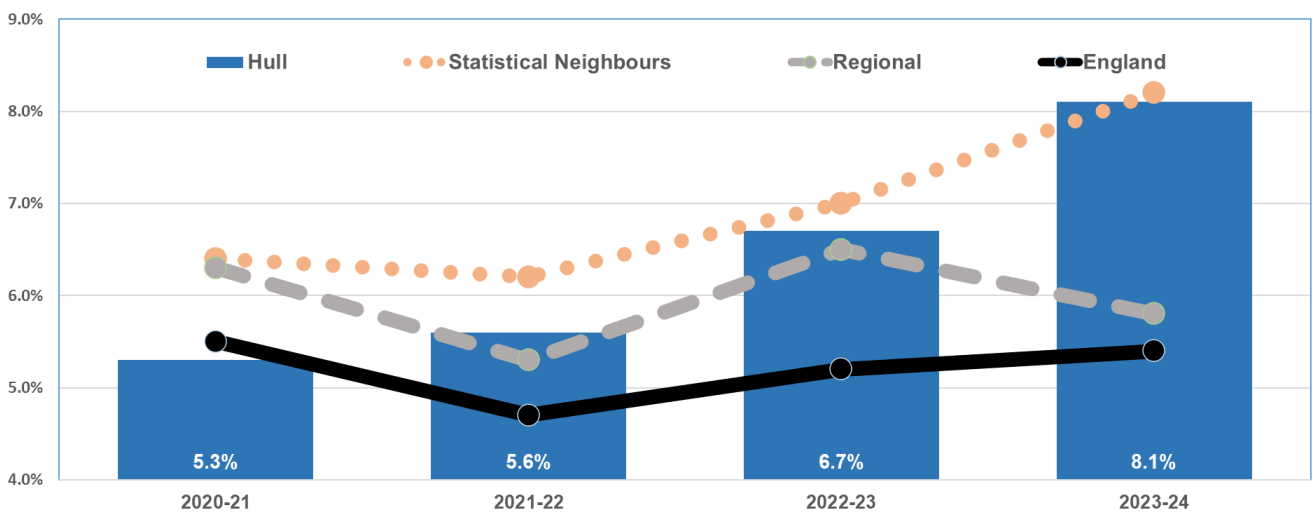


Figure 3: Comparison annual three monthly combined NEET & Not Known data for last 4 years

Hull's figures have traditionally been below our stat neighbours (other than in 18/19) and in line with (or better than) the regional and England averages. Hull's upward trajectory began in 22/23 and has continued since then. Hull has experienced another significant increase in 23/24, with NEET volumes rising to the highest levels seen in many years. The increase in Hull relates specifically to the rising NEET figure as the Not Known figure still remains relatively stable and in line with previous years. Section 2.2 explores the increase in NEETs in further detail.

2.2 NEET

Although monitored monthly, it is important to note that comparison to previous periods/quarters is useful to show any changes in the group; it should not be looked at in isolation. The NEET figure is not a static figure and is not made up of the same young people each month. The NEET figures from the start of the reporting year (March 2023) to the end of the statistical period (February 2024) are given below. Data from last year (2022-2023) is also included for comparison. The month of January registered the highest number (513) of NEETs.

2023-2024	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec-Feb Ave
Percent	6.6%	6.7%	6.6%	6.6%	6.8%	6.8%	5.4%	5.7%	7.1%	7.5%	7.8%	7.5%	7.6%
Number	414	424	417	413	436	428	354	374	471	496	513	496	
2022-2023	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec-Feb Ave
Percent	5.4%	5.7%	6.2%	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%	5.4%	5.9%	6.4%	6.3%	6.3%	6.1%	6.2%
Number	327	349	374	360	357	321	340	369	401	398	397	387	

Figure 4: Hull NEET stats by month for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

The monthly NEET trends for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 are shown below:

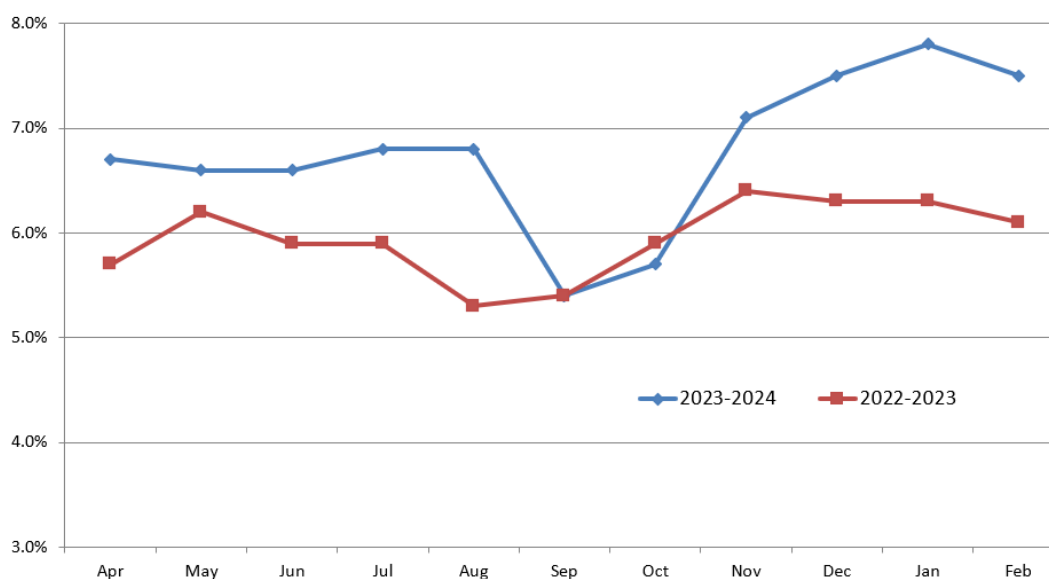


Figure 5: Hull monthly NEET trends for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

The data indicates a higher number of NEETs/NK combined in September 2023 compared to September 2022 (in September 2022 there were 451 young people who were NEET/NK whereas in September 2023, this figure was already higher at 503 total NEET/NK). The following table illustrates the higher numbers:

Month	NEET Number 22/23	NEET % 22/23	Not Known Number 22/23	Not Known % 22/23	Combined Number 22/23	Combined % 22/23	NEET Number 23/24	NEET % 23/24	Not Known Number 23/24	Not Known Number 23/24	Combined Number 23/24	Combined % 23/24
Sept	340	5.4%	111	1.8%	451	7.2%	354	5.4%	149	2.3%	503	7.6%
Oct	369	5.9%	78	1.2%	447	7.1%	374	5.7%	107	1.6%	481	7.3%
Nov	401	6.4%	54	0.9%	455	7.2%	471	7.1%	59	0.9%	530	8.0%
Dec	398	6.3%	36	0.6%	434	6.9%	496	7.5%	38	0.6%	534	8.1%
Jan	397	6.3%	32	0.5%	429	6.8%	513	7.8%	35	0.5%	548	8.3%
Feb	387	6.1%	25	0.4%	412	6.5%	496	7.5%	34	0.5%	530	8.0%

Figure 6: Hull monthly NEET data for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Additionally, in October/November 2023, 190 young people joined the NEET list as opposed to 140 young people in October/November 2022 and only 78 'joiners' in October/November 2021. The service continued to receive elevated volumes of young people becoming NEET through the months of December and January, leading to significant increases on previous years. Despite these significant increases, the Connexions service assisted more young people to move out of NEET this year during the target period (a total of 165 NEET 'leavers' this year as opposed to a total of 143 last year). The below table provides a summary of NEET joiners and leavers for the past three years:

	Joiners 21/22	Leavers 21/22	Balance 21/22	Joiners 22/23	Leavers 22/23	Balance 22/23	Joiners 23/24	Leavers 23/24	Balance 23/24
Oct	37	39	-2	57	28	29	48	28	20
Nov	41	50	-9	83	51	32	142	45	97
Dec	52	33	19	43	46	-3	64	39	25
Jan	42	36	6	44	45	-1	83	66	17
Feb	52	40	12	42	52	-10	43	60	-17
Total	224	198	26	269	222	47	380	238	142

Figure 7: Summary data for NEET Joiners and Leavers

2.3 Not Known

The average percentage of Not Knowns for the annual reporting period (December 2023 to February 2024) was **0.5%**. This was exactly the same percentage as the previous reporting period.

2023-2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Average
Number	38	35	34	
Percentage	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
2022-2023	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Average
Number	36	32	25	
Percentage	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%

Figure 8: Hull “Not Known” monthly data for the 2023/24 annual reporting period

2.4 Comparison with regional, national and statistical neighbours

The data below shows how Hull compares with its statistical neighbours (local authorities with similar characteristics) for the 3 month average reporting period.

December 2023 – February 2024 Years 12 and 13

Rank	Local Authority	Combined NEET & Not Known	NEET	Not Known	In Learning
	Hull	8.1%	7.6%	0.5%	87.3%
1	Stoke-on-Trent	22.0%	1.4%	20.7%	77.3%
2	Middlesbrough	3.9%	3.9%	0.0%	95.0%
3	Blackpool	8.3%	7.0%	1.3%	85.0%
4	Hartlepool	5.6%	5.5%	0.0%	91.9%
5	North East Lincolnshire	7.4%	6.9%	0.5%	88.6%
6	Salford	8.5%	6.2%	2.3%	87.8%
7	Plymouth	6.7%	5.3%	1.4%	90.5%
8	South Tyneside	5.7%	5.4%	0.3%	91.4%
9	Southampton	6.6%	4.6%	2.0%	91.4%
10	Portsmouth	7.1%	5.0%	2.1%	88.8%
Ave		8.2%	5.1%	3.1%	88.8%

Figure 9: Hull NEET, Not Known and In Learning three monthly statistics compared with statistical neighbours for 2023/24. (1 = closest statistical match and 10 = furthest statistical match).

- Hull’s average combined NEET and Not Known figure for the 2032-2024 reporting period was **8.1%**. This was the fourth highest of all our statistical neighbours and was **0.1%** lower than the statistical neighbours’ average of **8.2%**.
- Hull’s average NEET figure for the reporting period is **7.6%**. This is the highest (lower is better) of all our statistical neighbours and **2.5%** higher than the statistical neighbours’ average of **5.1%**.
- Hull’s average Not Known figure for the reporting period is **0.5%**. This is the joint fourth lowest (lower is better) of all of our statistical neighbours and is **2.6%** lower than the statistical neighbours’ average of **3.1%**.
- Hull’s average In Learning figure for the reporting period is **87.3%**. This is the third lowest (higher is better) of all of our statistical neighbours and is **1.5%** lower than the statistical neighbours’ average of **88.8%**.

Data relating to national and our regional geographical neighbours is also available and is shown below.

December 2023 – February 2024 Years 12 and 13

16-18 Academic age (Years 12 and 13)	Combined NEET & Not Known	NEET	Not Known	In Learning
England	5.4%	3.2%	2.2%	92.0%
Yorkshire & Humber	5.8%	3.8%	2.0%	91.2%
Barnsley	5.2%	3.4%	1.7%	92.6%
Bradford	4.4%	2.3%	2.2%	92.0%
Calderdale	4.3%	3.7%	0.6%	91.2%
Doncaster	4.8%	3.8%	1.0%	91.0%
East Riding	3.9%	2.8%	1.1%	92.0%
Kingston upon Hull	8.1%	7.6%	0.5%	87.3%
Kirklees	3.3%	2.8%	0.6%	92.7%
Leeds	8.3%	4.3%	4.0%	89.5%
North East Lincolnshire	7.4%	6.9%	0.5%	88.6%
North Lincolnshire	8.1%	2.6%	5.5%	91.1%
North Yorkshire	4.9%	1.6%	3.3%	94.7%
Rotherham	5.0%	4.3%	0.6%	89.9%
Sheffield	8.7%	6.5%	2.2%	88.4%
Wakefield	4.5%	3.5%	1.0%	91.7%
York	3.4%	1.2%	2.1%	96.0%

Figure 10: Hull statistics compared to regional and national averages for the 2023/24 annual reporting period

Hull's average combined NEET and Not Known figure of **8.1%** is **2.3%** higher (lower is better) than the regional average of **5.8%** and **2.7%** higher than the England average of **5.4%**.

Hull's three monthly average NEET percentage for the reporting period is **7.6%** which is **3.8%** higher (lower is better) than the regional average of **3.8%** and **4.4%** higher than the England average of **3.2%**.

Hull's three monthly average Not Known percentage for the reporting period is **0.5%** which is **1.5%** lower (lower is better) than the regional average of **2.0%** and **1.7%** lower than the England average of **2.2%**.

Local authorities with a high level of Not Knowns will have an artificially low NEET count. Hull's low Not Known figure is very positive. This gives reassurance to stakeholders that the local authority is being proactive in engaging with its resident young people. Knowing the status of young people means that the local authority and its partners are able to assist these young people and move them towards a positive outcome. The disadvantage of this is that from a reporting perspective, a low Not Known figure can result in a higher NEET figure and is true in Hull's case.

The percentage of Hull resident young people in learning at **87.3%** is **3.9%** lower (higher is better) than the regional average of **91.2%** and **4.7%** lower than the England average of **92.0%**. Sections 2.5 and 2.6 explore the data relating to the in-learning and participation rates in further detail.

2.5 Young people in learning

The average percentage of young people in learning over the reporting period (December 2023 to February 2024) was **87.3%**. This was a slight increase of **0.4%** from last year when it was **86.9%**.

2023-2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Average
Percentage	88.1%	87.1%	86.8%	87.3%
2022-2023	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Average
Percentage	87.3%	86.8%	86.7%	86.9%

Figure 11: Three month average figures for young people in Hull who are in learning for the years 2023-24 and 2022-23

A detailed breakdown by activity is shown below using the February cohort data. The data shows a slight increase in the percentage of young people in: full-time education; training; and work based learning. This is coupled with a slight decrease in the percentage of young people in employment with training and apprenticeships.

	Full Time Education		Training		Apprenticeships		Work Based Learning		Part time education		Employment with Training		Other	
	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23
ENGLAND	85.9%	86.2%	1.1%	1.1%	4.5%	4.4%	0.9%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.6%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%
YORKS & THE HUMBER	82.8%	82.6%	1.5%	1.5%	5.9%	6.2%	1.2%	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	1.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	75.1%	74.8%	2.0%	1.1%	8.8%	9.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.0%	0.5%	0.3%

Figure 12: 16-17 year olds (academic age) in education and training by activity in Feb 2024, and change over the last 12 months

2.6 End of February 2024 - participation rates of young people

In addition to the cohort of young people who are recorded as being ‘in learning’ by the DFE, there are also a number of young people who are on re-engagement provision. The combined total of the two cohorts is recorded by the DFE as the ‘participation’ rate. See below table (note: total participating may not equal sum of other fields due to DFE rounding):

	Total in learning Feb 2024	Total on re-engagement provision Feb 2024	Total participating Feb 2024	Total in learning Feb 2023	Total on re-engagement provision Feb 2023	Total participating Feb 2023
ENGLAND	92.2%	0.3%	92.5%	92.4%	0.3%	92.6%
YORKS & THE HUMBER	91.1%	0.5%	91.5%	91.5%	0.3%	91.6%
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	86.8%	1.2%	87.9%	86.7%	1.6%	88.3%

Figure 13: 16-17 year olds (academic age) participating in education, employment and training in Feb 2024 and change over the last 12 months

As the above data indicates, the February 2024 participation rate in Hull has fallen slightly although the in-learning rate has remained stable. The fall in the participation rate is partly due to the slight decrease in the number of young people on re-engagement provision, which remains higher than the England and regional percentages.

In Hull, both the participation and the in-learning rate continue to remain below the national and regional percentages. In previous years this has been mainly due to the fact that a significant number of young people in Hull were choosing to progress into employment without training. This

is possibly connected to the impact of the pandemic (where areas of deprivation appear to have been particularly adversely affected) combined with the cost of living crisis. Although employment without training is viewed as a positive destination by many young people themselves, it is not in line with the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) government guidance.

However, the data shown below in figure 14 confirms that this figure has been falling over the past two years (from 5.9% in 2022 to 5.2% in 2023 and further still to 4% in 2024). Despite the declining trend, the percentage of young people in Hull choosing to progress into employment without training continues to be significantly higher than both England and the region.

	Part time employment		Temporary employment		Employment without training		Self-employment		Employment - total	
	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 23
ENGLAND	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	2.2%	0.1%	0.0%	2.5%	2.6%
YORKS & THE HUMBER	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	2.8%
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%	0.3%	3.4%	4.2%	0.1%	0.1%	4.0%	5.2%

Figure 14: 16-17 year olds (academic age) in employment in Feb 2024 and change over the last 12 months

Coupled with the significant numbers of young people who are continuing to progress into employment without training, the rising number of young people who are NEET is also of concern. The below table summarises the holistic picture in February 2024 compared to February 2023 (note: total cohort may not equal 100% due to DFE rounding):

	England Feb 2024	Yorks and the Humber Feb 2024	Kingston Upon Hull Feb 2024	England Feb 2023	Yorks and the Humber Feb 2023	Kingston Upon Hull Feb 2023
Total participating (includes re-engagement provision plus total in learning)	92.5%	91.5%	87.9%	92.6%	91.6%	88.3%
Total in employment (includes self-employed, part-time employment, temporary employment and employment without training)	2.5%	2.8%	4.0%	2.6%	2.8%	5.2%
Total NEET and Not Known	4.9%	5.6%	8.0%	4.6%	5.5%	6.5%

Figure 15: Holistic picture showing activity of 16-17 year olds (academic age) in Feb 2024

2.7 NEET group profile by year group

At the end of February 2024 there were **496** NEET young people who were resident in Hull, this is an increase of **109** young people from this time last year when there were **387** NEET young people. In 2023 **45.2%** (175/387) of the NEET group were in year 12 and **54.8%** (212/387) were in year 13. In 2024 **39.3%** (195/496) of the NEET group were in year 12 and **60.7%** (301/496) were in year 13.

	Year 12	Year 13	Total
NEET Number	195	301	496
NEET Percentage	39.3%	60.7%	

Figure 16: Hull NEET group profile by year group at end of February 2024

Figure 17 (below) confirms that the **2.3%** increase in the Year 13 NEET/NK percentage, during the reporting period, is a much higher increase than England (0.1% rise) and statistical neighbours (0.4% rise). The region saw a 1.1% reduction in Year 13 NEET/NK. At **10.4%**, the Hull percentage is higher than the region, statistical neighbours and England.

	Academic Age 17 (year 13)							
	2023 - 2024				2022 - 2023			
	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Ave	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Ave
England	7.8%	6.9%	6.3%	7.0%	7.9%	6.7%	6.0%	6.9%
Yorkshire & Humber	8.1%	7.4%	7.2%	7.6%	10.7%	8.2%	7.3%	8.7%
Kingston Upon Hull	10.6%	10.5%	10.1%	10.4%	8.5%	8.1%	7.7%	8.1%
Statistical Neighbours	10.5%	9.3%	9.0%	9.6%	9.4%	9.3%	8.9%	9.2%

Figure 17: Year 13 Three Month Averages - NEET & Not Known

Figure 18 (below) confirms that the **0.6%** increase in the Hull Year 12 NEET/NK percentage, during the reporting period, is a smaller increase than statistical neighbours (who saw a **2%** increase) but slightly more than England (0.2% increase). The region saw a 0.3% reduction in Year 12 NEET/NK. At **6%**, the Hull percentage is higher than the region and England but lower than statistical neighbours.

	Academic Age 16 (year 12)							
	2023 - 2024				2022 - 2023			
	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Ave	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Ave
England	4.2%	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%	4.1%	3.5%	3.3%	3.6%
Yorkshire & Humber	4.2%	3.8%	4.0%	4.0%	5.3%	3.9%	3.6%	4.3%
Kingston Upon Hull	5.7%	6.2%	6.0%	6.0%	5.3%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%
Statistical Neighbours	7.2%	6.8%	6.4%	6.8%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	4.8%

Figure 18: Year 12 Three Month Averages - NEET & Not Known

2.8 End of February - vulnerable groups

The end of February NEET group (the most recent data set of the reporting period) can be sub-categorised by vulnerability. The largest vulnerable group who are NEET are those who had SEND support at school, which is **25.2%** of the February NEET group (**125** young people). Other classifications of vulnerability and their prevalence within the cohort are detailed below in figure 19. Please note that a young person may appear in more than one of these groups e.g. a pregnant young person may also be a care leaver.

February 2024				
Total cohort number = 6,594		NEET only cohort number = 496		
Vulnerable Groups	Number in cohort	Of which NEET	Of which NEET as a percentage	As a percentage of total NEET group
CLA (children looked after)	94	22	23.4%	4.4%
Caring for own child	41	34	82.9%	6.9%
Refugee / Asylum seeker	19	0	0.0%	0.0%
Carer not own child	22	10	45.5%	2.0%
Care Leaver	58	15	25.9%	3.0%
Supervised by YOT	38	14	36.8%	2.8%
Pregnancy	17	16	94.1%	3.2%
EHCP	369	69	18.7%	13.9%
SEND support at school	820	125	15.2%	25.2%
Alternative Provision**	384	112	29.2%	22.6%
Mental Health*	205	94	45.9%	19.0%
Educated at Home (Y11)	186	41	22.0%	8.3%

Figure 19: Profile of Hull NEET young people categorised by vulnerable group as at end February 2024

* A Mental Health flag was added by the DfE in April 2021 to identify any young person who the local authority is aware is experiencing poor mental health and is impacting on their engagement and participation. This information can be obtained from the young person themselves, a parent/carers or other sources e.g. social worker, education institution, or support organisation. It is not a compulsory field and the young person may not have a 'diagnosis' or be in contact with the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

** Alternative provision includes all Year 11 young people who are on roll at Rise, Aspire, Boulevard Centre and Sullivan Centre plus any young people recorded as 'dual roll' (ie. where the learner is registered at the mainstream school but they also attend alternative provision).

2.9 End of February - NEET group by ward

Of Hull's 496 total cohort of NEET young people in February 2024, the highest percentage (9.5%) reside in Orchard Park ward (47 young people). This is a slightly lower percentage compared to last year when 12.6% (49/387) NEET young people resided in the Orchard Park ward.

Holderness has the lowest percentage (**0.6%**) of young people who are NEET residing in the ward (**3** young people). **3** young people who were NEET in February had no ward information due to moving house recently.

Ward	Cohort	NEET	NEET% of total cohort
Avenue	265	17	3.4%
Beverley & Newland	291	26	5.2%
Boothferry	248	12	2.4%
Bricknell	211	5	1.0%
Central	266	23	4.6%
Derringham	234	20	4.0%
Drypool	240	14	2.8%
Holderness	276	3	0.6%
Ings	228	13	2.6%
Kingswood	273	7	1.4%
Longhill & Bilton Grange	356	31	6.3%
Marfleet	437	40	8.1%
Newington & Gipsyville	423	38	7.7%
No Ward Info Available	18	3	0.6%
North Carr	512	46	9.3%
Orchard Park	479	47	9.5%
Pickering	184	23	4.6%
Southcoates	372	31	6.3%
St Andrew's & Docklands	365	37	7.5%
Sutton	306	10	2.0%
University	246	17	3.4%
West Carr	364	33	6.7%
Total	6594	496	

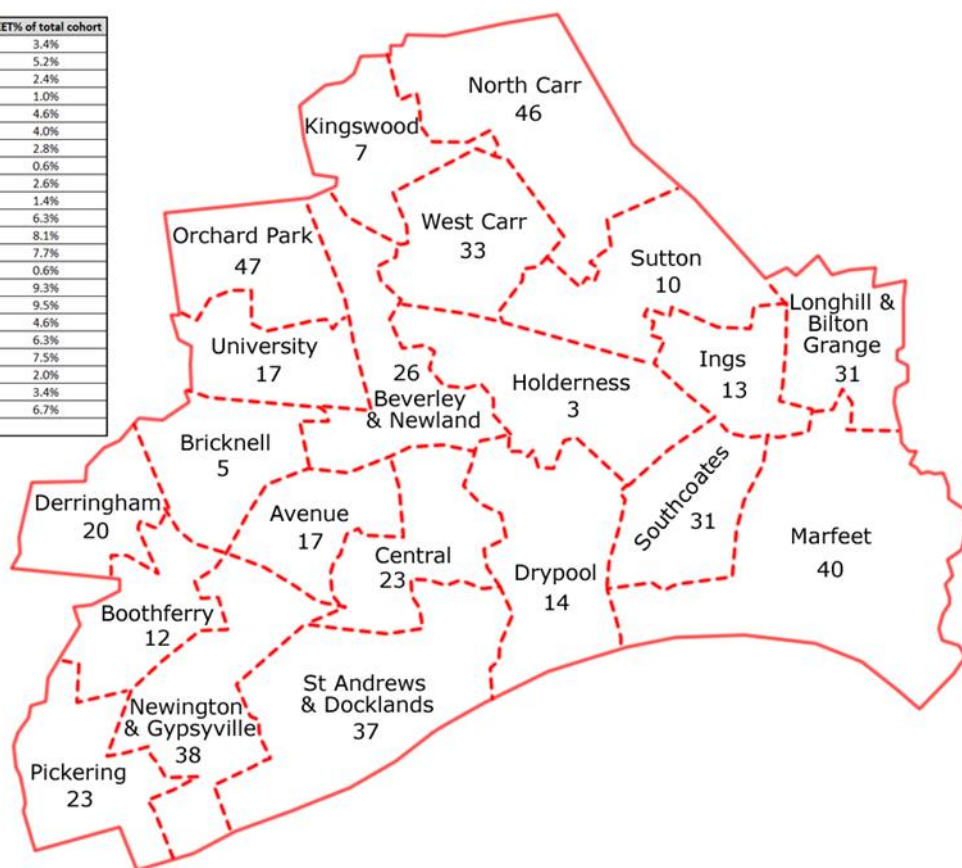


Figure 20: Geographic profile of Hull NEETs at end February 2024

Further information relating to young people who are NEET in each ward is shown below:

Ward	February 2023			February 2024		
	Number of YP in Ward	Number of NEET YP in Ward	Percentage of NEET YP in Ward	Number of YP in Ward	Number of NEET YP in Ward	Percentage of NEET YP in Ward
Avenue	253	12	4.7%	265	17	6.4%
Beverley & Newland	260	13	5.0%	291	26	8.9%
Boothferry	243	8	3.3%	248	12	4.8%
Bricknell	190	8	4.2%	211	5	2.4%
Central	254	14	5.5%	266	23	8.6%
Derringham	224	7	3.1%	234	20	8.5%
Drypool	242	15	6.2%	240	14	5.8%
Holderness	264	7	2.7%	276	3	1.1%
Ings	236	6	2.5%	228	13	5.7%
Kingswood	258	3	1.2%	273	7	2.6%
Longhill & Bilton Grange	336	21	6.3%	356	31	8.7%
Marfleet	379	36	9.5%	437	40	9.2%
Newington & Gipsyville	400	25	6.3%	423	38	9.0%
No Ward Info Available	25	2	8.0%	18	3	16.7%
North Carr	497	38	7.6%	512	46	9.0%
Orchard Park	485	49	10.1%	479	47	9.8%
Pickering	196	10	5.1%	184	23	12.5%
Southcoates	356	20	5.6%	372	31	8.3%
St Andrew's & Docklands	341	29	8.5%	365	37	10.1%
Sutton	296	13	4.4%	306	10	3.3%
University	229	20	8.7%	246	17	6.9%
West Carr	344	31	9.0%	364	33	9.1%
Total	6308	387		6594	496	

Figure 21: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET by ward as at end February 2024 compared to end February 2023

2.10 End of February - NEET group split into available and not available to the labour market

The NEET group is split between those young people available to the labour market and those not available to the labour market. By way of example, governing factors that make young people not available to the labour market include pregnancy, illness or being a teenage parent.

2.10.1 NEET available to the labour market

At the end of February, out of a NEET cohort of **496** young people, **355** were NEET available to the labour market, shown in Figure 22 below. This equates to **71.6%** of the total NEET cohort compared to **68.5%** last year.

Activity	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
NEET available - seeking employment, education or training	151	202	353	99.4%
NEET available - Start Date agreed (RPA compliant)	1	1	2	0.6%
Total	152	203	355	

Figure 22: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET and available to the labour market by year group at end of February 2024

Of the **355** young people who are NEET available to the labour market, **203** are in year 13 which is **57.2%** of the NEET available cohort, and **42.8%** are in year 12 (**152** young people). The percentage split is slightly different to last year when 142 young people (53.6%) were in year 13 and 123 young people (46.4%) were in year 12.

How long NEET	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
0-3 Months	71	69	140	39.4%
4-6 Months	79	63	142	40.0%
Over 6 Months	2	71	73	20.6%
Total	152	203	355	

Figure 23: Hull NEET young people who are available to the labour market by duration at end of February 2024

73 young people (**20.6%**) had been NEET for more than 6 months which is a significant increase compared to last year when **37** young people (**14.0%**) had been NEET for more than 6 months.

2.10.2 NEET not available to the labour market

At the end of February, out of a NEET cohort of **496** young people, **141** were not available to the labour market (**28.4%** of the total NEET cohort). While the percentage has decreased slightly compared to the previous year (when it was 31.5%), the number of young people has increased (from 122 to 141). In 2022, there were only **83 young people who** were not available to the labour market.

Activity	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
NEET not available - illness	20	43	63	44.7%
NEET not available - teenage parents	7	24	31	22.0%
NEET not available - not yet ready for work or learning	8	13	21	14.9%
NEET not available - pregnancy	1	11	12	8.5%
NEET not available - carer	5	5	10	7.1%
NEET not available - currently unlikely to be economically active	2	2	4	2.8%
Total	43	98	141	

Figure 24: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET and not available to the labour market by year group at end of February 2024

98 young people who are NEET not available to the labour market are in year 13 which is **69.5%** of the NEET not available cohort, whilst **30.5%** are in year 12 (**43** young people). The percentage split is slightly different to last year when 80 young people (65.6%) were in year 13 and 42 young people (34.4%) were in year 12.

4 young people were recorded as 'not available to the labour market – unlikely to be economically active' as they have a permanent disability or illness that prevents them from undertaking any form of education, employment or training.

How long NEET	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
0-3 Months	9	16	25	17.7%
4-6 Months	26	25	51	36.2%
Over 6 Months	8	57	65	46.1%
Total	43	98	141	

Figure 25: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET and not available to the labour market by duration at end of February 2023

65 young people (46.1%) have been NEET for more than 6 months which is higher than last year when 37 young people (30.3%) had been NEET and not available to the labour market for more than 6 months. See next section for further information relating to this increase.

2.11 NEET RAG Ratings

Please note that the data used in this section was taken from the Connexions MIS system at the start of February, hence the higher total cohort number.

The Connexions Service currently use the below RAG rating methodology in relation to the NEET cohort (where a 'reasonable timeframe' is agreed to be approximately 3 months):

- Green – good/reasonable chance of progressing to Employment, Education and Training (EET) within a reasonable timeframe
- Amber – some chance of progressing to EET within a reasonable timeframe
- Red – very little/no chance of progressing to EET within a reasonable timeframe
- Blue – Light touch support needed during the next 3 months with very little chance of progressing to EET within that timeframe
- Purple – New NEETs are auto-marked as 'purple' which means 'no RAG rating currently allocated'

The below table summarises the RAG ratings for the NEET cohort of 529 young people (using internal data from the start of February 2024). The data shows that 70.5% of the total NEET cohort (373/529) were RAG rated as red or amber which is a smaller percentage than last year when 83.8% were RAG rated as amber or red. However, there has only been a 2.8% increase in the young people rated as green (from 7% last year to 9.8% this year) with the main differences relating to higher percentages of young people being rated as blue (defined as light touch support needed during the next 3 months with very little chance of progressing to EET within that timeframe) or purple (new to the NEET cohort and no RAG rating applied yet).

	NEET Available (Number)	NEET Available (%)	NEET Not Available (Number)	NEET Not Available (%)	NEET Total (Number)	NEET Total (%)
Green	51	12.6%	1	0.8%	52	9.8%
Amber	124	30.5%	4	3.3%	128	24.2%
Red	175	43.1%	70	56.9%	245	46.3%
Blue	15	3.7%	47	38.2%	62	11.7%
Purple	41	10.1%	1	0.8%	42	7.9%
Total	406	100.0%	123	100.0%	529	100.0%

Figure 26: RAG rating information relating to Hull young people who were NEET at end of February 2024

The previous table (figure 26) indicates that some 'NEET Not available to the labour market' were rated as green or amber – further investigation confirmed that these young people were on the cusp of returning to the 'NEET available group' and as such, had been rated as green or amber.

A recent research exercise (in relation to 'NEET available - RAG Rated Red' cohort) revealed that these individuals face significant barriers that undoubtedly impact on their ability to progress into employment, education and training. Figure 27 shows the barriers that were present across the total cohort included in the exercise, with each individual having an average of 3.71 barriers. Any one of the below barriers in isolation would usually be enough to impact significantly on the chances of the young person moving from NEET to EET. However, with a cohort average of 3.71 barriers, the ability of these young people to move into EET is highly unlikely without significant inter-agency work. Figure 27 also shows that one of the key issues relates to the difficulty of actually engaging with these young people as a significant percentage avoid contact with the Connexions Service and training providers.

Barrier/issue	Percentage of total
Young person only wants employment	26.1%
Young person avoids contact from Connexions/training providers eg. does not answer phone, does not reply to messages, does not attend appointments etc.	61.8%
Mental health issues	29.3%
Death of significant person	2.5%
Threatening behaviour towards staff at CX or TP from parent/yp	2.5%
Working with YOT	12.1%
Poor experience of education and/or impact of bullying	18.5%
EHCP	10.8%
SEND school support	28.7%
CLA	11.5%
No IT access	0.6%
Impact of trauma	5.7%
Lack of confidence impacting on progression	26.1%
Physical ill health	3.8%
Drug or alcohol issues (YP or family)	3.8%
Chaotic living arrangements	26.8%
Exposure to abuse and/or exploitation	3.8%
Alternative timetable at school or EHE	21.7%
Lack of motivation	35.0%
Working with a social worker	19.7%
Caring responsibilities	5.1%
Other barriers not listed	15.9%

Figure 27: Profile of barriers that were identified in relation to Hull young people who were 'NEET available - RAG Rated Red'

3. TARGET PERIOD SUMMARY

3.1 Data key points

- For the target period (December 2023 to February 2024) the average percentage of young people who were either NEET or Not Known in Years 12 and 13 and resident in Hull was 8.1%. This was 1.4% higher than last year's three monthly average of 6.7%.
- Our combined NEET and Not Known figure of 8.1% (target period) is higher than the England average of 5.4%, and the regional average of 5.8% but slightly lower than our statistical neighbours' average of 8.2%. The data indicates that the key issue was the higher number of NEETs/NKs in September followed by further surges in the subsequent five months.
- The percentage of Hull resident young people in learning (during the target period) at 87.3% is slightly higher than last year (86.9%). The in-learning figure is 3.9% lower than the regional average of 91.2%, 4.7% lower than the England average of 92% and 1.5% lower than our statistical neighbours of 88.8%. This is in the main due to higher volumes of young people in employment without training and our higher NEET / Not Known total.
- In February 2024, 39.3% (195/496) of the NEET group were in year 12 and 60.7% (301/496) were in year 13. In February 2023, 45.2% (175/387) of the NEET group were in year 12 and 54.8% (212/387) were in year 13. We have therefore seen a marked increase in the volume of year 13 young people who are NEET.
- Out of a NEET cohort of 496 young people in February 2024, 355 (71.6%) were available to the labour market and 141 (28.4%) were not available to the labour market. There has been a slight percentage shift compared to last year when, out of a NEET cohort of 387 young people in February 2023, 265 (68.5%) were available to the labour market and 122 (31.5%) were not available to the labour market. Despite the percentage decrease, the volume of young people not available to the labour market has increased by 19.
- Of Hull's 496 total cohort of NEET young people in February 2024, the highest percentage (9.5%) reside in Orchard Park ward (47 young people). This is a slightly lower percentage compared to last year when 12.6% (49/387) NEET young people resided in the Orchard Park ward.

- The largest vulnerable group who are NEET are those who received SEND Support provision in compulsory education which is 25.2% of the February NEET group (125 young people).
- At the start of February 2024, internal data shows that 70.5% of the total NEET cohort (373/529) were RAG rated as red or amber which is a smaller percentage than last year when 83.8% were RAG rated as amber or red. However, there has only been a 2.8% increase in the young people rated as green (from 7% last year to 9.8% this year) with the main differences relating to higher percentages of young people being rated as blue (defined as light touch support needed during the next 3 months with very little chance of progressing to EET within that timeframe) or purple (new to the NEET cohort and no RAG rating applied yet).
- The length of time that young people are remaining NEET, has increased significantly since last year. In Feb 2024, of the 355 young people who were 'NEET available to the labour market', 73 young people (20.6%) had been NEET for more than 6 months which is a significant increase compared to last year, when 37 young people (14.0%) had been NEET for more than 6 months. Of the 141 young people who were 'NEET not available to the labour market', 65 young people (46.1%) had been NEET for more than 6 months which is higher than last year when 37 young people (30.3%) had been NEET for more than 6 months.

3.2 Summary of potential contributory factors to the increase in NEETs

The below factors appear to be contributing to the increase in NEETs:

- Significant increase in the 16-18 cohort (up from 5,550 in 2020 to 6,605 in 2024).
- Drop out from post 16 provision remains relatively high.
- Limited availability of provision post the September start partly due to the diminishing number of Independent Training Providers (ITP's) – in recent times we have seen the closure of six local ITP's for both financial and Ofsted reasons. ITP's are often the preferred option for our more vulnerable young people as they prefer smaller more intimate venues. This has led to a gap in provision, in particular rolling programmes.
- Diminishing engagement provision – DWP funding for Hull's Youth Hub ceased in December 2022 and ESF funded Springboard Youth Employment Initiative ended in November 2023. This has been replaced by a much smaller, all age UKSPF employment support project delivered by the voluntary and community sector.
- Fallout following the pandemic especially in relation to mental health and happiness of the NEET cohort (as identified in a recent Princes Trust Report¹). The report confirms that many young people are facing significant barriers (including social isolation, anxiety and mental health issues) but the NEET cohort appear to have been disproportionately adversely affected by the impact of the pandemic.
- Uncertainty around funding streams following government announcement in December 2022 which confirmed the cessation of traineeship funding.
- High levels of 'NEET not available' are presenting and remaining NEET for extended periods which is impacting on the service's ability to help young people return to education, employment and training in a timely manner.
- Current economic backdrop - we are now also seeing Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds claiming universal credit) creeping up. Data confirms there were 1,585 young people claiming universal credit in September 2022 compared to 2,060 in March 2024. This equates to 8.2% of the cohort compared to 5.2% across Great Britain. Also, 40 young people aged 16/17 are claiming a hardship payment from DWP which is 0.7% of the cohort compared with 0.2% of the cohort across Great Britain.

3.3 Service actions to date

- The Connexions Service has reflected on its service offer in consultation with staff and stakeholders. As a result of this, the service delivery model will be changed from September 2024 in order to strengthen targeted intervention work with YPs who are pre-16 and at 'risk of NEET'.
- The service has been working much more closely with the HYJS, Youth Services, Early Help, Elected Home Educated Services and the Virtual School.
- Managers have been engaging with other local authorities (including stat neighbours e.g. Middlesbrough, North East Lincs and Hartlepool) to share practice from both a leadership and operational perspective.
- Considerable resource has been invested in the purchase and implementation of a new CCIS data system (Core+) in March 2024. Core+ will integrate within the local authority's new wider education data system, enhancing internal and external data sharing intelligence.
- The RAG rating system is now fully embedded and the summary data is being used to inform strategies to address the needs of each 'group'. For example, research into the 'red' group confirmed a significant proportion have mental health support needs. As a result of this, managers are currently working with other departments/teams in order to establish any gaps in mental health provision and look at how this can be addressed.
- The RAG rating system also highlights any gaps in provision for young people who are rated as green and amber – the Post 16 Partnership Manager then works with providers to discuss any opportunities to fill these gaps. Discussions also take place between the service and providers in relation to any funding opportunities that could address gaps in provision.
- A fixed term Post 18 SEND Connexions Adviser post has been established via the 'Delivering Better Value' DfE funding. Recruitment of an experienced level 6 qualified careers adviser has given the team additional capacity to work with NEET young people with an EHCP aged 18 up to 25.
- Hull successfully bid for DfE funding through the 'Internships Work Initiative' to develop the local supported internship offer for young people with an EHCP. This has involved setting up a SEND Employment Forum in Partnership with East Riding Council to provide strategic leadership to promote SEND Employability across the Hull/East Riding travel to work area. The service is working with businesses (in order to promote SEND employability including supported internships, Access to Work, Inclusion Passports through the Forum and Business

Breakfasts) and also now has 2 fully operational DFN Project Search Supported Internship partnerships in the local area with another due to start in September.

- The annual Send Post 16 Options and Preparation for Adulthood event continues to grow. This year's event will spotlight Supported Internships and forms part of the service strategy to raise awareness of these opportunities and highlight them as an aspirational pathway into employment for young people with SEND.
- Service managers worked hard in order to ensure that no provision was lost in the Hull area further to the government announcement about the removal of Traineeship funding. Managers presented a strong case to the ESFA, which resulted in all of the Hull based traineeship providers being awarded study programme contracts. The ESFA confirmed other areas without LA representation had lost traineeship funding and therefore provision.
- The service responded swiftly in order to work with the ESFA to support the learners impacted by the overnight closure of Aspire Igen. This situation had the potential to have significant repercussions in Hull as Aspire Igen also sub-contracted a significant number of places to a second local provider. The Employability, Participation and Skills Lead worked with all parties in order to ensure all Aspire Igen learners were offered the opportunity to complete their qualifications with another local provider.
- In November, 2023, the service received formal notification that HYA Training (a long standing and well-regarded training provider in Hull) had ceased trading. Considerable staffing resources were immediately committed in order to ensure that all young people were contacted by Connexions and offered individual support in relation to options available to them. The service also worked with two training providers in order to offer the young people the chance to complete the qualifications that they had started with HYA. As a result of these actions, the majority of the young people have been placed in new provision, with a small number who are currently working with the Connexions Service to source other training opportunities. This prevented a significant number of young people becoming NEET.
- Managers are now attending 'attendance and inclusion meetings' to highlight the volume of NEET's from each respective secondary school, promoting a collaborative support offer going forward.
- A NEET summit is being considered, which aims to bring stakeholders together to explore collective solutions to address our increasing NEET challenge.
- The service has retained the 'Matrix Accreditation' following the second continuous improvement monitoring check on the 11th March 2024. Full re-assessment is scheduled for March 2025.

3.4 Moving forwards

- The Connexions Service to conclude service reflections to confirm new ways of working and implement September 2024.
- Explore the option of a NEET Summit to discuss collaborative solutions and address the recent significant increase in NEET.
- Embed new CCIS data system and utilise to increase visibility of the NEET challenge across our local secondary schools and post sixteen providers.
- Ensure mental health services are readily available to the NEET cohort at point of access.
- Explore options for new Independent Training Providers to enter the local market, filling the gap left by recent closures and adding value to the existing offer. In addition, work with existing providers to further develop provision that meets the changing local need.
- Continue to engage with other Local Authorities to explore best practice models and options for innovation.
- Continue to co-ordinate service support alongside the HYJS, Youth Services, Early Help, Elective Home Educated Services, SEND services, and the Virtual School.
- Further engage secondary school leaders with a view to providing early intervention and targeted support for those young people at risk of NEET.
- Explore further Early Help support for those not available to the labour market.
- Explore options to reinstate re-engagement type programmes to the local area.

4 GLOSSARY

<p>Alternative Provision</p>	<p>Alternative Provision (AP) is defined as: education arranged by local authorities or schools for pupils who, because they are unable to attend mainstream education because they are: excluded from mainstream education due to behavioural issues (this can include those young people now attending further education); unable to attend mainstream education due to either physical or mental ill health (can include pregnant mothers); waiting for a school place or for whatever reason, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed period exclusion; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour.</p>
<p>Care leaver</p>	<p>A young person, who was looked-after by a local authority for a period of 13 weeks, or periods amounting in total to 13 weeks, which began after he/she reached 14 and ended after he/she reached 16.</p>
<p>Currency Lapse</p>	<p>A young person's currency relates to how they are participating in education, employment or training. A young person's activity lapses on the earliest of their expected course end date, four weeks after their current activity review date or when the currency period for their current activity has been reached.</p>
<p>CLA (children looked after)</p>	<p>A child is looked-after by a local authority if he or she has been provided with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, in the circumstances set out in sections 20 and 21 of the Children Act 1989, or is placed in the care of a local authority by virtue of an order made under part IV of the Act.</p>
<p>Mental Health flag</p>	<p>This is to identify young people who are experiencing poor mental health which may be impacting their engagement and participation. This circumstance identifies a young person who local authorities are aware is experiencing poor mental health. This information can be obtained from the young person themselves, a parent/carer or other sources e.g. social worker, education institution, or support organisation. To note: this is not a compulsory field and the young person may not have a 'diagnosis' or be in contact with the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).</p>

Parent - caring for own child	A young person who provides regular and on-going care for their own child whether as part of a larger family unit or as a single parent.
Parent – not caring for own child	A young parent who does not provide regular and on-going care for their own child.
Refugee/Asylum Seeker	According to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." Asylum is "protection granted by a State on its territory against the exercise of jurisdiction by the State of origin, based on the principle of non-refoulement and characterised by the enjoyment of internationally recognised refugee rights, and generally accorded without limit of time."
SEND	Special educational needs and disability (SEND) - A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her
Supervised by YOT	A young person who is the subject of supervision by the Youth Offending Team (YOT). There are some instances where YOT supervision is for agreement locally taking account of individual circumstances and is not a statutory requirement.
Statistical Neighbour	Statistical neighbour models provide one method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. Any LA may compare its performance (as measured by various indicators) against its statistical neighbours to provide an initial guide as to whether their performance is above or below the level that might be expected.
Young carer	Young people who provide regular and on-going care and emotional support to family members who are physically or mentally ill, disabled or drug/alcohol addiction. The term does not apply to the everyday and occasional help around the home that may often be expected of or given by children in families.

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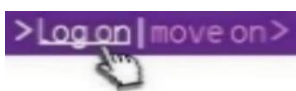
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