

Appendix 1:

1. Statutory duties for Raising of the Participation Age (RPA)

- 1.1 Since September 2013 all young people are under a duty to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. From September 2015, this will rise to their 18th birthday. Young people (aged 16-19 (up to 25 for LLDD)) are required to study or train in one of three primary routes:
- Study full-time in a school, college or with a training provider.
 - Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.
 - An Apprenticeship.
- 1.2 The Government's approach is to provide local authorities with the freedom and flexibility to decide how to fulfil duties in relation to the RPA. Local authorities play a critical role in supporting young people to access education and training; and in understanding the characteristics and current activity of the young people in their area.
- 1.3 Established Lewisham statutory responsibilities to support young people into education or training are:
- to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16-18 (inclusive) in Lewisham¹; and
 - to make available to young people below the age of 19 support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training².
- 1.4 These duties have become even more important since RPA came into effect in September 2013. The statutory duties for RPA are:
- to collect information about all young people, identifying those in their area who are covered by the duty to participate;
 - to promote the effective participation of young people in education, employment or training³; and
 - to make arrangements to establish the identities of those not participating and who are failing to fulfil the duty to participate in education or training⁴.
- In order for the local authority to discharge the statutory duty in relation to RPA it must have regard for the Department for Education Statutory Guidance, September 2014 (**See Appendix 2: Participation of young people in education, employment or training Statutory guidance for local authorities⁵**).
- 1.5 The Government tracks the performance of local authorities in delivering their duties, using data collected by authorities and submitted to the National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS). NCCIS includes data showing the numbers of young people participating in education or training, those who are NEET or those whose current activity is not known.

¹ Sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009))

² Section 68 Education and Skills Act 2008

³ Section 10 ESA 2008

⁴ Section 12 ESA 2008

⁵ Issued under sections 18 and 68(4) of the 2008 Education and Skills Act (ESA 2008) in relation to sections 10, 12 and 68 of that Act.

1.6 Local authorities are expected to meet any costs incurred in the delivery of these duties from their overall budgets, including central government grants.

2. Lewisham context: Progress on Participation, NEET and Unknown targets

2.1 The target for 2014/2015 is to sustain the NEET percentage at below 5% and to keep the percentage of unknowns at 10% or under by the end of January 2015. The vast majority of 16 and 17 year olds already continue in some form of education or training. However, the small group of young people not participating includes some of the most vulnerable. In line with national guidance, Lewisham has data sharing agreements with education providers, other public bodies and with some neighbouring boroughs. It continues to work with schools to identify those who are in need of targeted support or who are at risk of not participating post-16.

2.2 In comparison to statistical neighbour averages (79%) Lewisham has comparable 'in learning' figures at 77.5% (December 2014). Lewisham young people who are NEET were at 3.4% (at the end of December 2014), and comparable with national and local benchmarks: London NEET 3.4%, young people nationally who are NEET 4.7%. Since December 2011 the number of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has consistently fallen. For most young people, being NEET is temporary as they move between different education and training options. Current Lewisham 16 to 18-year-olds who are 'unknown'⁶ are 18.1%. Rates vary considerably with age – 3.6% of 16-year-olds, 13.2% of 17-year-olds and 83.2% of 18-year-olds.

2.3 Three year trend of Lewisham NEETS, unknowns and participation:

	Population (16-19)	Adjusted⁷ NEET (16-18)	'Unknown' (16-18)	Participation 'in learning'
December 2014	9,052	3.4% 250 YP	18.1% 1,641YP	77% 7,016YP
June 2014	9,146	4.2% 306YP	6.7% 612YP	86.5% 7911YP
December 2013	9,065	3.6% 240YP	25% 2,352YP	70.6% 6,398YP
June 2013	9,254	2.5% 215 YP	9.7% 893 YP	88.3% 8146 YP
December 2012	8,682	3.3% 236 YP	20.4% 1789 YP	76.1 6657 YP
June 2012	9,377	3.8% 312 YP	15.2% 1443 YP	80.5 7622 YP
December 2011	9,183	5.2% 456 YP	24.9% 2285 YP	71.1 6530 YP
June 2011	10,248	4.6% 443 YP	17.1% 1729 YP	79.8 8076 YP

⁶ Current Situation Not Known

⁷ The NEET adjustment formula is the DfE's method of estimating what proportion of Unknown young people are NEET. The Adjusted NEET percentage is given as a % of the Adjusted NEET cohort plus the Adjusted EET cohort. All other percentages in this report are all given as a % of the total School Year 12-14 resident cohort (unless otherwise stated).

3. The Lewisham Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) Strategy

- 3.1 The Strategic Forum is the key 14-19 representative stakeholder group. The Lewisham RPA strategy is monitored by this forum. It is chaired by the Head of Standards and Achievement. The Participation Strategy Group supports the delivery of the strategy, reporting up to both 14-19 Strategic Forum and NEET Reduction Strategy Group.
- 3.2 The statutory responsibility of tracking young people informs and supports every aspect of the Lewisham RPA Strategy including:
- the suitability of provision for all young people 16-19 and up to 25 with Transition or Education, Health or Care (EHC) Plan;
 - identifying those who are not participating or at risk of not participating
 - promotion of effective participation;
 - borough wide provision of advice and support for young people to access education or training;
 - re-engagement strategies; and
 - partnership working with neighbouring authorities.
- 3.3 In Lewisham the NEET tracking team collect:
- data about Lewisham residents aged 16-19 e.g. telephone number, email addresses, EET/NEET status;
 - data from e.g. intended destinations / September offer / activity survey (final destinations);
 - online forms completed by young people e.g. intended destination, are also distributed by schools and post 16 providers to learners. Data collected this way is uploaded centrally on the NCCIS system;
 - data collected by telephone tracking; where it has not been possible to collect data from a young person via an online survey, calls will be made to them;
 - data collected by door knocking following up on those who it has otherwise been impossible to contact;
 - details of young people visiting Baseline; and
 - lists from other agencies – JCP, YOS, LAC, Admissions, 15billion and the Children's Data Warehouse.
- 3.4 The local authority provides targeted support vulnerable to becoming NEET, in particular teenage mothers, young carers, young offenders, young people with substance misuse, young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and our care leavers. The Youth Service provides this support through Baseline, which is a drop in service for targeted Lewisham young people staffed by Youth Support Services one-to-one keyworkers. The day-time services at Baseline are primarily aimed at young people aged 16-18 and up to 25 years for those with additional needs.
- 3.5 The service consists of nine of specialist one-to-one youth workers, each holding a maximum caseload of 15 cases at any one time, with an annual service reach of c.270 young people. Alongside a one-stop 'holistic support' shop, Baseline, in Lewisham town centre and a variety of commissioned providers, the Service provides one-to-one youth work and information, advice and guidance for the Borough's most vulnerable.

- 3.6 All of these activities and support systems take place at Council-run youth centres and adventure playgrounds, via street based work, at Baseline and at a variety of non-council run venues across the Borough. Services include:
- initial assessment of a young person's needs
 - one-to-one key worker support in emergency situations
 - 48-hour referral service for one-to-one key work support
 - signposting to other services, e.g. sexual health advice, Jobcentre Plus
 - computer access for information, advice and guidance
- 3.7 Additionally, the NEET Traineeship is offering support programmes for young people who are not in education, employment or training. The Traineeship is a 12 week Government-recognised traineeship, in partnership with Bromley College. The programme runs three times a year in line with school terms. It works with vulnerable young people enabling them to achieve more robust qualifications, and offer accredited numeracy and literacy support and stronger pathways post completion. The Traineeship enables participants to continue to receive out of work benefits whilst on the scheme.