

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

AGENDA

Chair:	John Galligan	Job title:	Head of School Effectiveness, London Borough of Brent
Date:	17 July 2015	Time:	10am – 12 noon
Venue:	London Councils, meeting room 1		
Telephone:	020 7934 9779	Email:	Anna-maria.volpicelli@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Item 1	Welcome, introductions and apologies – Appointment of new Chair (For agreement)	JG
Item 2	Notes of the last meeting and matters arising (For agreement)	JG
Item 3	Work plan monitoring (Verbal update - for information and discussion) – Feedback from YPES Board 4 June – London Ambitions Careers Offer Launch – Annual Statement of Priorities	YB
Item 4	Policy update (Presentation - for information) – Policy position post-Queen's speech – Summer budget 2015: early implications	NS
Item 5	Feedback from Local Authority Forum (For discussion and agreement) – Current cluster arrangements and OSG representation – Priority Task and Finish Groups	DC
Item 6	Raising the Participation Age (Report - for information) – Participation, NEET and activity Not Known report – Pan-London leavers notification process	POB/YB
Item 7	Any Other Business	All

Date of next meeting: Friday 16 October, 10-12noon, London Councils

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Notes

Young People's Education and Skills

Operational Sub-Group

Date	15 May 2015	Venue	London Councils
Meeting Chair	John Galligan		
Contact Officer	Neeraj Sharma		
Telephone	020 7934 9524	Email	neeraj.sharma@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Present

John Galligan (JG)	London Borough of Brent (Chair OSG/West Central Cluster)
Yolande Burgess (YB)	London Councils Young People's Education and Skills
Debi Christie (DC)	London Borough of Bromley (Vice Chair OSG/SEND Lead)
Noel Tierney (NL)	London Borough of Wandsworth (Central Cluster)
Daisy Greenaway (DG)	Greater London Authority
Andy Johnson (AJ)	London Borough of Enfield (North Cluster)
Ann Mason (AM)	Royal Boroughs of Kingston Upon Thames and Richmond (EF Lead)
Trevor Cook	London Borough of Havering (North East Cluster)

Officers

Peter O'Brien (POB)	London Councils Young People's Education and Skills
Neeraj Sharma (NS)	London Councils Young People's Education and Skills

Apologies

David Scott	London Borough of Hounslow (South West Cluster)
Rachel Whittington	Education Funding Agency
Judith Smyth	Association of Colleges London region
Sheila Weeden	London Borough of Newham (Data lead)
Eamonn Gilbert	Achieving for Children (SWLSEP)

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1 John Galligan welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted.

2 Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 Notes of the last OSG meeting were approved, subject to amendments to the attendance list to include Eamonn Gilbert.
- 2.2 Action points from the last OSG in January were discussed. OSG members asked the Young People's Education and Skills team to re-circulate the NCCIS notice for the recording of information for young people aged 19 to 25 with SEND. Additionally, it was requested a link was shared for the Department for Education's (DfE) experimental NEET scorecards.

- 2.3 In reference to action point 198, NS explained the Increasing Awareness of Young People in Schools to Apprenticeship and Traineeship notification inviting bids had not reached members of the Apprenticeship Sub-group. It was not clear across both the OSG and the Apprenticeship sub-group why they did not receive the invitation. It was agreed that YB would speak to Jon Thorn about improving communication with the Skills Funding Agency including adding London Councils to the distribution list for funding opportunities available to local authorities.

Action point: Re-circulate the NCCIS notice for the recording of information for young people aged 19 to 25 with SEND

Action point: Circulate the link for the DfE experimental NEET scorecard
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-people-neet-comparative-data-scorecard>)

Action point: YB to speak with Agency colleagues to enhance communications with London boroughs

3 Work Plan monitoring

Skills Match

- 3.1 YB delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Skills Match, an interactive tool, that allows the visual exploration of the relationship between skills supply and employer demand (at Level 3 and below) in London up to 2020. Bringing together skills data and labour market data to enable policy-makers, practitioners and employers to take an intelligence-led, geographically-specific approach to addressing youth unemployment in London. It was developed by MIME Consulting in partnership with London Councils, and was funded by the Open Data Breakthrough Fund.
- 3.2 It was explained the analysis behind Skills Match was complicated due to the different datasets involved and required a number of assumptions to be made. It was important that anyone that used Skills Match to provide information, advice and guidance or to plan provision understood how the analysis had been produced and its current limits i.e. Skills Match currently provides analysis on 17 and 18 year old, and skills and jobs at Level 3 and below.
- 3.3 Given Skills Match is still in beta, there was soft product launch. A link to the site was circulated via the YPES email distribution list and boroughs were encouraged to share the link further with colleagues that may be interested. It had also gone out to colleges through the Association of Colleges. There is also a live survey link on the landing page seeking feedback from visitors to the site; the results will be collated and analysed later this year.
- 3.4 YB also explained that MIME Consulting had developed Skills Route, a portal to help young people understand the range of options available after finishing GCSEs, and what their choices mean for routes into higher education and their future career.

Update on the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

- 3.5 POB explained there had been little in the way of progress since the last update. The London Enterprise Panel's dedicated webpage remained the authoritative source of information about ESIF.
- 3.6 Funds could not flow from the European Union until the European Commission and UK Government reached agreement on precise funding levels, activities and deliverables. There remained a number of administrative hurdles to clear. However, some procurement activity had already started: some programmes where national bodies would be providing match-funding to the European Regional Development Fund

(ERDF) were being tendered and the EPMU had called for proposals where organisations had funds that they were seeking to match with European Social Fund (ESF). London Councils' Grants and Community Services Department had also submitted a bid on behalf of a number of local authorities and other partners.

- 3.7 Cluster formations remained provisional until precise funding levels, activities and deliverables had been signed off.

London Ambitions Careers Offer

- 3.8 YB delivered a presentation about the London Ambitions Career Offer. It was explained that although schools had been given the responsibility for securing impartial careers advice and guidance for young people, schools had not funding for these new duties and very little statutory guidance. This had led to well publicised patchy provision across the country and this was also the case in London.

- 3.9 The LEP's Skills and Employment Working Group (SEWG) and London Councils Young People's Education and Skills commissioned Dr Deirdre Hughes to undertake stakeholder consultation and to propose what a Careers Offer for London should look like. A report, outlining a Careers Offer for London, would be taken to the next meetings of the following groups for comment, feedback and approval:

- Skills & Employment Working Group
- Careers Offer Senior Advisory Group
- Young People's Education and Skills Board.

- 3.10 The draft report proposed seven key elements for the London Ambitions Careers Offer to transform the landscape of careers and employment support for young people across London. The seven elements were evidence-based and designed to establish a coherent framework to apply to all young Londoners, regardless of the particular school or college attended. With that in mind, the dissemination of the report would be critical to its success.

Activity through task and finish groups

- 3.11 YB explained one of the key differences between the 2014/15 and 2015/16 work plan was the decision to move away from sub-groups and instead introduce task and finish groups. This approach had been particularly successful with SEND and there was an appetite amongst the Young People's Education and Skills Board and 14-19 leads to roll this out further, particularly in light of the resource challenges that all parties were managing.

- 3.12 The Young People's Education and Skills team would provide support for the task and finish groups but some groups would need to be led by local authority officers. It was agreed that Young People's Education and Skills conduct a survey of 14-19 leads to identify priority areas of work, which could then be discussed at the Forum. OSG members brainstormed some areas of work:

- Understanding why boroughs have high youth unemployment yet, at the same time, have high participation of 16-18 year-olds in training/education
- Managing qualification reforms (a significant issue for schools and providers)
- Ofsted single inspection of local authority children's services – Annexe A – producing single lists
- Taking forward the Institute of Education recommendations
- The impact of significant reductions to the skills budget.

- 3.13 It was also suggested that new ways of communicating and encouraging cluster meetings would be needed, particularly as the sub-groups were helpful for bringing representatives together. It was agreed that the survey should also include questions about cluster arrangements.

Action point: OSG members to circulate the Skills Match URL to officers both within and outside of the council (<http://skillsmatch.intelligentlondon.org.uk/>)

Action point: YPES to circulate London Ambitions Career Offer presentation and paper with an opportunity for OSG members to provide comments and feedback by 25 May (presentation and report to be circulated after Skills and Employment Working Group meeting of 19 May)

Action point: Young People's Education and Skills to design and circulate a survey monkey seeking views on the most pressing areas within the 14-19 arena to establish Task and Finish groups

4 Young People's Education and Skills Board agenda

- 4.1 YB talked through the Young People's Education and Skills Board agenda and it was approved by OSG members.

5 Local Authority Forum agenda

- 5.1 OSG subgroup members suggested the following items for the Forum:

- Skills Match - presentation
- Task and Finish groups – discussion
- Cluster groups – discussion
- Key changes for 14-19 within the next parliament – possibly led by officers from DfE/BIS.

- 5.2 It was agreed that in order to cover all items, the meeting should start at 9.30am instead of 10am to ensure the meeting finished on time. It was suggested that Skills Match would be the first agenda item.

Action point: YPES to invite officers from DfE/BIS to attend the Forum.

6 Policy update

- 6.1 NS explained that the Queen's speech on 27 May would set out the key policies and legislative changes the government would undertake. A review of the Conservative Manifesto indicated there was a strong emphasis on strengthening the vocational element of post-16 education, particularly through initiatives such as increasing the number of apprenticeships as well as abolishing employers' National Insurance contributions for young apprentices. There was a Children and Young People (CYP) Now document that outlined the key manifesto commitments including post-16; it was agreed this should be circulated.

- 6.2 It was also explained that given the Conservative Party was part of the previous government, a number of education and post-16 reforms had already been made, so the of the next five years would probably centre around implementation.

Action point: YPES to circulate the CYP pre-election party manifesto analysis.

7 Raising the Participation Age

- 7.1 POB talked to the paper circulated in advance of the meeting highlighting the key performance figures. Attention was drawn to the variation of performance across the boroughs.
- 7.2 OSG members discussed the variation in performance and raised the following comments:
- Waltham Forest had structurally changed how they reported NEET and activity not known, which impacted local as well as regional figures.
 - The fluidity of post-16 education meant the data could only provide a momentary snapshot. For instance, a local authority reported that examination of their data had shown 36 young people recorded as attending college were in fact undertaking apprenticeships.
 - In Wandsworth, a proportion of Year 13 students take career gaps and would be classified as activity not known – boroughs were seeking different ways to keep in contact with those young people.
 - Enfield is currently piloting an activity survey for Year 12 and 13, similar to the survey already carried out at Year 11.
- 7.3 There was also a discussion about the pan-London leavers notification process and its usage. There was unanimous agreement of its benefits but there was recognition that some boroughs had their own systems in place. There were discussions about the merits of another campaign to increase use of the system.

8 Interim Statement of Priorities

- 8.1 YB explained that following the general election results the Young People's Education and Skills team would work on a full annual statement of priorities.

9 AOB

- 9.1 POB informed OSG members that Young People's Education and Skills had been invited to join a scoring panel for European funding bids. Should any boroughs wish to take up with opportunity, they should contact the POB. Any parties that would be submitting bids should not put themselves forward to be part of the panel.
- 9.2 YB explained that the Institute of Education had approached Young People's Education and Skills for a letter of support in relation to research they were seeking to undertake on a European level. The OSG members agreed to the request.
- 9.3 TC stated that a UTC set up within the borough that had moved to another borough was creating a challenge in relation to the SCAP as the UTC was included in the school place capacity within the initial borough. No other OSG members reported an experience of a provider moving out of the borough.

Action point: OSG members to inform POB if they wish join the scoring panel for European funding bids

Action Points from Operational Sub-group 2015-16

Action Point No.	Meeting Date	Action Point Description	Owner(s) - lead in bold	Review Date	Actions Taken	Open / Closed
197	23.1.15	LD to share with OSG members CLC Building Futures feedback to the DfE regarding the experimental NEET scorecard	LD	15.05.15	Paper attached to post meeting note 18.05.15	Closed
199	15.5.15	Re-circulate the NCCIS notice for the recording of information for young people aged 19 to 25 with SEND	YPES	17.07.15	Attached to post meeting note 18.05.15	Closed
200	15.5.15	Circulate link for the DfE experimental NEET scorecard	YPES	17.07.15	Link included in post meeting note 18.05.15	Closed
201	15.5.15	YB to speak with Agency colleagues to enhance communications on apprenticeships	YB	17.07.15	Verbal feedback at 17.07.15 meeting	
202	15.5.15	Members to circulate the Skills Match URL to officers both within and outside of the council	All	17.07.15	Link included in post meeting note 18.05.15	Closed
203	15.5.15	Circulate London Ambitions Career Offer presentation and near-final report to OSG members	YPES	17.07.15	To be circulated post SEWG and YPES Board (w/c 08.06.2015)	
204	15.5.15	YPES to design and circulate a survey monkey seeking views on the most pressing areas within the 14-19 arena to establish Task and Finish groups	YPES	17.07.15	1st circulation 03.06.15, 2nd circulation 16.06.15	Closed
205	15.5.15	Circulate the CYP pre-election party manifesto analysis	YPES	17.07.15	Document attached in post meeting note 18.05.15	Closed
206	15.5.15	Members to inform YPES if they wish to join the scoring panel for European funding bids	All	17.07.15	YPES responded to EPMU 23.05.15 regarding scoring panels	Closed

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Latest participation, NEET and activity 'not known' statistics Item: 6a

Date: 17 July 2015

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1 16 to 18 Academic Age Summary (May 2015 – from [NCCIS](#)¹)

- 1.1 The May not in education, employment or training (NEET) percentage for London is 3.6 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point from April but still below the national average of 4.8 per cent. The current percentage of young people whose participation status is 'not known' is 7.5 per cent, up from the 7.0 per cent reported in April. London remains above the national average figure of 7.1 per cent, which is also up from 6.7 per cent in April (see Table1).
- 1.2 The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET and participation 'not known' varies significantly by borough ranging from 1.9 per cent to 5.9 per cent for NEET and 1.3 per cent to 15.1 per cent for participation status 'not known' (excluding the City of London) (see Figures 1- 4).
- 1.3 The three month average comparison between 2014/15 and 2013/14 shows a lower percentage for NEET and an unchanged level of participation status 'not known' than last year (see Tables 2 and 3).
- 1.4 The number of young people recorded as NEET but not available² in May 2015 was 1,575, or 23.2 per cent of the (unadjusted) total NEET cohort.

Table 1: Volume and percentage of 16-18 year-olds who are participating in education, employment or training (EET), not in education, employment or training (NEET) and whose activity is 'not known' (source: NCCIS)

Region	Adjusted EET	Adjusted NEET	% NEET	16-18s not known	% 16-18s not known
England	1,598,912	81,218	4.8%	124,383	7.1%
London	231,590	8,633	3.6%	19,098	7.5%

Table 2: Percentage of 16-18 year olds who are NEET for the past three months for 2013/14 and 2014/15 (source: NCCIS)

Region	2014/15				2013/14			
	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Ave	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Ave
England	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%	5.3%
London	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%

Table 3: Percentage of 16-18 year olds whose participation status is 'not known' for the past three months for 2013/14 and 2014/15 (source: NCCIS)

Region	2014/15				2013/14			
	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Ave	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Ave
England	6.5%	6.7%	7.1%	6.8%	6.9%	7.2%	7.4%	7.2%
London	6.9%	7.0%	7.5%	7.1%	7.9%	6.9%	6.6%	7.1%

Figure 1: 16-18 year-olds NEET by London Borough (May 2015, source NCCIS)

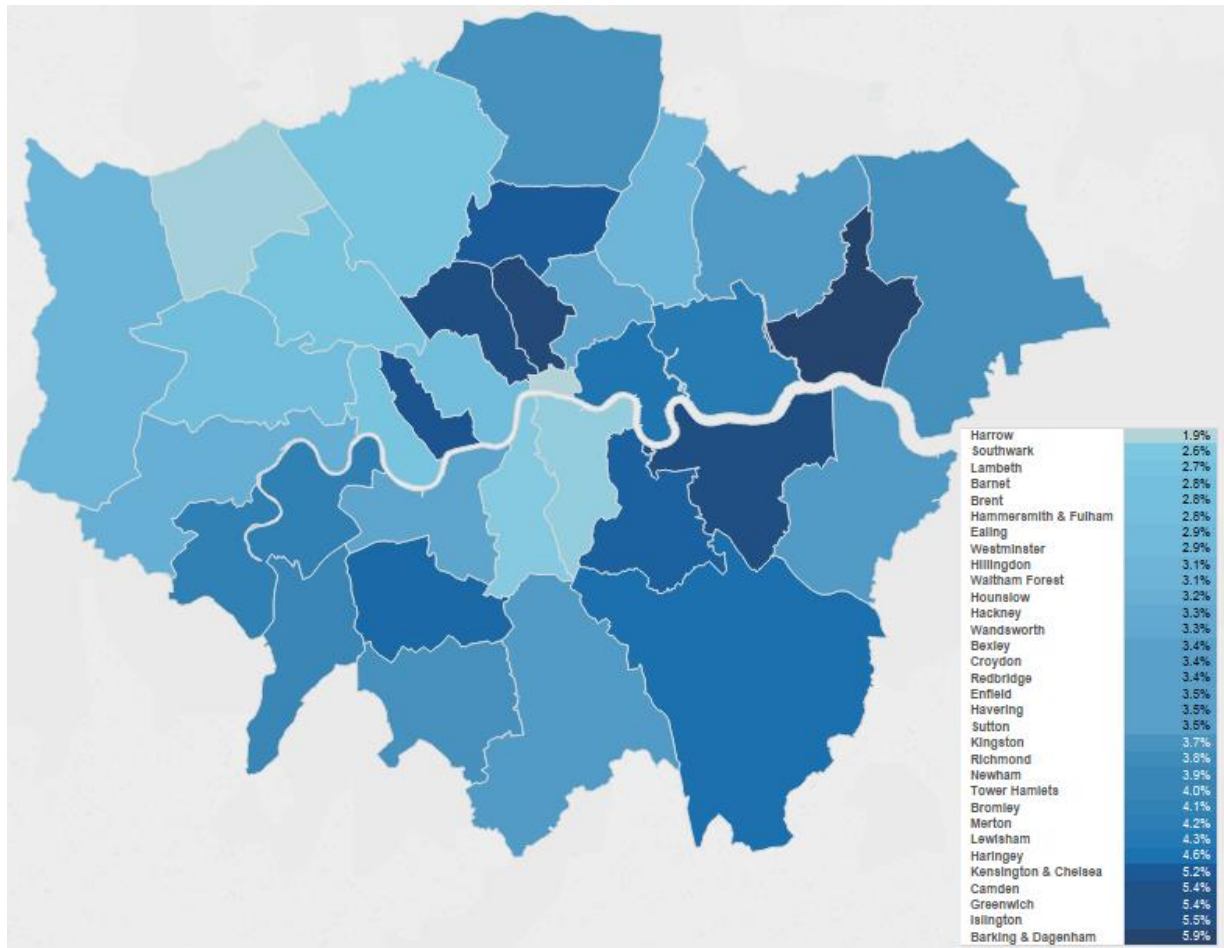


Figure 2: 16-18 year olds NEET by age and London borough (May 2015, source NCCIS)

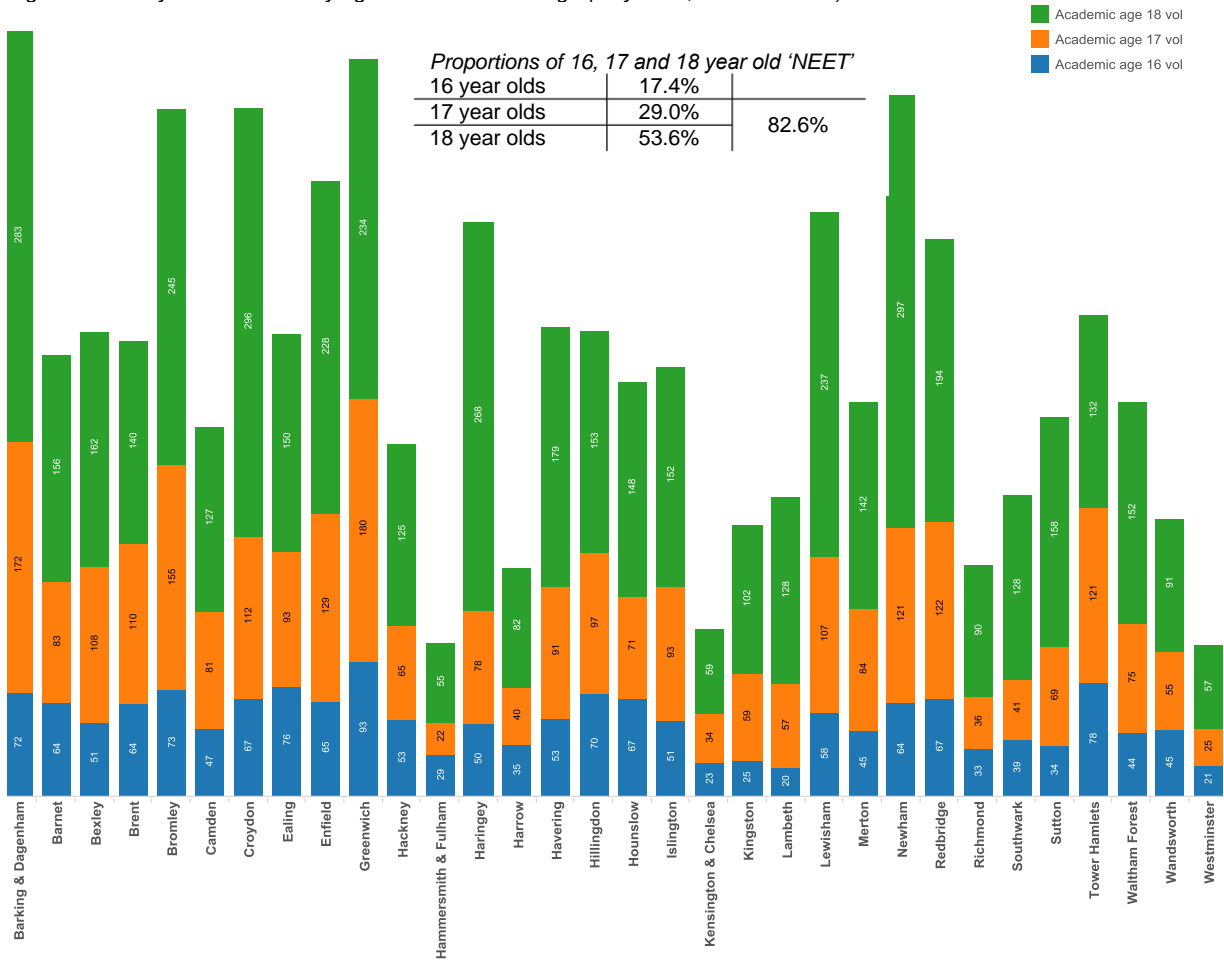


Figure 3: 16-18 year-olds whose participation status is 'not known' by London borough (May 2015, NCCIS)

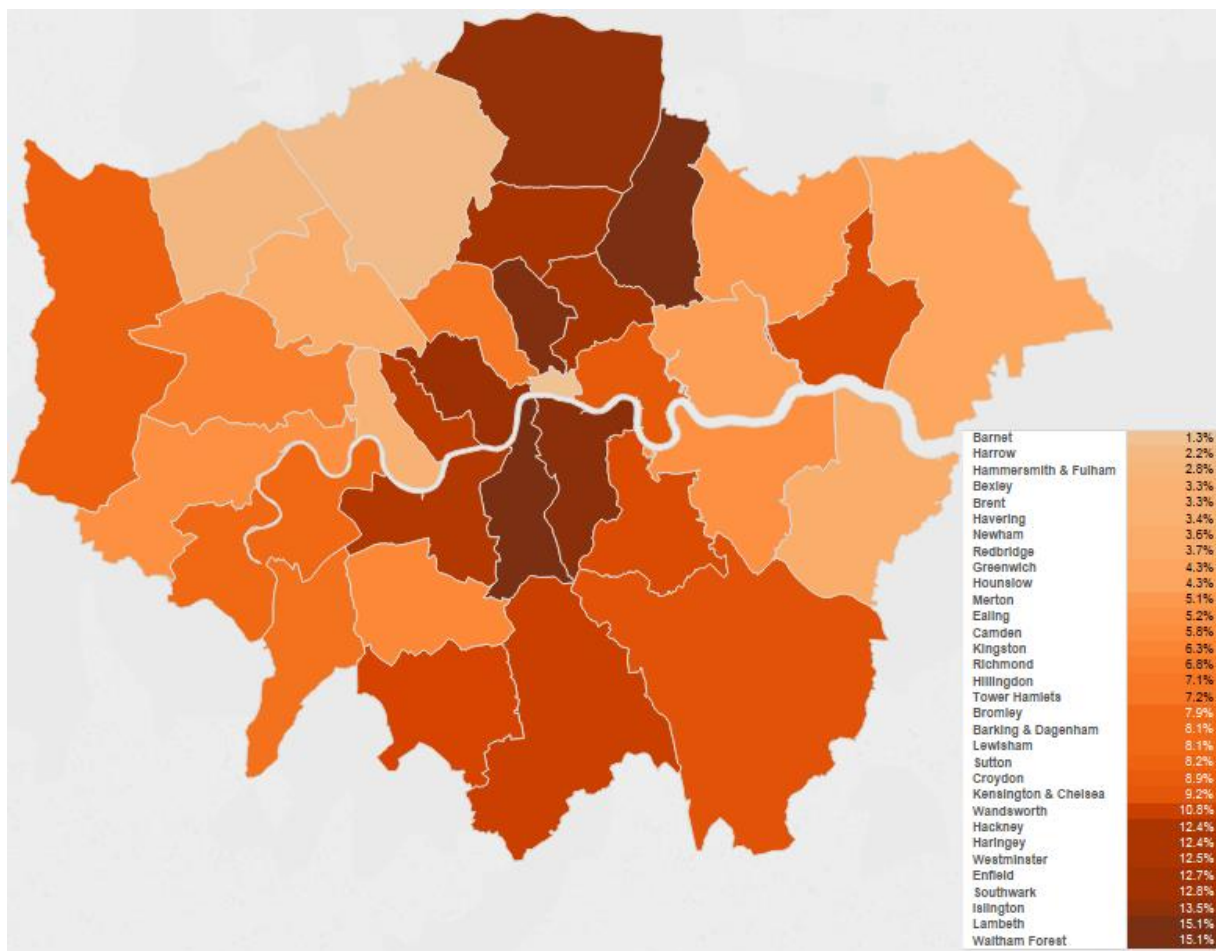
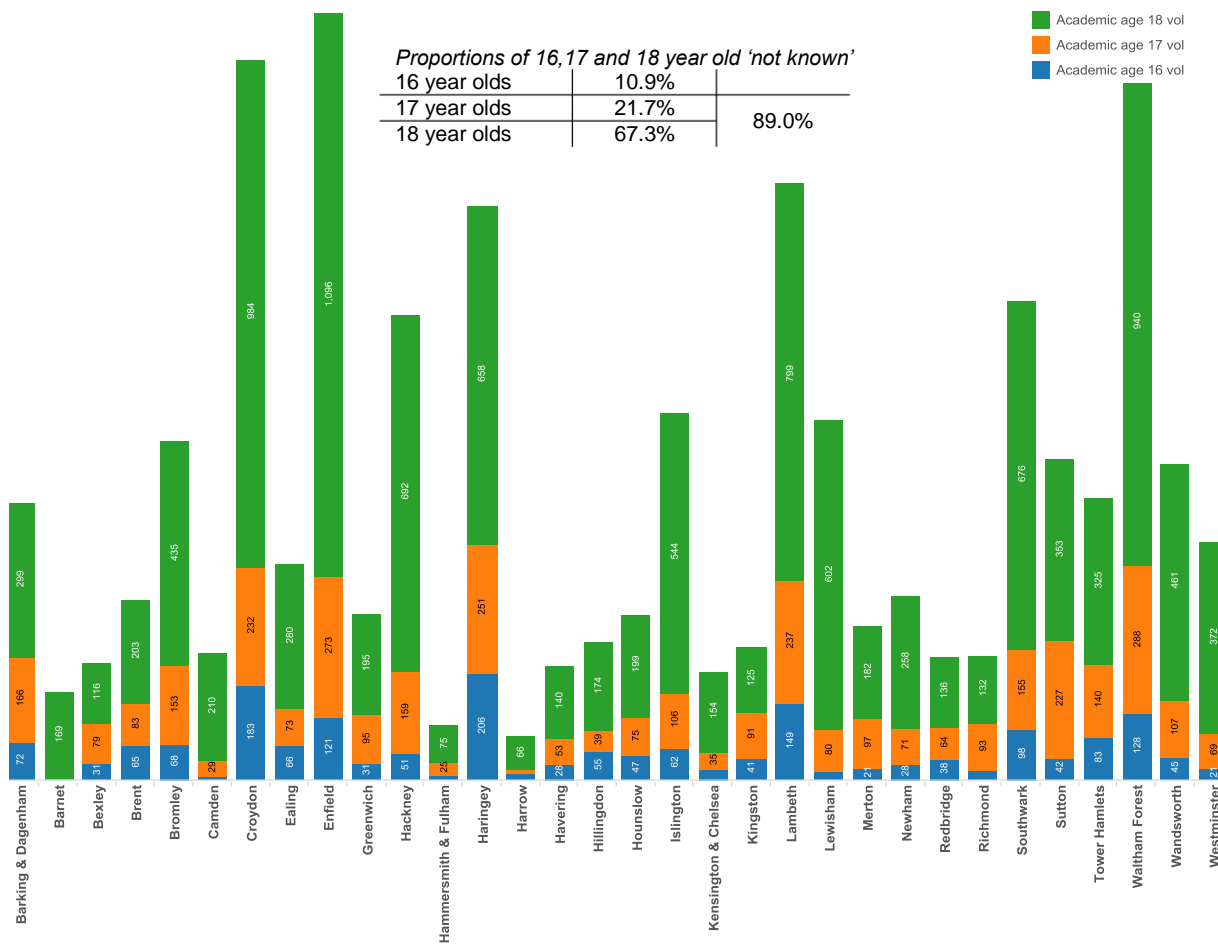


Figure 4: 16-18 year olds participation status 'not known' by age and London borough (May 2015, source NCCIS)



2 16 and 17 Year Old Participation in Education and Training (December 2014 - latest available from the [Department for Education](#)³)

- 2.1 On 12 March 2015⁴ the Department for Education (DfE) published 16 and 17 year old participation data that highlights where participation is rising, static or falling. The data also provides a breakdown by type of participation, age, gender and ethnic group.
- 2.2 London's participation in December 2014 was 92.0 per cent, an improvement of 1.9 percentage points from the previous December but a small 0.4 percentage point decrease from the June 2014 position. London's participation is 1.8 percentage points above the national figure (see Table 4). The majority of 16 and 17 year olds in London (88.7 per cent) were participating in full time education and training, which is 5.5 percentage points higher than the national figure, although a smaller proportion were participating in Apprenticeships and employment with training than nationally (see Table 5). The percentage participating at age 16 (the age group currently covered under 'the duty') in London was higher than those participating at 17 by 5.5 percentage points (see Table 6). Although participation increased or was broadly static in the majority of London local authorities, it decreased in seven boroughs (the largest decrease was 4.1%).

Table 4: Participation - percentage over time: proportion of 16-17 year-olds in education and training, Dec 14 (source DfE)

Region	Dec 2013	Mar 2014	Jun 2014	Dec 2014	Percentage point change in the last 12 months	
England	89.8%	90.3%	89.7%	90.2%	0.4%	↻
London	90.1%	92.3%	92.4%	92.0%	1.9%	↻

Table 5: Participation - percentage by type of activity, Dec 14 (source: DfE)

Region	Proportion of 16 and 17 year olds recorded as participating in:					
	Full time education and training	Apprenticeship	Work based learning	Part time education	Employment combined with training	Other
England	83.2%	4.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%
London	88.7%	1.9%	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%

Table 6: Participation - percentage by age and gender, Dec 14 (source: DfE)

Region	Percentage 16 year olds recorded as participating in education or training			Percentage 17 year olds recorded as participating in education or training		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
England	94.8%	93.6%	94.2%	87.7%	85.0%	86.3%
London	95.2%	94.3%	94.7%	90.7%	87.9%	89.3%

3 16-24 NEET Statistics Quarterly Brief (SFR13/2015 21st May 2015, Quarter 1 [January – March 2015] - latest available from [gov.uk](#))⁵

- 3.1 Both the volume and percentage of 16 to 24 year olds who were NEET in Quarter 1 of 2015 in London have decreased since Quarter 4 of 2014 and are lower than the same quarter last year (see Table 7). The number of young people (16-24 years-old) who are NEET in London is now fewer than 100,000. The London NEET percentage remains below the national figure by more 2 percentage points – the gap between London and the rest of England has widened slightly since the last quarter. (Table 7 and Figure 5).
- 3.2 The percentage of 18 to 24 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds who were NEET in Quarter 1 of 2015 in London have reduced since Quarter 4 of 2014 and are significantly lower than the same quarter last year. The London NEET rates for 18 to 24 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds remain below the national averages (see Tables 8 and 9).

Table 7: Estimated number and proportion of 16-24 year-olds NEET (SFR13/2015)

Region	Quarter 1							
	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
England	955,000	15.8%	909,000	15.0%	778,000	13.0%	738,000	12.3%
London	132,000	14.0%	135,000	14.2%	107,000	11.5%	98,000	10.2%

Figure 5: Comparison between 16-24 NEET in London and England over time (SFR13/2015)

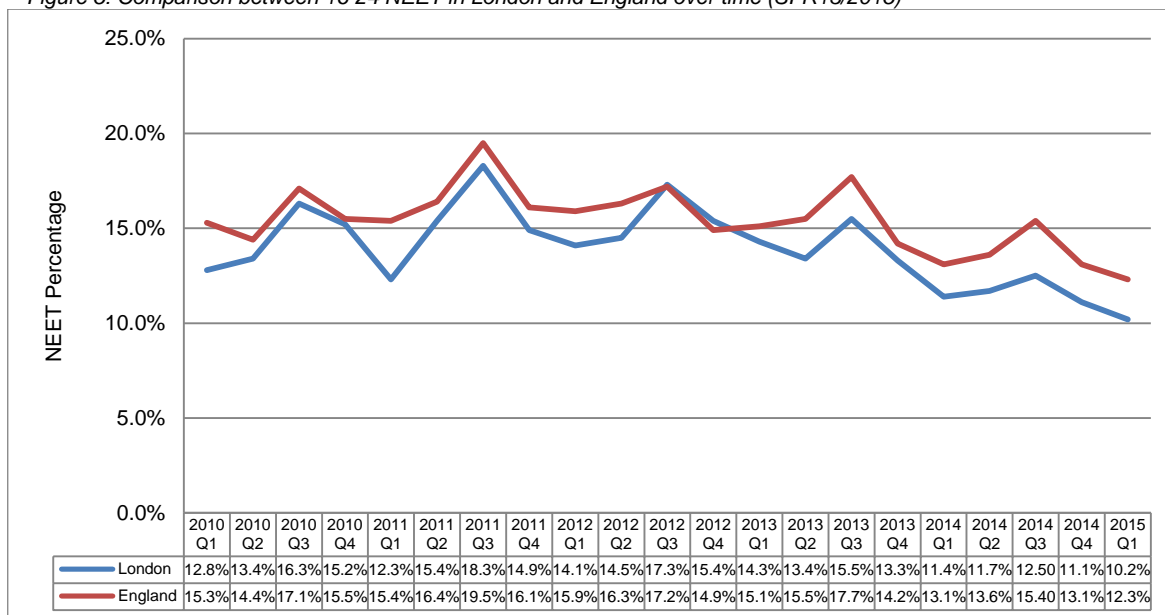


Table 8: Estimated number and proportion of 18-24 year-olds NEET (SFR13/2015)

Region	Quarter 1							
	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
England	858,000	18.0%	840,000	17.6%	730,000	15.4%	692,000	14.6%
London	123,000	16.1%	125,000	16.4%	102,000	13.5%	93,000	11.9%

Table 9: Estimated number and proportion of 19-24 year-olds NEET (SFR13/2015)

Region	Quarter 1							
	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
England	769,000	18.7%	750,000	18.1%	651,000	15.9%	604,000	14.7%
London	108,000	16.1%	111,000	16.4%	91,000	13.5%	85,000	12.3%

¹ The [National Client Caseload Information System](#) (NCCIS) is a gateway for local authorities to access and submit performance data and information to the Department for Education regarding the participation of 16-18 year olds in education, employment and training. Data sourced from NCCIS relates to May 2015.

² Includes young carers, teenage parents and mothers-to-be, and young people with a serious or on-going health problem

³ The Department for Education uses information from the Client Caseload Information System to estimate the number and proportion of young people participating in different types of education and training in each local authority area. The figures are intended to support local authorities to track their participation performance and their progression to achieving their Raising the Participation Age (RPA) goals

⁴ This information is unchanged from the report made to the previous meeting (15th May 2015) and is included for completeness.

⁵ The 16-24 NEET Statistics Quarterly Brief combines the Participation Statistical First Release, the Quarterly [Labour Force Survey](#) and 16-18 NEET statistics from NCCIS to create a profile of the NEET 16-24 age group