

# Mark Riddell Visit

6 September 2022



## Agenda

### 9.15am – 10.30am

- Recommendations from last visit – Summer 21
- Further changes and Improvement
- What our data tells us
- Timetable for today

## Recommendation's from Last Visit

### 1. To strengthen the Champion Model Approach by developing themed boards

- Themed meetings have been introduced with a timetable of themes in place

### 2. To strengthen the membership of the Board

- The Board is chaired by the Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
- The Director for Children Services is a Member of the Board
- Job Centre Plus and CAMHS invited to become Board members
- Young Director is a member

### 3. To develop a whole council offer by organising an event to co-ordinate a whole offer approach with each department in the Local Authority being asked to make an offer to Care Leavers

- Regular reports to Corporate Leadership Team on Corporate Parenting – good communication channels in place supporting an improved offer for Care Leavers
- Corporate Parenting Champions Group set up with representatives from each Directorate
- Commitment from CLT for Senior Leaders to become mentors for Care Leavers
- Commitment from CLT to include Care Leavers in the Apprenticeship Strategy including priority for Care Leavers
- Commitment to ring-fencing a number of apprenticeship internships within the council - to be progressed in the Autumn

## Recommendation's from Last Visit

### **4. To set a target for ringfenced opportunities in the Council**

- Good track record re Care leaver Apprentices at the Council - All Care leavers who request an Apprenticeship are actively supported to secure one in the Council
- Plans in place to grow Traineeships and Apprenticeship Opportunities with Economic Development Team

### **5. To review the existing Housing Protocol and DWP Protocol**

- Both of these Protocols have been reviewed and updated
- ICB considering request for free prescriptions up to 25 for those ineligible for them – we've asked for it to be across the other 2 LAs as well

### **6. To develop a health offer 18yrs to 25yrs which could include an offer of free prescriptions, dental protheses and or glasses etc**

- Regional partnership are working on this
- Funding in place from Benefactor to pay for £150 towards glasses, dentists, prescriptions

## Recommendation's from Last Visit

- 7. To conduct an aspiration audit to be completed with your virtual headteacher to match to opportunities being offered through a business event/whole council offer**
  - Higher Education Policy has been updated and includes bursary for care leavers studying at Masters level
  - Education, Employment and Training survey completed with over 200 care experienced young people by participation team
  - Elected members are willing to be matched with young people in HE
- 8. To consider the Rees Foundation health membership offer to all Care Leavers**
  - Agreement to fund 10 places as a trial – seeking interest from Care Leavers and will be signed up by end September
- 9. To review the duty system and to develop a 21yrs to 25yrs offer**
  - Additional capacity secured in the care leaving team
  - Care experienced graduate beginning work in the team to work with over 21's
  - Given additional capacity, review of duty system to happen in Autumn 2022
  - From October, Leaving Care PA's will be co-working with young people from age 17

## Recommendation's from Last Visit

### 10. **A digital offer to be developed as part of the local offer to Care Leavers**

- NSC continue to pay 50% of care leavers Wi-Fi costs
- Care leavers are provided with mobile phones and three-months data (from Tesco's)
- All care leavers have received a laptop, either from DfE or a private funder
- Young person's room has been refurbished with new computers, printer and a landline

### 11. **To consider specialist workers in the team, ie EET, Senior Practitioner to support and develop the team further**

- A Part time EET worker has been appointed to work in the team
- Reboot worker is in the Team
- Housing worker is in the team
- Senior practitioner in post from August 2022

## Recommendation's from Last Visit

### **12. To consider what does above statutory entitlements mean, ie can ISRO's consider reviewing Pathway Plans up to 25 using a RAG approach**

- Plan agreed for ISROS to review a proportion of Pathway plans (there are examples where this has taken place already)

### **13. An audit/review of paperwork around payments to Care Leavers**

- This has been discussed with the Chief Executive Officer and is work in progress
- Care leavers are prioritised vouchers from the Home Support fund

## Further Changes and Developments since last Summer

### Within the last year we have:

- Relaunched our Corporate Parenting Board
- Relaunched our Care Leaver Forum following COVID-19
- Created and appointed to a Young Director post to help us strengthen engagement with our care leavers.
- Appointed a new Participation Worker who is working closely with our Young Director
- Started to identify Young Ambassadors and peer mentors to provide additional support to our care leavers

### **We have set an ambitious target to have 70% of our care leavers in education, employment, or training (EET) within the next twelve months. To do this we have:**

- Reviewed and enhanced our offer to care leavers entering Higher Education, introducing new financial support for those continuing their studies into a Master's degree
- Introduced the Next Steps Scheme to provide additional, one-off financial grants to support care leavers into EET
- Been actively involved in the Southwest region Local Offer proposals for care leavers; presenting at the Regional Conference 'No One Left Behind' in June 2022, highlighting good practice regarding EET
- Employed an EET worker who is working with our Economic Development team



## Further Changes and Developments since last Summer

### Housing:

- Renewed our Joint Housing Protocol for care leavers
- Introduced a new Rent Guarantor Scheme for care leavers
- Developed three housing projects for unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- A hub for asylum seekers is in development which will be supported by housing and CAMHS and a range of other supporting activities such as, for example, conversational English

### Allowances:

- We have reviewed and updated our Care Leavers Allowances Policy

### NEET Panel:

- In the Autumn we are launching a monthly NEET Panel and developing strategies to increase the number of our care leavers moving on to University.
- We have increased the scope of our ASDAN programme worker to focus on our Children in Care aged 14 years+ to develop independence and life skills from an earlier age.
- We are in the early stages of extending the role of the Independent Safeguarding and Reviewing Officers to review a selection of Pathway Plans up to 25 years using a RAG approach.

# Further Changes and Developments since last Summer

## Investment in additional capacity

- Young Director appointed – Bethany Swann
- Participation Officer appointed – Ella Bunting
- Additional capacity in Care Leaving Team (EET Worker, Senior Practitioner, 1fte Leaving Care Personal Adviser)
- Consultant Service Improvement Lead

## Increased Offer to Care leavers

- Rent Guarantor scheme in place
- Bursary for students studying at Masters level
- Care leavers offered £500 as they begin work to help support them until they are paid (Benefactor)
- Sailing Holiday (Tall Ships) offered and taken up by 10 Care leavers
- Weekly EET Drop In
- Weekly Housing Drop in
- Proposal to increase full Council Tax exemption for care leavers up to the age of 25 from April 2023 as part of our budget proposals to Full Council in February 2023.

## Further Changes and Developments since last Summer

### External Influence and Guidance

- Selected to trial training from LIFT Research Study with Bristol University (Life in Transition)
- Participant in care leaver Research Study with York and Oxford University 'Care leavers Transition into the Labour Market'
- Regional care leaver working group established in the South West, with aim of increasing offer for care leavers
- National Benchmarking Forum
- New Belongings Board

### Corporate Parenting

- All Councillors have signed Pledge regarding their Corporate Parenting responsibilities
- All Full Council meetings begin with a Corporate Parenting Report

### Practice Improvement

- Principal Social Worker, standalone role at Head of Service level
- Permanency Tracker in place – strategy is in development
- Care and Resource Panel reviewed and refreshed with a strong focus on stability and staying put – chaired by AD
- Transfer policy agreed
- Next Steps Panel established. This provides funding on a individual basis support care leavers to maintain education, employment and training
- Spotlight on the quality of service provided to take place 1 November 2022
- Health Passport form developed – to be given to children in care/care leavers when they turn 18

## Further Changes and Developments since last Summer

### Increased Care leaver participation

- Beth and Ella run monthly Care Leaver Forum and attend drop-ins
- Young people's room re-opened with refurbished computers
- Care leavers panels continue to support the recruitment process of a range of posts across the Directorate
- Young Director meets regularly with both Assistant Director and Director
- Awards Day for all care leavers held in May 2022

### Virtual School

- Annual Report of Headteacher – February 22

### Corporate Parenting Panel

- Themed Panel meetings taking place:
  - EET – July 22
  - Health and Housing - September 22
  - Housing Support and Living Independently - November 22
  - Voice of Young People – January 23
- Virtual School Headteacher Report – May 22
- Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Report – July 22
- Regional Care Leaver Conference – Education, Employment, Training Presentation by Young Director



## Further Changes and Developments since last Summer

### **Policies updated**

- Finance Guide 'Money Matters'
- Rent Guarantor Scheme
- Joint Housing Protocol

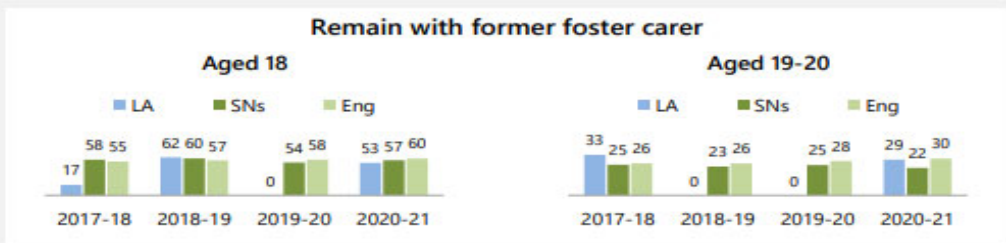
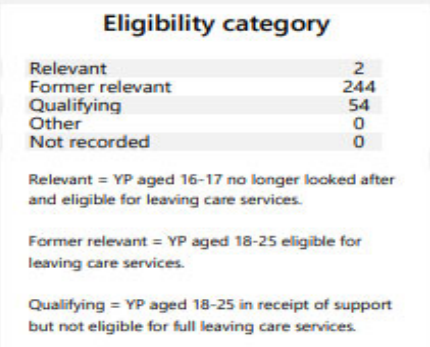
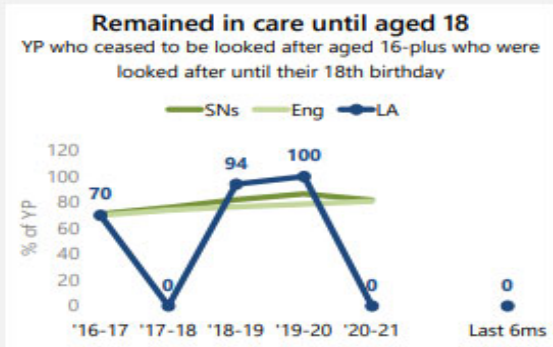
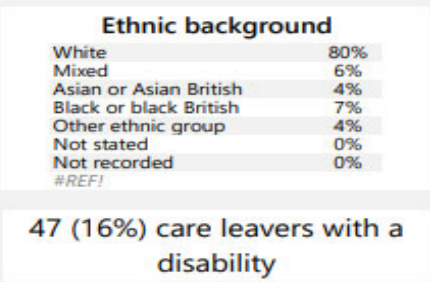
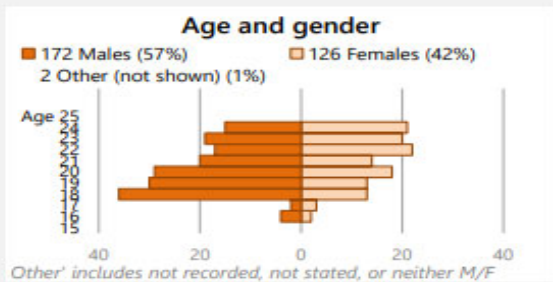
### **Pilot with 10 care leavers to include:**

- Mental Health and Counselling
- Debt management

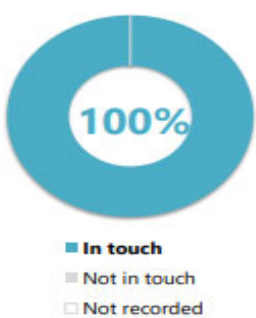
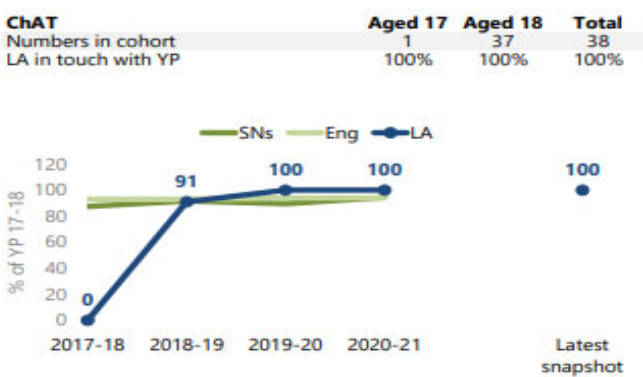
What the Data shows us – In Touch:

Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services Snapshot 25/08/2022

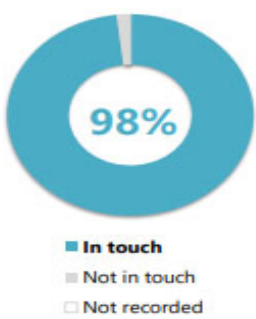
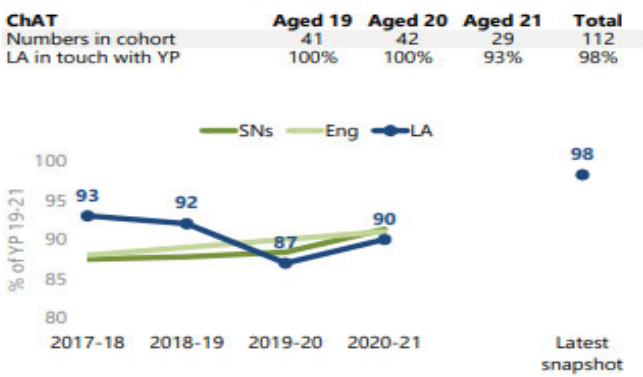
300 care leavers



LA in touch with 17-18 year olds



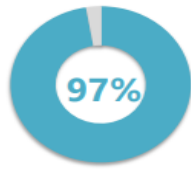
LA in touch with 19-21 year olds



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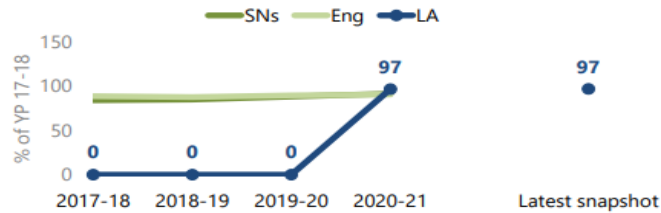
## What the Data shows us – Accommodation Suitability:

### Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds

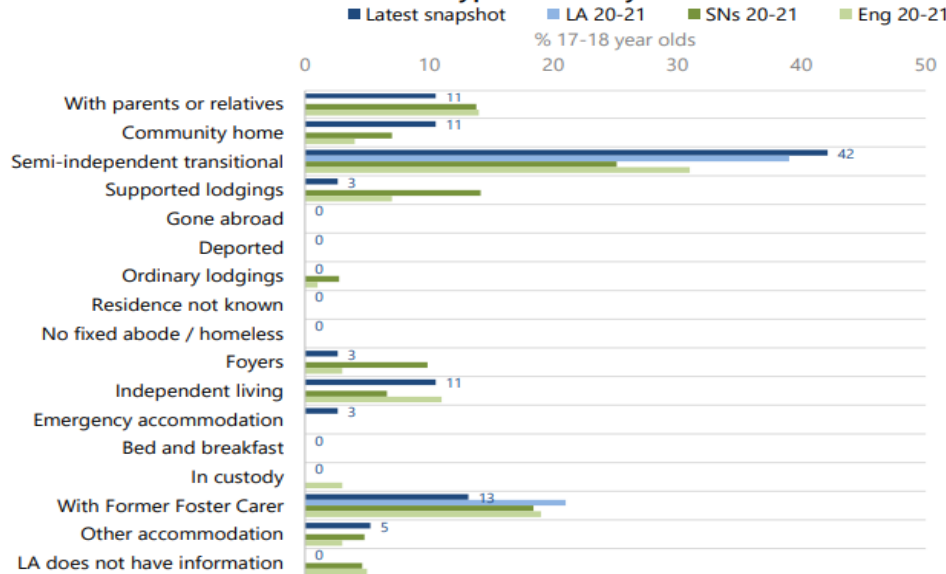


■ Suitable accom  
■ Not suitable  
□ No information

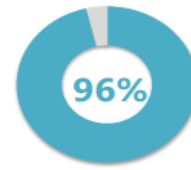
ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	1	37	38
In suitable accommodation	100%	97%	97%



### Accommodation types of 17-18 year olds

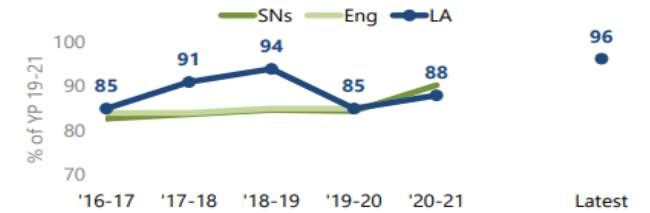


### Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds

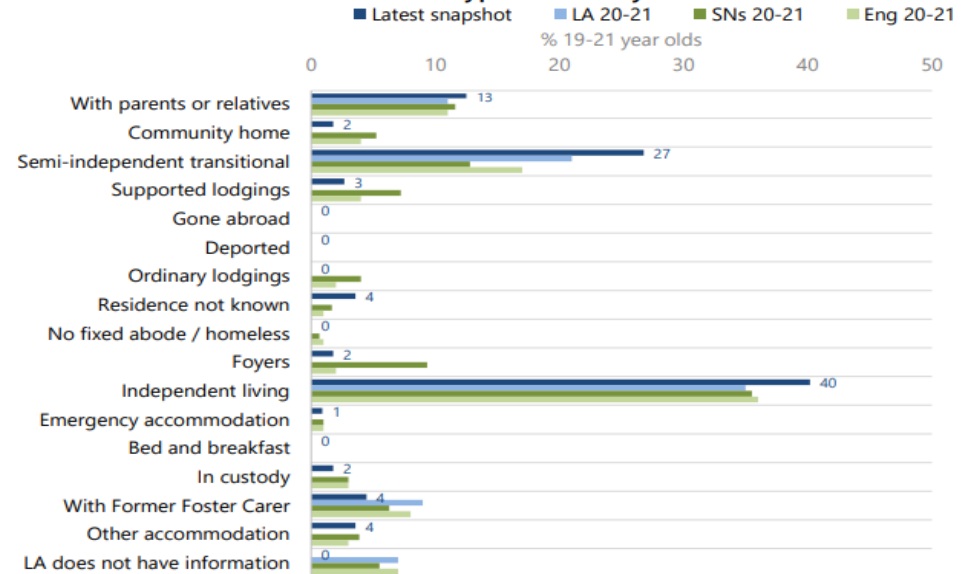


■ Suitable accom  
■ Not suitable  
□ No information

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	40	41	27	108
In suitable accommodation	95%	98%	96%	96%

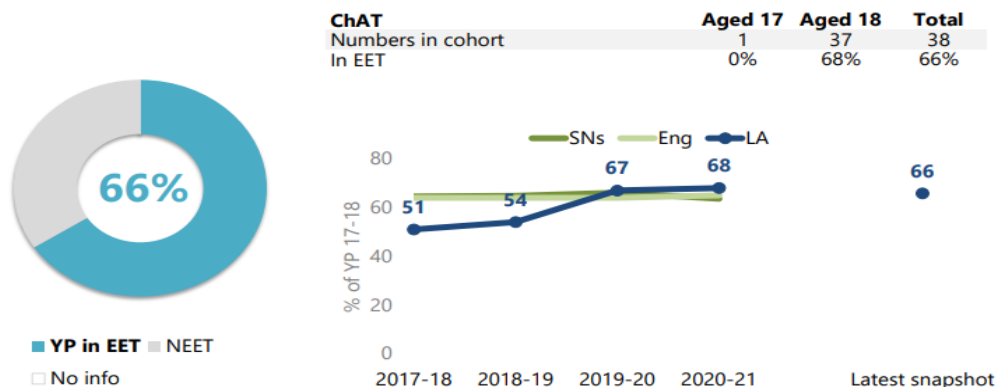


### Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds

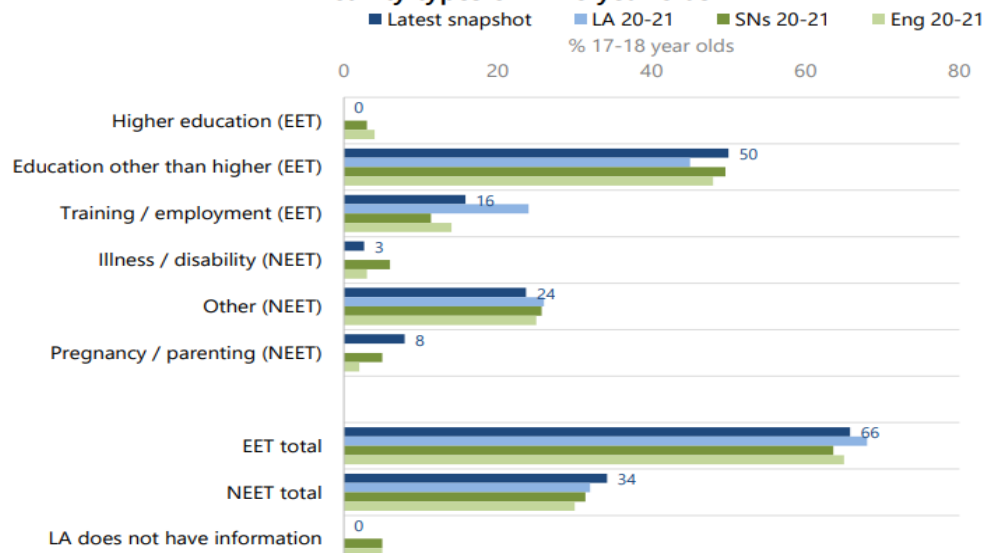


## What the Data shows us – Activity (Education, Employment or Training)

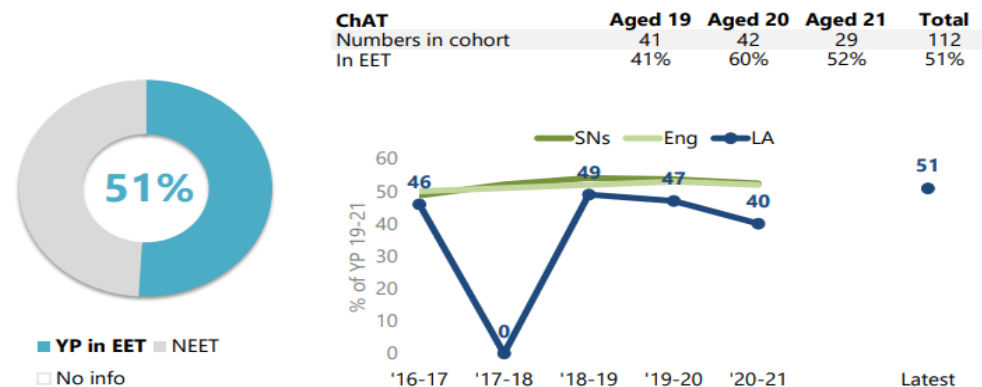
### Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 17-18 year olds



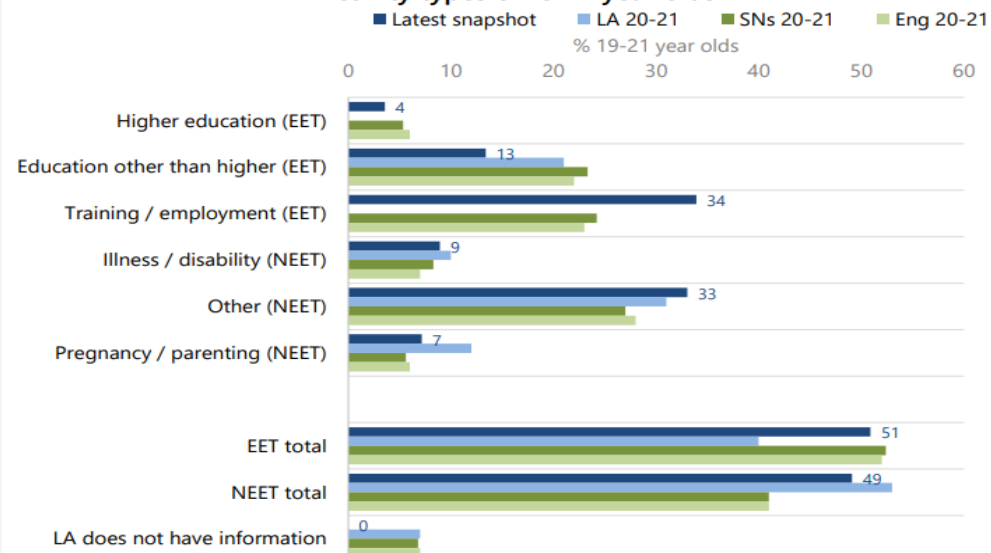
#### Activity types of 17-18 year olds



### Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds



#### Activity types of 19-21 year olds





## Timetable for Today's Visit:

### 10.30am – 11.30am

Heads of Services and Team Managers for children in care and care leavers

Discuss the operational model for our care leavers

### 11.30pm – 12.30pm

Team Manager and Personal Advisers

Discuss how the leaving care service is delivered operationally with a focus on strengths and challenges and the new statutory duties

### (Lunch) 12.30pm – 1.30pm

### 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Regional Presentation by Ella Bunting, Participation Worker and Bethany Swann, Young Director - EET

### 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Meeting with Young Director, Participation Officer, and a group of care leavers. Discuss the existing Corporate Parenting offer, new care leavers strategy and how it feels to be a care leaver in North Somerset.

### 4.00pm – 5pm

Feedback session

### 5pm – Close

