

BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda

Item No. 6

TO: Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 4 November 2010

RE: Post 16 Education and Training

Purpose

For this Scrutiny panel members have particularly asked for the contract report to concentrate on Post 16 learning.

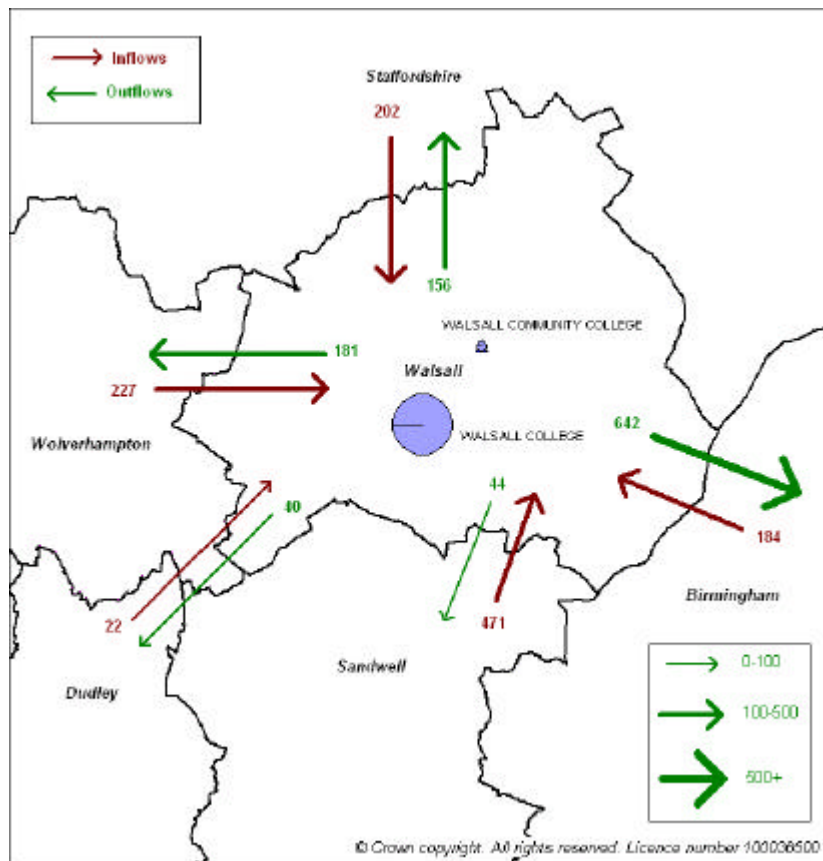
To achieve this the focus is on the issues below.

1. To provide members with information about the involvement of young people aged 16 to 19 in Walsall in post-compulsory education and training.
2. To provide members with information about the work of Walsall Children's Services-Serco in further improving participation rates and levels of achievement.

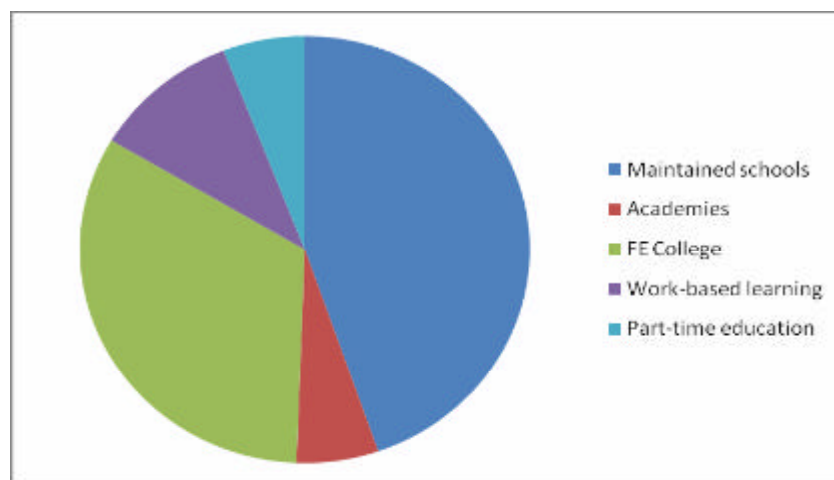
1. Where do 16-19 year olds study?

- 3500 young people complete year 11 each year and are able to access a wide range of opportunities for further education and training,
- The choice in Walsall includes school and academy sixth forms (18 in all), Walsall College, other further education colleges outside Walsall, and apprenticeships (referred to as work-based training).

This map outlines the pattern of travelling to providers outside Walsall during the 2009-10 academic year:



Of those young people engaged in education or training (which is around 85% of all resident 16-19 year olds), the approximate proportions in each type of provision are:



At present a total of 1322 young people age 16 – 19 are in employment and around 8% are not involved in employment, education or training (NEET), while the remainder are unknown.

2. What forms of education and training are available?

- Information about courses available at each provider is available to all young people and their families
- An on-line area prospectus: www.choosewalsall.com is available for young people



- Young people who have attained a range of higher-grade GCSE passes (A* to C) would normally take a level 3 programme which could include A level GCE in schools or a BTEC or other vocational qualification at a college or at some schools.
- Young people who have attained mainly D to G GCSE passes would normally take either
 - a level 2 programme which could include a BTEC or other vocational qualification
 - a mixed BTEC/GCSE programme in some schools
 - an apprenticeship leading to a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).
 - Some young people will progress to an advanced apprenticeship to attain a level 3 NVQ
- Some young people, including many with learning difficulties and disabilities may take a Foundation Learning programme including functional skills in Maths, English and ICT; personal development; and elements of vocational learning, usually at a college or with a training provider.

3. What financial support is currently available?

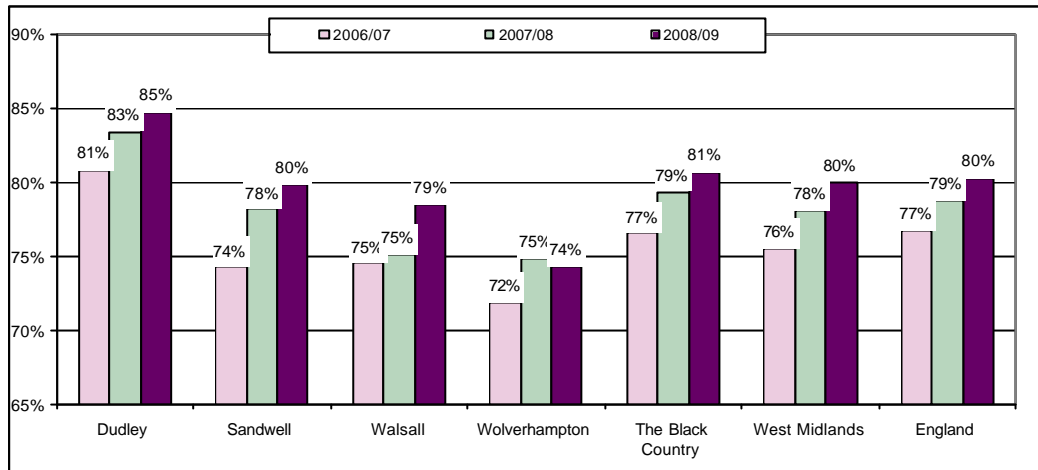
- Young people who live in a household whose income is less than £30,810 can get help with £10, £20 or £30 a week towards the cost of books, travel or equipment.
- This Education Maintenance Allowance scheme (**EMA**) is administered by the school or college.
- Young people on **apprenticeship** (work-base learning) programmes are paid at least a statutory minimum of £95 per week.

EMA take-up has increased over the last three years:

4. What are the success rates?

4.1 Successes of college students

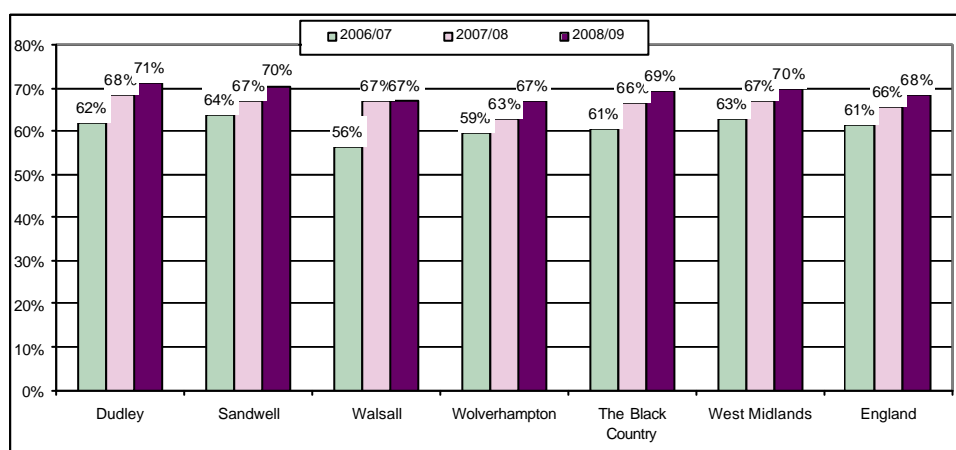
- The following table shows the percentage of resident 16-19 year olds who succeed in obtaining the qualification(s) for which they enrolled at college, with comparative data for other Black Country authorities:



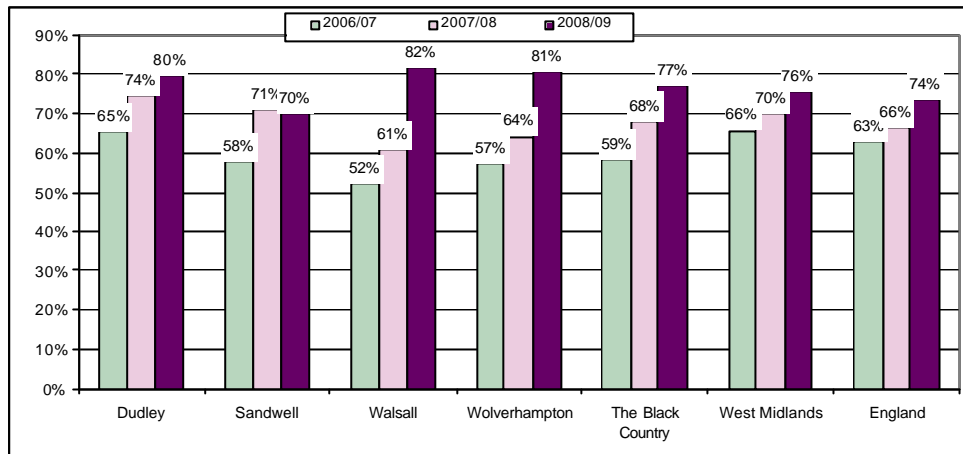
4.2 Successes of Apprentices

- Young people involved in work-based training are registered via the apprenticeship schemes.
- Success rates in Walsall **have risen** markedly over the last three years:

Level 2 Apprenticeship Success Rates:

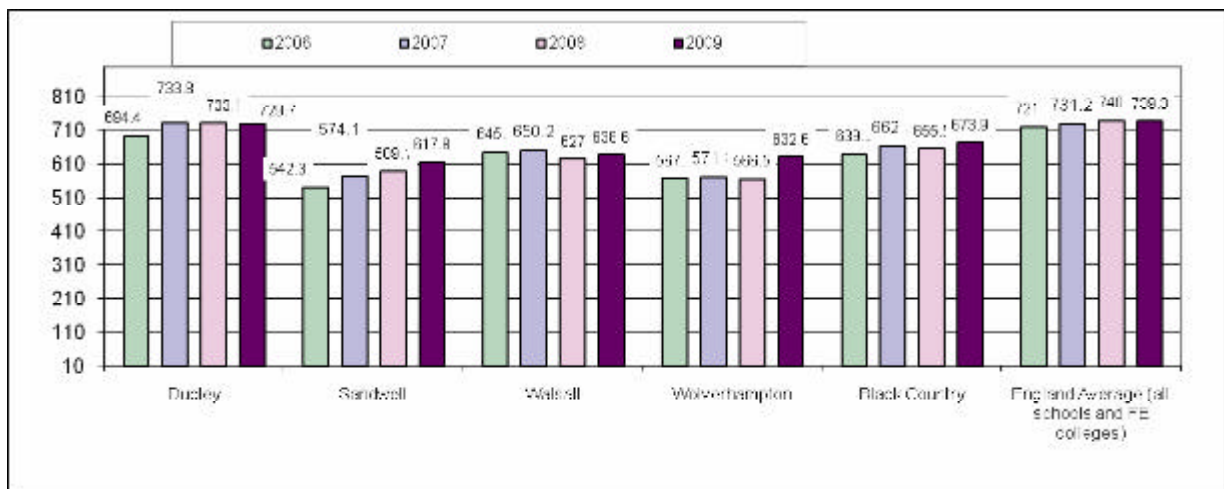


Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Success Rates:



4.3 Overall Level 3 attainment for schools and Walsall College:

- All qualifications attract points on a standardised score, which are used as a measure of overall levels of attainment, particularly for level 3.
- The following chart summarises the results reported by Walsall schools, academies and Walsall College, so will include young people from outside Walsall.

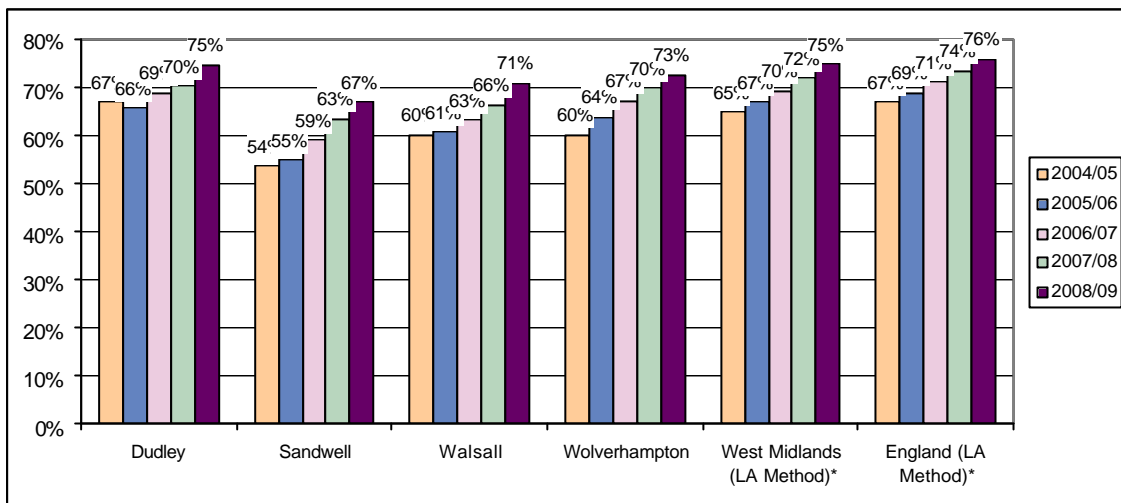


- Data for 2010 results is at present **unvalidated**. The **provisional** data shows a modest improvement in average points per learner from 638.6 in 2009 to 641.72, and per entry from 198.2 to 202.09.

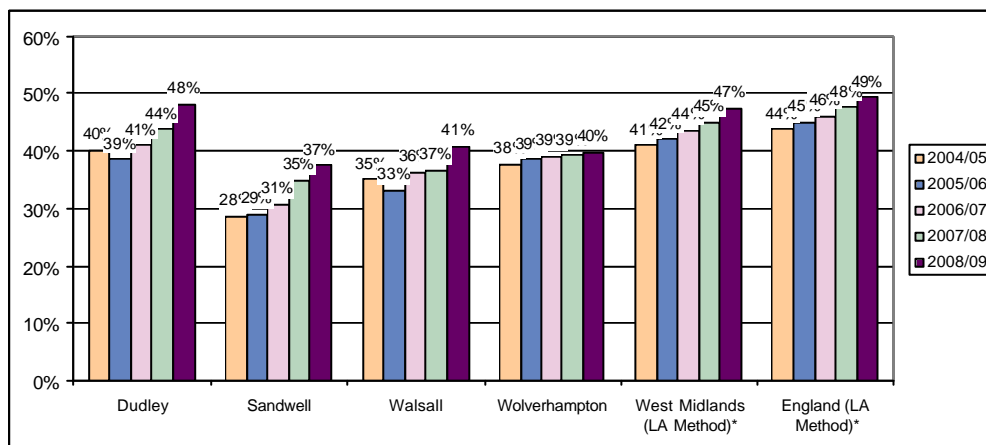
4.4 Reaching the level 2 and level 3 threshold by age 19

- The two national indicators measure the proportion of young people resident in Walsall who reach the level 2 and level 3 threshold by age 19.

Level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs at A*-C) by 19:



Level 3 (equivalent to 2 A levels) by 19:



5. What has Walsall Children's Services-Serco done to improve participation and attainment?

- The **Economic Wellbeing Services** team supports and services the **14 to 19 partnership**, which includes all providers involved in providing education and training along with supporting organisations such as the Education Business Partnership and the Connexions Service.
- The **14-19 Partnership Participation** Steering Group coordinates work on increasing participation, including participation in Apprenticeships.

- A total of **760 young people** between the ages of 16yrs and 18yrs started **apprenticeships** in 2009/10, (increase of 20.8%) bringing total participation for this age cohort to **1415**; 67 of these are LLDD (Learner with learning difficulties or disabilities) learners
- The top ten providers for Walsall are headed by **Walsall College**, currently providing 165 starts with a total of 517 16-18 apprentices in learning.
- An Engagement NEET (Not in employment, education or training), Targeted Action Plan (TAP), funded by the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF), has commissioned specific provision to meet the needs of young people at risk of disengaging from learning at either pre or post 16. The provision delivers the four strands of activity identified in the **Walsall Engagement Strategy**:

Identification and Tracking
Intervention
Information, Advice and Guidance
Provision

- A web-based **Area Prospectus** is maintained, a source of information on courses, training and opportunities to progress to higher levels including higher education. This is integral to the work of **IYPSS (Integrated Young People Support Service)**.
- In addition a range of activities has been provided under the **Aimhigher** banner, to raise aspiration in relation to higher education. and a students' study guide which was commended by DfE in a recent report. This was mentioned at the last Scrutiny panel.
- The **sixth form improvement strategy** has been implemented, improving the use of data, evaluating achievements at 17 or 18. All schools have been provided with access to the two post-16 data systems (ALPS and ALIS).
- **Networks** have been established to address post-16 matters in a strategic way :

The Post 16 Curriculum Development Group

Curriculum leads working together to strengthen and develop provision in their own setting and in others

SWAPS programme (Strengthening Walsall's Achievement at Post Sixteen).

In partnership with schools and the college WCS Serco has facilitated the development of SWAPS

In September 2011, young people in SWAPS schools and on some college courses will be offered a choice of 18 A level courses and 8 BTEC subsidiary diploma course (equivalent to 1 A level)

A common timetable will operate over two half days a week.

SWAPS will broaden the range of course available to these students, enabling some to mix A level and BTEC.

6. What does Walsall Children's Services-Serco plan to do to further improve participation and attainment over the next twelve months?

Four key priorities for post-16 improvement:

- To clarify processes of accountability and challenge
- To improve the quality of post-16 leadership and management
- To improve the quality of teaching and learning
- To improve the breadth and accessibility of post-16 courses

A second phase of activity is under way, aimed at improvement in participation levels, retention, particularly at the end of Year 12 (aged 17) and in average points score. This includes:

- Development of **closer links with schools** in relation to school targets and evaluation of young people's progress and final grades.
- Support for **governors** in understanding sixth form data and issues
- More **integrated working** between all professionals involved in post-16 improvement and effectiveness.
- Further **support for heads of sixth form** in relation to development of monitoring strategies, the quality of teaching and learning.
- Activities aimed at taking account of the **views of young people**.
- Further work to improve the quality and impartiality of **the information, advice and guidance** available to young people in Walsall in relation to routes to employment and/or higher education.
- **Training and Support** for subject specialists in relation to A level and BTEC to positively impact on the quality of teaching and learning.
- Provision of A level **master classes** by teachers from Walsall and elsewhere.
- Provision of a **Management Guide** for new heads of sixth and publication of a parents' guide to sixth form study.
- Further development of the **SWAPS collaborative** programme to ensure quality and equality of opportunity.
- For young people with **complex learning needs**, we are piloting a new approach to post-16 commissioning, in partnership with Black Country local authorities.
- Targeted support and provision for Looked after Children on transition to post-16 education.

Author

Sue Wedgwood

Assistant Managing Director – Improvement and Effectiveness

☎ 01922 686239

sue.wedgwood@walsallcs.serco.com