

13 February, 2020

Post-16 Provision in Walsall

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe - Education and Skills

1. Aim

To update Members on the Post-16 provision in Walsall.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members to note quality and impact of Post-16 provision.

3. Report detail

Under Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation all young people in England are required to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. Local authorities have a statutory duty to 'assist, encourage and enable' young people aged 13-19 (and young adults with a learning difficulty and/or disability up to the age of 25) to participate in education or training. Local authorities are also required to ensure sufficient education is available to meet the needs of the population in their area.

3.1. Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Schools are responsible for delivering Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance against the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks identified as the core priorities within a good careers and enterprise programme in schools. They are:

- A stable careers programme
- Learning from career and labour market information
- Addressing the needs of each pupil
- Linking curriculum learning to careers
- Encounters with employers
- Experiences of workplaces
- Encounters with further and higher education
- Personal guidance

Walsall Schools are now outperforming the national average against 6 of the 8 benchmarks.

The latest Ofsted inspection framework has an increased focus on Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance in schools and this will be reflected in future local authority inspections.

Walsall Council was also successful in a bid for the European Social Fund/Youth Employment Initiative (ESF/YEI) Impact Project which supports young people aged 16-29 to access education, employment or training. This provides non statutory support and guidance for school leavers.

All of the activity above should lead to children and young people staying in education, employment or training. If they do not sustain this they are known as NEET (Not in employment, education or training).

As of December 2019, 0.9% of young people are NEET in Walsall, this is better than National and all Statistical Neighbours.

Data shows Walsall is performing well in supporting young people in education or training.

We track young people whose destination is Not Known. We arrange home visits for these young people. The percentage of Not Known, 2.8%, is lower than National.

The percentage of young people In Learning (i.e. in education or training) is 94.8% which is also above National and Statistical neighbours.

	NEET%	NOT Known %	In Learning %
Walsall	0.9	2.8	94.8
Derby	4.3	1.4	91.5
Peterborough	3.6	3.1	91.0
Bolton	4.1	2.7	91.0
Rochdale	2.8	0.9	94.8
Dudley	2.3	4.6	91.0
National	2.6	3.5	92.0

Funding for the European Social Fund/Youth Employment Initiative (ESF/YEI) Impact Project ceases in July 2021.

3.2. Post-16 Provision and Attainment

The majority of our Post-16 cohort remain in school sixth forms, or attend Walsall College.

We have 19 Secondary schools, 16 Academies and 3 maintained. One of the maintained schools and one academy does not have Post 16 provision.

Latest Post 16 attainment data from Walsall College is not yet available but Walsall schools data shows we are achieving below national expectations in most areas.

Of the 2 maintained schools with Post 16 provision, one is achieving in line with national. We are addressing the other through our Schools Causing Concern process.

We have raised our concerns with Academy achievement with Ofsted Senior HMI and also the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), who has responsibility for standards and outcomes in Academies.

School Name	Ofsted Grade	A level	Academic	Applied General	Tech
		Average Point Score (APS)			
		2019	2019	2019	2019
National (State Funded)	-	32.87	33.02	28.89	28.64
Walsall (State Funded)	-	29.77	29.91	29.21	28.54
Aldridge School - A Science College	2	29.24	29.38	SUPP	33.64
Barr Beacon School	1	27.75	28.06	33.82	30.00
Bloxwich Academy	3	28.65	29.08	31.33	N/A
Blue Coat C of E Academy	2	19.60	19.60	24.60	25.56
Grace Academy	2	22.47	22.98	27.88	N/A
Joseph Leckie Academy	3	21.88	21.98	31.57	31.76
Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy	3	22.87	22.87	28.21	32.00
Pool Hayes Arts and Community	3	23.58	23.58	28.46	SUPP
Queen Mary's Grammar	1	38.86	38.90	N/A	N/A
Queen Mary's High	1	36.53	36.68	N/A	N/A
Shire Oak Academy	3	27.84	27.71	24.52	N/A
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College	2	30.05	30.05	37.09	N/A
St Thomas More Catholic School	2	27.38	27.38	28.88	N/A
The Streetly Academy	3	30.41	30.66	29.26	N/A
Walsall Academy	2	30.70	30.75	30.76	23.33
Walsall Studio	2	SUPP	21.33	30.69	24.53
West Walsall E-Act Academy	2	20.29	20.38	21.67	N/A

Financial information

The YEI/ESF grants fund 5 fixed term posts until July 2021. When this funding ceases, with the loss of £0.186m grant income, the service will need to identify 5 posts for review.

Reducing Inequalities

IAG services in the local authority and the Impact Advisers specifically support vulnerable young people aged 16-29 with co-located staff in teen pregnancy, youth justice, transition and leaving care teams.

Essential to support young people to remain in education and training as health inequalities are affected by poor education.

4. Decide

Members to identify when they may wish an update to the Committee.

5. Respond

Impact of funding reductions will be reported back to the Committee and will inform future planning.

6. Review

Report to the Committee in February 2021.

Background papers

Author:

Kerry Wootton

Post-16 Lead

☎ 01922 652828

✉ Kerry.wootton@walsall.gov.uk