

# Young People's Education and Skills Board

## Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

Item no: 6

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**Summary** This paper reports on the most recent participation, not engaged in education, employment or training and current activity not known figures for London's boroughs. The paper also provides an update on the revised national participation figures and reports on recent activity for preparing for full participation for 16 and 17 year olds.

**Recommendations** Board members are asked to:

- confirm that the contents of the paper are sufficient to enable regular monitoring by the Board

### 1 Background and Introduction

- 1.1 The Education and Skills Act 2008 set out that from 2015 all 16 and 17 year-olds will be required to participate in education or training. The first phase of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) will be introduced this summer; all young people will be required to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 (from the summer of 2015, this will rise to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday).
- 1.2 To ensure Board Members are able to monitor London's preparedness for both phases of this new duty, it is proposed that RPA will be a standing item on the Board agenda during the life span of the Young People Education and Skills vision, *Being the Best*.
- 1.3 Participation, not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) and current activity not known figures are reported from the National Client Caseload Management information System (NCCIS<sup>1</sup>) and are unpublished. These figures are available to all local authorities on a monthly basis.

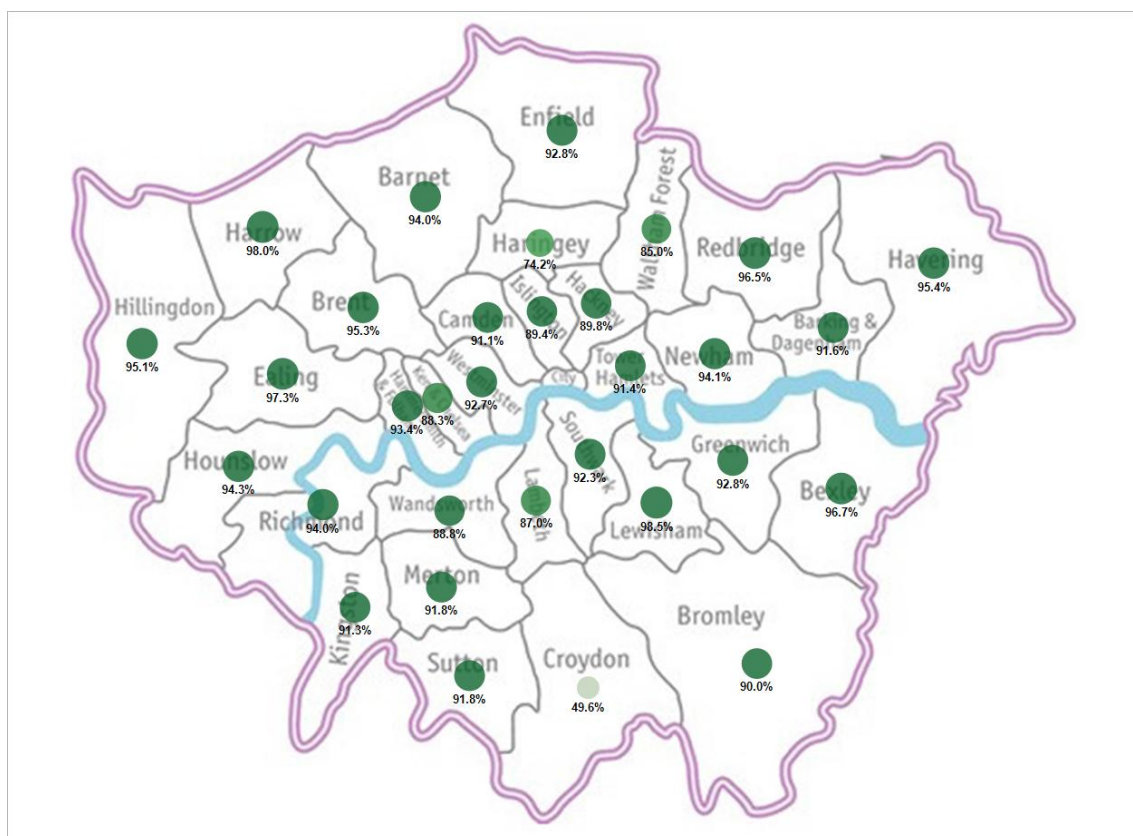
### 2 RPA Participation

- 2.1 For the purposes of RPA a young person must be participating in full-time education, or a specified number of part time hours when in work with training. December 2012 RPA participation figures show 16-18 participation at 81.5 per cent. This is 2.8 percentage points above the national average and is an increase for London of 0.8 percentage points compared to December 2011.
- 2.2 16 year old participation is at 90.2 per cent; this is 1.3 percentage points *below* the national average, but is an increase for London of 1.8 percentage points compared to December 2011. The gap between the regional and national average has also

<sup>1</sup> Details held on [NCCIS](http://nccis.gov.uk) can be used by local authorities to compare and benchmark performance against other areas. The Department for Education uses this information for analysis and monitoring.

improved (London was 3.4 percentage points below the national average in December 2011).

- 2.3 Participation at 16 ranges across London from 98.5 per cent to 49.6 per cent (excluding the City).



**Figure 1:** NCCIS December 2012 – academic age 16 participating in full-time learning

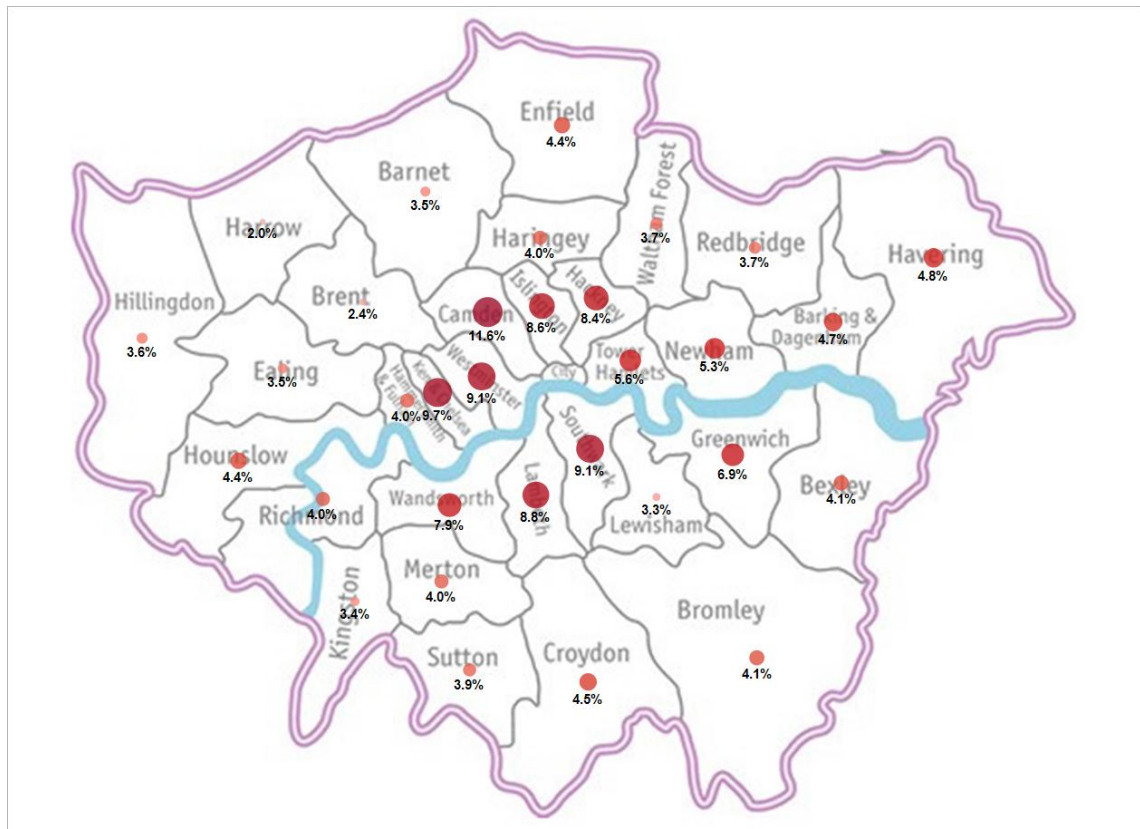
- 2.4 RPA participation at 17 and 18 are significantly above the national average; 3.6 and 5.9 percentage points respectively.
- 2.5 September Guarantee<sup>2</sup> information (published<sup>3</sup>) from 2012 shows a slight increase of 0.4 per cent in offers of an education or training place made to 16 and 17 year olds compared to 2011. 92.1 per cent of 16 and 17 year olds in London received an offer of a place in 2012; this is marginally below the national average of 92.4 per cent.

<sup>2</sup> September Guarantee is the process for ensuring all 16 and 17 year olds are offered a suitable education place in post-16 education or training.

<sup>3</sup> [Offers of education or training for 16 to 17 year olds](#)

### 3 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

- 3.1 December 2012 NEET figures show 16-18 year old NEET at 5.0 per cent. This is 0.8 percentage points below the national average, but is an increase for London of 0.6 percentage points compared to December 2011. The volume of young people NEET is 11,307.
- 3.2 16-18 year old NEET ranges across London from 2.0 per cent to 11.6 per cent (excluding the City).



**Figure 2:** NCCIS December 2012 – proportion of academic age 16-18 year olds NEET including PDOs

## 4 Current Activity 'Not Known'

- 4.1 December 2012 not known figures show 16-18 year old current activity not known at 11.6 per cent. This is 1.0 percentage point above the national average, but is a 2.1 percentage point improvement for London compared to December 2011. The volume of young people whose current activity is not known is 28,629.
- 4.2 16-18 year old not known ranges across London from 1.5 per cent to 43.9 per cent (excluding the City).

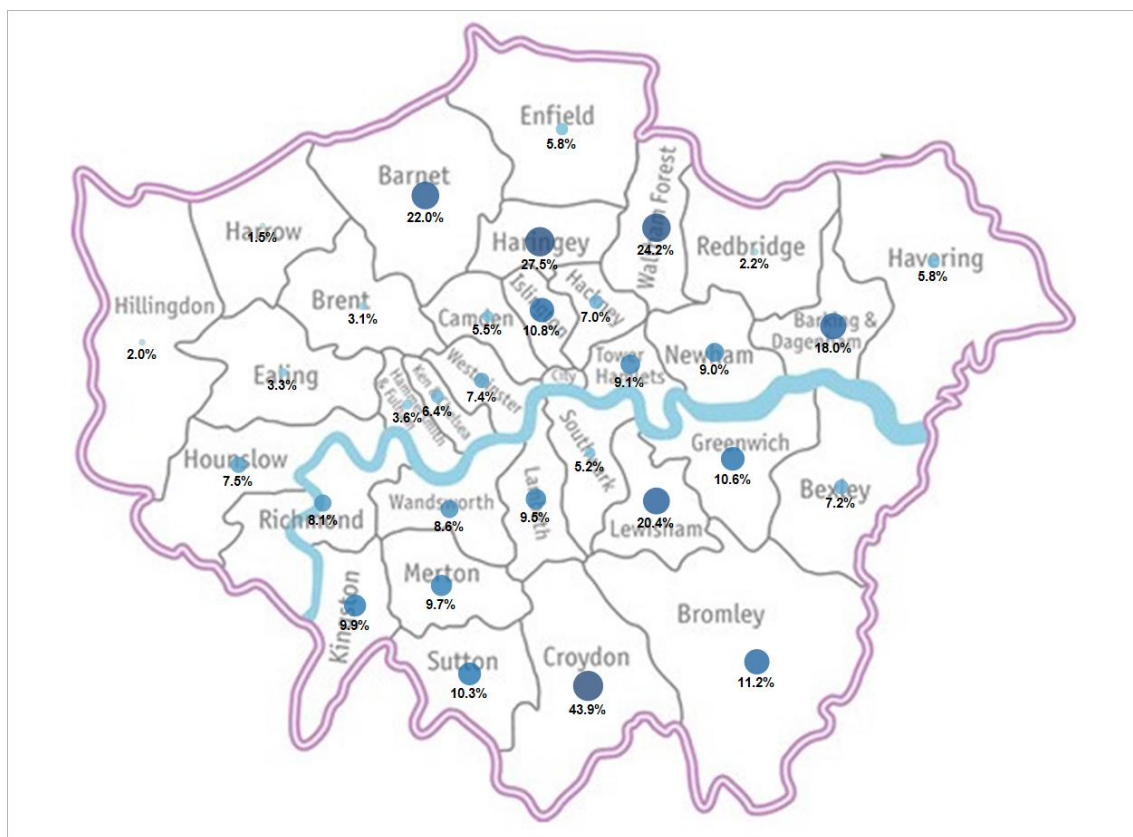


Figure 3: NCCIS December 2012 – academic age 16-18 year olds recorded situation not known

## 5 Revised National Participation Figures

- 5.1 In February the Department for Education revised the national participation figures originally released in June 2012. The revision is due to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) revising their mid-year population estimates following the 2011 Census.
- 5.2 The impact of the revisions to the headline estimates of participation and NEET at end 2011 (provisional) are detailed in the table below. The changes are driven almost entirely by the higher estimates of the 16-18 population published by ONS.

	16		17		18		16-18	
	Revised	Change (ppts)	Revised	Change (ppts)	Revised	Change (ppts)	Revised	Change (ppts)
<b>Full-time education</b>	82.6%	-3.6	72.4%	-3.3	48.9%	-1.5	67.7%	-2.7
<b>Education and WBL</b>	91.5%	-4.0	84.4%	-3.8	61.6%	-1.9	79.0%	-3.2
<b>Education and Training</b>	93.5%	-3.1	87.9%	-2.8	68.3%	-1.4	83.1%	-2.4
<b>NEET</b>	5.4%	2.6	8.4%	1.8	15.8%	1.2	9.9%	1.8

Figure 4: DfE SFR12/2012(rev) February 2013 - changes to previously published estimates for end 2011 (provisional)

- 5.3 The figures clearly indicate lower than previously reported participation and higher NEET. In volume terms this is more than 40,000 additional 16 and 17 year olds NEET.
- 5.4 Revised regional figures will be available from the Department on 21 March. An update on the position for London, with comparative analysis of current information, will be reported to the next Board meeting.

## 6 Recent RPA Activity

- 6.1 **Phase 4 trial areas:** Bexley, Camden, Ealing, Hounslow and Kingston-Upon-Thames continue to develop local strategies and approaches to increase participation and prepare for RPA. The activity of the trial areas featured in the November RPA event (see below) and will inform next terms workshop.
- 6.2 **RPA Workshop:** The Young People's Education and Skills team, together with the London RPA Local Leader<sup>4</sup>, ran the second in a series of workshops on 27 November 2012. The event was well attended and feedback from participants shows that the workshops and planning sessions were useful and informative. Following the event a dedicated section of the London Councils website has been set up to enable sharing of information and emerging practice.
- 6.3 **Regional Activity:** Some regional actions will be taken forward over the coming months, principally from the [RPA: a survey of local authorities - London Region](#). These include identifying and disseminating innovative partnership working that demonstrates improvements in participation, retention and progression, and identifying and developing a small number of 'flagship' local authority-employer RPA partnerships that have the potential to be replicated throughout London.
- 6.4 In response to the Board's approval to commission the London RPA Local Leader to support regional work, a project to explore the feasibility of a pan-London 'drop out and risk of drop out' referral system and new learner information exchange system is underway. This work is being undertaken in response to a request from London boroughs and will be steered by the Improving Choices for Young People Group.
- 6.5 **Work with the DfE:** A number of young people in the 16-18 cohort are engaged in Personal Development Opportunities (PDOs). These opportunities are often targeted at young people who are persistently NEET due to a range of educational or personal challenges and are designed to re-engage and prepare young people for full-time education or training, or employment with training. Young people engaged in PDOs are currently recorded as NEET. The Department is working with RPA Trail areas along with a small group of charities that deliver re-engagement activities, to agree a set of principles for re-engagement activity so that local authorities can capture and record young people progressing towards RPA participation, for example through ESF funded activity.
- 6.6 This will lead to clearer management reporting on participation and will also highlight those re-engagement activities that lead to successful progression.

## 7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Board members are asked to:
- 7.1.1 confirm that the contents of the paper are sufficient to enable regular monitoring by the Board.

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<sup>4</sup> Eight RPA local project areas are acting as 'local leaders' for the programme, taking on a greater leadership role and disseminating learning more widely across the country, including Ealing.