

# **Young People's Education & Skills Board Operational Sub-Group Report, 21 July 2022**

## **Introduction**

At its meeting on 21 July 2022, the Young People's Education and Skills Board Operational Sub-Group (OSG) discussed Londoners aged 16 and 17 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). In particular, the meeting considered:

- Preparing for the introduction of Risk of NEET Indicators
- Good practice in tracking, tracing and recording NEET and status not known young people
- Provision that has been successful in reengaging young people who are NEET
- Possible future challenges to participation and NEET

This paper summarises the discussion and flags issues to draw to the attention of the Young People's Education and Skills Board and others in the education and training sector in London.

- It is likely that the DfE will introduce a national set of Risk of NEET Indicators later this year. Overall, London boroughs are well placed to implement the indicators effectively but, as resources committed to tracking and tracing NEET and Not Known 16 to 18 year olds vary in each borough, in some boroughs RoNIs will be an asset; in others they could be seen as a burden. There is a particular concern about applying RoNIs to EHE.
- Although the level of NEET and Not Known in London is still relatively low, they still represent over 4,000 young Londoners aged 16 and 17. Those whose status and whereabouts are not known to their local authority pose a safeguarding risk. Cross-council data sharing helps reduce the number of young people whose status is not known to their local authority, but central government could play a more dynamic role in sharing useful data to local authorities. Tracking and tracing are labour intensive and most effective if linked with prevention and early intervention.
- Although London Councils and the GLA are working together to source alternative funding, there remains a risk that programmes supporting continued participation and early reengagement of NEET young people may not continue.

- There are ongoing issues about the settlement of refugees from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine.
- The cost of living crisis may push more 16 to 18 year-olds seeking employment, even insecure employment or working in the unofficial economy, rather than continuing in learning.
- It remains unclear what the effect of defunding Applied General Qualifications overlapping T levels will mean in terms of the offer available to 16 to 18 year-olds. The latest figures showed around 22 per cent of 16 to 18 year-old Londoners took Applied General Qualifications (including BTECs)