



Purpose: For Decision

# Committee report

Committee	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
Date	<b>2 MARCH 2023</b>
Title	<b>POST 16 PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING</b>
Report of	<b>DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a broad summary of statutory requirements and performance relating to participation in post 16 education and/or training; the post 16 options available for young people on the Island; the careers support provided; and the wider economic context.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Young people in England are required to participate in formal education or training until their 18th birthday, under the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) legislation. Local authorities have a statutory duty to support young people aged 16 and 17 (and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs) to participate in education or training, under section 68 of the Education & Skills Act 2008.
3. The Council is held to account by the Department for Education (DfE) for its performance against this duty using, amongst others; data collected as part of the September Guarantee (a statutory entitlement to a place of learning for all 16-17 year olds); the proportion of young people in education, employment, and training (EET) or not (NEET); and the proportion of young people whose activity is unknown. Data in this report is taken from the latest DfE LA Tables (December 2022).
4. The Council has an additional duty to ensure that there are sufficient suitable places of learning to facilitate full participation, post 16. In its capacity as strategic commissioner, it has an overview of the provision available on the Isle of Wight to ensure that provision is of good quality, or better, and of a profile that meets the needs of young people, employers, and the wider community.

5. Secondary schools and academies have individual responsibility to provide a Careers programme for their students which supports transition from Year 11 to post 16. All Island schools have a published Careers Strategy and offer opportunities aligned to the Government careers framework and eight Gatsby Benchmarks. Schools are supported effectively by the local authority (Island Futures), Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (Careers Hub), and the Island Careers Partnership.
6. Participation in post 16 education is strong. Young people are well-supported by Careers programmes and can access a broad, comprehensive range of academic and technical courses. A high proportion of young people were offered a guaranteed place on post 16 courses at the start of academic year 2022-23, above national and regional averages. Most have progressed successfully into education, employment, and/or training (EET) destinations, and subsequently the proportion who are NEET or 'Unknown' is comparatively low.
7. Government guidance has recently updated the Provider Access Legislation (PAL) which puts a new focus and additional duties on schools to ensure students receive a minimum number of Careers interventions relating to technical pathways, including Apprenticeships and T-Levels.
8. Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) are being introduced in June 2023 as part of the government review of the technical skills system. The Solent LSIP programme will review the education and skills priorities for the Island, to better meet the needs of employers and the economy, helping young people to embark on the right post 16 courses to develop the skills they need to increase prospects and secure good jobs.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

9. This report supports the priorities in the [Corporate Plan 2021 – 2025](#), primarily the key areas of activity focusing on the impact on young people and future generations.

### Careers Support

10. High quality careers education and guidance in school is critical to young people's futures, as it helps to provide a clear understanding of the world of work and the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. Schools have a responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means schools and colleges must act impartially, in line with their statutory duty, and not show bias towards academic or technical routes.
11. The government statutory guidance for schools sets out the requirement to provide a Careers programme for their students across the full range of activity under the eight Gatsby Benchmarks (also known as the 'Baker Clause') [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#). The eight Gatsby Benchmarks are:
  - A stable careers programme
  - Learning from career and labour market information
  - Addressing the needs of each student
  - Linking curriculum learning to careers

- Encounters with employers and employees
  - Experiences of workplaces
  - Encounters with further and higher education
  - Personal Guidance
12. Each secondary school on the Island has an allocated Careers Leader and publishes an annual Careers Strategy setting out its plan to deliver activities across the benchmarks. Local performance is monitored by the Careers Improvement Forum, led by the local authority and Solent Local Enterprise Partnership's Careers Hub programme funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC).
13. Island Futures is the local authority's careers and participation service responsible for statutory duties relating to post 16 participation. The service works with schools, post 16 providers, partner agencies, and parents/carers, and the young people themselves, to inspire them to explore and secure solid career pathways. A qualified team of Level 6 careers practitioners provide impartial Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (Personal Guidance) directly in most schools. Additionally, the service supports the quality of careers programmes offered by schools, including those which have their own Careers adviser. The service is Matrix accredited, the recognised national quality standard for organisations that deliver Careers information, advice and/or guidance.
14. Island Futures provides access to a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which hosts online Careers information which is used to enhance all careers activity across the Island, providing information and resources to support young people, parents/carers, and schools, to make informed decisions about post 16 options, and beyond. The [Flying Start Isle of Wight](#) website has been developed with the Southern Universities Network to help young people transitioning from Year 11. Other resources include:
- [Your Future, Your Post 16 Options booklet](#)
  - [Blue Sky Thinking - Your Guide to Higher Education on the Isle of Wight booklet](#)
15. The Island Careers Partnership (ICP) has a key role creating new employer-education links. The Gatsby framework highlights the importance of direct engagement with employers, learning about sector specific careers opportunities, and the skills that are valued in the workplace. The ICP hosts regular information sessions for schools and employers, offering a range of activities, projects and competitions planned and led by business teams, including coordinated visits to Island businesses to tour facilities; work experience opportunities; business mentor support; and apprenticeship ambassadors.
16. Statutory careers guidance was updated in January 2023 to introduce new Provider Access Legislation (PAL). Schools now have a legal duty to ensure their students are aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, and other approved technical education qualifications, and can consider them, alongside academic options. As a minimum, schools must now offer:
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
  - Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend

- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘third key phase’ (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend

### Post 16 Pathways

17. Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) requirement sets out clear post 16 education pathways which young people should progress to:
  - Full-time education, such as school or college
  - Employment with formal training, such as an apprenticeship or work-based learning
  - Part-time education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering for at least 20 hours a week
18. A broad and comprehensive range of full-time post 16 academic, technical, and vocational courses are available on the Island, via school sixth forms, the Isle of Wight College, and work-based training providers. Young people also access education and training options off the Island including for specialist provision, for example land-based courses at Sparsholt College and STEM courses at the University Technical College (UTC) in Portsmouth.
19. The table below provides a high-level breakdown of the post 16 education and training pathways currently being followed by young people in academic year 2022-23.

<b>December 2022 MI EET (CCIS)</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cohort total</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>2,816</b>
Education	1,257	1,089	2,346
Employment	57	189	246
Training	61	56	117
<b>EET Total</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>2,709</b>

20. There are 2,346 young people currently studying in full-time education in academic Years 12-13. The split across institution type is relatively even, with 1,204 attending further education compared with 1,142 attending sixth form. The majority of young people in further education are enrolled on courses at the Isle of Wight College. The Island VI Form campus is the largest sixth form provision, accounting for almost half of all young people studying A levels.
21. The Isle of Wight College is the largest post 16 provider on the Island. Rated ‘Good’ by Ofsted, it is the only general further education (GFE) college and provides a broad range of technical and vocational courses, responding to the skills needs of employers and supporting the island community. The College enrolls between 1,200-1,300 young people aged 16-18 each year, on full-time study programmes, traineeships, and apprenticeships.
22. The College works collaboratively with Island secondary schools to provide access to vocational qualifications, also with the local authority to provide bespoke part-time provision for students who are electively home educated, where it is an appropriate option for them. Engineering courses are based at the college’s centre of excellence for composites, advanced manufacturing and marine (CECMM), and the University

Centre which offers higher education pathways (Higher National Certificates, Diplomas and Foundation Degrees) across a range of subjects including business, digital and engineering.

23. T Levels were launched by government in 2020 providing new 2-year technical courses broadly equivalent in size to three A Levels. These courses have been developed in collaboration with employers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for entry into skilled employment, an apprenticeship or related higher education. The IW College is the main T-Level provider on the Island, currently offering courses in Computing & Digital; Business Management; Engineering; and Health. New courses will be introduced from September 2023 in Construction; Creative Design; Hospitality; and Legal Finance and Accounting.
24. The Island VI Form campus is a joint provision sixth form centre between Carisbrooke College and Medina College. Students are on-roll with Medina College as the 11-18 school. The campus is situated in the centre of Newport, where students have access to over 30 subject area A level and Level 3 vocational programmes. It is the largest provider of A levels on the Island, with over 500 learners enrolled in 2022-23. A dedicated SEND Hub supports students with a range of educational needs.
25. All post 16 provision on the Island is rated Ofsted 'Good' and all schools and providers contribute significantly to the overall opportunities available, including:
  - HTP Apprenticeship College in Newport offers full-time study courses, traineeships, and apprenticeships in a range of vocational areas.
  - Platform One in Newport, and the UK Sailing Academy (UKSA) in Cowes, are smaller specialist providers which offer full-time courses.
  - Christ the King College, Cowes Enterprise College, and Ryde Academy all have smaller sixth forms, ranging between 100-200 students, which offer A level and Level 3 vocational programmes.
  - Ryde School and Priory School are fee-paying schools which include sixth form provision.
26. There are currently 372 young people with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) post 16, of which 135 are post 19. Learners with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported by maintained and non-maintained special schools, primarily at St George's School sixth form and St Catherine's school. There are clear progression routes to Foundation courses and Supported Internships at the Isle of Wight College, where the focus on employability is supporting learners into jobs. The Pathways programme at the college provides supportive education for those with more severe and profound needs, offering a curriculum focusing on independence and Preparation for Adulthood (PfA). The [Local Offer](#) brings together information that is helpful for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families.
27. The course level breakdown for young people leaving Key Stage 4 moving into full-time education, post 16, is shown in the table below. A Levels are consistently the most popular programme of study, accounting for approximately half of all Year 12 destinations.

<b>IOW Yr12 Course Level Breakdown (Source: CCIS DfE Nov 2022)</b>					
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Level 3 A levels	48.0%	50.0%	47.0%	53.0%	46.0%
Level 3 Technical	16.0%	19.0%	14.0%	13.0%	14.0%
Level 2 GCSE	0.0%	1.0%	8.0%	0.0%	7.0%
Level 2 Technical	18.0%	14.0%	14.0%	16.0%	15.0%
Level 1 Technical	5.0%	10.0%	12.0%	9.0%	11.0%
Other Education	13.0%	6.0%	5.0%	10.0%	6.0%

28. There are 246 young people choosing a post 16 employment pathway, of which 112 are enrolled on Apprenticeships at intermediate and advanced levels. The table below provides a breakdown of occupational areas, confirming the highest numbers are progressing in Construction, Engineering, and Hospitality & Catering. Overall, there is an increase in the number of young people moving into employment with, and without, formal training.

<b>IOW Apprenticeships breakdown (Source: IWC CCIS MI Jan 2023)</b>			
	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Intermediate (Level 2)	24	49	71
Advanced (Level 3)	11	28	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Occupational areas</b>			
Construction	9	15	24
Hospitality & Catering	3	18	21
Engineering	7	13	20
Marine	6	4	10
Hair & Beauty	5	3	8
Customer Service/Retail	2	5	7
Childcare/Care	0	6	6
Other (inc. Distribution, Motor Vehicle, Animal Care, Armed Forces)	4	12	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>112</b>

29. Traineeships offer a full-time skills development programme at Level 1-2, including an extended work experience placement providing employability and occupational skills, alongside English and maths, specifically designed to support young people to get ready for work or an apprenticeship. On the Island, young people in 'training' have benefitted from traineeship courses, predominantly delivered by HTP Apprenticeship College as an apprenticeship pathway (pre-apprenticeship). From 1 August 2023, the government will no longer fund a standalone national traineeships programme, however, traineeships can continue to be offered by providers locally, utilising full-time education allocations.

Post 16 Participation (Statutory Performance)

30. September Guarantee is a statutory process which ensures all young people completing compulsory education in Key Stage 4 receive the information, advice, and guidance they need, to apply for and secure an appropriate place in post-16 education or training. The proportion of young people on the Island receiving a guaranteed place in post 16 education and training for academic year 2022-23, already above national averages, has improved further with 98.3% receiving an offer of a place of learning, well above national average. The IOW ranks the highest regionally on this measure.

<b>September Guarantee RPA Offers (Source: CCIS DfE Jan 2023)</b>					
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>IOW</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>96.5%</b>
National	94.5%	95.5%	94.3%	95.0%	94.5%
SE	92.8%	93.2%	90.9%	93.8%	93.0%

31. Young people on the Island progress well into education, employment, and/or training (EET) destinations in Key Stage 5. Numbers were impacted by the pandemic in academic year 2020/21, which caused a marked reduction in some types of employment and training opportunities, particularly apprenticeships. This position has now recovered and EET participation is well above national and SE averages.

<b>16-18 Education, Employment and Training (Source: CCIS DfE Dec 2022)</b>					
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>IOW</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>96.1%</b>
National	94.0%	94.7%	93.7%	93.9%	93.6%
SE	92.0%	93.6%	92.4%	92.7%	93.5%

Local Economy

32. The Skills for Jobs white paper published in 2021, set out the government’s blueprint for reshaping the technical skills system to better meet the needs of employers and the wider economy. As part of this new approach, the DfE has introduced Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) which will have a significant impact on education and training, for post 16 and adults.
33. LSIPs will provide a new set of education and skills priorities to be agreed by employers, colleges, training providers and stakeholders in a local area. Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) are leading the programme, putting employers firmly at the centre of the process. LSIPs are aligned with existing LEP areas and ERBs have been designated to lead the development of LSIPs for all 38 areas of England. The Isle of Wight forms part of the Solent LSIP being led by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and the IW Chamber of Commerce.
34. The Solent LSIP is due to be finalised in June 2023 and will set out the key changes needed in a local area to make technical skills training more responsive to employers’ needs. The plans will help young people to embark on the right post 16

courses to develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase prospects. Once published, the Isle of Wight College and other technical/vocational providers on the Island will have a duty to respond to the skills priorities identified, and to produce an Accountability Agreement, as a requirement of DfE funding.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

35. In conclusion, participation in post 16 education by young people on the Isle of Wight is high and above national averages.
36. This is supported by an effective partnership between the local authority, schools, post 16 providers, and other stakeholder to ensure young people can meet their duty to participate in education, employment, or training until their 18th birthday. This is a strength of the Island's education system.
37. There is a broad range of opportunities which support learners and the local economy. Development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) will ensure technical post 16 education and training options are reviewed and driven by employers, to prepare young people effectively for jobs in key sectors for the Island economy.
38. Members of the committee are asked to note the report.

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