

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee

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Title: Post 16 Education

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Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides an update on participation and the options available in post 16 education, employment and training in North Tyneside.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Sub Committee members have received previous updates on Adult Education, Apprenticeships, an update on delivery of the North Tyneside Employment and Skills Strategy and a previous update on Post 16 Education in March 2020. This report focuses specifically on the options available to young people aged 16 and 17 years (Years 12 and 13) and takes account of changes that have occurred during 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2 Post 16 provision includes a range of options for young people following completion of Year 11 including studying full-time at school, college or with a training provider. The definition of full-time participation is at least 540 hours a year; this is around 18 hours per week.
- 2.3 Young people can enter full-time employment or volunteering combined with part-time study or training and there is also an option to enrol in an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship.
- 2.4 Under previous legislation it was compulsory for young people to remain in education until the age of 16. However, as a result of legislation introduced in September 2013, the law requires that young people continue in education, employment or training until the age of 18.

2.5 This change was introduced to improve the career and life prospects for young people with the aims being:

- Young people can develop a greater range of skills
- The likelihood of unemployment is significantly reduced
- An increase in earning potential
- Offers the opportunity for young people who are disengaged with mainstream education to develop new skills in an alternative setting.

2.6 The Local Authority has broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people, between the ages of 16-18, to participate in education, employment or training. The legislative framework includes:

- Section.2, Para 4 Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 – “A local education authority may secure the provision for their area of full-time education suitable to the requirements of persons over compulsory school age who have not attained the age of 19.”
- S.10 Education and Skills Act 2008 – “A local education authority in England must ensure that its functions are (so far as they are capable of being so exercised) exercised so as to promote the effective participation in education or training of persons belonging to its area.”
- S.12 Education and Skills Act 2008 – “A local education authority in England must make arrangements to enable it to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of persons belonging to its area who are not participating (in education or training.)”

2.7 In so far as meeting these duties, Local authorities are expected to:

- Provide strategic leadership in their communities to ensure that there is a network of support available which encourages, enables and assists the participation of young people in education, training and employment. This includes liaising with local partners such as employers, Jobcentre Plus, community sector organisations and youth offending teams
- Local Authorities must collect information about young people in their area who are not participating and to target their resources on those who require them most
- Local Authorities are expected to liaise with education providers to identify children under the age of 16 who are at risk of not participating post-16 and for intensive support to be provided to remedy the situation. This is particularly important in relation to children with SEND who are significantly less likely to participate post-16 in comparison to their peers without SEND
- Every young person who reaches the age of 16 or 17 in any given academic year is entitled to an offer of a suitable place, by the end of September, to continue in education or training the following year.

2.8 The Education and Skills Act 2008 placed two Raising Participation Age related duties on education providers with regard to 16- and 17-year olds including:

- Section 11 places a duty on education providers to promote good attendance to enable young people to meet their duty to participate
- Section 13 places a duty on education providers to inform their local authority when a young person is no longer participating, for example, if they have dropped out
- Under S.29 of the Education Act 2011, Schools are under a duty to secure independent careers guidance for pupils in years 8-13 on the full range of education and training options, including apprenticeships. Schools are expected to work in partnership with local employers and other education and training providers to ensure that young people have a wide range of options available to them.

3. The Current Data Picture

3.1 There is a range of data that is used to inform the activities of the Local Authority to ensure that young people can participate in education, employment and training.

3.2 Firstly, it is a requirement of the September Guarantee that a suitable offer of education or training is made to all young people aged 16-17 years. In 2020, the impact of Covid-19 meant that this guarantee became even more important with a focus of the Authority's Connexion Service being to work with schools to ensure that over 2000 young people due to leave school in July 2020 had an early recorded 'intended destination' with 'offers of learning' being secured as quickly as possible.

3.3 A key focus for the team was those wanting to progress to Apprenticeships and employment with training; expected to be impacted by the pandemic, as well as vulnerable young people including those at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), Care Leavers and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

3.4 In 2019, 97.1% young people received an offer of a suitable place in education or training, including 17-year olds continuing on two-year courses; this figure was 97.2% in 2020. These rates compare to 94.8% in the North East and 94.3% in England. For those that did not receive an offer this was quickly followed up to ensure that appropriate destinations were secured as quickly as possible. This includes 17-year olds whose destinations are unknown or they have refused a place and continue to be NEET.

- 3.5 As well as the September Guarantee and Activity Surveys that measure participation of young people leaving Year 11, the Local Authority continues to track the participation and destinations of all young people aged 16-17 to ensure that they continue to receive appropriate provision of education and training. The table below sets out the most recent participation and Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) data for January 2021.

Destination	North Tyneside	North East	England
In Education, Employment or Training (EET)	94.2%	92.4%	93.1%
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	2.8%	4.7%	2.8%
Destination Not Known	1.4%	0.9%	2.6%
Main destinations:			
Full Time Education	84.6%	83.0%	87.6%
Apprenticeships	6.8%	3.2%	3.5%
Work Based Learning	2.4%	1.6%	1.1%

- 3.6 North Tyneside compares favourably with other North East Local Authority areas and the national average when comparing participation in EET and NEET Rates. In addition, participation in Apprenticeships amongst 16 and 17-year olds, despite a small decline this year, is significantly higher than the national and regional average despite apprenticeship starts falling in North Tyneside since the introduction of Apprenticeship Reforms in 2017 and 2018.
- 3.7 In terms of the destinations, the majority of young people leaving at Year 11 continue into school sixth forms or attend further education colleges.

4. Recent Policy Announcements

4.1 Plan for Jobs

- 4.1.1 The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his [‘Plan for Jobs’](#) to Parliament on Wednesday 8 July 2020 to outline how the government will boost job creation in the UK. The relevant measures include:

- Kickstart Scheme – a £2 billion fund to create 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment. Funding available for each job will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a

week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

- New funding for National Careers Service – £32 million funding over the next 2 years for the National Careers Service
- Traineeships for young people – £111 million this year for traineeships in England, to fund work placements and training for 16-24-year olds. This funding will fund employers who provide trainees with work experience at a rate of £1,000 per trainee
- Payments for employers who hire new apprentices – a new payment of £2,000 (increased to £3000 in March 2021) to employers in England for each new apprentice they hire aged under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over, from 1st August 2020 to 30th September 2021. These payments will be in addition to the existing £1,000 payment the government already provides for new 16-18-year-old apprentices, and those aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- High value courses for school and college leavers – £101 million for the 2020-21 academic year to give all 18-19-year olds in England the opportunity to study targeted high value Level 2 and 3 courses when there are not employment opportunities available to them
- Expanded Youth Offer – expand and increase the intensive support offered by DWP in Great Britain to young jobseekers, to include all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit
- Enhanced work search support – £895 million to enhance work search support by doubling the number of work coaches in Jobcentre Plus before the end of the financial year across Great Britain
- Expansion of the Work and Health Programme – up to £95 million this year to expand the scope of the Work and Health Programme in Great Britain to introduce additional voluntary support in the autumn for those on benefits that have been unemployed for more than 3 months
- Job finding support service – £40 million to fund private sector capacity to introduce a job finding support service in Great Britain in the autumn. This online, one-to-one service will help those who have been unemployed for less than three months increase their chances of finding employment
- Flexible Support Fund – increase the funding for the Flexible Support Fund by £150 million in Great Britain, including to increase the capacity of the Rapid Response Service. It will also provide local support to claimants by removing barriers to work such as travel expenses for attending interviews
- New funding for sector-based work academies – £17 million this year to triple the number of sector-based work academy placements in England in order to provide vocational training and guaranteed interviews for more people

- Construction Talent Retention Scheme – to support the redeployment of workers at risk of redundancy.

4.2 Skills for Jobs Plan

4.2.1 The Government published its [Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth White Paper](#) on 21 January 2021. The key measures announced under some key themes were:

4.2.2 Putting employers at the heart of post-16 skills:

- Give employers a central role working with further education colleges, other providers and local stakeholders to develop new Local Skills Improvement Plans which shape technical skills provision so that it meets local labour market skills needs
- Pilot Local Skills Improvement Plans in Trailblazer local areas, exploring an approach where they are led by accredited Chambers of Commerce and other business representative organisations in collaboration with local providers; and engage employer and provider groups to ensure we create the most effective models of employer representation before wider rollout
- Make Strategic Development Funding available in 2021/22 in a number of pilot areas to support colleges to reshape their provision to address local priorities that have been agreed with local employers
- Ensure government has up-to-date and expert advice on the labour market and national skills gaps from the Skills and Productivity Board
- Align the substantial majority of post-16 technical and higher technical education and training to employer-led standards set by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, so skills provision meets skills need
- Continue to improve and grow apprenticeships, so more employers and individuals can benefit from them as part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee
- Improve the quality of traineeships, to better support young people to transition to apprenticeships and other occupations
- Continue to support participation in English, maths, and digital training to meet employers' needs and support people to progress in employment or further study
- Invite proposals through the Strategic Development Fund to establish College Business Centres within further education colleges to work with employers in a designated sector on business development and innovation.

4.2.3 Providing the advanced technical and higher technical skills the nation needs:

- Use the new £2.5 billion National Skills Fund to enhance the funding to support adults to upskill and reskill. This will include an offer, backed by

£95 million in 2021-22, for all adults to achieve their first full advanced (level 3) qualification as part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee

- Expand our flagship Institutes of Technology programme to every part of the country by the end of this Parliament, to spearhead the increase in higher-level technical skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
- Continue to roll out T Levels, to prepare students for entry into skilled employment or higher levels of technical study, including apprenticeships
- Reform higher technical education (levels 4 and 5) with a new approval system based on employer-led standards
- Create clear progression routes for students towards the higher-level technical qualifications that employers need.

4.2.4 A flexible Lifetime Skills Guarantee:

- Implement the flexible Lifelong Loan Entitlement to the equivalent of four years of post-18 education from 2025
- As a pathway towards the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, stimulate the provision of high-quality higher technical education (levels 4 and 5), working towards making it as easy to get a student finance loan for an approved Higher Technical Qualification as it is for a full-length degree
- Introduce pilots to stimulate higher technical education and incentivise more flexible and modular provision
- Determine how best to stimulate credit transfer between institutions and courses
- Consult on the detail and scope of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement in 2021
- Improve how teaching is delivered so that it is more accessible, with the use of digital and blended learning
- Provide clear information about career outcomes through occupational maps, wage returns data and ensuring providers give pupils information about all options.

4.2.5 Responsive providers supported by effective accountability, governance, and intervention:

- Consult on the following proposals to reform funding and accountability system:
 - Simplification and streamlining of funding for further education to support high-value provision relevant to the labour market, with elements of simplified and streamlined funding to be tested ahead of consultation
 - Give more certainty to providers over their funding, including considering how to move to a multi-year funding regime

- Reform the accountability approach, relaxing ringfences and reporting; instead focusing on outcomes
- Introduce new accountability structures to underpin the delivery of Local Skills Improvement Plans
- Continue to invest in the college estate, to transform facilities and enable high-quality provision
- Introduce new powers for the Secretary of State for Education, so the government can intervene quickly and decisively in cases where there are persistent problems that cannot otherwise be addressed, either with colleges not delivering effectively or where local providers are unable to deliver the skills priorities for that area
- Strengthen the governance of colleges, by taking a clearer position on what good governance and leadership looks like and placing specific requirements on colleges and other provider types
- Ensure that subcontracting practices improve educational outcomes.

4.2.6 Supporting outstanding teaching:

- Launch a national recruitment campaign for teachers in further education settings
- Base Initial Teacher Education on employer-led standards
- Improve the provision of high-quality professional development and support progression for teachers
- Facilitate a strong relationship between industry and providers
- Support apprenticeships teachers and lecturers with a tailored professional development offer
- Introduce comprehensive workforce data collection.

5. Provision Available

- 5.1 The 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with regular changes in restrictions and guidance meaning that all providers have had to adapt their offer to provide a mix of classroom and remote learning and to introduce new health and safety measures including Covid Secure classrooms and buildings and the establishment of Lateral Flow Testing for learners and staff. Providers have responded positively maintaining a broad range of provision for young people and have worked in partnership to ensure the young people of North Tyneside maintained their learning.

5.2 Sixth Form

5.2.1 In total, 13 schools offer post 16 provision in North Tyneside including 6 maintained schools, 3 academies and four special schools. In the main sixth forms will offer A and AS level qualifications, alongside a smaller number of BTEC vocational qualifications in areas such as health and social care. The A Level results for maintained schools in North Tyneside in 2020 using average grade and average points that students achieved per A level entry scores shows North Tyneside performance is broadly in line with both state-funded and all schools in England.

5.3 Further Education (FE) Colleges

5.3.1 A significant number of Year 11 leavers in North Tyneside go on to study in a Further Education college. In the main students' progress to Tyne Coast or Newcastle College.

5.3.2 **Tyne Coast College** is the result of the merger of Tyne Met and South Tyneside College in August 2017 and includes the brands of TyneMet College, South Tyneside College, Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College and South Shields Marine School. TyneMet offers a diverse curriculum for 16-18's and adult learners which includes vocational education, apprenticeships and A Levels.

5.3.3 The College is the only STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) assured college in the North East of England, recognised for excellence in science, technology, engineering and maths, and was also rated 'Good' by Ofsted in October 2019 as part of the new Ofsted inspection framework.

5.3.4 The College's vocational education provision offers learners more practical skills, knowledge and experience with a curriculum developed in a variety of sub brands including:

North East Sports Academy (NESA) – the sports academy allows learners to combine academic studies alongside their sporting ambition. Learners can study either a vocational course or A Levels with training slots built in around their studies. It offers a range of academies from football, rugby, basketball and individual athlete academy.

TMC Construction - Officially opened in March 2019, the new purpose built £2.6million construction centre boasts the latest industry equipment as well as IT facilities, classrooms, learning hubs and demo areas. Trades include bricklaying, plastering, dry-lining, painting and decorating, plumbing, joinery and site carpentry, and electrical installation.

IGNITE – Centre for Engineering and Innovation - The Ignite Centre for Engineering & Innovation delivers a comprehensive range of training solutions

in Engineering and STEM disciplines to increase local skills for the manufacturing sectors operating across the North East. The Centre also engages with primary and secondary school pupils to raise awareness of exciting career options in engineering and STEM related sectors as well as delivering accredited and bespoke training direct to industry on demand.

- 5.3.5 The College also offers A Level courses with experienced teachers, dedicated support staff and facilities supporting learning and development.
- 5.3.6 In 2018, **Newcastle College's Energy Academy** launched a new strategy to deliver highly vocational, employer-led STEM education and training for the Energy Sector. A key cornerstone of this strategy is an innovative partnership with Port Training Services in Blyth, and the strategy is further underpinned by employer partnerships with a range of Energy Sector Employers, including Royal IHC and the ORE Catapult.
- 5.3.7 The Energy Academy opened in 2012 as a purpose-built centre of innovation and training for the Energy Sector, delivering qualifications from Level 2 to Level 6 in subsea engineering, renewable energy technologies and fabrication, including a range of apprenticeships. In recent years the academy had lost its connections with local industry, although since opening, more than 1200 students have been trained, with many now working within the energy sector.
- 5.3.8 To refocus Energy Academy activities, Newcastle College separated the Energy Academy from its Engineering department at the start of 2018, appointing a new Head of Academy, Alan Goundry, and engaged former NOF board member and Subsea NE Executive Committee member Andrew Esson as strategic advisor.
- 5.3.9 The new Energy Academy strategy launched in 2018 has already re-invigorated provision, with record enrolment in 2019, aiming to create a pipeline of young talent. There are currently 239 students enrolled at the Energy Academy across Wallsend and Blyth undertaking a range of qualifications including:
- Level 3 Subsea Engineering and Offshore Renewables (Wallsend and Blyth)
 - Level 3 Welding and Fabrication
 - Foundation Degree in Subsea Engineering
 - Foundation Degree in Offshore Renewable Technologies
 - Welding Apprentices
 - Maintenance, Ops & Engineering Technician Apprentices

- 5.3.10 The young people enrolled at Wallsend and Blyth all seek employment in the Energy Sector, either via apprenticeships, technician opportunities or progression from Level 3 qualifications on to Foundation Degrees and possibly Full Degrees.
- 5.3.11 In January 2019 the Energy Academy entered into a Strategic Partnership with Port of Blyth. The objective of the partnership is to collaborate in the development and delivery of offshore, marine, subsea and port related training to deliver Energy Sector Further Education, Higher Education and Apprenticeships at Port Training Services for the benefit of the local Blyth community and Port of Blyth based employers. These activities are additional, and complementary, to established education and training provision at the Energy Academy in Wallsend, in effect creating two educational portals into the Energy Sector, one in Wallsend, and one in Blyth.
- 5.3.12 The initial fruit of this partnership is a two-year Level 3 Qualification in Subsea Engineering and Offshore Renewable Technology aimed at 16-year-old GCSE school leavers, providing a vocationally oriented 3 A Level equivalent qualification, creating a future generation technicians and engineers for the Energy Sector. Students spend two days a week in classroom and workshop activities at Port Training Services, and one day a week in class-room activities at the Energy Academy in Wallsend. Thirty-eight students enrolled on the course this September, exceeding the initial target of twenty-five students. The workshop activities have received significant in-kind support from local employers, including loan of a Hi-Traq trenching prototype and engineering components by Royal IHC, and a hydraulic power unit from Global Marine.
- 5.3.13 Future delivery at Port Training Services will include Foundation Degree courses in Subsea Engineering and in Offshore Renewable Technologies, and delivery of technician apprenticeships on behalf of local employers.
- 5.3.14 In addition to the formal partnership agreement with Port of Blyth, the Energy Academy has also entered into a number of innovative employer partnerships with Energy sector companies including the ORE Catapult, Royal IHC, Barrier Ex, Animmersion and Hytorc (and a cross section of other businesses in the General Engineering and Digital sectors).
- 5.3.15 The core principal of the Employer Partnership Model is the delivery of transformational, highly vocational STEM related education with exceptional levels of employer support, focussing on creating a high quality pathway into industry for future generations of technicians and engineers, with a key focus on Level 3 post-16 Further Education and Foundation Degree (Level 4 and 5) Higher Education, plus apprenticeship qualifications.

5.3.16 The key features of the approach are:

- A collaboration between employers and Newcastle College Energy Academy harnessing teaching expertise of HE and FE, industry knowledge and expertise from employers.
- STEM specialists, focusing on level 3, 4 and 5 provision
- Education pathways catering for school leavers and older learners already in employment.
- Highly vocational technical skills training creating a future generation of technicians with skills which will drive forward our region's Energy Sector.

5.3.17 The Energy Academy is keen to continue to expand its employer partnerships and engage with Subsea North East members who have a mutual interest in helping the Energy Academy develop future technician and engineer talent, for the benefit of the Energy Sector, and local communities. Possible ways to support the Academy includes:

- Participation in an Energy Advisory Board which will provide:
 - Support in shaping our courses and course curriculum
 - Insight into future technology trends and industry needs
- Donations or loans of equipment for our Workshop Learning Zones at the Energy Academy and Port Training Services (and occasional support in practical workshops using this equipment)
- Provide educational site visits for our students, enabling access to specialist equipment and resources
- Delivery of workshops/master classes/inspirational lectures by senior engineers
- Young engineers sharing their stories of their route into employment.

5.4 Work Based Learning

5.4.1 There are range of Work Based Learning providers who operate in or in neighbouring Local Authority areas and provide an essential type of provision for young people looking to pursue a more vocational route into the labour market. The main providers in North Tyneside are Northumbria Youth Action (NYA), Employment, Training and Skills (ETS) North (formerly Barnardos Palmersville Training) and the NTC Employment and Skills Service.

5.4.2 **NYA** is a small charity based on Hudson Street, North Shields. Formed over 25 years ago in disused council workshops, it has grown gradually and now has its own modern, purpose-built premises in the North Shields Youth Village. In total to date, an estimated 2,800 young people have been helped to improve their life chances through provision of vocational training in a caring and supportive environment.

5.4.3 Through the medium of motor vehicle, bicycle, hairdressing and hospitality training NYA have helped young people mature and make the most of their potential. Their mission statement is:

NYA is committed to unleashing young people's full potential through the world of work and training to provide a fuller, richer life.

5.4.4 NYA is a specialist, independent motor vehicle, cycle, hairdressing and hospitality training provider which delivers:

- Pre-16 training to school students who are at risk of exclusion
- Study Programmes to 16 and 17-year olds who frequently have been refused training elsewhere
- Level 2 motor vehicle and hairdressing courses to 16-18-year olds who have successfully completed their first year study programme
- Motor Vehicle apprenticeships to 16-25-year olds who have, as a result of placements, been employed by local dealerships and other reputable garages
- Level 2 and 3 motor vehicle courses to clients within the trade who wish to gain new skills and qualifications
- DVSA approved MOT tester and Manager courses.

5.4.5 NYA operates a fully equipped garage which services and repairs cars, for members of the public, at reasonable rates. NYA also recycles push bikes. Learners renovate donated bikes which are then sold, at low prices, to local families and young people.

5.4.6 All staff are DBS checked, experienced and well qualified for their roles within NYA. In addition, all staff share values which always put the needs of young people first. Over 90% of young people achieve qualifications while at NYA and over 95% progress into further study or work.

5.4.7 **Employment, Training and Skills (ETS) North (formerly Barnardos Palmersville Training)** is also based at the Youth Village on Hudson Street in North Shields. Their current post 16 offer in North Tyneside is predominantly covered by the following provision.

5.4.8 Study Programmes are delivered from the centre ETS North, in North Shields. This includes the occupational areas of; hairdressing & beauty therapy, retail & warehousing, painting & decorating, construction multi-skills and business administration. All programmes include a blend of employability, work experience, maths and/or English as required and vocational qualifications up to in some cases, level 3. Barnardo's has had excellent rates of progression from study programme into positive destinations including further or higher education, employment or apprenticeships.

- 5.4.9 In addition to Barnardo's provision for Study Programmes delivered from North Shields, it also manages three sub-contractors who add breadth and further capacity to the young person's offer across North Tyneside. They are Resources (NE) Limited who deliver IT, Northumbria Youth Action - motor vehicle, hairdressing and hospitality and North Tyneside Council - construction.
- 5.4.10 Apprenticeships are offered in the following occupational areas: Business & administration, painting & decorating, retail and logistics, facilities management, hairdressing and beauty therapy. The majority are delivered at level 2 and 3, with a smaller number at level 4. In addition, and as part of this offer, Barnardo's is constantly looking to create new vacancies as an employer for Apprenticeships – young people are actively encouraged to pursue these opportunities as they seek to develop a more diverse workforce and this includes providing positive futures for service users through apprenticeships. In North Tyneside, Barnardos have created more than twenty apprenticeship opportunities in recent years.
- 5.4.11 Although offered to the 19+ age group, the largest proportion of adult learners are in the 19-24 age group. This has been a very successful programme with success rates at or above 85% for the past few years. The content of the programmes includes employability, with most occupational areas delivered in North Tyneside by Barnardo's offering qualifications up to level 3. A successful logistics programme has strong links in the sector to employment opportunities across a range of logistic and distribution employers including international airports.
- 5.4.12 Barnardo's continues to be judged as good by OFSTED for all of its provision.
- 5.4.13 The **North Tyneside Employment and Skills Service** is located within the Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding Directorate and consists of a number of key services including Connexions Careers Education and Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), Education to Employment services linking schools with businesses, employer engagement and Employability projects.
- 5.4.14 Our Adult Learning Service, rated 'Good' by Ofsted in April 2018, is the delivery arm for all of the local authority's adult learning provision and holds contracts with the Education and Skills Funding Agency through funding streams: 16-18 Study Programmes, Adult Education Budget (AEB), 16-18 apprenticeships and 19+ apprenticeships. Our Adult Learning curriculum covers thirteen subject sector areas and Family Learning. The delivery is distributed in 29 venues across the borough to ensure increased access for residents.

5.4.15 The services are informed by Government priorities for education and training, including increasing rigour and expectations of education delivery; protect vulnerable children and adults; and preparing well-rounded young people and adults ready for further learning, work and life. Achievement of these priorities is regulated by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Priorities of the service are also informed by external funding providers, where priorities for funding are:

- Apprenticeships, with a particular focus on 16-24 year olds
- Traineeships to deliver work preparation training for 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 year olds
- Support for low-skilled workless adults, including those with the most complex needs.
- English and maths
- Community Learning as of the wider skills offer to transform the lives of people experiencing serious social and economic disadvantage, that inspires people to succeed and supports them to lead fulfilling lives.

5.4.16 The service currently has two notable areas of provision for young people aged 16-18, which are making a demonstrable impact on the young people:

Working Roots – is a 16-18 Study Programme that is delivered through a partnership between North Tyneside Housing, Justice Prince and NTC Employment and Skills Service. Up to 25 young people per year are offered a programme that includes vocational training in construction and horticulture, English and maths qualifications, 3.5 days per week work placement within North Tyne Housing and ongoing mentoring support. The programme, which runs for a year, has seen progression of some very vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in North Tyneside into Apprenticeships and Further Learning.

'Ignite your Potential' Study Programme for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – is a three-year Study Programme for young people with SEND, which commenced in September 2019. Aiming to support young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) leaving school at age 16 it provides a route to Apprenticeships, Supported Internships and further learning through the following programme of support:

- Year 1 – Independent living skills and community engagement
- Year 2 – 4 days vocational Study Programme with one day per week work placement
- Year 3 – 3 days Advanced vocational Study Programme with two days per week work placement.

Throughout the programme, English and maths is supported to ensure the young people have the relevant qualifications to support progression. This programme has informed a similar proposed programme for Care Leavers.

6. Post 16 Education Challenges

- 6.1 As outlined in this paper, the Covid-19 pandemic has already had some major short-term impacts on the availability of Post-16 provision and how this is delivered. The medium to long term impact on young people and providers is not yet known, but we can expect these to be considerable and policy makers and education providers will need to adapt their responses to respond to these opportunities and challenges accordingly.
- 6.2 **Funding** – the amount of 16-18 funding available from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) continues to represent a challenge for providers, both in terms of the amount of funding per learner and the system for obtaining additional funding (lagged learners) to expand and deliver new programmes. As the numbers of apprenticeship and employment opportunities are limited due to Covid-19 this funding pressure is only expected to increase.
- 6.3 **Apprenticeship starts** – Despite our success in North Tyneside in mitigating some impacts, the downturn in apprenticeship starts, particularly for 16-18 year olds. This has been significant since the introduction of the Apprenticeship reforms, and the impact of Covid-19 is expected to see a further decline in Apprenticeship starts in 2020-21. Apprenticeships are at risk of not being seen as a viable alternative for school leavers, and as the number of starts continues to diminish, more needs to be done to ensure this option post 16 remains viable.
- 6.4 **Types of Apprenticeships** - linked to the point above, the reduction in approved apprenticeship standards at level 2 is also impacting now on post 16 apprenticeship starts and will further impact moving forward. The dismissal by the IfA of any further submissions by the trailblazer group for a business and administration level 2 apprenticeship standard, further removes what has been the realistic starting point for many young people on a journey into higher level learning and better paid employment.
- 6.5 **Vocational routes** - More than 160 “duplicate qualifications” at level 3 and below had their funding removed from August 2020 – including 76 BTECs. It is part of an aim to remove “poor quality post-16 qualifications” and follows consultation to decide the future of over 12,000 vocational qualifications at level 3 and below. The government wants to make A-levels, T-levels and apprenticeships the “gold standard” option for young people after they take their GCSEs from 2020.

- 6.6 It will only continue to fund alternative qualifications at level 3 and below – such as applied generals, BTECs and Tech Levels – that do not overlap with them and are “high quality, are necessary, have a clear purpose, and lead to good outcomes”.
- 6.7 These changes have raised some concerns amongst providers regarding a reduction in choice for learners and removing viable routes for more vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. There is also concerns that many providers were not ready to deliver T-Levels from August 2020 and that due to Covid-19 the availability of work placements has become even more challenging.

7. Background Information

- 7.1 The following documents and information have been used in the compilation of this report.

Education and Skills Act 2008 – available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/contents/enacted>.

Education Act 2011 – available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted>.

A level performance in North Tyneside at the end of 16 to 18 in 2019 - all students – available at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=392&la-name=north-tyneside&geographic=la&for=16to18>.

Plan for Jobs – available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/plan-for-jobs>

Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth White Paper – available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-for-jobs-lifelong-learning-for-opportunity-and-growth>

- 7.2 On Provision:

Tyne Coast College - <http://tynecoast.ac.uk/>

Newcastle College Energy Academy - <https://www.ncl-coll.ac.uk/world-class-facilities/energy-academy>

Northumbria Youth Action (NYA): www.northumbriaya.co.uk

ETS North - <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-young-people/employment-training-skills>

North Tyneside Council – Employment and Skills Service –
www.skillsnorthtyneside.org.uk

8. Appendices

None