

CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

14 December 2012

Youth Unemployment Data Report compiled by
Schools and Setting and Economic Development Teams



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

1. Department for Education 16 and 17 years old participation – Plymouth data set June 12

The data published on DfE's website will cover numbers of 16/17 year olds known in each local area, the percentage of 'not knowns', 'in full time learning', in an 'apprenticeship' or 'employment with training' plus new datasets on age, gender and ethnicity breakdowns, resulting in more data than previously.

Data was presented as an England average, a regional average, with a percentage breakdown for each local authority area. The DfE believes this data are indicators of local authority preparations for Raising the Participation Age in compulsory learning from 2013.

1.1 The percentage of 16 and 17 years old engaged in employment and training continues to rise and now stands at 86% compared to 84.3% in June 2011. Although our participation data is almost 1% lower than the national average, it is 2.5% higher than the average for all LAs in the South West.

It is worth noting that 6.6% of our cohort follows the apprenticeship route, compared to a national take up of 3.7% and a regional take up of 4.2%. This is within the context of our completion rates for 16-18 years old in Plymouth being the highest regionally but also nationally.

1.2 The Percentage of 16 years old recorded in education and training is 89.2%, 1% lower than the national average but 3% higher than the South West average. 90.3% of 16 years old girls participate compared to 88.2% of 16 years old boys. The difference between boys and girls participation reflects the national gap.

1.3 The Percentage of 17 years old recorded in education and training is 82.9%, 0.6% lower than the national average but 2% higher than the South West average. 83.5% of 17 years old girls participate compared to 82.3% of 17 years old boys. The difference between boys and girls participation is smaller than nationally. Our 17 year old boys' participation is higher than the national participation by 0.1%.

1.4 The percentage of Young People aged 16 and 17 whose activity is not known to Plymouth LA is relatively low and stands at 1.7%. This compares very favourably with the national average of 5.4% and the South West average of 7.7%

1.5 The percentage of Young People aged 16 and 17 whose activity is not known has declined over the past year. It stood at 2.8% in June 2011 and now stands at 1.7%. Whereas our percentage of "Not Knowns" decreased by 1.1% over the last year, in England it rose by 1.2% from 4.2% to 5.4%. In the South West, it rose by 4.9% from 2.8% to 7.7%

2. Plymouth data set on NEETs (Not in Education, Employment and Training) aged 16-18

Plymouth	NEET %	Plymouth	NEET %
June 2012	7.7%	October 2012	6.9%
June 2011	8.4%	October 2011	6.9%
Variance	- 0.7%	Variance	No Change

3. Challenges

- 3.1 To ensure that all young people, especially those from our Vulnerable Groups, make a supported and sustained transition to learning and training post-16. Our Vulnerable Groups include Teenage Parents, Students with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, Young Offenders as well as Children Looked After/Care Leavers.
- 3.2 We must also ensure that our efforts are also directed at the Young People aged 18, as they form over half the number of Young People in Plymouth who are Not in Education, Employment or training (NEETs)

4. Labour Market Information

- 4.1 Plymouth's labour market continues to show signs of strength. The JSA claimant rate was 3.6% of the resident working age population in October 2012, below the UK average of 3.8%. The number of claimants has been declining since March 2012 – a total decline of almost 800 claimants. This is positive news and we would expect to see further falls as 2012 draws to a close, with seasonal factors (Christmas recruitment drive) leading to an increase in temporary opportunities. The key will be how the labour market responds in the New Year when this is factored out.
- 4.2 Of growing concern, the number of Plymouth residents claiming for over a year is relatively high – now standing at 1,725 or 27% of claimants. Broken down by age band this cohort is: 16-24 (26%); 25-49 (55%) and 50-64 (19%). Although not the largest contributor, the proportion aged 16-24 is well above the national equivalent (18%), reflecting the relatively high proportion of young claimants in the city (overall, the 16-24 year age group makes up 34% of total claimants against a UK average of 28%). Another notable characteristic is that 73% of the long-term unemployed in Plymouth are male.
- 4.3 In addition, it has been well documented that although unemployment is falling, this has largely been due to an increase in part-time working and 'underemployment' (skilled individuals in low skilled jobs). Although positive in keeping individuals attached to the labour market when economic conditions remain difficult, there may be implications for long-run growth potential.