

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (or current situation is unknown)

Summary points

- 5.0% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol are “not in education, employment or training (NEET)” or their current situation is unknown, lower than the national average (5.3%).

Findings

Young people who are not in education, employment or training are more likely to adopt unhealthy lifestyles, and less likely to achieve good health outcomes in adulthood. Where young people’s activity is not established, we are unable to gain contact to determine if support is needed and supply it where required.

There are 5% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol (2022/23) who are recorded as being “not in education, employment or training” or their current situation is not known, which equates to approximately 460 16-17 year olds. This is lower than the England average of 5.3%, and an improvement on the previous year (6.0%) and places Bristol as the best performing city when compared to the other English core cities (Fig 1). Our NEET only figure (3.4%) is higher (worse) than the national average of 2.8% and places Bristol as the second best performing city when compared to the other English core cities.

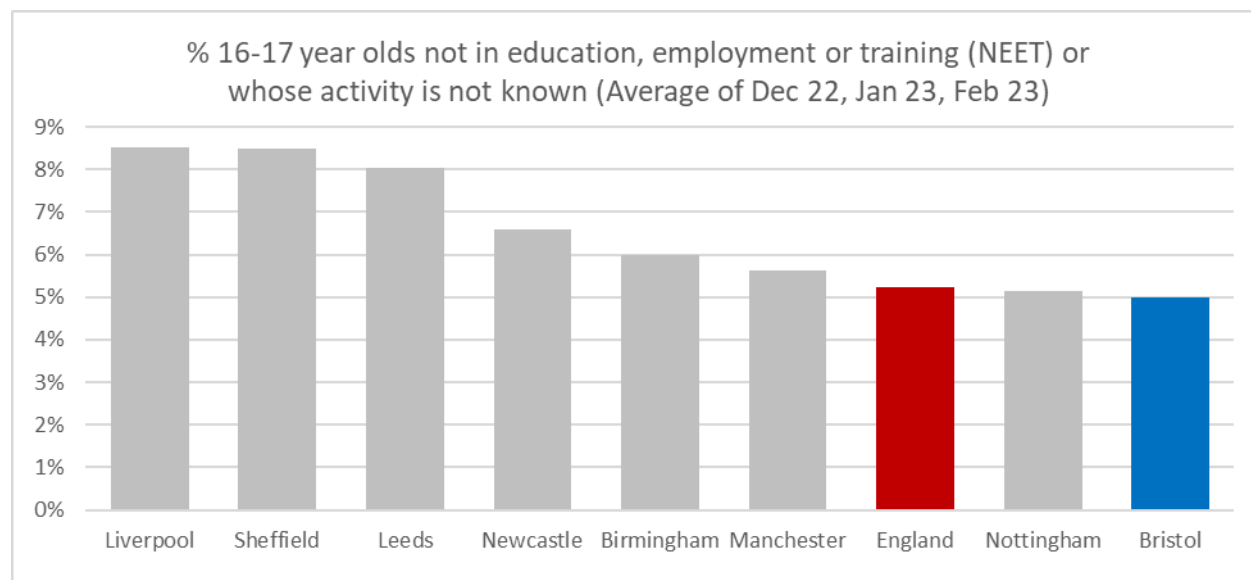


Fig 1: Source: BCC – Young Careers and Pathways Team, April 2023

Additional data shows that 92.7% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol are ‘in learning¹’, which is slightly higher than the England average of 92.1%, and second highest of all English core cities, which range from 88.1% in Liverpool to 93.1% in Birmingham.

¹ [NCCIS management information requirement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/nccis-management-information-requirement)

We have been working with the external Post 16 provider community to explore options for rolling start education provision to help fill the gaps for young people who have not been able to continue with further education/sixth forms and have subsequently become NEET. There is still a lack of rolling and traineeship provision within the City to help bridge the gap from NEET to EET for those who need a more supportive programme. The data shows that the majority of our NEET young people are aged in the 17-18 year old cohort; some have spent a year in college or sixth form and then drop out with limited plans. We are working with colleagues to have a more consistent approach to careers advice and provision to support young people to make more informed careers options via informed pathways.

Local data at the end of April 2023² shows us that there are just over 410 16 to 17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) only. The highest percentage of 16 to 17 year old NEETs on a ward basis are Hartcliffe & Withywood (10.4%), Filwood (10.2%), St George West (8.8%), Southmead (8.5%) and Brislington East (8.4%) (see fig 2 below). There were no 16-17 year olds in Cotham who were NEET only at the end of April 2023.

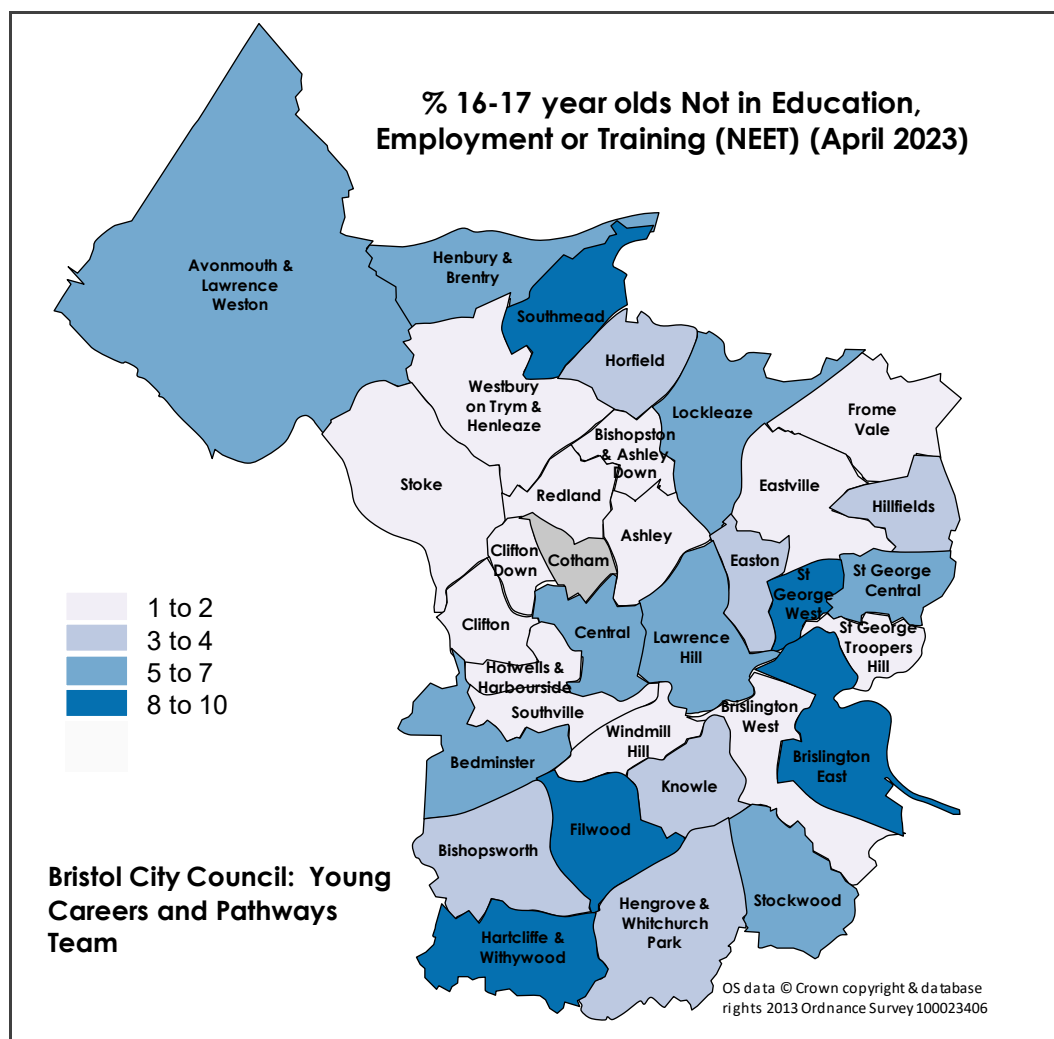


Fig 2: 16-17 yr. olds NEET by ward as a % of total NEETs (April 2023 data)

² Source: Bristol City Council, Insight, Performance & Intelligence Service (November 2022)

Equalities data:

Data from the Department for Education in 2021 shows that males are more likely to be NEET (or whose activity is unknown) than females, both nationally and locally. In Bristol 6.3% of males (aged 16 and 17) are NEET (or whose activity is unknown) compared to 5.7% of females. Nationally the figures are 5.3% of males and 4.1% of females.

Local data for 2022/23 shows that the ethnicity breakdown for the cohort of NEET is as follows: White British (68.5%), Caribbean (5.1%) and Somali (3.1%) - all other groups are below 3%.

Impact of Covid-19:

The impact of the pandemic has led to additional young people dropping out of education, employment and training. Lockdowns have resulted in a blended learning approach contributing to higher levels of fatigue in Y13 students who then decide they want to move straight into employment for a change of direction, but which does not always lead to the right outcome.

Levels of anxiety have increased during the pandemic which has also contributed to young people dropping out – they have not always been able to trial work experience, which coupled with not having as long as usual with careers advisors has meant some students have been stuck in the ‘wrong’ placement.

Further data / links / consultations:

- Statistics: NEET and participation: www.gov.uk/government/publications/neet-and-participation-local-authority-figures

Date updated: May 2023

Date of next update: May 2024