



Target Period NEET Report

Education, Learning and Skills Statement
Kingston upon Hull
2025 – 2026

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TECHNICAL REPORT: Target Period NEET Report

REVISION HISTORY

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April 2026	April 2025	Version 12	Updated data and statistics for the 2025-2026 academic year.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report contains details of young people resident in Hull who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Specifically, it shows the proportion of year groups 12 and 13 who are NEET or Not Known and compares Hull's performance against regional and national figures and that of its statistical neighbours.

Our statistical neighbours changed in April 2025. These are decided by the Department for Education and are now as follows: Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, North East Lincolnshire, Rochdale, Middlesbrough, Doncaster, Derby and Rotherham. These are, on average, higher performing local authorities in terms of NEETs than our old statistical neighbours, for example, Sandwell (who, according to the DfE, is our closest statistical match) had only 1.6% NEETs in the Target Period.

The Department for Education monitors the participation of young people in employment, education or training in all local authority areas. This data is supplied by each local authority, all of whom have a statutory duty to do so on a monthly basis. The overall performance measure used is a combined average figure of young people who are NEET and Not Known over a three-month period (December 2025 to February 2026) as this accurately reflects the number participating.

The 16-18 cohort in Hull has grown significantly in the past seven years, which has placed additional challenge on the staffing resource of the Connexions service. The graph below illustrates the cohort growth:

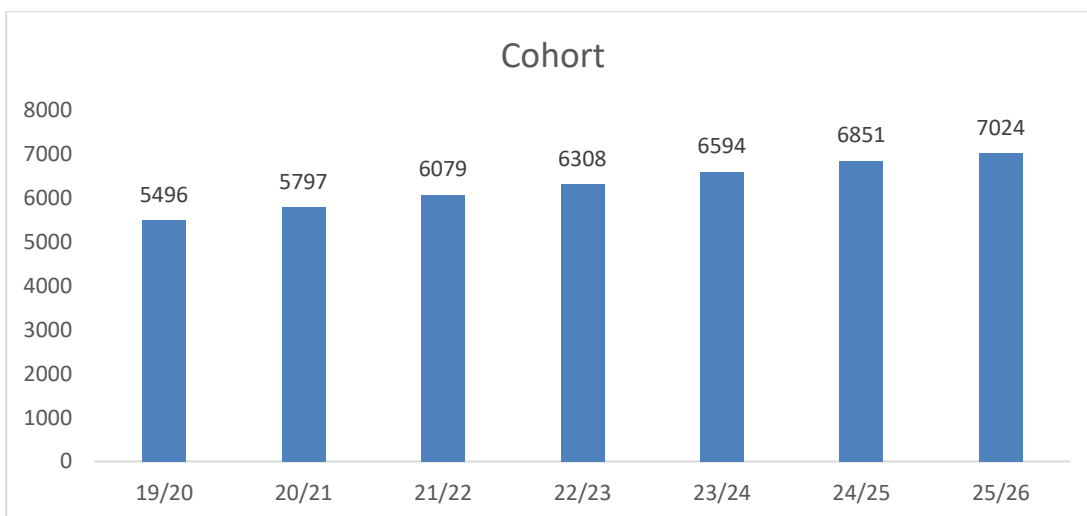


Figure 1: Year 12 and 13 combined cohort number during the target period over past seven years

2. HULL NEET, NOT KNOWN & IN LEARNING STATISTICS

2.1 Combined NEET and Not Known

The Department for Education measures the performance of each local authority based on a combined NEET and Not Known figure.

Although the local authority reports on both NEET and Not Known figures on a monthly basis, its annual performance is judged on a three-month average figure taken from December to February.

Hull's annual performance for 2025/26 is a combined NEET and Not Known figure of **6.4%** (NEET **6.0%** and Not Known **0.4%**). This is higher than the England average (**5.8%**) and higher than our new statistical neighbours' average (**5.1%**) but lower than the regional average (**6.7%**). For comparison, Hull's old statistical neighbours' average was **7.1%**.

This combined figure is **1.0%** lower than last year's three-monthly average of **7.4%** for Hull and represents our best target period performance in recent years.

2025/26 annual figures	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26
Not Known	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
(% and no. of young people)	33	27	30
NEET	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%
(% and no. young people)	436	414	407
Combined	6.7%	6.3%	6.2%
3 Month Average			6.4%

Figure 2: Hull's annual three-monthly combined NEET & Not Known data for 2025-2026

2024/25 annual figures	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Not Known	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
(% and no. of young people)	32	26	25
NEET	7.6%	7.0%	6.4%
(% and no. young people)	518	479	437
Combined	8.0%	7.4%	6.7%
3 Month Average			7.4%

Figure 3: Comparison annual three-monthly combined NEET & Not Known data for 2024-2025

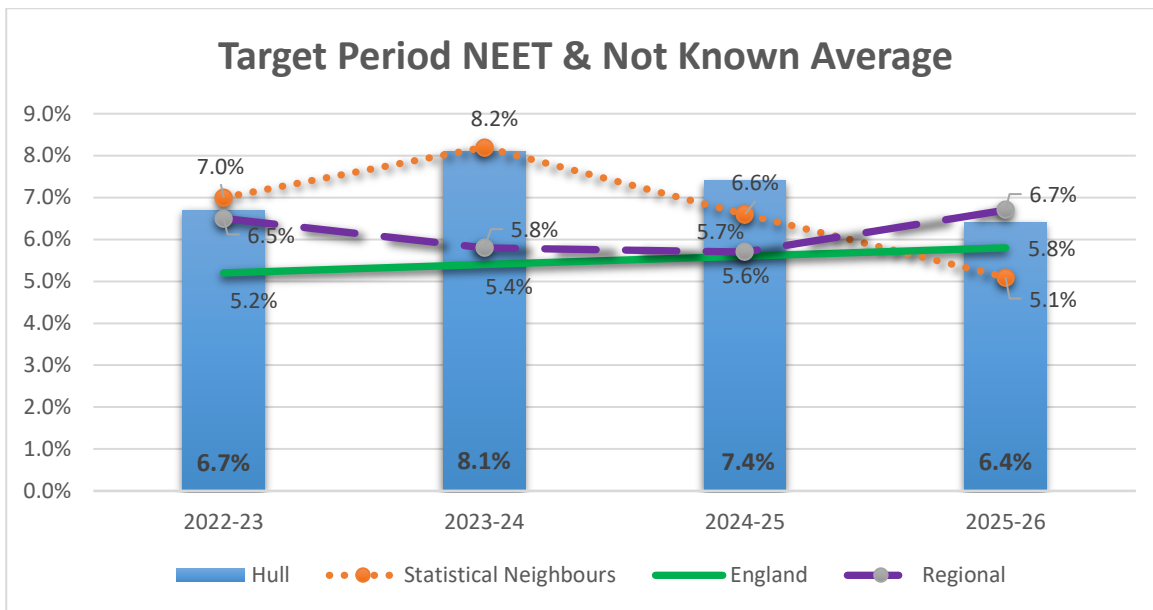


Figure 4: Comparison annual three-monthly combined NEET & Not Known data for last 4 years

The graph above shows that Hull's Target Period average has improved in recent years having gone down from **8.1%** in 2023/24 to **6.4%** in 2025/26, which is a significant improvement. The England average has seen a steady increase year on year, whereas Hull has bucked this trend with an overall decrease of 1.0%. Hull now has a NEET and Not Known rate below the 202/23 target period.

It is difficult to make comparisons this year with regards to the statistical neighbours, as stated previously, these changed in April 2025 and are now, on average, higher performing in terms of NEETs (hence the big drop on the above chart, the **6.6%** last year was the old statistical neighbours and the **5.1%** is the new statistical neighbours).

Although, the **NEET figure** average over the target period has gone down in 2025/26 to **6.0%**, Hull is still reporting higher levels than England (**3.4%**), Yorkshire and Humber (**3.8%**) and our new statistical neighbours (**4.2%**). Hull's old statistical neighbours NEET average was **5.4%**. Therefore, although significant progress has been made, the NEET challenge remains. Section 2.2 explores the NEETs in further detail.

The **Not Known figure** has remained the same this year at **0.4%**. This is exceptional, beating our statistical neighbours average (**1.0%**), the regional (**3.0%**) and England (**2.4%**) average and demonstrates one of the most effective tracking systems in the country.

2.2 NEET

Although monitored monthly, it is important to note that comparison to previous periods/quarters is useful to show any changes in the group; it should not be looked at in isolation. The NEET figure is not a static figure and is not made up of the same young people each month. The NEET figures from the start of the reporting year (March 2025) to the end of the statistical period (February 2026) are given below. Data from last year (2024/25) is also included for comparison. The month of August registered the highest number (**489**) of NEETs.

2024-2025	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec-Feb Ave
Percentage	7.9%	8.5%	8.8%	8.8%	8.7%	9.5%	5.8%	6.3%	6.9%	7.6%	7.0%	6.4%	7.0%
Number	521	560	576	577	570	623	383	418	475	518	479	437	
2025-2026	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec-Feb Ave
Percentage	6.9%	6.9%	6.7%	6.6%	7.1%	7.1%	4.8%	5.2%	5.9%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%	6.0%
Number	474	472	462	453	487	489	337	365	414	436	414	407	

Figure 5: Hull NEET stats by month for 2024/25 and 2025/26

The monthly NEET trends for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are shown below:

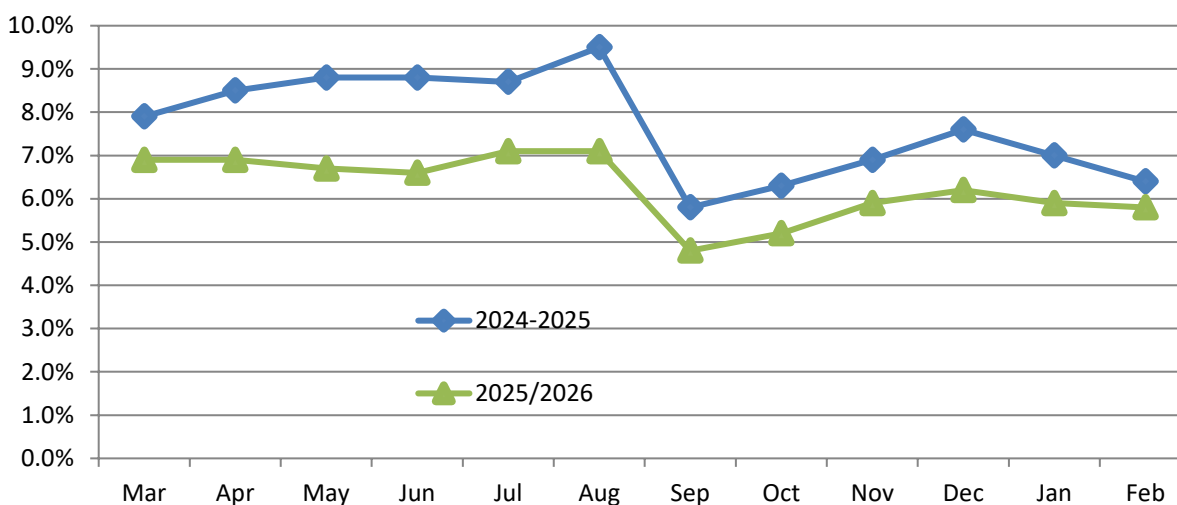


Figure 6: Hull monthly NEET trends for 2024/25 and 2025/26

The data below shows a lower number of NEETs and Not Knowns in September 2025 onwards compared to September 2024. In September 2024 there were **593** young people who were NEET or Not Known whereas in September 2025, this figure was much lower at **445**. Figure 7 below illustrates these lower numbers. This ensured we started the new academic year (and new cohort) in a much stronger position than last year, and the service continued to sustain this.

	2024/25						2025/26					
Month	NEET No	NEET %	Not Known No	Not Known %	Combined No	Combined %	NEET No	NEET %	Not Known No	Not Known %	Combined No	Combined %
Sept	383	5.8%	210	3.2%	593	9.0%	337	4.8%	108	1.5%	445	6.3%
Oct	410	6.3%	126	1.9%	536	8.2%	365	5.2%	71	1.0%	436	6.2%
Nov	475	6.9%	101	1.5%	576	8.4%	414	5.9%	48	0.7%	462	6.5%
Dec	518	7.6%	32	0.5%	550	8.0%	436	6.2%	33	0.5%	469	6.7%
Jan	479	7.0%	26	0.4%	505	7.4%	414	5.9%	27	0.4%	441	6.3%
Feb	437	6.4%	25	0.4%	462	6.7%	407	5.8%	30	0.4%	437	6.2%

Figure 7: Hull monthly NEET data for 2024/25 and 2025/26

Interestingly as we can see from the chart below, in the period from October to February 2025/26, **317** young people joined the NEET list which is similar to last year when there were **319** joiners. Also similar is the number of leavers. When we compare this to our statistical neighbours, in February 2026, they had on average **18** joiners and **28** leavers. Therefore Hull had nearly double the number of young people joining the NEET list and had a third more leavers, highlighting the work done by Connexions advisers to move young people into positive destinations.

The below table provides a summary of NEET joiners and leavers for the past three years:

	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26		
Month	Joiners	Leavers	Balance	Joiners	Leavers	Balance	Joiners	Leavers	Balance
Oct	48	28	20	64	29	35	63	35	28
Nov	142	45	97	108	51	57	113	64	49
Dec	64	39	25	85	43	42	51	29	22
Jan	83	66	17	41	80	-39	55	77	-22
Feb	43	60	-17	21	61	-40	35	42	-7
TOTAL	380	238	142	319	264	55	317	247	70

Figure 8: Summary data for NEET Joiners and Leavers

The chart and graph below show that the total number of Year 12 & 13 young people who had an episode of NEET between September and August (the academic year) has decreased in the last year from **1,059** episodes of NEET to **960**. This is positive news and in contrast to the upward trajectory seen in recent years.

Key Performance Indicator	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
Total number of year 12 & 13 young people who had an episode of NEET between September and August	Total = 749 (approx. 12.3% of cohort) 596 Available to the Labour Market 153 Not available to the labour market	Total = 892 (approx. 14.2% of cohort) 700 Available to the Labour Market 192 Not available to the labour market	Total = 1,059 (approx. 16.1% of cohort) 865 Available to the Labour Market 194 Not available to the labour market	Total = 960 (approx. 14.1% of cohort) 786 Available to the Labour Market 174 Not available to the labour market

Figure 9: Total number of year 12 & 13 young people who had an episode of NEET (September – August)

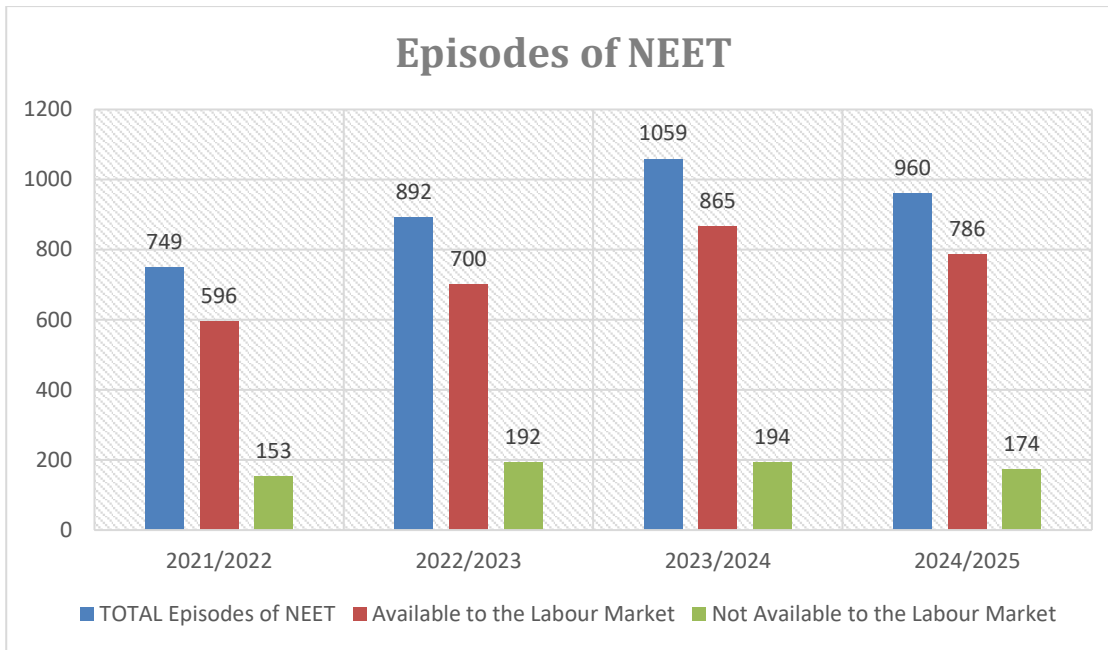


Figure 10: 4 year trend data for year 12 & 13 young people who had an episode of NEET (September – August)

2.3 Not Known

The average percentage of Not Knowns for the annual reporting period (December 2025 to February 2026) was **0.4%**. This is the same as last year and continues to outperform all comparison groups. As stated previously, Hull’s Not Known figure is lower than our statistical neighbours average and the regional and national averages. The very low Not Known figure highlights the effectiveness of the Connexions service tracking systems and processes.

2024-2025	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Average
Number	32	26	25	
Percentage	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
2025-2026	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Average
Number	33	27	30	
Percentage	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

Figure 11: Hull “Not Known” monthly data for the 2025/26 annual reporting period

2.4 Comparison with regional, national and statistical neighbours

The data below shows how Hull compares with its statistical neighbours (local authorities with similar characteristics, according to the DfE) over the 3-month average reporting period. As stated previously, our statistical neighbours changed in April 2025 and are, on average, higher performing in terms of NEETs than our previous statistical neighbours. For example, Sandwell only reported **2.4%** combined for the target period.

December 2025 – February 2026 Years 12 and 13

Rank	Local Authority	Yr12&13 Feb Cohort	Combined NEET & Not Known	NEET	Not Known	In Learning
	Kingston upon Hull	7,026	6.4%	6.0%	0.4%	90.1%
1	Sandwell	10,569	2.4%	1.6%	0.7%	95.4%
2	Wolverhampton	7,343	3.4%	2.3%	1.1%	95.5%
3	Stoke-on-Trent	7,556	5.2%	2.9%	2.3%	92.1%
4	Walsall	8,249	3.7%	2.5%	1.3%	94.8%
5	North East Lincs	4,148	6.8%	6.5%	0.3%	89.3%
6	Rochdale	6,690	6.1%	5.0%	1.1%	90.9%
7	Middlesborough	3,869	4.4%	4.0%	0.4%	94.8%
8	Doncaster	8,053	5.9%	5.1%	0.8%	90.1%
9	Derby	7,293	8.1%	7.1%	1.0%	89.1%
10	Rotherham	7,007	5.4%	4.9%	0.5%	90.6%
Ave		7,078	5.1%	4.2%	1.0%	92.3%

Figure 12: Hull NEET, Not Known and In Learning three monthly statistics compared with statistical neighbours for 2025-26 (1 = closest statistical match and 10 = furthest statistical match).

Hull's average combined NEET and Not Known figure for the 2025-2026 target period was **6.4%**. This was the third highest (lower is better) of all our statistical neighbours and was **1.3%** higher than the statistical neighbours' average of **5.1%**. For comparison purposes, our previous statistical neighbours average over the target period was **7.1%** and therefore higher than Hull.

Hull's average NEET figure for the reporting period is **6.0%**. This is the third highest of all our statistical neighbours and **1.8%** higher than the statistical neighbours' average of **4.2%**.

Hull's average Not Known figure for the reporting period is **0.4%**. This is the joint second lowest of all of our statistical neighbours and is **0.6%** lower than the statistical neighbours' average of **1.0%**. It should be noted that some Not Knowns may in fact be NEET.

Hull's average In Learning figure for the reporting period is **90.1%**. This is the joint third lowest (higher is better) of all of our statistical neighbours and is **2.2%** lower than the statistical neighbours' average of **92.3%**.

Data relating to national and regional geographical neighbours is shown below:

December 2025 – February 2026 Years 12 and 13

16-18 Academic Age (Years 12 and 13)	Combined NEET & Not Known	NEET	Not Known	In Learning
England	5.8%	3.4%	2.4%	91.9%
Yorkshire & Humber	6.7%	3.8%	3.0%	90.4%
Barnsley	5.5%	3.1%	2.3%	91.7%
Bradford	4.0%	2.3%	1.8%	92.1%
Calderdale	5.4%	4.3%	1.1%	91.2%
Doncaster	5.9%	5.1%	0.8%	90.1%
East Riding of Yorkshire	3.6%	3.2%	0.4%	91.3%
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	6.4%	6.0%	0.4%	90.1%
Kirklees	3.9%	3.2%	0.7%	92.7%
Leeds	8.3%	4.6%	3.7%	89.8%
North East Lincolnshire	6.8%	6.5%	0.3%	89.3%
North Lincolnshire	49.4%	1.1%	48.3%	50.6%
North Yorkshire	3.4%	1.7%	1.7%	96.2%
Rotherham	5.4%	4.9%	0.5%	90.6%
Sheffield	7.7%	5.8%	1.9%	90.0%
Wakefield	3.9%	3.5%	0.4%	92.3%
York	3.3%	1.3%	2.0%	95.4%

Figure 13: Hull statistics compared to regional and national averages for the 2025-26 annual reporting period

Hull's average combined NEET and Not Known figure of **6.4%** is **0.3%** lower (lower is better) than the regional average of **6.7%** and **0.6%** higher than the England average of **5.8%**.

Hull's three-monthly average NEET percentage for the reporting period is **6.0%** which is **2.2%** higher (lower is better) than the regional average of **3.8%** and **2.6%** higher than the England average of **3.4%**. Hull's three-monthly average Not Known percentage for the reporting period is **0.4%** which is **2.6%** lower (lower is better) than the regional average of **3.0%** and **2.0%** lower than the England average of **2.4%**.

A point to note, North Lincolnshire's very high Not Known and subsequent low NEET and In Learning figures makes regional comparisons difficult.

Local authorities with a high level of Not Knowns will have an artificially low NEET count. Hull's low Not Known figure is very positive. This gives reassurance to stakeholders that the local authority is being proactive in engaging with its resident young people. Knowing the status of young people means that the local authority and its partners are able to assist these young people and move them towards a positive outcome. The disadvantage of this is that from a reporting perspective, a low Not Known figure can result in a higher NEET figure which is true in Hull's case.

The percentage of Hull resident young people in learning at **90.1%** is slightly lower than the regional average of **90.4%** and **1.8%** lower than the England average of **91.9%**. Sections 2.5 and 2.6 explore the data relating to the in-learning and participation rates in further detail.

2.5 Young people in learning

The average percentage of young people in learning over the reporting period (December 2025 to February 2026) was **90.1%**. This was an increase of **2.2%** from last year when it was **87.9%**.

2024-2025	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Average
Percentage	87.8%	87.8%	88.1%	87.9%
2025-2026	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Average
Percentage	90.1%	90.3%	90.1%	90.1%

Figure 14: Three-month average figures for young people in Hull who are in learning for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26

A detailed breakdown by activity is shown below using the February cohort data. The data shows an increase in the percentage of young people in full-time education and employment with training. This is coupled with a decrease in the percentage of young people in part-time education, apprenticeships and 'other' training.

	Full Time Education		Training		Apprenticeships		Work Based Learning		Part time education		Employment with Training		Other		Total	
	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26
England	86.1%	86.7%	1.2%	1.2%	4.1%	3.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	92.2%	92.1%
Yorkshire & Humber	83.9%	83.7%	1.6%	1.6%	5.2%	4.4%	1.3%	1.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.3%	0.4%	91.6%	90.7%
Kingston upon Hull	77.5%	79.2%	0.7%	0.7%	7.8%	6.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	2.0%	3.2%	0.5%	0.4%	88.1%	90.1%

Figure 15: 16-17 year olds (academic age) in education and training by activity in Feb 2026, and change over the last 12 months

2.6 End of February 2026 - participation rates of young people

In addition to the cohort of young people who are recorded as being 'in learning' by the DFE, there are also a number of young people who are on re-engagement provision. The combined total of the two cohorts is recorded by the DFE as the 'participation' rate. See below table (note: total participating may not equal sum of other fields due to DFE rounding):

	February 2025			February 2026		
	Total in learning	Total on re-engagement provision	Total participating	Total in learning	Total on re-engagement provision	Total participating
England	92.2%	0.4%	92.6%	92.1%	0.4%	92.5%
Yorkshire & Humber	91.6%	0.6%	92.2%	90.7%	0.7%	91.4%
Kingston upon Hull	88.1%	2.2%	90.3%	90.1%	1.9%	92.0%

Figure 16: 16-17 year olds (academic age) participating in education, employment and training in February 2026 and change over the last 12 months

As the above data indicates, the February 2026 participation rate of **92.0%** in Hull has increased in line with the increase to the number of young people in learning and is only slightly below the England average of **92.5%**. It is higher than the regional average of **91.4%**. The number of young people on re-engagement provision has decreased slightly with young people being referred to a number of programmes offered by local agencies and also an internal Connexions programme (Passport to Progression), which has been introduced in response to the high number of NEETs. The number of young people on re-engagement provision in Hull remains higher than the regional and national percentages.

Figure 17 below shows the percentage of young people in the different employment categories that do not meet the 'duty to participate' guidance, nonetheless they can still be viewed as positive outcomes for these young people. This has decreased by **1.3%** this year as more young people are opting for employment opportunities that involve training as shown previously in Figure 15.

	Part time employment		Temporary employment		Employment without training		Self-employment		Employment - total	
	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 26
England	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%	2.4%	2.1%
Yorkshire & Humber	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	2.1%	0.1%	0.1%	2.6%	2.4%
Kingston upon Hull	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	2.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	1.9%

Figure 17: 16-17 year olds (academic age) in employment in February 2026 and change over the last 12 months

Although the percentage of young people in Hull who are NEET has fallen since last year, it still remains high. The chart below shows we are now (Feb 26) the same as the regional average for NEET and Not Knowns (**6.2%**). However, North Lincolnshire's rate of 41.2% NEET and Not Known in Feb 2026, has obviously impacted on this. Hull's 'total participating' figure is now only slightly (**0.5%**) below the England percentage which is a big improvement on last year. The below table summarises the holistic picture in February 2026 compared to February 2025 (note: total cohort may not equal 100% due to DFE rounding):

	February 2025			February 2026		
	England	Yorkshire & Humber	Kingston upon Hull	England	Yorkshire & Humber	Kingston upon Hull
Total participating (includes employment with training, re-engagement provision plus total in learning)	92.6%	92.2%	90.3%	92.5%	91.4%	92.0%
Total in employment (self-employed, part-time employment, temporary employment & employment without training)	2.4%	2.6%	3.2%	2.1%	2.4%	1.9%
Total NEET and Not Known	5.1%	5.2%	6.7%	5.4%	6.2%	6.2%

Figure 18: Holistic picture showing activity of 16-17 year olds (academic age) in February 2026

2.7 NEET group profile by year group

At the end of February 2026 there were **407** NEET young people who were resident in Hull, this is a reduction of **30** young people from this time last year when there were **437** NEET young people. In February 2026, **38.6%** (157/407) of the NEET group were in year 12 and **61.4%** (250/407) were in year 13. This is similar to last year when **39.1%** were in year 12 and **60.9%** were in year 13.

	Year 12	Year 13	Total
NEET Number	157	250	407
NEET Percentage	38.6%	61.4%	100%

Figure 19: Hull NEET group profile by year group at end of February 2026

Figure 20 (below) shows that Hull's Year 13 NEET and Not Known combined percentage, during the target period has reduced by **1.3%** since this time last year. This is in contrast to the regional and national figures which have increased. The Year 13 NEET and Not Known figures are traditionally higher than Year 12 figures so this is not unusual.

	Academic Age 17 (year 13)							
	2024 - 2025				2025 - 2026			
	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Ave	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Ave
England	8.0%	7.1%	6.5%	7.2%	8.1%	7.4%	6.8%	7.4%
Yorkshire & Humber	8.4%	7.4%	6.7%	7.5%	9.7%	9.1%	8.1%	9.0%
Kingston upon Hull	10.1%	9.4%	8.5%	9.3%	8.5%	7.9%	7.7%	8.0%
Stat Neighbours*	9.0%	8.1%	7.8%	8.3%	6.5%	6.1%	5.9%	6.2%

Figure 20: Year 13 Three Month Averages - NEET & Not Known

Figure 21 (below) shows that Hull's Year 12 NEET and Not Known combined percentage, during the target period has reduced by **0.8%** since this time last year. England stayed the same and Yorkshire and Humber saw a **0.5%** rise. At **4.7%**, the Year 12 Hull percentage is higher than England, regional and statistical neighbours however Hull has seen an improvement this year, whereas England and regional percentage has either stayed the same or increased.

	Academic Age 16 (year 12)							
	2024 - 2025				2025 - 2026			
	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Ave	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Ave
England	4.5%	3.9%	3.7%	4.1%	4.5%	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%
Yorkshire & Humber	4.4%	4.0%	3.7%	4.0%	4.7%	4.5%	4.3%	4.5%
Kingston upon Hull	6.1%	5.4%	5.1%	5.5%	4.9%	4.6%	4.8%	4.7%
Stat Neighbours*	5.5%	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%	4.5%	4.0%	3.8%	4.1%

Figure 21: Year 12 Three Month Averages - NEET & Not Known

* Please note: as stated previously Hull's statistical neighbours changed in April 2025 which makes comparisons to last year difficult.

2.8 End of February - vulnerable groups

The end of February NEET group (the most recent data set of the reporting period) can be sub-categorised by vulnerability. The largest vulnerable group who are NEET are those who had SEND support at school (this was the same last year), which is **24.8% (101 young people)** of the February NEET group (**407 young people in total**). This is followed by young people who attended Alternative Provision in Year 11, **19.2% (78 young people)**. Other classifications of vulnerability and their prevalence within the cohort are detailed below in Figure 22. Please note that a young person may appear in more than one of these groups e.g. a pregnant young person may also be a Child Looked After.

February 2026				
Total cohort number = 7026		NEET only cohort number = 407		
Vulnerable Groups	Number in cohort	Of which NEET	Of which NEET as a percentage	As a percentage of total NEET group
CLA (children looked after)	120	19	15.8%	4.7%
Caring for own child	45	27	60.0%	6.6%
Refugee / Asylum seeker	36	1	2.8%	0.2%
Carer not own child	48	12	25.0%	2.9%
Care Leaver	71	7	9.9%	1.7%
Supervised by YOT	60	11	18.3%	2.7%
Pregnancy	15	6	40.0%	1.5%
EHCP	492	57	11.6%	14.0%
SEND support at school	1005	101	10.0%	24.8%
Alternative Provision**	318	78	24.5%	19.2%
Mental Health*	108	33	30.6%	8.1%
Educated at Home (in Yr 11)	335	51	15.2%	12.5%

Figure 22: Profile of Hull NEET young people categorised by vulnerable group as at end February 2026

* A Mental Health flag was added by the DfE in April 2021 to identify any young person who the local authority is aware is experiencing poor mental health and is impacting on their engagement and participation. This information can be obtained from the young person themselves, a parent/carer or other sources e.g. social worker, education institution, or support organisation. It is not a compulsory field, and the young person may not have a 'diagnosis' or be in contact with the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

** Alternative provision includes all Year 11 young people who are on roll at Rise, Aspire, Boulevard Centre and Sullivan Centre plus any young people recorded as 'dual roll' (i.e. where the learner is registered at the mainstream school, but they also attend alternative provision).

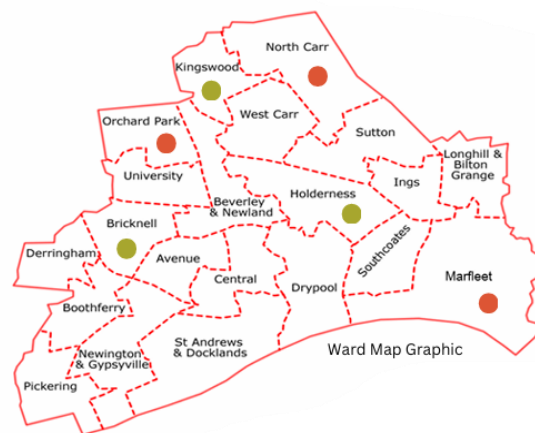
In February 2025, there was a total of **2221** in the vulnerable group cohort, this has increased this year to **2653** (please note: this is not the total number of young people). However the percentage of NEETs has gone down from **17.5%** to **15.2%** highlighting the fact that more vulnerable young people are being supported into positive destinations this year.

2.9 End of February - NEET group by ward

Of Hull's **407** total cohort of NEET young people in February 2026, the highest percentage (**11.8%**) reside in Orchard Park ward (**48** young people). This was the same last year, however the percentage has gone down as last year **13.3%** of NEET young people in Hull resided in the Orchard Park ward.

Holderness and Kingswood, again this year, had the lowest percentage (**0.7%**) of young people who are NEET, only **3** young people in each of these wards.

Ward	Cohort	NEET	NEET% in ward	NEET% of total cohort
Avenue	284	15	5.3%	3.7%
Beverley & Newland	315	10	3.2%	2.5%
Boothferry	247	10	4.0%	2.5%
Bricknell	201	8	4.0%	2.0%
Central	291	25	8.6%	6.1%
Derringham	261	10	3.8%	2.5%
Drypool	262	10	3.8%	2.5%
Holderness	307	3	1.0%	0.7%
Ings	243	13	5.3%	3.2%
Kingswood	284	3	1.1%	0.7%
Longhill & Bilton Grange	398	26	6.5%	6.4%
Marfleet	448	45	10.0%	11.1%
Newington & Gipsyville	443	31	7.0%	7.6%
North Carr	539	38	7.1%	9.3%
Orchard Park	551	48	8.7%	11.8%
Pickering	216	16	7.4%	3.9%
Southcoates	361	20	5.5%	4.9%
St Andrews's & Docklands	385	16	4.2%	3.9%
Sutton	324	20	6.2%	4.9%
University	298	18	6.0%	4.4%
West Carr	354	22	6.2%	5.4%
No Ward data	14	0	0.0%	0.0%
Total	7026	407	5.8%	100.0%



The lowest percentage of NEETs by area include:

- Kingswood (0.7%)
- Holderness (0.7%)
- Bricknell (2.0%)

The highest percentage of NEETs by area include:

- Orchard Park (11.8%)
- Marfleet (11.1%)
- North Carr (9.3%)

Area	Area cohort	NEET no	NEET % in Area	NEET % of NEET cohort
East	2343	137	5.8%	33.7%
West	1552	83	5.3%	20.4%
North	3117	187	6%	45.9%
No Area	14	0	0	0
TOTAL	7026	407	5.8%	100%

Figure 23: Geographic profile of Hull NEETs at end February 2026

Further information relating to young people who are NEET in each ward is shown below; many ward areas have seen a decrease in the NEET population when compared with 2025:-

Ward	February 2025				February 2026			
	Number of YP in Ward	NEET No	NEET% in Ward	NEET% of Total NEETs	Number of YP in Ward	NEET No	NEET% in Ward	NEET% of Total NEETs
Avenue	267	11	4.1%	2.5%	284	15	5.3%	3.7%
Beverley & Newland	317	15	4.7%	3.4%	315	10	3.2%	2.5%
Boothferry	259	7	2.7%	1.6%	247	10	4.0%	2.5%
Bricknell	218	10	4.6%	2.3%	201	8	4.0%	2.0%
Central	274	15	5.5%	3.4%	291	25	8.6%	6.1%
Derringham	266	15	5.6%	3.4%	261	10	3.8%	2.5%
Drypool	235	10	4.3%	2.3%	262	10	3.8%	2.5%
Holderness	312	5	1.6%	1.1%	307	3	1.0%	0.7%
Ings	233	9	3.9%	2.1%	243	13	5.3%	3.2%
Kingswood	271	6	2.2%	1.4%	284	3	1.1%	0.7%
Longhill & Bilton Grange	377	32	8.5%	7.3%	398	26	6.5%	6.4%
Marfleet	456	40	8.8%	9.2%	448	45	10.0%	11.1%
Newington & Gipsyville	455	43	9.5%	9.8%	443	31	7.0%	7.6%
No ward data	5	1	20.0%	0.2%	14	0	0.0%	0.0%
North Carr	505	48	9.5%	11.0%	539	38	7.1%	9.3%
Orchard Park	512	58	11.3%	13.3%	551	48	8.7%	11.8%
Pickering	206	15	7.3%	3.4%	216	16	7.4%	3.9%
Southcoates	386	24	6.2%	5.5%	361	20	5.5%	4.9%
St Andrew's & Docklands	373	21	5.6%	4.8%	385	16	4.2%	3.9%
Sutton	312	12	3.8%	2.7%	324	20	6.2%	4.9%
University	254	13	5.1%	3.0%	298	18	6.0%	4.4%
West Carr	358	27	7.5%	6.2%	354	22	6.2%	5.4%
Grand Total	6851	437	6.4%	100.0%	7026	407	5.8%	100.0%

Figure 24: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET by ward as at end February 2026 compared to end February 2025

2.10 End of February - NEET group split into available and not available to the labour market

The NEET group is split between those young people 'available to the labour market' and those 'not available to the labour market'. By way of example, governing factors that make young people not available to the labour market include pregnancy, illness or being a teenage parent.

2.10.1 NEET available to the labour market

At the end of February, out of a NEET cohort of **407** young people, **317** were NEET available to the labour market, shown in Figure 25 below. This equates to **77.9%** of the total NEET cohort, similar to last year when it was **77.1%** (**20** less young people).

Activity	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
NEET available - not yet ready for work or learning	4	4	8	2.5%
NEET available - seeking employment, education or training	115	183	298	94.0%
NEET available - Start date agreed (RPA Compliant)	7	1	8	2.5%
NEET - working not for reward	0	3	3	1.0%
TOTAL	126	191	317	100%

Figure 25: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET and available to the labour market by year group at end of February 2026

Of the **317** young people who were NEET available to the labour market, **191** are in year 13 which is **60.3%** of the NEET available cohort, and **39.7%** are in year 12 (**126** young people). Again, this is very similar to last year when the split was **60.8%** Year 13 and **39.2%** Year 12.

How long NEET	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
0-3 Months	72	85	157	49.5%
4-6 Months	52	74	126	39.7%
Over 6 Months	2	32	34	10.7%
Total	126	191	317	

Figure 26: Hull NEET young people who are available to the labour market by duration at end of February 2026

As the above chart shows, **34** young people (**10.7%**) had been NEET for more than 6 months which is approximately half the number last year when **70** young people (**20.8%**) had been NEET for more than 6 months. Again, very few long-term NEETs are Year 12, last year there were none.

Activity	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
NEET available - not yet ready for work or learning	5	3	8
NEET available - seeking employment, education or training	196	102	298
NEET available - start date agreed (RPA Compliant)	5	3	8
NEET available - working not for reward	1	2	3
TOTAL	207	110	317

Figure 27: Hull NEET young people who are available to the labour market by Sex at end of February 2026

There were **207** males who were NEET available to the labour market in February 2026 which is **65.3%** of the NEET Available cohort. **110** were females – **34.7%** of the cohort. The male NEET cohort has increased from a year ago when **58.8%** (198/337) were male and **41.2%** (139/337) were female.

2.10.2 NEET not available to the labour market

At the end of February, out of a NEET cohort of **407** young people, **90** were not available to the labour market (**22.1%** of the total NEET cohort). This is a slight reduction to last year when it was **22.9%** (**100** young people) however remains above the England average (18.3%), the region (21.7%) and our statistical neighbours (19.2%).

Activity	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
NEET not available - currently unlikely to be economically active	1	4	5	5.6%
NEET not available - Illness	13	20	33	36.7%
NEET not available - Other reason	3	10	13	14.4%
NEET not available - Pregnancy	2	2	4	4.4%
NEET not available - Teenage Parents	9	16	25	27.8%
NEET not available - Young carers	3	7	10	11.1%
Total	31	59	90	100%

Figure 28: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET and not available to the labour market by year group at end of February 2026

59 young people who were NEET not available to the labour market are in year 13 which is **65.6%** of the NEET not available cohort, whilst **34.4%** are in year 12 (**31** young people). The percentage split is similar to last year when **61** young people (**61.0%**) were in year 13 and **39** young people (**39.0%**) were in year 12.

5 young people were recorded as 'not available to the labour market – unlikely to be economically active' as they have a permanent disability or illness that prevents them from undertaking any form of education, employment or training. 13 young people were recorded as 'Other reason' - unable to enter education, training and employment at this time and are not covered by any other category.

How long NEET	Year Group		Total	Percentage
	12	13		
0-3 Months	16	29	45	50.0%
4-6 Months	14	13	27	30.0%
Over 6 Months	1	17	18	20.0%
Total	31	59	90	100.0%

Figure 29: Profile of Hull young people who are NEET and not available to the labour market by duration at end of February 2026

18 young people (20.0%) were NEET for more than 6 months which again is significantly lower than last year when 34 young people (34.0%) had been NEET and not available to the labour market for more than 6 months. Again, the vast majority of those who are NEET for over six months are in year 13 only.

Activity			Total
	Male	Female	
NEET not available - currently unlikely to be economically active	2	3	5
NEET not available - Illness	19	14	33
NEET not available - Other reason	10	3	13
NEET not available - Pregnancy	0	4	4
NEET not available - Teenage Parents	1	24	25
NEET not available - Young carers	2	8	10
Total	34	56	90

Figure 30: Hull NEET young people who are not available to the labour market by Sex at end of February 2026

There were 34 males who were NEET not available to the labour market in February 2026 which is 37.8% of the NEET not available cohort and is a slight increase on last year when it was 35.0%. 56 were females – 62.2% of the cohort. The female cohort has decreased from a year ago when 65.0% were female.

2.11 NEET RAG Ratings

Please note that the data used in this section was taken from the Connexions MIS system (Synergy Core+) in February 2026.

The Connexions Service currently use the below RAG rating methodology in relation to the NEET cohort (where a 'reasonable timeframe' is agreed to be approximately 3 months):

- **Purple** = New NEETs, not known yet.
- **Green** = Having some contact at least once every two weeks. YP has a good chance of progressing in to education, employment or training (EET).
- **Amber** = Having some contact once a month approx. YP has some chance of progressing.
- **Blue** = Infrequent contact e.g. Approximately once every two months (due to illness, pregnancy, carer, etc). YP has little chance of progressing.
- **Red** = Very infrequent contact e.g. once every 3 months to check in and prevent from lapsing. YP has no / very little chance of progressing.

The table below summarises the RAG ratings for the NEET cohort of 407 young people, using internal data from February 2026. The data shows that **38.3%** of the NEET cohort (156 of 407) were RAG-rated as red, improving on last year's **42.3%**. However, the number of young people rated amber has increased from **28.9%** to **34.6%**. This reflects a combination of factors rather than disengagement, including limited January/February start-date provision, uncertainty around course start dates with some providers, short-term health or wellbeing barriers, or awaiting a confirmed start date. Other cases reflect late changes in course or career choice, requiring alternative provision with later start dates. Overall, the majority of young people RAG-rated as amber remain engaged with services and are being actively supported to progress into education, training or employment; however, many are ready to move forward but are unable to secure timely EET opportunities, and are therefore recorded as NEET available and working towards progression.

The percentage of young people RAG-rated as green has increased to **12.1%**, compared to **10.5%** last year, indicating that more young people are actively engaging and exploring progression into EET. There has also been a reduction in the proportion of young people RAG-rated as blue, falling from **13.2%** in 2024/25 to **9.3%** in 2025/26. The reduction in young people RAG-rated as blue reflects stronger engagement with Connexions services and better assessment of need. Improved relationships between young people and PA's have led to a clearer understanding of circumstances and individual needs, reducing the number of cases requiring only light-touch support. The proportion

of young people RAG-rated as purple has increased slightly from **5.0%** to **5.7%**, but remains lower than in 2024 when it was **7.9%**. Purple ratings relate to young people who are newly NEET, including those leaving provision, moving into the area, or experiencing a sudden change in circumstances. These young people are identified quickly and prioritised for early contact and assessment so that appropriate support and RAG-rating can be put in place quickly.

	NEET Available (Number)	NEET Available (%)	NEET Not Available (Number)	NEET Not Available (%)	NEET Total (Number)	NEET Total (%)
Green	49	15.5%	0	0.0%	49	12.1%
Amber	125	39.4%	15	16.9%	141	34.6%
Red	112	35.2%	44	49.4%	156	38.3%
Blue	10	3.1%	28	31.5%	38	9.3%
Purple	21	6.6%	2	2.2%	23	5.7%
Total	317	100.0%	90	100.0%	407	100.0%

Figure 31: RAG rating information relating to Hull young people who were NEET Feb 2026.

An internal research exercise focusing on the NEET available, RAG rated Red cohort identified a high level of complicated and overlapping needs that significantly impact young people’s ability to progress into EET. As illustrated in Figure 32, individuals within this cohort experience an average of **2.67** identified barriers per person, highlighting the depth and complexity of challenges faced.

It is important to note that these figures reflect known and disclosed barriers only. Due to high levels of disengagement within the cohort, including avoidance of contact with the Connexions Service and training providers, it is likely that additional barriers remain unidentified for some young people. As a result, the data is likely to under-represent the true level of need across the cohort. While a single barrier can affect progression into EET, young people facing multiple and sometimes undisclosed barriers are much less likely to stay engaged without coordinated, intensive support. This shows that progression into EET for this cohort is unlikely without sustained, multi-agency support.

Figure 32 below also highlights engagement itself as a key barrier, with many young people actively avoiding contact. This creates a significant challenge, as limited engagement makes it harder to fully understand needs, coordinate support, and provide appropriate advice on opportunities.

Barriers / Issues	Number
Young person wants employment only	16.8%
Young Person avoids contact with Connexions/ training providers. Doesn't answer phone, does not reply to messages, fails to attend appointments etc.	76%
Mental Health Issues	23.9%
Death of significant person	1.8%
Working with Hull Youth Justice	6.2%
Poor experience of education / impact of bullying	2.7%
EHCP	15%
SEND support at school	33%
CLA /CL	6.2%
Impact of trauma	4.0%
Physical ill health	2.7%
Substance issues (YP or Family)	0.9%
Chaotic living arrangements	1.8%
Alternative timetable at school / EHE	4.0%
Lack of motivation	7.1%
Working with a social worker	2.7%
Caring responsibilities	2.7 %
Other barriers not listed	58%

Figure 32: Profile of barriers that were identified in relation to Hull young people who were 'NEET available - RAG Rated Red'

3. TARGET PERIOD SUMMARY

3.1 Data key points

- For the target period (December 2025 to February 2026) the average percentage of young people who were either NEET or Not Known in Years 12 and 13 and resident in Hull was **6.4%**. This is **1.0%** lower than last year's three-monthly average of **7.4%** and is our best target period performance in recent years.

- Our combined NEET and Not Known figure of **6.4%** (for the target period) is higher than the England average of **5.8%**, and our new statistical neighbours' average of **5.1%** but is lower than the regional average of **6.7%**. It is also lower than our old statistical neighbours' average of **7.1%**. Whereas the England and regional average are increasing, the Hull average has seen a decrease over the last two years.
- The percentage of Hull resident young people in learning (during the target period) at **90.1%** is higher than last year (**87.9%**). The in-learning figure is just **0.3%** lower than the regional average of **90.4%**, **1.8%** lower than the England average of **91.9%** and **2.2%** lower than our new statistical neighbours of **92.3%**.
- In February 2026, **38.6%** of the NEET group were in year 12 and **61.4%** were in year 13. In February 2025, **39.1%** of the NEET group were in year 12 and **60.9%** were in year 13 and therefore no material difference. This shows consistently that the majority of the NEET group are year 13 young people.
- Out of a NEET cohort of **407** young people in February 2026, **317 (77.9%)** were available to the labour market and **90 (22.1%)** were not available to the labour market. This is very similar to last year when the split was **337 (77.1%)** available and **100 (22.9%)** not available.
- Of Hull's **407** total cohort of NEET young people in February 2026, the highest percentage (**11.8%**) reside in the Orchard Park ward (**48** young people). This however is lower than last year when **13.3%** of the NEET young people in Hull lived in Orchard Park. Again, Kingswood and Holderness wards have the fewest NEETs.
- **65.3%** of the NEET 'available to the labour market' cohort were male (**207** young people) and **34.7%** were female (**110** young people) The male NEET cohort has increased slightly from a year ago when **58.8%** were male and **41.2%** were female.
- **62.2%** of the NEET 'not available to the labour market' cohort were female (**56** young people) and **37.8%** were male (**34** young people). This is due to the number of female teenage parents (**24** females as opposed to just **1** male). The female cohort has decreased slightly from a year ago when **65.0%** of NEET 'not available' were female and **35.0%** were male.
- Of the total NEET cohort in February 2026, **40.8%** were female and **59.2%** were male.
- The largest vulnerable group who are NEET are those who received SEND Support provision in compulsory education which is **24.8%** of the February NEET group (**101** young people). This is followed by young people who attended Alternative Provision in Year 11 (**78** young people, **19.2%**). This was the same trend as last year.
- In February 2026, internal data shows that **72.9%** of the total NEET cohort were RAG rated as red or amber which is a slightly higher percentage than last year when **71.2%** were RAG rated

as amber or red. Encouragingly, there has been an increase in the young people rated as green (10.5% to 12.1% this year) and a decrease in the number of young people rated as blue 13.2% to 9.3% (defined as light touch support needed during the next 3 months with very little chance of progressing to EET within that timeframe). There has been a slight increase in the number of young people rated as purple from 5.0% last year to 5.7% (new to the NEET cohort and no RAG rating applied yet).

- In February 2026, of the 317 young people who were NEET 'available to the labour market', 34 young people (10.7%) had been NEET for more than 6 months. This is a significant improvement on what it was last year (70 young people, 20.8%). This is very positive as there are less long term NEETs. Of the 90 young people who were NEET 'not available to the labour market', 18 young people (20.0%) had been NEET for more than 6 months which again is a significant reduction from last year (34 young people, 34.0%). Almost all long-term NEETs (over 6 months) are year 13 young people (academic age of 17 years).
- Hull's year 12 & 13 cohort continues to increase, with a 27.8% increase since the 19/20 academic year (5,496 in 2020 to 7,024 in 2026). Hull's cohort is slightly lower than the average cohort of our new statistical neighbours (February 2026 = Hull 7,026, average statistical neighbours = 7,078).
- Other large Northern cities are struggling with high volumes of NEETs and Not Knowns. Some of the main cities are shown in the chart below, all of which experienced higher rates than Hull over the target period and averaged 7.9% combined.

	Y12 + Y13 Feb 26 Cohort	NEET	Not Known	NEET + Not Known Combined	In Learning
Hull	7,026	6.0%	0.4%	6.4%	90.1%
Leeds	20,315	4.6%	3.7%	8.3%	89.8%
Sheffield	13,193	5.8%	1.9%	7.7%	90.0%
Liverpool	11,358	5.8%	3.2%	9.0%	89.0%
Manchester	15,202	5.3%	2.1%	7.4%	90.5%
Newcastle	6,850	6.3%	0.8%	7.1%	91.6%
Average	13,384	5.6%	2.3%	7.9%	90.2%

Figure 33: - Hull statistics compared to large Northern cities during the 2025-26 annual reporting period

3.2 Summary of potential contributory factors to the increase in NEETs

The below factors appear to be contributing to the increase in NEETs:

- An increase in the 16-18 cohort (up 28% from 5,484 in 2019 to 7,026 in 2026).
- Drop out from post 16 provision remains relatively high. Between October 25 and Feb 26, Hull had 317 young people join the NEET register.
- Reduced availability of post-September start provision. There has been a reduction in suitable post-September provision, partly due to fewer Independent Training Providers (ITPs) operating locally. In recent years, six local ITPs have closed, mainly due to financial pressures and Ofsted outcomes. ITPs have traditionally been a key option for more vulnerable young people, as they often provide smaller and more supportive learning environments. The reduction in provider capacity has created gaps in provision, particularly for rolling or flexible start programmes, limiting progression opportunities for young people who are not ready to start at traditional entry points.
- Diminishing engagement provision. Funding for key engagement provision in Hull has reduced significantly in recent years. DWP funding for the Youth Hub ended in December 2022, followed by the end of the ESF-funded Springboard Youth Employment Initiative in November 2023. To date, no equivalent provision has been put in place, reducing capacity to engage young people who are furthest from the labour market.
- The long-term impacts of the pandemic continue to affect a proportion of young people, particularly in relation to mental health, confidence and engagement, and remain a contributory factor to sustained disengagement from education, employment and training.
- 22.1% of the NEET cohort are classed as not available to the labour market and remain NEET for extended periods. This is above the England average (18.3%), the region (21.7%) and our statistical neighbours (19.2%). This reflects the greater complexity and vulnerability among young people locally and contributes to long term disengagement.
- Current economic backdrop. Youth unemployment continues to rise nationally and is at its highest level since before the pandemic. National trends show fewer job opportunities and increased competition for young people, making progression into education, employment or training harder, particularly for those furthest from participation. Locally, the number of young people claiming Universal Credit increased from 1,585 in September 2022 to 2,075 in March 2026 (a 31% rise), equivalent to 8.4% of the cohort compared to 5.8% nationally. DWP data also shows that a small but significant number (40) of 16–17-year-olds locally are claiming benefits, including hardship payments, at rates above the national average (0.6% vrs 0.2%).

- While there has been a slight reduction in the number of young people experiencing a period of NEET in 2024/25, this remains a significant concern. The number of young people recorded as NEET increased year on year from 653 (approximately 11.3% of the cohort) in 2020/21, to 749 (12.3%) in 2021/22, 892 (14.2%) in 2022/23, and 1,059 (16.1%) in 2023/24, before reducing to 960 young people (around 14% of the cohort) in 2024/25.

4. SERVICE ACTIONS TO DATE

4.1 Year 11 'Risk of NEET' Offer

In line with the new DfE guidance on identifying and supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET, Connexions' Year 11 Risk of NEET (RONI) early-intervention offer is now fully embedded across Hull's secondary schools. The approach focuses on early identification, targeted support and effective transition planning for young people at risk of disengaging from post-16 education.

Connexions Senior Participation Advisors work closely with schools to support identified RONI cohorts throughout Year 11, ensuring timely and personalised support is in place ahead of key transition points. All but one school in the city are fully engaged in this approach, which has strengthened partnership working, improved information sharing, and increased schools' ability to track and support vulnerable learners as they move into post-16 provision.

The impact of this approach is reflected in improved transition outcomes. Across Hull's mainstream secondary schools, around 88.9% of young people identified as RONI successfully transitioned into post-16 education. Across the city, transition outcomes range from 70% to 100%, demonstrating strong engagement from schools and consistent application of the RONI approach.

These outcomes show the positive impact of early identification, targeted support and strong partnership working in helping vulnerable young people progress into EET. The Year 11 RONI offer continues to align with national good practice, supporting NEET prevention at the earliest opportunity and reducing the risk of post-16 disengagement.

Schools engaging with RONI support	Area
Aspire Academy	East
Boulevard Academy	West
Frederick Holmes	West
Ganton School	West
HCUK 14-16	West
Hull Trinity House	North
Kelvin Hall	North
Kingswood Academy	North
Liberty Academy	East
Malet Lambert	East
Marvell College	East
Newland School for Girls	North
Northcott	North
Oakfield School	East

Rise Academy	North
Sirius Academy North	North
Sirius Academy West	West
St Marys College	North
Tweendykes	East
Venn Academy – Sullivan Centre/Boulevard Centre	West
Winifred Holtby	East

Figure 34 - Secondary school engagement with RONI support by area

4.2 Post 16 NEET Offer

- The service has continued to work very closely with the HYJS, Youth Services, Early Help, Social Care, Elected Home Educated Services and the Virtual School:
 - HYJS: Connexions staff attend weekly diversion meetings with HYJS to share updates on young people’s current education, employment or training status and how well they are engaging. Where young people are not engaging, we work with partners to identify barriers and offer support to help re engage. A dedicated Participation Adviser is also based weekly at the Castor Centre to provide direct IAG and support young people into suitable next steps.
 - Virtual School: Connexions hold monthly meetings with the Virtual School to review young people who are CLA, with a particular focus on those who are NEET. These meetings look at suitable education, employment or training options, agree any additional or bespoke support needed, and plan joint actions to improve engagement and outcomes.
 - Youth Services, Early Help and Social Care: Connexions work closely with colleagues across these services to support young people to move forward and overcome barriers. There is a strong focus on accessing early help support for young people with mental health or emotional wellbeing needs that affect their ability to engage in education, training or employment. Where needed, young people are supported with referrals or signposted to appropriate specialist services.
 - EHE young people: the Connexions service provides dedicated staffing resources to support young people who are EHE, in partnership with the Education Welfare service. Connexions also provide weekly drop-in sessions offering IAG and progression support, helping young people move into suitable employment, education and training opportunities.
- Monthly wellbeing clinics are held with the NHS Hull Early Intervention Service offering a confidential space for Participation Advisers to discuss young people of concern. Advisers receive professional advice from a mental health practitioner to support early identification of

need, make appropriate referrals to the NHS service, and access guidance on effective signposting to wider wellbeing and support services.

- Weekly employment and progression drop-in sessions are held at Kenworthy House for NEET young people aged 16–18 (25 if EHCP). Participation Advisers provide impartial information, advice and guidance to young people to explore their options and help them to make informed career choices.
- Managers have continued to actively engage with other local authorities (including statistical neighbours e.g. Sandwell) to share practice from both a leadership and operational perspective. A statistical neighbour working group is now in place.
- The new CCIS system, Core+, is now embedded and is providing enhanced reporting between education providers and the local authority.
- The RAG rating system has been updated and is now fully embedded, with summary data used to inform how support is targeted across each RAG group. For example, analysis of the red cohort identified a high level of mental health need. In response, managers have taken proactive steps to ensure appropriate mental health support is available for NEET young people.
- The appointment of a SEND Senior Participation Officer has strengthened the post-16 NEET offer, supporting the continued development of Preparation for Adulthood and SEND employability pathways, including supported internships.
- Hull successfully bid for the one year extension of DfE funding through the Internships Work Initiative. The funding extension asked Local Authorities to focus on embedding and sustaining the growth of supported internships in their area. Hull's funding enabled us to promote supported internships more widely and target groups of eligible young people to raise awareness and promote the opportunities.
- We have three (Humberside Police, Asda and CHCP) fully operational and well established DFN Project SEARCH Supported Internship partnerships in the local area. We are currently in the process of setting up a fourth DFN Project Search in partnership with Amazon as the host business and Humber Learning Consortium as the educator. The intended start date is September 2026.
- Hull City Council's fifth annual SEND Post 16 Options and Preparation for Adulthood event took place on the Ground Floor of Princes Quay on 22nd April. The event was supported by over 40 providers including colleges, training providers, Hull University, third sector organisations, Supported Internships and day care provision. Agencies involved in transition including Adult Services Transition Team, 0-19 Health, Statutory SEND, SEND Early Help, Connexions and the Transport Team attended to help guide young people and their families through preparing for

adulthood. Secondary schools, Pupil Referral Units and Special schools in Hull brought pupils aged 14 upwards to begin early planning and help with decision making. The event was also visited by SEND young people in post 16 provision to help them to consider their next steps. Those not currently in education, employment or training attended to discover what is available to help them re-engage with provision.

- Service managers continue to work closely with local education and training providers to ensure suitable provision remains available for NEET young people, including in year start dates in November, January and February. This supports timely engagement and progression for young people who are unable to wait for traditional academic start points. Work continues with providers to expand and sustain rolling start programmes, reducing the risk of prolonged periods of NEET.
- The Connexions in house re-engagement provision, Passport to Progression (P2P) has been expanded and is now available to all post 16 NEET young people. The programme provides tailored one to one support from a Senior Participation Advisor, alongside access to online learning through The Skills Network, including Functional Skills in English and Maths. This supports barrier removal, builds confidence and independence, and enables progression into education, training or employment at an appropriate pace. This offer is supported by a newly implemented 'barrier' removal fund which aims to remove financial barriers preventing a young person returning to Employment, Education and Training.
- Senior Participation Advisers now routinely retain case responsibility for NEET young people linked to their former secondary schools, embedding this as standard practice. This has strengthened early identification of young people at risk of disengaging from post-16 provision, improved visibility of dropouts, and enhanced partnership working between schools, post-16 providers and support services. The approach is now well established and is proving effective in supporting timely intervention and re-engagement.
- The service has retained the 'Matrix Accreditation' following a full re-assessment in March 2025. In March 2026 the Connexions Service received an annual continuous improvement check. The external assessor was pleased with the progress towards our development objectives agreed the previous year. We will receive another continuous improvement check in March 2027 and a full re-assessment in 2028.
- The Connexions service has delivered two Hull and East Riding Apprenticeship Events, held in November 2024 and November 2025 at Bishop Burton College, in partnership with East Riding Council. Both events were well attended, engaging large numbers of school and college students, NEET and Electively Home Educated young people, parents and carers, with over 50 employers and training providers represented. Planning for a third event is now well underway.

4.3 Moving forwards

- Continue to engage with other Local Authorities / Mayoral Combined Authorities to further explore best practice models, options for innovation and to keep abreast of new potential funding streams which may support the NEET reduction agenda.
- Continue to embed and further develop the local CCIS data system and strengthen the quality of record keeping through structured internal peer to peer audit arrangements.
- Work with partners to ensure mental health services are accessible and appropriate to the needs of the NEET cohort.
- Explore opportunities to attract new independent training providers into the local market to address gaps created by recent closures, while continuing to work with existing providers to develop provision that meets changing local needs. Also Influence DfE to increase existing contractual capacity locally.
- Continue to co-ordinate service support alongside the HYJS, Youth Services, Early Help, Social Care, Elective Home Educated Services, SEND services, and the Virtual School. See section 4.2 for details.
- Increase re-engagement opportunities for young people by exploring new solutions in partnership with local providers and continue to embed and grow our own Passport to Progression programme.
- Establish a direct link with the Home Office to better track those young people that have potentially left the UK.
- Lead activities which ensure all young people are better prepared for adulthood.
- Better engage the Learning Partnership and its respective sub-groups to raise awareness of the NEET challenge.
- Respond to the outcomes detailed within the forthcoming Millburn review of NEET and implement a local NEET taskforce in partnership with local stakeholders.
- Strengthen partnership working in geographical areas with high NEET levels, maximising the relationships with respective schools, to support earlier identification and improved post-16 transition planning for young people.
- Review and adapt engagement approaches for young people who avoid contact by increasing outreach-based activities to better understand barriers and increase opportunities for re-engagement.

- Target our new Skills Network online learning provision towards long term NEET young people, including those with mental health needs, as a flexible re-engagement option and where full participation is not yet appropriate.
- Embed the use of the new DfE RONI tool alongside our local CCIS system to improve early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET and support more timely, targeted interventions. Also, ensure this data is shared with our local schools to inform improved targeting of risk of NEET young people in year 11.
- Following a review of the post 16 section of the 'transition protocol' there will now be an annual data exchange between the Local Authority and Post 16 providers. This data exchange will begin in August each year and will share details of a vulnerable young person's educational history and support requirements. The post 16 provider will complete a template with details of learners who have enrolled for the next academic year and return to the Local Authority. Once returned, the Local Authority will provide any additional information which is pertinent to provide an effective transition for the young person. This information will then be returned to the post 16 provider to aid transition, implement effective support arrangements and promote enhanced retention.

5. GLOSSARY

Alternative Provision	<p>Alternative Provision (AP) is defined as: education arranged by local authorities or schools for pupils who, because they are unable to attend mainstream education because they are: excluded from mainstream education due to behavioural issues (this can include those young people now attending further education); unable to attend mainstream education due to either physical or mental ill health (can include pregnant mothers); waiting for a school place or for whatever reason, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed period exclusion; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour.</p>
Care leaver	<p>A young person, who was looked-after by a local authority for a period of 13 weeks, or periods amounting in total to 13 weeks, which began after he/she reached 14 and ended after he/she reached 16.</p>
Currency Lapse	<p>A young person's currency relates to how they are participating in education, employment or training. A young person's activity lapses on the earliest of their expected course end date, four weeks after their current activity review date or when the currency period for their current activity has been reached.</p>
CLA (children looked after)	<p>A child is looked-after by an LA if he or she (i) has been provided with accommodation by an LA for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, in exercise of the LA's social service functions (in particular under the Children Act 1989), or (ii) is placed in the care of an LA by virtue of an order made under part IV of the 1989 Act. Children will cease to be looked after on their 18th birthday.</p>
Mental Health flag	<p>This is to identify young people who are experiencing poor mental health which may be impacting their engagement and participation. This circumstance identifies a young person who local authorities are aware is experiencing poor mental health. This information can be obtained from the young person themselves, a parent/carer or other sources e.g. social worker, education institution, or support organisation. To note: this is not a compulsory field and the young person may not have a 'diagnosis' or be in contact with the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).</p>

Parent - caring for own child	A young person who provides regular and on-going care for their own child whether as part of a larger family unit or as a single parent.
Parent – not caring for own child	A young parent who does not provide regular and on-going care for their own child.
Refugee/Asylum Seeker	According to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." Asylum is "protection granted by a State on its territory against the exercise of jurisdiction by the State of origin, based on the principle of non-refoulement and characterised by the enjoyment of internationally recognised refugee rights, and generally accorded without limit of time."
SEND	Special educational needs and disability (SEND) - A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her
Supervised by YOT	A young person who is the subject of supervision by the Youth Offending Team (YOT). There are some instances where YOT supervision is for agreement locally taking account of individual circumstances and is not a statutory requirement.
Statistical Neighbour	Statistical neighbour models provide one method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. Any LA may compare its performance (as measured by various indicators) against its statistical neighbours to provide an initial guide as to whether their performance is above or below the level that might be expected.
Young carer	Young people who provide regular and on-going care and emotional support to family members who are physically or mentally ill, disabled or drug/alcohol addiction. The term does not apply to the everyday and occasional help around the home that may often be expected of or given by children in families.

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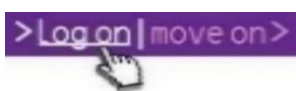
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