

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2026/27

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

Summary points

- 5.6% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol are “not in education, employment or training (NEET)” and 0.8% are current situation not known (CSNK) in total this is (6.4%), higher than the national average (5.8%).

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 6.4% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol (2025/26) who are recorded as being “not in education, employment or training” or their current situation is not known, which equates to 627 young people (16-17 year olds). This is similar to the previous year (6.5%) but higher than the England average of 5.8%, and places Bristol as the third lowest performing city when compared to the other English core cities (Fig 1). Our NEET only figure (5.6%) is higher (worse) than the national average of 3.4%, and fourth highest when compared to the other English core cities. Newcastle has the highest NEET only figure of 6.3% and Birmingham the lowest (3.1%). It is worth noting that as we reduce our CSNK % this has led to an increase in the number of young people who have been identified as being NEET and these young people are regularly contacted and offered support by the Post 16 career coaches.

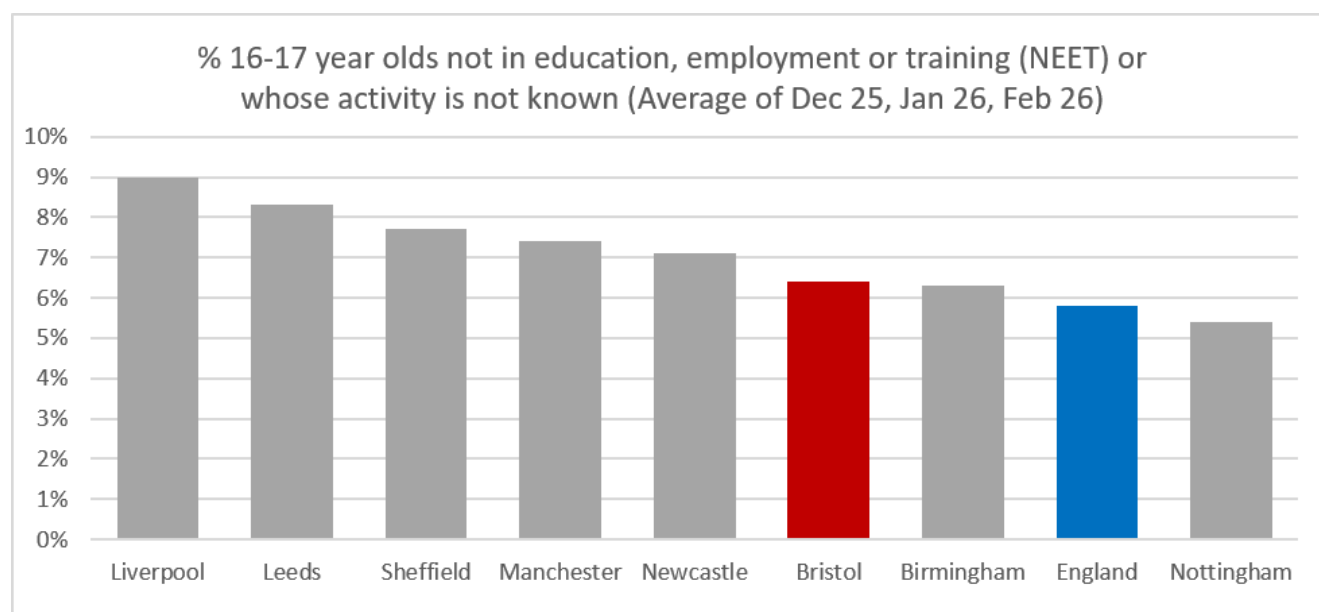


Fig 1: Source: [Explore education statistics](#), July 2026

Additional data shows that 90.0% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol are in education and training, similar to the previous year (90.1%), and lower than the England average (92.0%). Compared

to the English core cities, Bristol has the fifth highest prevalence, which ranges from 89.4% in Leeds to 93.7% in Birmingham.

Progress in Supporting Young People who are NEET with funding from the West of England Combined Authority, we have delivered the HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) Extension programme and have now commenced the Boost Your Future programme. Both provide short-term, targeted support for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), including helping participants to progress towards English and maths qualifications.

In particular, more supportive, rolling programmes are needed to help young people move from NEET into sustained education, employment or training (EET). We are therefore working with College West to develop a roll-on, roll-off model that can respond to young people who become NEET at different points throughout the academic year.

Our data indicates that most young people in Bristol's NEET cohort are aged 17–18. This includes young people who entered college or sixth form but subsequently withdrew, often without a clear progression plan. Our careers coaches are contacting these young people to provide personalised careers information, advice and guidance, identify appropriate support and help them move towards a positive and sustainable destination.

Local data (from Bristol City Council's Insight, Performance and Intelligence Service) at the end of June 2026 highlights that there were 537 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 Filwood (12.8%), Hartcliffe & Withywood (11.8%), Henbury and Brentry (8.8%) and Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston (8.4%) (see fig 2 below) and are areas of higher deprivation. Young people from these areas are more likely to have social emotional and mental health needs and are the ones most affected by poverty. Less than 2% of 16-17 year olds were NEET only in the wards of Bishopston and Ashley Down, Cotham, Clifton Down, Redland, Stoke Bishop, Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze and Clifton.

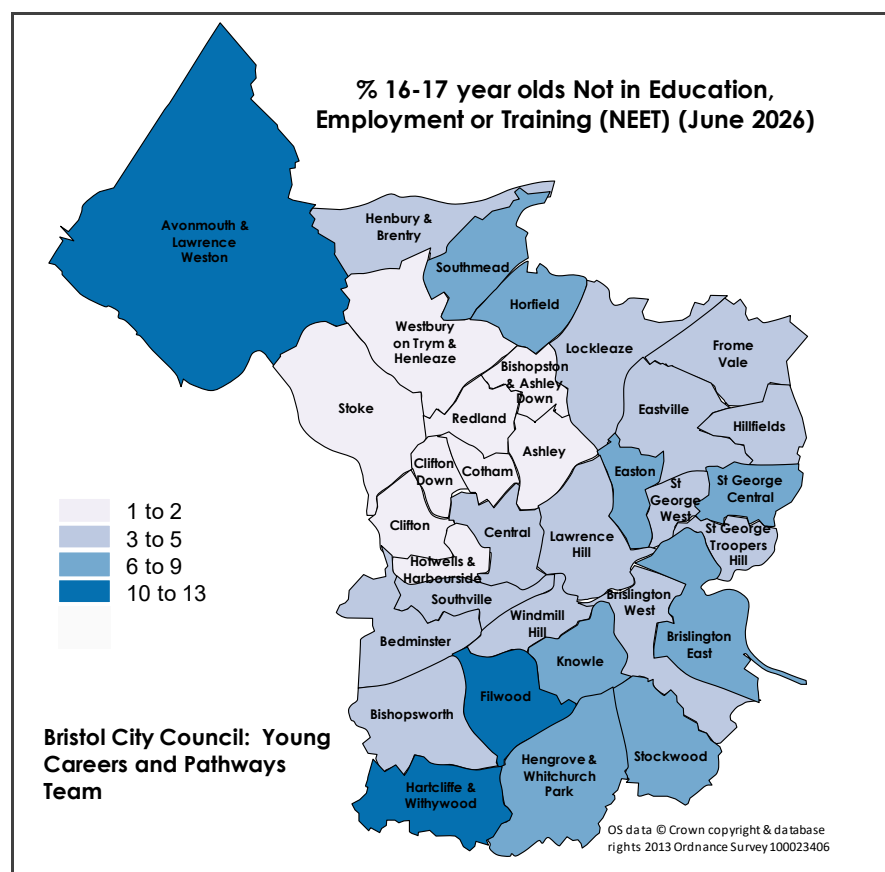


Fig 2: 16-17 yr. olds NEET by ward as a % of total NEETs (June 2026 data)

Equalities data:

Data from the [Department for Education](#) for the academic year 2025/26 shows that males are more likely to be NEET (or whose activity is unknown) than females, both nationally and locally. In Bristol 6.6% of males (aged 16 and 17) are NEET (or whose activity is unknown) compared to 6.3% of females. Nationally the figures are 6.4% of males and 5.2% of females.

The data for Bristol also highlights that 16-17 years olds of mixed / multiple ethnicity (8.9%) are more likely to be NEET or activity unknown, than 16-17 year olds of Chinese (0.6%), Black (3.4%), Asian (3.5%) or White ethnicity (6.4%). Nationally, 16-17 year olds of White ethnicity (6.5%) are more likely to be NEET or activity unknown, followed by 16-17 year olds of mixed ethnicity (5.4%), Black ethnicity (3.0%), Asian ethnicity (2.7%) and Chinese ethnicity (1.4%).

Impact of Covid-19:

We are still seeing the impact of COVID with young people presenting with mental health needs and increased levels of anxiety. The team are supporting a number of these young people with one-to-one support and providing them with the soft skills to access education employment or training.

Further data / links / consultations:

- Statistics: [NEET and participation - local authority figures](#)

Date updated: July 2026

Date of next update: July 2027