

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

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

Summary points

- 6.0% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol are “not in education, employment or training (NEET)” and 0.5% are current situation not known (CSNK) in total this is (6.5%), higher than the national average (5.6%).

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 6.5% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol (2024/25) who are recorded as being “not in education, employment or training” or their current situation is not known, which equates to 626 young people (16-17 year olds). This is similar to the previous year (6.6%) but higher than the England average of 5.6%, and places Bristol as the third lowest performing city when compared to the other English core cities (Fig 1). Our NEET only figure (6.0%) is higher (worse) than the national average of 3.4%, and third highest when compared to the other English core cities. Newcastle has the highest NEET only figure of 6.9% and Birmingham the lowest (3.2%). 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.

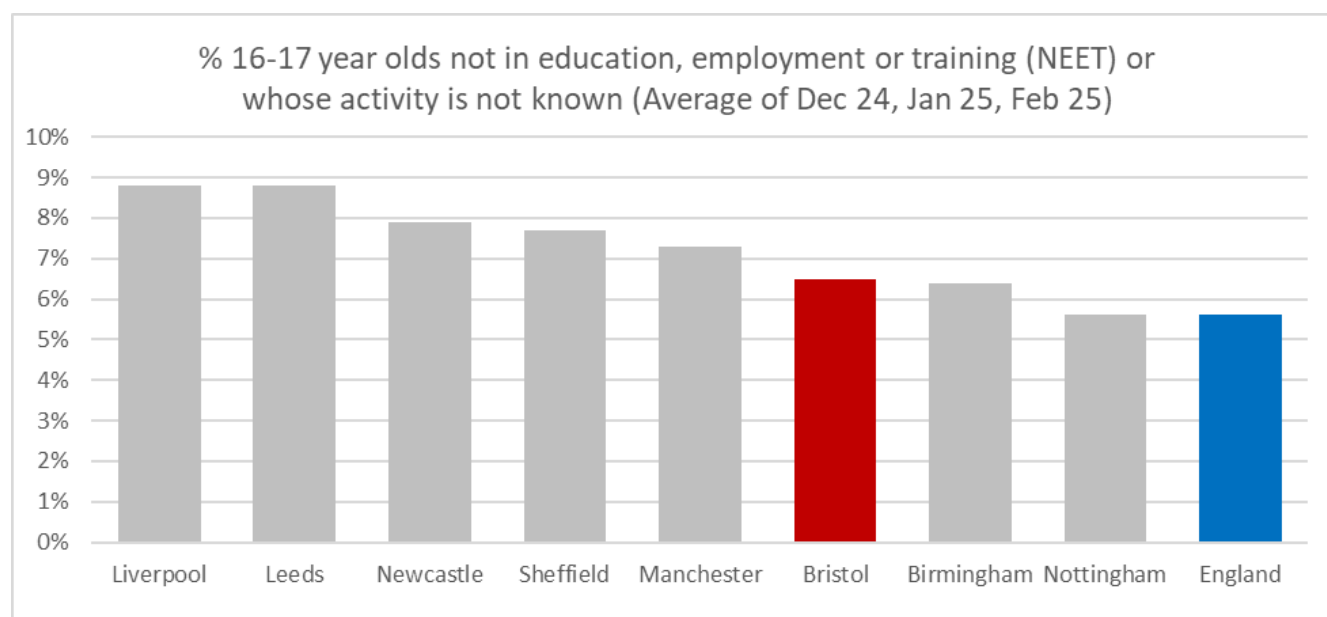


Fig 1: Source: [Explore education statistics](#), August 2025

Additional data shows that 90.1% of 16-17 year olds in Bristol are in education and training, lower than both the previous year (92.4%), and the England average (92.0%). Compared to the

English core cities, Bristol has the fourth highest prevalence, which ranges from 87.6% in Liverpool to 93.4% in Birmingham.

This year funded by the combined authority we have delivered HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) which is a programme delivering short term intervention for those that are NEET or Risk of NEET and has supported over 200 young people with courses in their locality. There is still a lack of rolling 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 most 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 have a team of career coaches who are reaching out to support these young people with careers advice and guidance.

Local data (from Bristol City Council’s Insight, Performance and Intelligence Service) at the end of July 2025 highlights that there were 710 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 (17.2%), Filwood (16.0%) and Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston (13.4%) (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 Cotham, Clifton Down, Hotwells and Harbourside, Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze and Clifton.

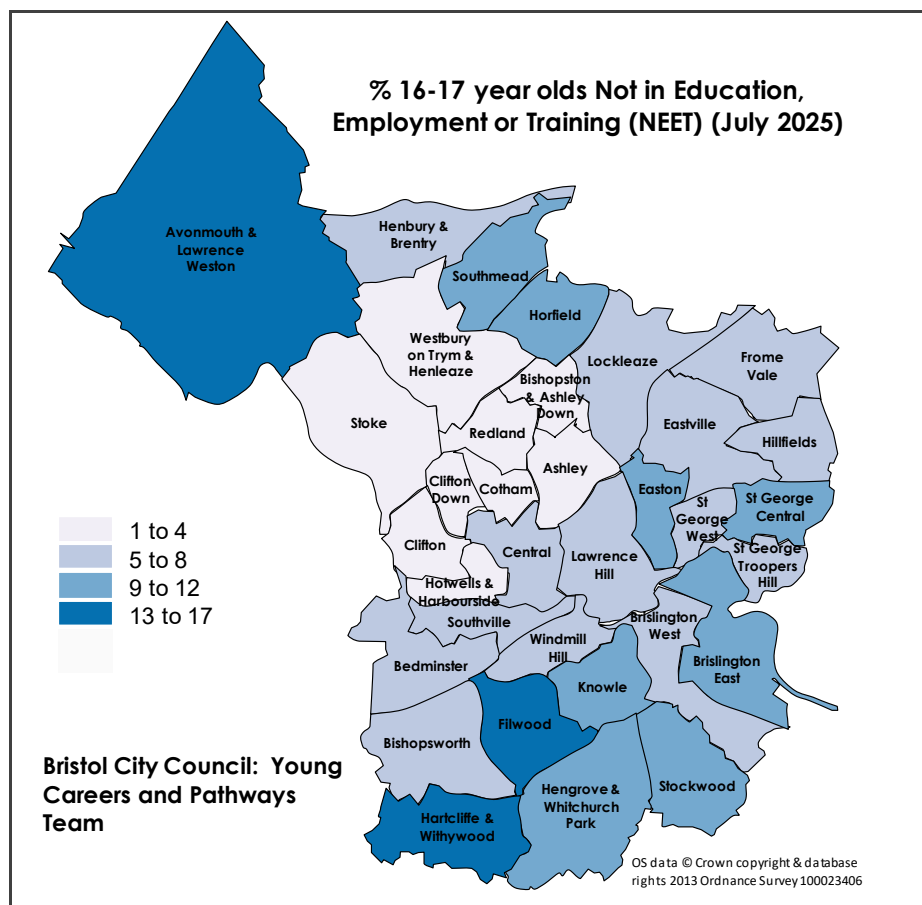


Fig 2: 16-17 yr. olds NEET by ward as a % of total NEETs (July 2025 data)

Equalities data:

Data from the [Department for Education](#) for the academic year 2024/25 shows that males are more likely to be NEET (or whose activity is unknown) than females, both nationally and locally. In Bristol 7.0% of males (aged 16 and 17) are NEET (or whose activity is unknown) compared to 5.9% of females. Nationally the figures are 6.2% of males and 5.0% of females.

The data for Bristol also highlights that 16-17 years olds of white ethnicity (7.6%) are more likely to be NEET or activity unknown, than 16-17 year olds of Chinese (0.6%), Black (3.4%) or Asian ethnicity (3.5%), mirroring the national profile.

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: August 2025

Date of next update: August 2026