The Local Authority's Monitoring Framework to Ensure Compliance with the Post 16 Participation Legislation

The information that must be reported to the Department for Education (DfE) by all local authorities (LAs) in England is set out in the NCCIS (National Client Caseload Information System) Management Information Requirement. Each LA must deploy a database that meets the NCCIS requirements, both for holding the correct data and for making monthly and annual returns in the correct formats via the NCCIS web portal.

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council uses a database called IYSS to meet the NCCIS requirement. IYSS is managed by a team of 3 officers based in the Education, Employment & Skills section of Children's Services. Data is collected via a combination of: direct inputting by database users (interacting directly with young people); and bulk data sharing processes linking the IYSS Team with national, regional and local data networks. Bulk starter, leaver and in learning data is pulled from various sources, eg: colleagues in Children's Services and other LA teams; colleagues in neighbouring LAs; the Education & Skills Funding Agency; the DWP; the NCCIS portal; and schools, training agencies and colleges attended by our young people.

The cohort that we are required to report on is defined as all residents: of academic age 15; of academic ages 16 and 17; and of academic ages 18 to 24 with a current EHCP plan. For the academic age 15 group we collect data and report mainly on their intended destinations and whether they have an offer for a future place in learning. For the other groups we mainly report on their actual destinations – the educational, employment or training situations they are in.

The academic age 16 and 17 group is the focus of the Raising Participation Age (RPA) Act which requires that they continue in defined types of education or training until their 18th birthday. NCCIS data is the main tool for evidencing that young people are meeting the RPA duty and that LAs are meeting their responsibilities to implement RPA. The local database is a tool for LAs in its own right: it provides management information for the LA and local partners; and it helps us to support all young people to engage in learning and identify and offer extra support to those not participating in learning or likely not to.

The DfE uses NCCIS returns to monitor participation rates across all English LAs. It produces monthly LA tables via the NCCIS web portal and publishes public tables via Gov.uk. This allows LAs to benchmark their performance against others and enables local stakeholders to hold their LA to account. In addition, the DfE may take action if it feels the data is not being collected properly by the LA, or if the LA's NEET or Not Known rates are too high or the participation rate is too low. The DfE has never queried Bradford district figures like this. Each data return is error checked by the NCCIS web portal and only uploaded if errors are eradicated. The IYSS Team produces a monthly overview of the district's participation, NEET & Not Known figures for monitoring purposes. This summary is sent out by email to interested colleagues.

In general terms the participation/NEET/Not Known figures for Bradford district have in recent years been very close to the England average. In December 2017, 92% of our

academic ages16/17 cohort was in learning. The England average was 91.2%. In the same month, NEET plus (destination) Not Known was 6.8%; the England average was 6.7%.