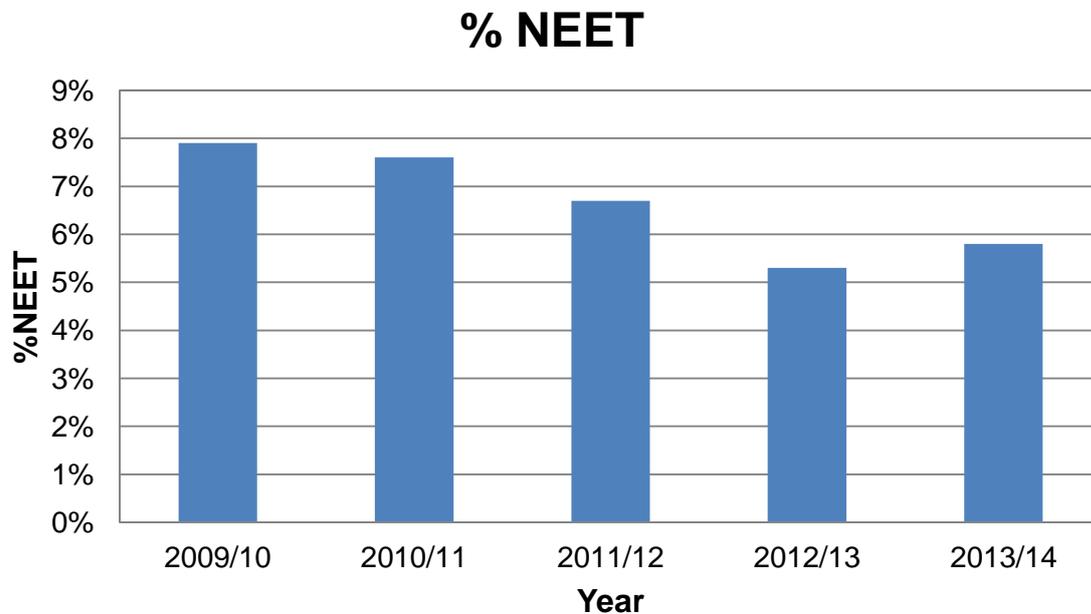


3.5 Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

In May 2014 there were 526 young people (16-18 years) not in employment, education or training (NEET) in the borough, which is 6.6% of the 16–18 year olds in the borough. In the same period, 11.2% of the 16-18 population were recorded as 'situation unknown'. As of Quarter 4 2013/14, 6.9% of the 16-18 population were NEET.

From April 2011, the cohort counted was changed from those in local providers to borough resident 16-18 year olds. The official and most widely used measure is the adjusted NEET figure for the Nov-January average. Although pre-2011 figures are not directly comparable they are provided below to give and historical perspective of NEET performance.

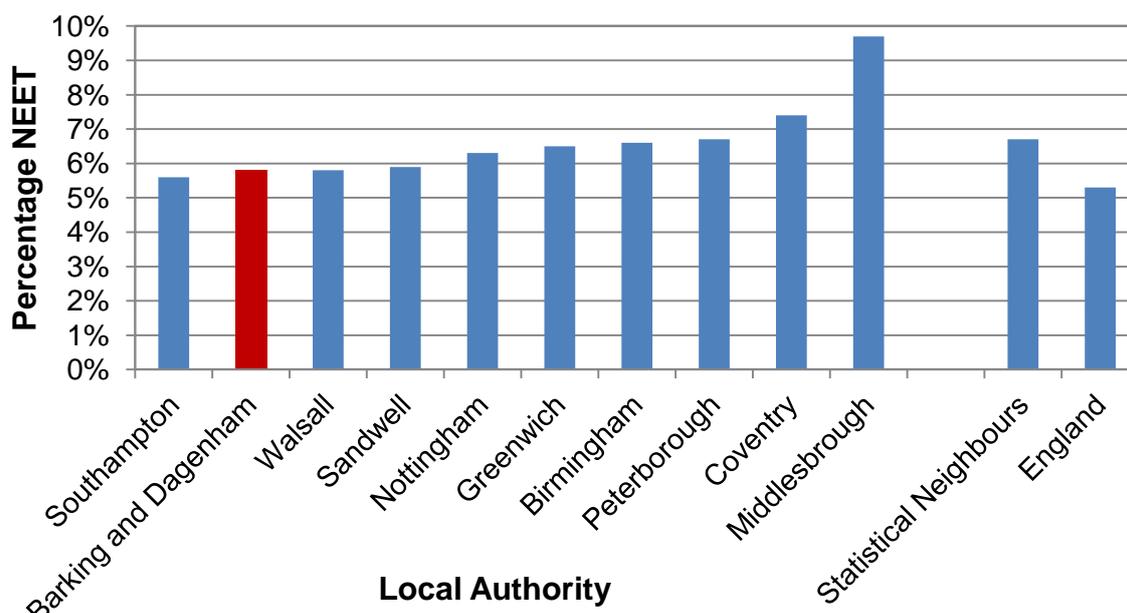
Figure 3.5.1: Rate of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training in Barking and Dagenham 2009-14



Source: Department of Education

Substantial work has been done in Barking and Dagenham to improve employment and training opportunities for young people, including investment in public sector apprenticeships. This is reflected when the rate is compared to statistical neighbours and in the closing gap between the borough and the England average.

Figure 3.5.2: Rate of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training in 2013/14 in Barking and Dagenham and Statistical Neighbours



Source: Department of Education

NEET data is also collected about those young people who are classified as NEET and considered unable to seek employment due to caring responsibilities, pregnancy, being teen parents or illness. These factors all relate directly to health and wellbeing. In April 2014, 23% of 16-18 year olds and 21% of 19 year olds not in employment, education or training were considered not to be available to the labour market. Of these, teen pregnancy and parenting were the primary reasons for their unavailable status.

There is a strong correlation between young people who are NEET and those who have poorer health outcomes, as well as with teenage conceptions and new entrants to the youth justice system.

Young people who are NEET are more likely to have persistent absenteeism and attendance issues, and are less likely to develop emotional resilience and positive attitudes to their health; they are also less likely to secure regular employment at a living wage.

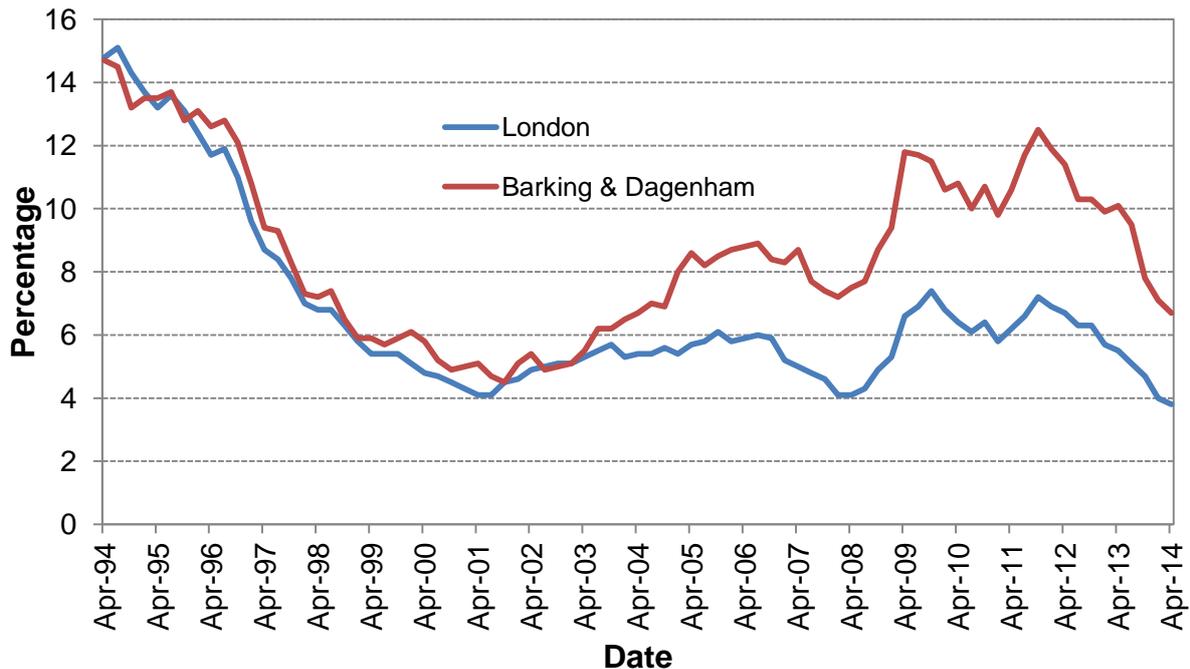
Worklessness

The borough continues to have the highest proportion of young people in London claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). In May 2014 6.5% of young people aged 18-24 (1,175 individuals) in Barking and Dagenham were claiming JSA, compared to 3.6% in London as a whole, and well above the 5.5% recorded for the second highest borough. This age group forms a much larger proportion of JSA claimants (25%) in the borough than in the rest of London (18%). However, more positively

there has been a significant fall since May 2013 when the percentage claiming JSA was 10%. (Source: NOMIS/ONS claimant count¹).

While a key objective for the borough remains ‘convergence’ with the rest of London on a number of socio-economic indicators, including employment, the long-term trend of youth unemployment shown in the diagram below gives some cause for concern. This shows that over the last 10 years or so a clear gap has emerged when compared with London as a whole.

Figure: 3.5.3 Claimant count unemployment rate (%), 18-24 years old, 1994-2014



Source: NOMIS/ONS claimant count

In addition to JSA claimants, figures for November 2013 (the latest available) showed there to be 830 lone parents and 570 Employment and Support Allowance/Incapacity Benefit claimants in the 18-24 age group. (Source: NOMIS/ONS Benefit claimants – working age client group).

The rationale for inclusion of 16-18 NEET figures in the public health outcomes framework is that this group are at greater risk of negative health outcomes. As major local employers health services can have a significant impact on the educational attainment and employment prospects of young people in the borough. They can do this via actively working with – and investing in - local services to ensure that effective careers advice and guidance and a range of support mechanisms are in place to train the workforce of the future. They can also ensure that recruitment initiatives are similarly targeted at a local level, including for ancillary and support services.

¹ NOMIS data is available at <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157260/report.aspx>

The Care City approach in the social care sector offers a way forward that health services could adopt. This will see active employer input into local careers advice and guidance services as well as engagement with local further education colleges on curriculum content and design. It has the potential to significantly improve outcomes for young people and ensure that the sector can meet a range of its recruitment needs locally.