DERBYSHIRE LOCAL OFFER
PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

DERBYSHIRE County Council

Identifying Young People at Risk of Becoming NEET

Schools play a key role in identifying young people who may be at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) after the age of 16. Early identification enables timely intervention, targeted support and effective transition planning to improve post-16 outcomes.

Schools should use a combination of attainment data, attendance information, patterns of engagement in learning, wellbeing indicators and knowledge of the young person's individual circumstances to identify those who may require additional support.

Indicators that a young person may be at increased risk of becoming NEET include:

- Persistent or severe absence from school.
- Low attainment or a widening attainment gap.
- Disengagement from learning, including poor motivation or participation.
- Behaviour concerns, exclusions or increased incidents of Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA).
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), particularly where preparation for adulthood outcomes have not been clearly planned for.
- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.
- Limited aspirations, uncertainty about future plans or a lack of awareness of post-16 opportunities.
- Vulnerability due to family circumstances, involvement with social care, caring responsibilities or experiences of disadvantage.
- Difficulty developing the independence, communication, social or employability skills needed for adulthood.

Schools should monitor these indicators through regular pastoral reviews, attendance and attainment tracking, person-centred reviews, careers guidance discussions and transition planning meetings. The views of the young person, their family and professionals supporting them should also be considered when assessing risk.

For young people identified as being at risk of becoming NEET, schools should implement a coordinated programme of support. This may include careers education and guidance, vocational profiling, employability activities, work-related learning, preparation for adulthood planning, targeted interventions to improve attendance and engagement, and multi-agency working where appropriate.

Early identification and intervention help to ensure that young people are supported to develop the skills, confidence and aspirations needed to progress successfully into further education, employment, apprenticeships, supported internships or training, reducing the likelihood of becoming NEET.