



Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training 2022/23

Key findings for the Lancashire-12 area

Mustafa Moinuddin, Business Intelligence Officer

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For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence
Lancashire County Council
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct
County Hall
Fishergate Hill
Preston
PR1 8XJ

E: BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk

W: www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

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1. Overview and background information

The government has published a series of statistical releases that include NEET figures for local authorities. Data is available for the county council area, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and the 12 districts comprising Lancashire.

The estimated NEET figures included in the following article should be viewed with caution, because of the young people classified to the 'unknown' category. These figures tend to be lower than those in the official statistical release on young people in England who are not participating in education or training because they: -

- only include young people who are known to their local authority (i.e. those who were educated in government-funded schools or state schools which provide education free of charge to pupils in England)
- do not count young people who are taking a gap year or are in custody as NEET
- depend on the quality of each local authority's data collection.

Please note that the following statistics are also influenced by recent changes to the school leaving age. To help address this issue, the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning has been increased. From summer 2013, young people were required to continue in education or training to the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and from summer 2015 they will be required to stay until their 18th birthday. The options for young people post-16 are either full-time education in a school or college; an apprenticeship; part-time accredited learning if they are in full-time employment; or volunteering.

Unemployment is high on the government agenda and in particular the impact of the recession on young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). It is widely recognised that a period of NEET can be associated with negative outcomes in later life, including unemployment, reduced earnings, poor health and life satisfaction, which has an impact on both the individual and the economy.

Please note that the counting methodology for Lancashire -12 changed in September 2016. Before then, all 16-18 year olds were counted, however since September 2016, only 16-17 year olds have been counted.

[Not in education, employment or training \(NEET\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

2. Key findings for the Lancashire-12 area and districts

2.1 NEET, 2020/21 to 2022/23

According to the latest figures as of Feb 2023, 2.6% of young people in Lancashire-12 were categorised as NEET (Table 1). This was lower than the regional rate of 3.5%, the national rate of 2.8% and the respective neighbouring authority rates (3.5% in Blackburn with Darwen and 7.0% in Blackpool) were in 2022/23. Within Lancashire-12, the percentage of 16-17 year olds who are NEET varies between districts, from 1.3% in Ribble Valley to 3.5% in Hyndburn (Figure 1).

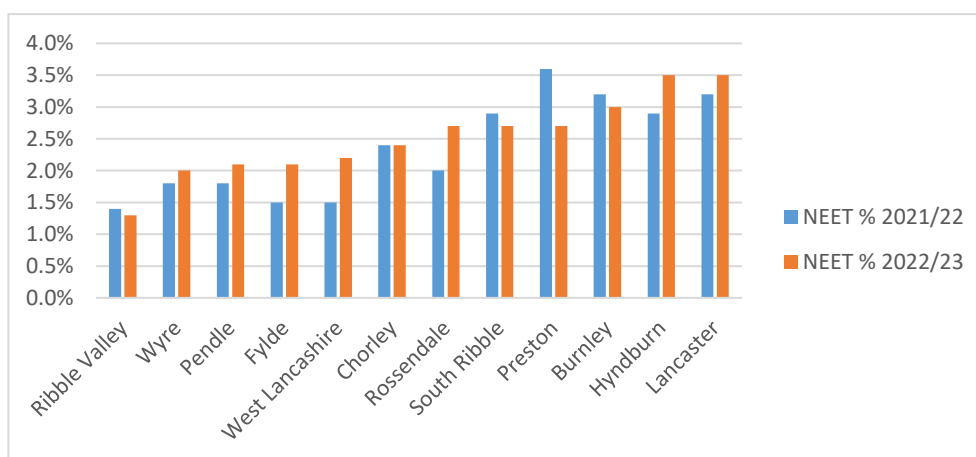
In 2022/23, the number and proportion of NEET in Lancashire-12 increased by 0.1%. NEET proportions decreased in Preston to 2.7% (decrease by 0.9%), Burnley to 3% (decrease by 0.2%), South Ribble to 2.7% (decrease by 0.2%) and Ribble Valley to 1.3% (decrease by 0.1%). NEET proportions also remained the same for Chorley and there was a notable increase for Rossendale and West Lancashire, both increasing by 0.7%.

Table 1: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), 2020/21 to 2022/23

Dec to Feb 3 month average performance	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
	No NEET	% NEET	No NEET	% NEET	No NEET	% NEET
Burnley	57	2.60%	75	3.2%	71	3.0%
Chorley	76	3.10%	62	2.4%	64	2.4%
Fylde	26	1.80%	23	1.5%	32	2.1%
Hyndburn	46	2.20%	64	2.9%	76	3.5%
Lancaster	75	2.70%	89	3.2%	99	3.5%
Pendle	51	2.20%	46	1.8%	56	2.1%
Preston	115	3.40%	128	3.6%	101	2.7%
Ribble Valley	13	1.00%	19	1.4%	18	1.3%
Rossendale	45	2.80%	33	2.0%	47	2.7%
South Ribble	83	3.40%	72	2.9%	67	2.7%
West Lancashire	43	1.70%	39	1.5%	57	2.2%
Wyre	50	2.20%	40	1.8%	46	2.0%
Lancashire-12	680	2.50%	689	2.5%	733	2.6%
Blackburn with Darwen	*	2.60%	*	3.10%	*	3.50%
Blackpool	*	4.40%	*	4.60%	*	7.00%
Lancashire-14	*	*	*	*	*	*
North West	*	3.40%	*	3.10%	*	3.5
England	*	2.80%	*	2.60%	*	2.8

* = data not available/published Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

Figure 1: Young people NEET by district in Lancashire-12, 2021/22 and 2022/23



Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

2.2 In education, employment or training, 2020/21 to 2022/23

The percentage and number of young people in education, employment or training (EET) increased in Lancashire-12 overall to 94.7% (Table 2). The proportion of EET rose in half of the Lancashire-12 districts, with percentages ranging from 93.1% in Burnley to 97.3% in Ribble Valley (Figure 2).

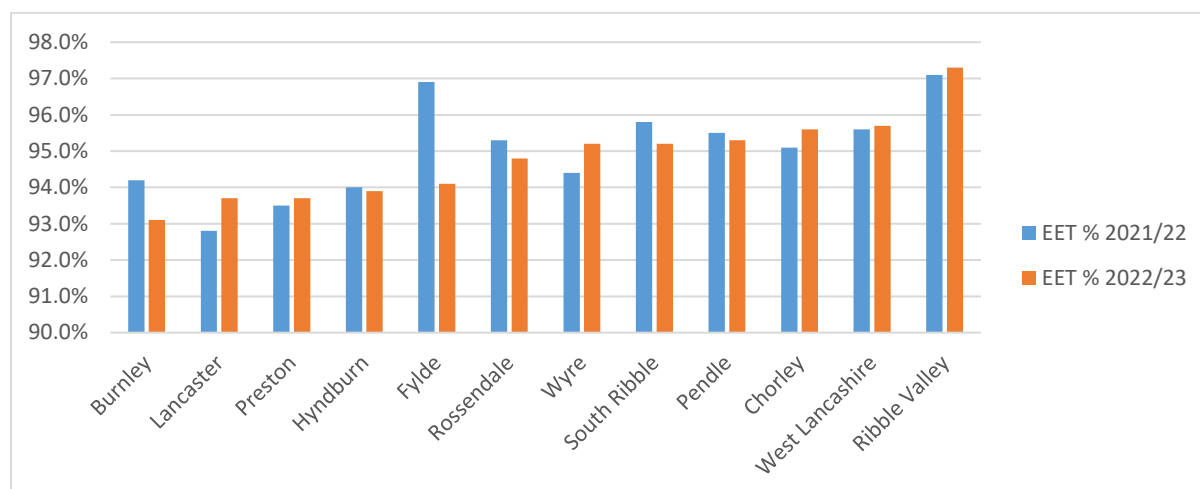
Table 2: Young people in education, employment or training (EET), 2020/21 to 2022/23

Dec to Feb 3 month average performance	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
	No EET	% EET	No EET	% EET	No EET	% EET
Burnley	2081	95.00%	2206	94.2%	2230	93.1%
Chorley	2342	93.90%	2459	95.1%	2524	95.6%
Fylde	1351	95.70%	1499	96.9%	1456	94.1%
Hyndburn	1965	93.50%	2038	94.0%	2045	93.9%
Lancaster	2571	92.90%	2576	92.8%	2689	93.7%
Pendle	2135	94.30%	2371	95.5%	2478	95.3%
Preston	3112	93.00%	3329	93.5%	3482	93.7%
Ribble Valley	1286	97.00%	1298	97.1%	1303	97.3%
Rosendale	1498	93.90%	1569	95.3%	1654	94.8%
South Ribble	2296	94.50%	2369	95.8%	2388	95.2%
West Lancashire	2376	95.00%	2408	95.6%	2485	95.7%
Wyre	2118	94.60%	2147	94.4%	2188	95.2%
Lancashire-12	25131	94.20%	26269	94.8%	26921	94.7%
Blackburn with Darwen	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blackpool	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lancashire-14	*	*	*	*	*	*
North West	*	*	*	*	*	*
England	*	*	*	*	*	*

* = data not available/published

Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

Figure 2: Young people in EET by district in Lancashire-12, 2021/22 and 2022/23



Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

The percentage of instances where it was not known whether young people were involved in education, employment or training remained the same in Lancashire-12 in 2022/23 at 2.7%. Lancashire-12 saw increases in four of its districts, with the highest increase being Fylde at 3.9% (increase of 2.3%) and the lowest increase being Preston at 3.5% (increase of 0.6%). The rest of Lancashire-12 saw a decrease with the highest decrease being Lancaster at 2.8% (decrease of 1.2%) and the lowest decrease being Rossendale at 2.5% (decrease of 0.2%).

2.3 Not known whether NEET or EET

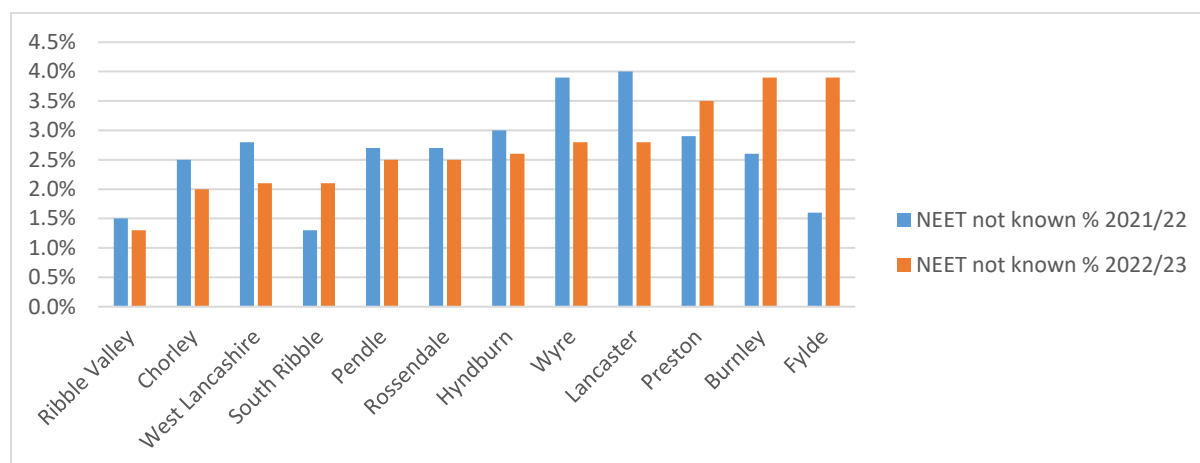
Table 3: Young people not known if in education, employment or training, 2020/21 to 2022/23

Dec to Feb 3 month average performance	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
	No NEET	% NEET	No NEET	% NEET	No NEET	% NEET
	not known	not known	not known	not known	not known	not known
Burnley	54	2.40%	61	2.6%	94	3.9%
Chorley	77	3.10%	64	2.5%	53	2.0%
Fylde	35	2.50%	25	1.6%	60	3.9%
Hyndburn	88	4.20%	65	3.0%	57	2.6%
Lancaster	121	4.40%	110	4.0%	81	2.8%
Pendle	79	3.50%	67	2.7%	65	2.5%
Preston	121	3.60%	105	2.9%	130	3.5%
Ribble Valley	26	2.00%	20	1.5%	18	1.3%
Rossendale	53	3.30%	45	2.7%	44	2.5%
South Ribble	49	2.00%	33	1.3%	54	2.1%
West Lancashire	81	3.20%	72	2.8%	55	2.1%
Wyre	72	3.20%	88	3.9%	64	2.8%
Lancashire-12	856	3.20%	754	2.7%	775	2.7%
Blackburn with Darwen	*	1.20%	*	0.80%	*	0.90%
Blackpool	*	4.50%	*	2.00%	*	4.00%
Lancashire-14	*	*	*	*	*	*
North West	*	1.90%	*	1.80%	*	1.80%
England	*	2.70%	*	2.20%	*	2.40%

* = data not available/published

Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

Figure 3: Young people NEET not known by district in Lancashire-12, 2021/22 and 2022/23



Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

There has been an increase in the overall cohort size which is resulting in an increased workload combined with staffing and resources capacity around this area of work. There has also been an increase in the number of young people leaving their post 16 education early which is increasing the number of people recorded as 'not known'.

Actions are taking place to address the improvement of the performance against the NEET indicator, which include staff recruitment to involve engagement with the post 16 education and training providers across the county, as well as employers and other partners/support services, to work together to support young people and remove any barriers which are preventing them from participating. Work is also taking place alongside Public Health colleagues to support the colleges in their health and wellbeing work with students. As well as this, a pilot is being undertaken through the Pennine Locality 'Team Around School' Group and education providers in relation to the sharing of information about young people who may need further support when they progress to college from Key Stage 4. The impact of this will be evaluated in the next academic year. In relation to supporting young people with SEND, the Authority is looking to develop its supported internship offer across the county to provide an increased number of opportunities for young people to access. We also engage with the Lancashire Colleges' High Needs Group to maintain an open dialogue about the provision and support needs of young people and how the Council and the colleges can work together to achieve this.

3. Description of the geographies used in this report

The Lancashire-12 area is comprised of the 12 local authorities that fall within the Lancashire County Council (LCC) administrative boundary. The Lancashire-14 area incorporates the two additional unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and

Blackpool and has the same geographic footprint as the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area.

The 12 local authorities within the LCC boundary are Burnley Borough Council, Chorley Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council.