



My Ref: FOI 6286
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

I am writing to request data and information regarding youth unemployment, economic activity and council-led intervention strategies within your local authority area. Specifically, I would require the following information broken down for 2024, 2025 and available data for 2026:

1. The number of young people aged 16-24 currently registered as claiming out of work benefits within your local authority

Number of young people aged 16–24 claiming out-of-work benefits

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council does not hold this information.

Data relating to benefit claims is administered and held by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

We therefore recommend that you contact DWP directly for this information

2. If recorded by the council, the number of young people classified as not in education, employment or training.

Number of young people classified as not in education, employment or training (NEET)

The Council holds data for young people aged 16–18 i.e. those young people in Y12 and Y13, in line with our statutory duties. This is submitted to the DfE who publish the annual NEET Scorecard using average NEET data for December, January and February.

Using the annual February data, the number of young people aged 16-18 classified as not in education, employment or training (NEET) are as follows:

- 2024: 205 young people identified as NEET
- 2025: 237 young people identified as NEET
- 2026: 184 young people identified as NEET

The Council does not hold equivalent data for the full 18–24 age range, as this sits outside local authority statutory tracking responsibilities.

3. The total annual budget allocated by the council for youth employment schemes, apprenticeships and training initiatives and total funding for these initiatives.

Total annual budget allocated for youth employment schemes, apprenticeships and training initiatives.

In the current financial year 2026/27, the Council allocated £380,255 through its core revenue budget to support youth employment schemes, apprenticeships and training initiatives.

Please note: This response relates to the Council's core revenue budget only. It does not include externally funded programmes, contracts, or grants.

4. The number of young people currently in sustained employment or training via council supported schemes

Number of young people in sustained employment or training via council-supported schemes

The Council supports young people through a range of services, including:

- Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (TIAG)
- The Inclusive Offer
- Contributions to partnership-based provision such as Youth Hubs
- Pathways to Work

However, the Council does not hold a single consolidated dataset that measures sustained employment outcomes across all programmes, particularly where delivery is led by partners.

Where outcomes are recorded, they are typically captured within individual programme reporting arrangements.

5. The current number of dedicated staff employed by the council to assist young people in training and employment.

Number of dedicated staff supporting young people into employment or training.

The Council employs 19 staff to support young people into employment or training.

6. Also if possible, a breakdown of youth claimants or NEET statistics by ward or postcode. If the data for 2026 isn't available, please provide the most up to date figures at the time of processing this request.

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Breakdown of youth claimants or NEET statistics by ward or postcode

As noted in response to Question 1, the Council does not hold claimant data.

For NEET (16–18), ward-level data is held. A full breakdown for February 2026 by ward is shown below:

Dearne	Dearne North	Dearne South
EET	272	318
NEET	17	17
Not Known	4	4
	293	339
NEET %	5.8%	5.0%
NOT KNOWN %	1.4%	1.2%

Penistone	Penistone East	Penistone West
EET	240	360
NEET	2	3
Not Known	5	2
	247	365
NEET %	0.8%	0.8%
NOT KNOWN %	2.0%	0.5%

South	Darfield	Hoyland Milton	Rockingham
EET	255	260	248
NEET	10	8	8
Not Known	7	8	4
	272	276	260
NEET %	3.7%	2.9%	3.1%
NOT KNOWN %	2.6%	2.9%	1.5%

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North East	Cudworth	North East	Royston
EET	256	318	265
NEET	13	23	12
Not Known	3	2	5
	272	343	282
NEET %	4.8%	6.7%	4.3%
NOT KNOWN %	1.1%	0.6%	1.8%

Central	Central	Dodworth	Kingstone	Stairfoot	Worsbrough
EET	220	216	304	298	241
NEET	2	2	5	11	10
Not Known	28	4	2	12	
	250	222	311	321	251
NEET %	0.8%	0.9%	1.6%	3.4%	4.0%
NOT KNOWN %	11.2%	1.8%	0.6%	3.7%	0.0%

North	Darton East	Darton West	St Helens	Old Town
EET	255	233	295	265
NEET		3	12	4
Not Known		1	3	2
	255	237	310	271
NEET %	0.0%	1.3%	3.9%	1.5%
NOT KNOWN %	0.0%	0.4%	1.0%	0.7%

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Barnsley MBC
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email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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