
Overview of Post-16 Education

Education – Children & Families

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There are 7 Post 16 providers in the city. Five mainstream, and 2 specialist provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Establishment	Type	Ofsted Grading
Itchen College	Sixth Form	Requires Improvement (expected to be graded Good in its next inspection)
Richard Taunton Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Requires Improvement
City College	General Further Education	Requires Improvement
Bitterne Park Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Good
St Anne's Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Outstanding
Great Oaks College	Special	Good
Rosewood Post-16	Special	Outstanding

For the purposes of this paper, the focus is on the three colleges who require improvement. They are currently in competition with each other and there is overlap in the curriculum offer. Richard Taunton and Itchen College offer A Levels and 'soft' vocational qualifications, they do not offer highly technical vocational qualifications. City College does not offer A Levels but does offer vocational qualifications in all curriculum areas except land based. It also has an extensive offer for 3000+ adult students. However, City College and Richard Taunton Sixth Form are not financially viable and are in receipt of emergency funding from Government.

Since 2015 there have been several merger attempts between City College and other providers, all of which have fallen through due to the associated financial risk – the most recent being with Itchen College in September 2020, and Eastleigh College in 2021. Despite there being a clear need for vocational provision in the City, its future beyond this academic year is not known. 75% of the students at City College come from disadvantaged backgrounds and their life outcomes are at risk as a result.

These current complexities are negatively impacting on the outcomes of young people in the city and the sector now requires synergy across the curriculum offer. The aim of developing centres of excellence in different curriculum areas / A level subjects across the three institutions, should lead to efficiency savings for the colleges, and improved outcomes for young people.

Provision

Although the Council does not have specific responsibility regarding inspection or quality assurance of Post 16 provision it does see its role as a strategic partner to address under-

performance. This has not been addressed in the past. If the local provision and curriculum offer is not of an acceptable quality to meet the needs of its young people, we would not be fulfilling our statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training for all young people in our area who are over compulsory school age. There is a clear need to ensure that the skills mix supports growth and productivity in the city to engage our most vulnerable groups and prevent young people from becoming NEET.

Participation

Increased participation in education, training and employment will feed into the hands of NEET prevention and achieve best outcomes for young people. There is a gap in provision for young people with SEND. We propose to strengthen bespoke Post 16 pathways by creating opportunities for young people while they are still in school. Work experience, quality careers guidance and college tasters will be key to addressing this. It will be vital for bespoke pathways to be developed to suit the needs and interests of all young people (especially those with SEND, care experienced young people and young offenders). We aim for a seamless progression from school into further education, training or employment.

City Wide Solution

The DfE Post-16 commissioner is leading on any future proposals and they are keen to resolve the situation. Deloitte has been commissioned to undertake a detailed review which will result in recommendations being made to the Minister. Deloitte and members of the DfE will be presenting their findings and proposals to Council leaders in September 2021, at which point we will have a better understanding of the potential 'City Wide Solution'. (It should be noted that this review includes eight colleges across the region. They are Richard Taunton Sixth Form, City College Southampton, Itchen College, Eastleigh College, Barton Peveril Sixth Form, Fareham College, Totton College and Brockenhurst College).

Annex 1 - Further Education Establishments Attended in 2020

The table below shows the top 10 establishments attended by the Year 11 leavers who continued in education from all Southampton Secondary Schools, as of 1st November 2020.

Establishment Attended	Total	Male	Female
Barton Peveril College	520	280	240
Itchen Sixth Form College	373	167	206
Southampton City College	303	185	118
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	260	127	133
Eastleigh College	146	90	56
Peter Symonds College	123	44	79
St Anne's Sixth Form	65	3	62
Bitterne Park Sixth Form	64	31	33
Sparsholt College	35	10	25
Totton College	30	16	14
Fareham College	25	17	8

Trend data for the 5 years up to 2020 for students starting at an FE College, Sixth Form College or Sixth Form School after progressing from year 11 to Post-16 Learning.

