

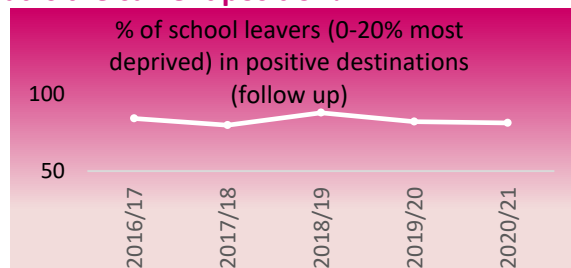
7.2 Identifying Risks to Learning: A Spotlight on Upstream

UPSTREAM

What are we trying to achieve?

We are aiming to increase the number of vulnerable learners entering a positive and sustained destination by 7% by 2023.

What is the current position?



What are we testing?

Through our multi agency project we are testing a number of improvements, our latest being Upstream, which helps identify risks to student's learning to ensure the right support is made available at the right time and enhance these young people's ability to sustain their positive destination in college.

Why are we testing this?

Many events can occur that increase a pupil's vulnerability to not achieving their full academic potential. Upstream helps identify issues earlier and provide every young person with a voice to highlight where they are struggling. The survey allows each young person to score their level of risk around 4 key areas - resilience, engagement with education, mental wellbeing and housing. This information enables support services to come around that young person.

Upstream is a survey tool for young people, that raises alarm bells based on answers and brings support services around that young person.



Upstream Survey Tool



Alarm Bells Ringing



Appropriate Support Given

Where did we test?

Testing was undertaken with NEScol's Altens campus. This site was chosen as students tend to be younger, term time leavers plus there was a significantly low take up of support here.

What outcomes have initial testing achieved?

- The Upstream survey was delivered twice. In the first survey **148 students** took part in the survey, in the second survey **95 students** took part. These were taken in Dec 21 and April 22 respectively. **53 students** were part of both surveys.
- In both surveys, low wellbeing was the main reason for students' requiring support. **100%** of students in the first survey were identified as having immediate unmet wellbeing needs or wellbeing needs that would benefit from early intervention. In the second survey this was **87%**.
- 90%** of students identified as requiring support were previously unknown to support services. Referrals for support have increased by **145%**.
- Comparing the group who sat both survey, **17%** had a reduced risk of youth homelessness, **17%** had a reduced risk of disengagement from education and **9.4%** had reduced risk of low mental wellbeing.
- Additional wellbeing initiatives** have been made available for all students to mitigate the risk to students' mental wellbeing as well as more on campus learning

What have we learnt and changes we've made?

- Aligning data systems to record students' destination needed at outset – will be built into future tests
- Students engaged better when they received a phone call rather than a MS Teams message. Support services will use phone calls to reach out to students going forward.
- Lecturers don't always know support is available to students. Support services will use QR codes for them to share with students to scan and be taken to the website where all support options are visible.

What impact have we had?

'If we know who is at risk, we can act.' NEScol staff

Student A had moved to the area to attend college and was feeling very isolated. Following the survey, they were offered weekly wellbeing appointments, support to sign up to a GP and referred to counselling. The student is now feeling more motivated to attend class and is meeting with peers.

Student B was struggling with low self-esteem. After the survey, it was identified the student had dyslexia and would benefit from alternative assessment arrangements and study skills appointments. The student passed their subsequent assessments, and their lecturer noticed the student being more confident in class with theory work.

Where will we test next?

- 2 secondary schools. Some of the difficulties students were experiencing could have been resolved earlier if they had been identified during their time at school.
- NEScol are re-running Upstream during the induction phase next time to reach students earlier and new data system to ensure destination captured.