

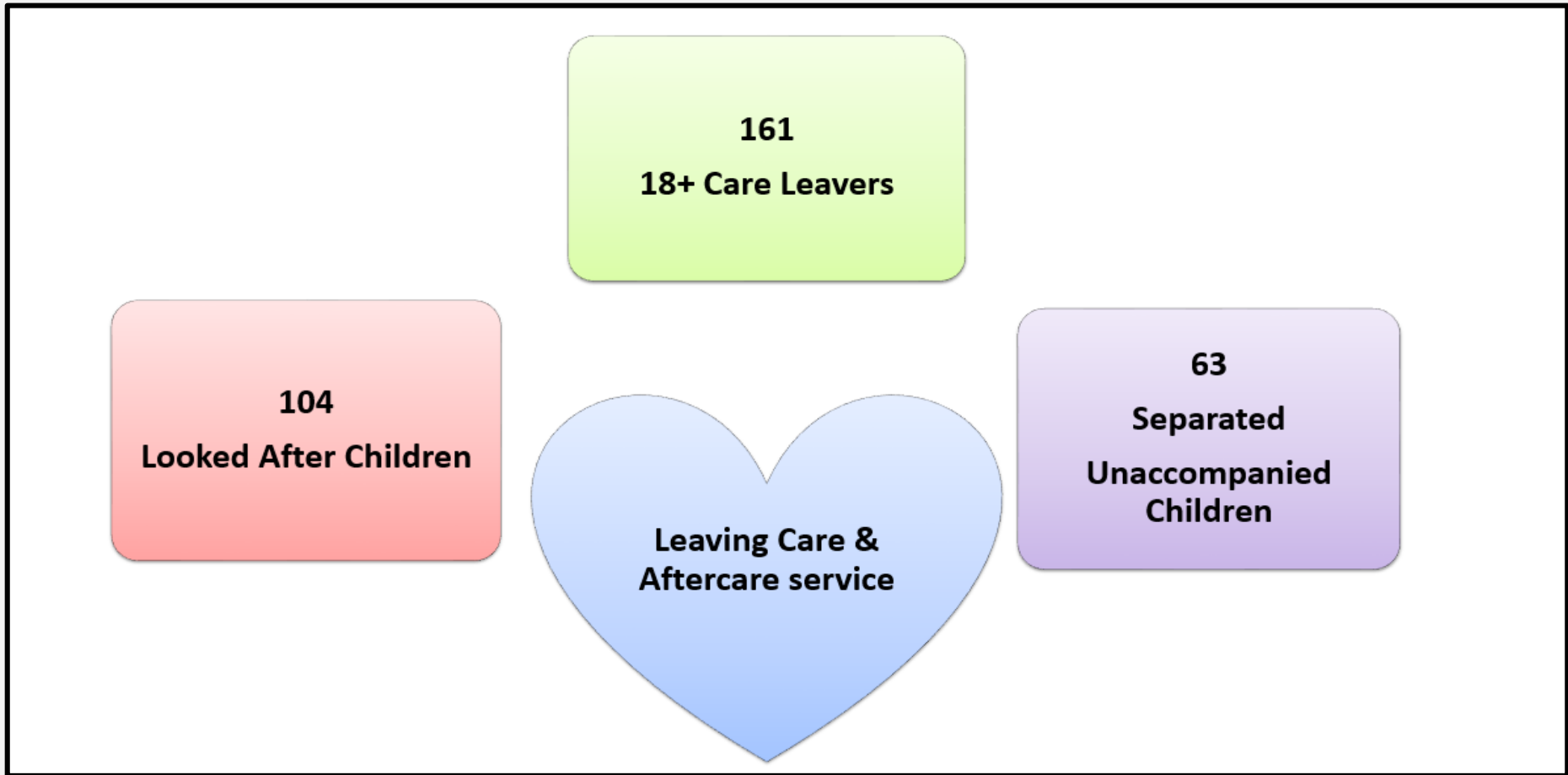
Overview of Educational outcomes for children within the Leaving Care & Aftercare Service



Context

- **The Trust delivers a statutory leaving care service via the Leaving Care After Care (LCAC) 16+ service. The roles and responsibilities of this service are set out in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2002, the context of which is to ensure that young people leaving care aged 16 and over, are provided with the best quality care and support to ensure they make a successful transition to adulthood**
- **The LCAC service works with young people in care aged 16-17 and those who have left care aged 18-21 or up to age 24 in full-time education.**
- **The needs of the young people open to the service has increased over recent years with young people presenting with complexity in relation to mental health needs, substance misuse, child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and homelessness.**

Leaving Care & Aftercare Service



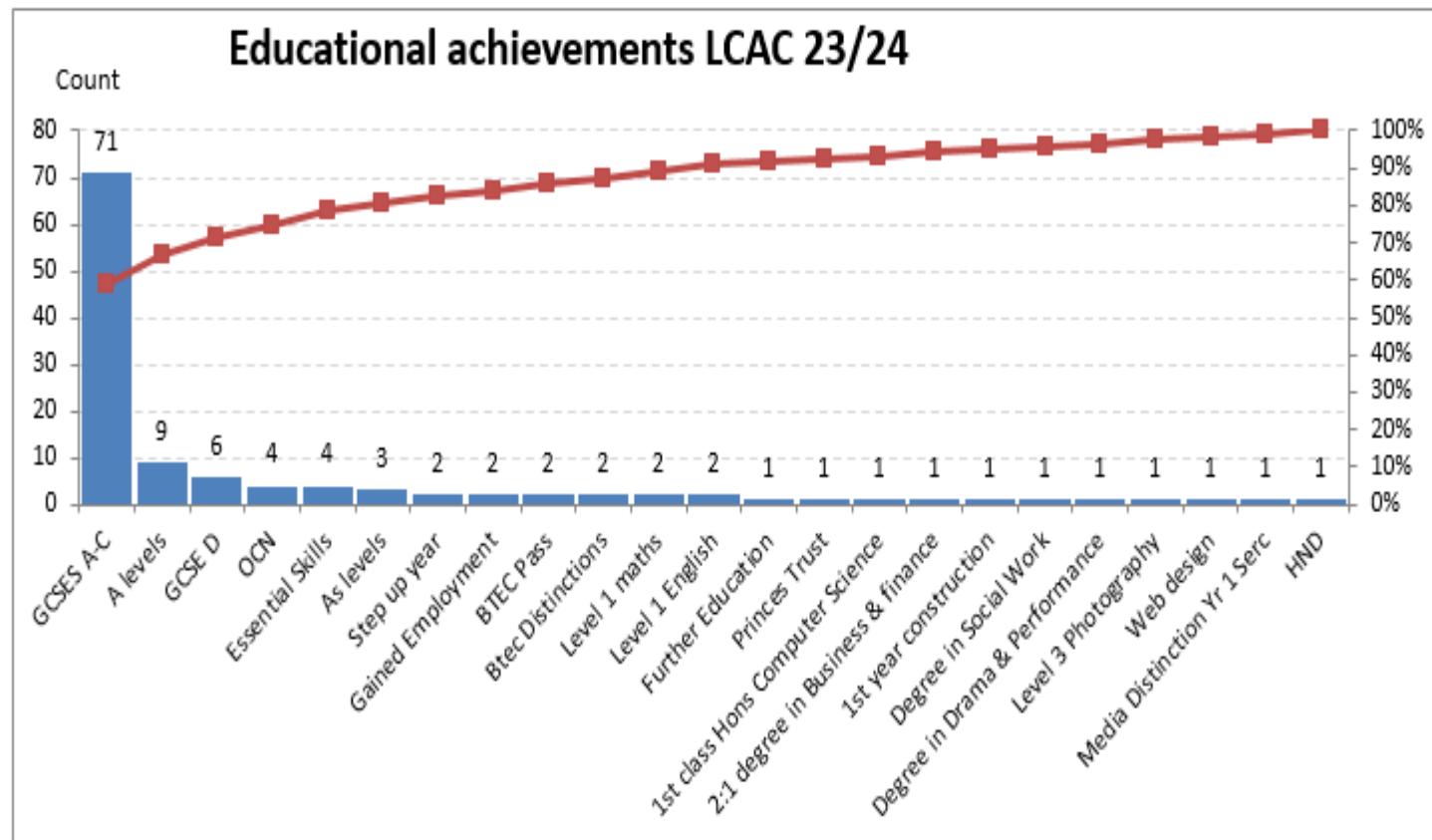
Standards

- The Standards for Leaving Care Services in Northern Ireland (2012) sets out 8 standards for all young people leaving care. Standard 4 'Enjoying, Learning and Achieving' specifically addresses educational outcomes.
- Educational outcomes are reported centrally via Delegated Statutory Functions reporting however, the Trust also ensures local tracking of outcomes indicators.



Educational achievements

23/34



9 young people achieved 71 GCSES between them

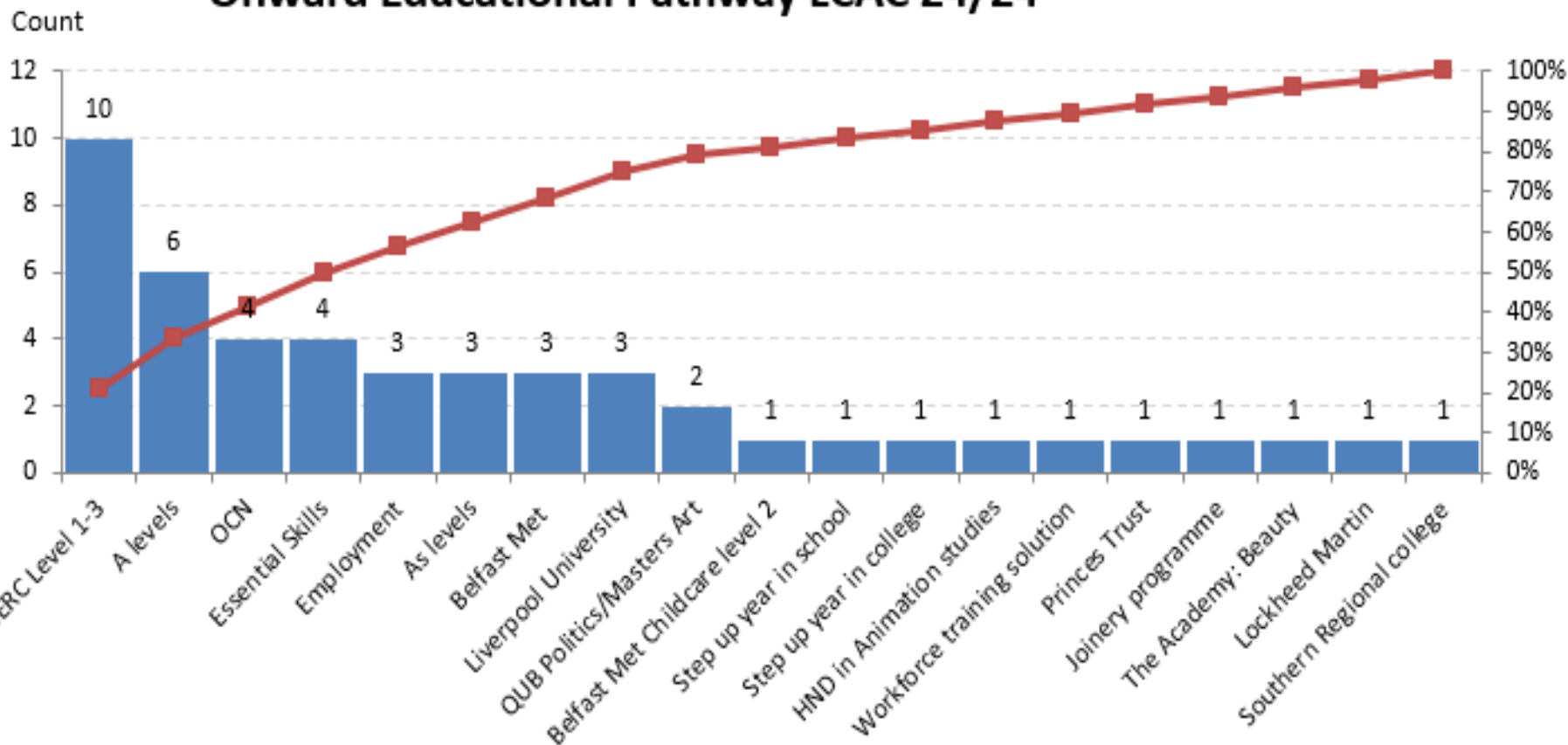
1 young person achieved 3 AS levels

3 young people achieved 9 A Levels between them

4 young people graduated with Degrees

Educational pathways 23/24

Onward Educational Pathway LCAC 24/24



Jessica

Award: Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Subject: Computer Science with Year in Industry

Classification: Class I

Award Mark: 88.83

I'll be officially graduating at the York Minster in November which you are invited to! If you would like to come and are available it would be cool to see you there. 🎓 ✨ 📧

I've also been offered a position as a Software Engineering Graduate - Space, with Lockheed Martin 🚀 🌌

So, all seems to be going very well at the moment. It's been a very very long road to get here. I truly appreciate all your support over the years and honestly, none of this would have been possible without the help from you and the Trust so I will forever be grateful.



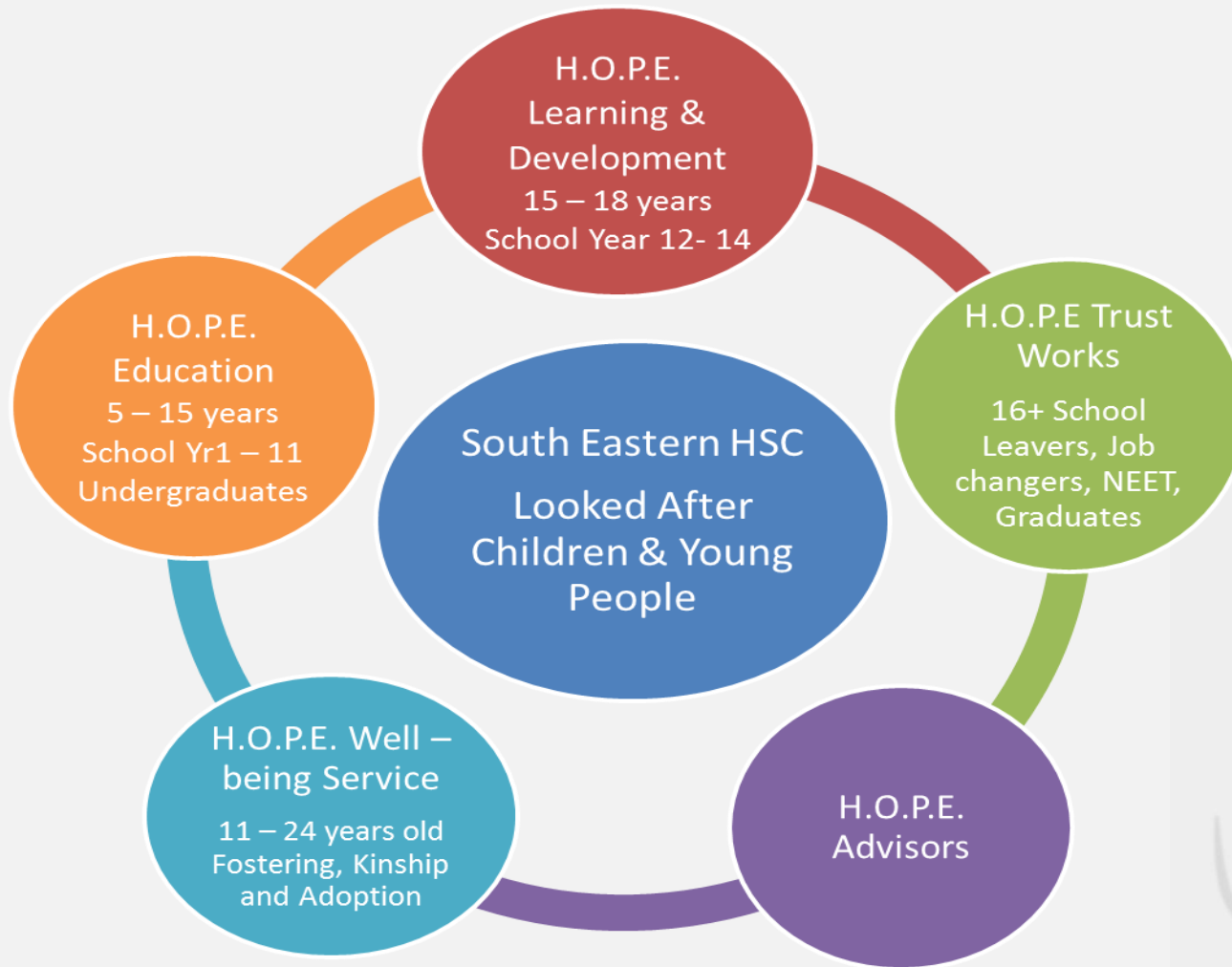
Owen

I would not have been able to get my essential skills in English & Maths (which in turn meant that I wouldn't have been able to access his level 3 in Engineering) without the help and guidance of a tutor which I sourced and LCAC funded.

Owen has now started his Level 3 Diploma in Engineering in Sept 2024 after achieving his level 2 Engineering in 2023 and receiving an award from SERC for coming 3rd place for Engineering in the whole of NI.



H.O.P.E SERVICE



H.O.P.E. LCAC Employment Support Service

Employment Support Co-ordinator

- Pre-employment support – coaching and mentoring
- Pre-employment Support Programme
- Youth Work model
- Jobstart Programme – 9 months fully funded programme - 25 hours per week – Band 2 salary
- Apprenticeship Programme – Funded by Trust Dept 1 -2 year Programme – Band 2, 3 or 4 Agenda for Change Apprenticeship rate
- Recruitment for all work-based programmes
- On-the-job coaching and mentoring
- HR and Placement Department Manager support
- CV Building, application completion, interview techniques.
- In post support – supporting young people for 6 months when they move into permanent employment from one of the HOPE employment schemes
- HOPE Service Manager sits on all Council Labour Market Partnership and Strategic Planning groups to advocate for programmes to support Care Experienced young people

H.O.P.E. Team – LCAC

Personal Development Service

H.O.P.E. Learning and Development Worker

- Youth Work model
- Mentoring
- Coaching
- Building Confidence and self-esteem
- Increase resilience
- Signpost to education and/or employment opportunities
- Prepare for work-based programmes
- Signpost to other relevant organisations

H.O.P.E. Transition Worker

- Develop programmes for specific groups of young people to re-engage in work – Young mum's groups, ESOL classes etc.
- Preparing young people to move onto Trust Job-start or Apprenticeship Programmes
- Arranging Careers advice sessions
- Liaising with FE colleges and training providers RE open days, taster sessions.
- One to one support

H.O.P.E current support



GIVE & TAKE SCHEME/APPRENTICESHIP

12 Young people are being supported to attend the Give & Take scheme
1 Young person is on an apprenticeship with the Quality Improvement Team and is training as a Personal Assistant



JOBSTART PROGRAMME

5 Young people are currently being supported to attend the programme
1 in CSSD
2 In the Hope project
1 in the Downe Hospital in a Nursing Auxiliary role
1 in Patient experience, Catering Department
3 have secured Permanent contracts 1 within SET CSSD and 2 in External roles



EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

7 young people are being supported are being supported in Pre-Employment skills (CV, interview skills, job search and maintaining their current ETE
1 Young person is moving into employment as a mentor in Salvation Army
1 Young person is starting a course with Belfast Works & Start 360

Feedback on Hope Service

“Interview went well. They were really relaxed and it helped relieve my anxiety. They asked 12 questions which I answered to the best of my ability even though I stuttered a bit and asked them to repeat the questions loads. They showed me around the building afterwards and complimented me and said I did well. I must say all your advice did help me loads so thank you. “



“Thank you so much Cathal don't know if I've ever articulated to you how much your help has meant and how far it's helped me come as a person, setting up interviews by myself while in my 9-5 office job would never thought I'd of seen the day very much appreciated would put you up for an award if I could as you've gone over and beyond for me like no one has before thank you so so so much!”

“this internship opportunity has upskilled me, given me training opportunities and support that compliments my current education pathway and has given me the motivation and drive to seek success”.

“Hi Cathal I'm just texting you saying I'm leaving the course because I have got a full time job and thank you very much for helping me get into the trust and everything you have done for me “

What is working well?



- **3 HOPE staff are all Level 5 coaches. Two full-time staff are also Qualified Youth Workers**
- **Staff work with young people address the significant barriers they are currently facing with ETE.**
- **Partnership working between HOPE, Personal Advisors, Social Workers and residential staff and is at the pace of the young person**
- **Jobstart is fully-funded by Dept. of Communities and the Managers who employ the young people are fully supported by the service.**
- **SET service conduct the employment checks and work with Retained Recruitment to get the young people started, so they do not have to go through BSO recruitment – quicker and more streamlined recruitment.**
- **Young people are on a Band 2 salary for 9 months and supported throughout. Out of the current 5 young people we have on Jobstart – 4 have now been successful in securing employment.**
- **The Apprenticeship Programme has always been successful for young people to gain employment in the Trust and many young people who have come through it are still employed in the Trust, one for 12 years, one for 10 years and 2 for 5 years.**

Even Better if



- **Recruit an education worker for Residential care with specific experience of working in the school environment who can support young people and schools to look at alternative ways to keep a young person in school – reduced timetable, day release to Trust work placement, ensuring PEPs are in place to support young people and ensure school is aware of their care history, ensure school is trauma informed etc.**
- **The opportunity to work with children younger than 16, reduce the number of children identifying as NETE at post 16**
- **Trust commitment to offering Apprenticeship Programmes (these would need to be funded by the Trust Depts) as part of their Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Job start has not secured any funding for 25-26 and is due to end in Feb 26.**
- **Increased opportunities from external organisations to offer Work-based programmes such as Apprenticeships – SPPG working group looking at this at present.**