

POST-16 LABOUR MARKET TRANSITIONS FOR CARE LEAVERS IN ENGLAND

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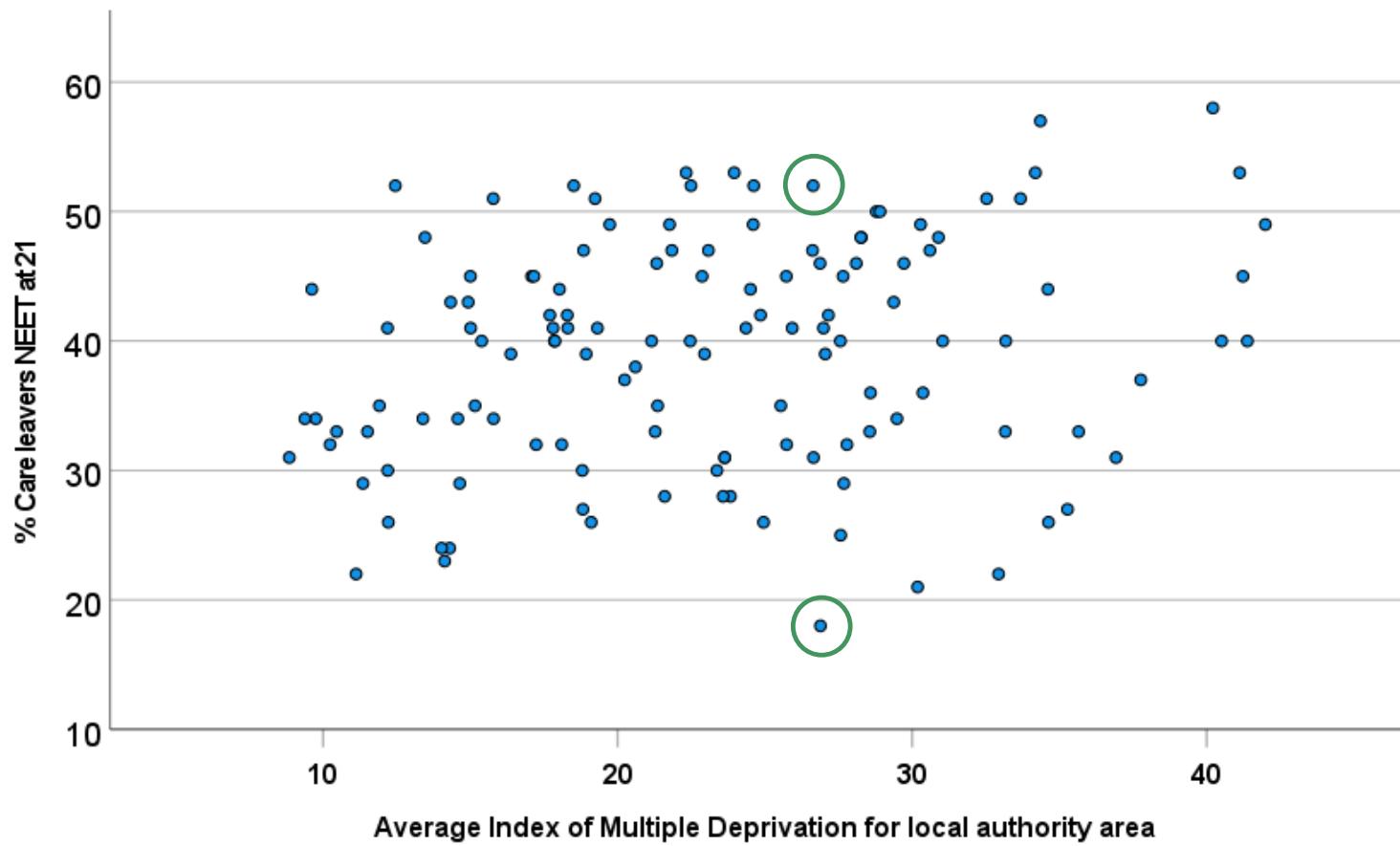
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CARE LEAVERS AND THE LABOUR MARKET

- Around 40% of care leavers aged between 19 and 21 are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Equivalent figure in the general population of the same age is around 13%
- Those in work are often in precarious jobs and/or those with limited progression prospects
- Education options can be unambitious and not lead to improved labour market (or life) outcomes



A CURIOUS STARTING POINT



- Very little pattern between local deprivation and proportion of care leavers who are NEET
- Proportions vary between 18% and 58%

PROJECT OUTLINE

- Funded by the Nuffield Foundation
- Collaboration between University of Oxford and University of York
- Project start – March 2019
- Project end – June 2021
- Advisory group, including representation from NAVSH



QUALITATIVE STRAND

- Three pairs of demographically similar local authorities with high/low NEET proportions identified:
 - (i) City / urban, (ii) Mixed – towns, and (iii) Mainly rural
- Interviews and focus groups:
 - Young people – in stable work, in precarious work and unemployed
 - Social workers and foster carers
 - Local authority managers (including virtual heads)
 - Employers and employment support organisations

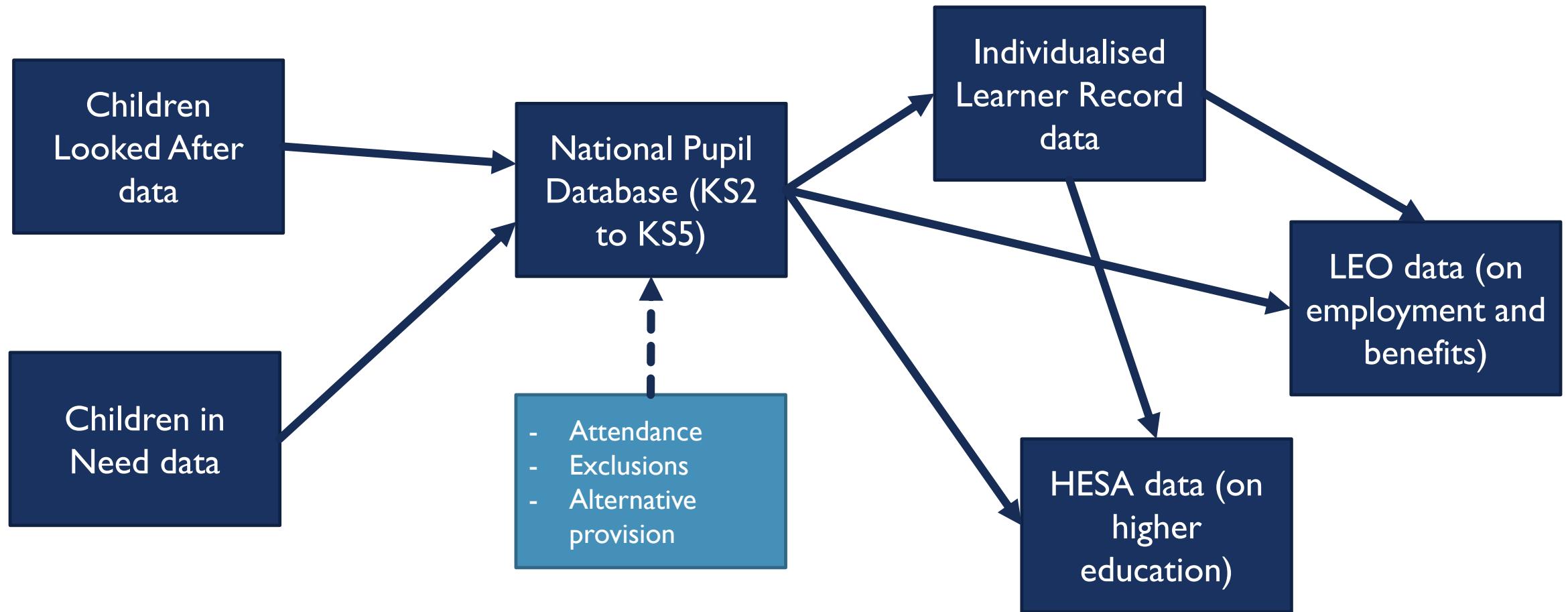
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QUANTITATIVE STRAND (I)

- Exploration of 1995/96 birth cohort
- Very complex constellation of linked datasets spanning ages 5 to 21:
 - Children's social care data
 - National Pupil Database
 - Individualised Learner Records (further education)
 - Higher Education Statistics Agency dataset
 - Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset



DATA FRAMEWORK



QUANTITATIVE STRAND (2)

- What individual, educational or care factors predict NEET at 21?
- How do pathways compare between related groups?
 - Statutory care leavers (4,930)
 - In care after 14, but not defined as a care leaver (2,710)
 - In care at any other point (3,360)
 - Child in need after the age of 14, but not in care (36,900)
 - General population (522,960)



A PAUSE FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION...

HEALTH WARNINGS!

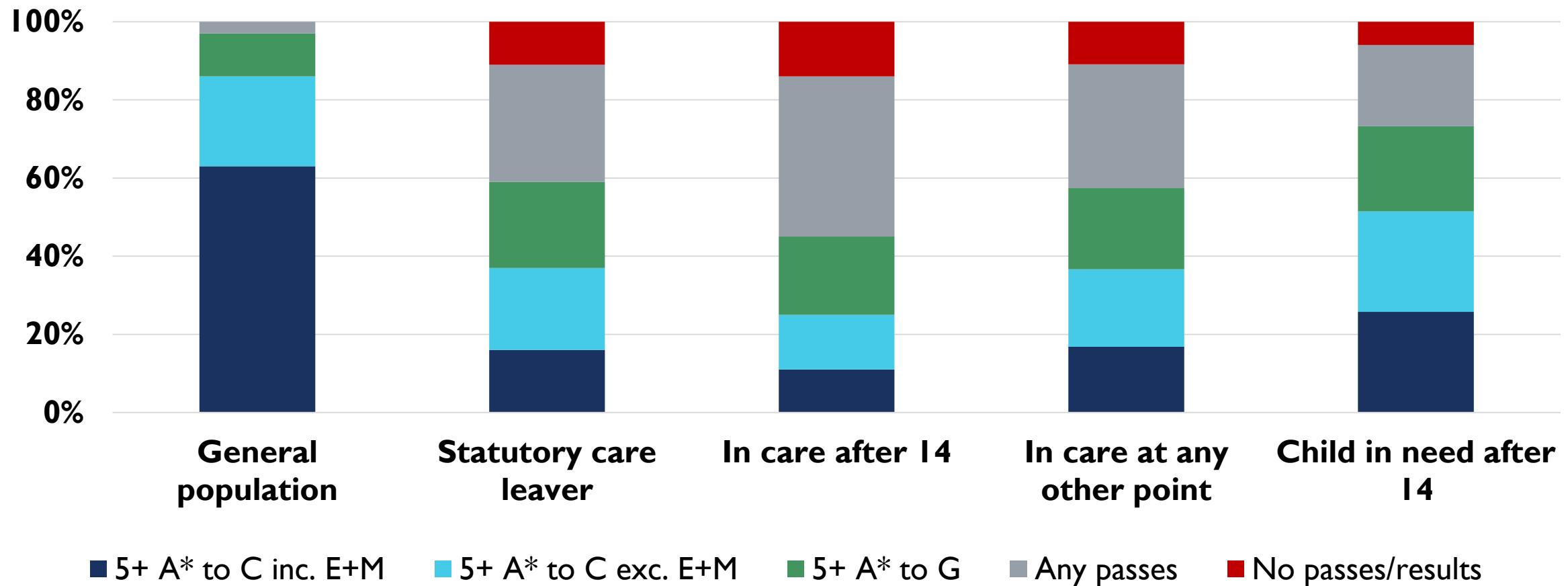
- Very early findings – please don't quote these figures yet!
- Some of the definitions are likely to require revision and results may therefore change somewhat
- Numbers have been rounded in keeping with disclosure guidelines
- Lots more work to be done!



SCHOOL EXPERIENCES (Y9 TO Y11)

	SEN: statement or SA+	Fixed-term exclusions (any)	Persistent absentee (any year)	Alternative provision (any)
Statutory care leaver	56%	4%	22%	13%
In care after 14	51%	6%	39%	10%
In care at any other point	45%	4%	38%	6%
Child in need after 14	33%	4%	35%	3%
General population	8%	<1%	8%	<1%

GCSE ATTAINMENT (AT 16)



CARE LEAVERS' ACTIVITY AT 21

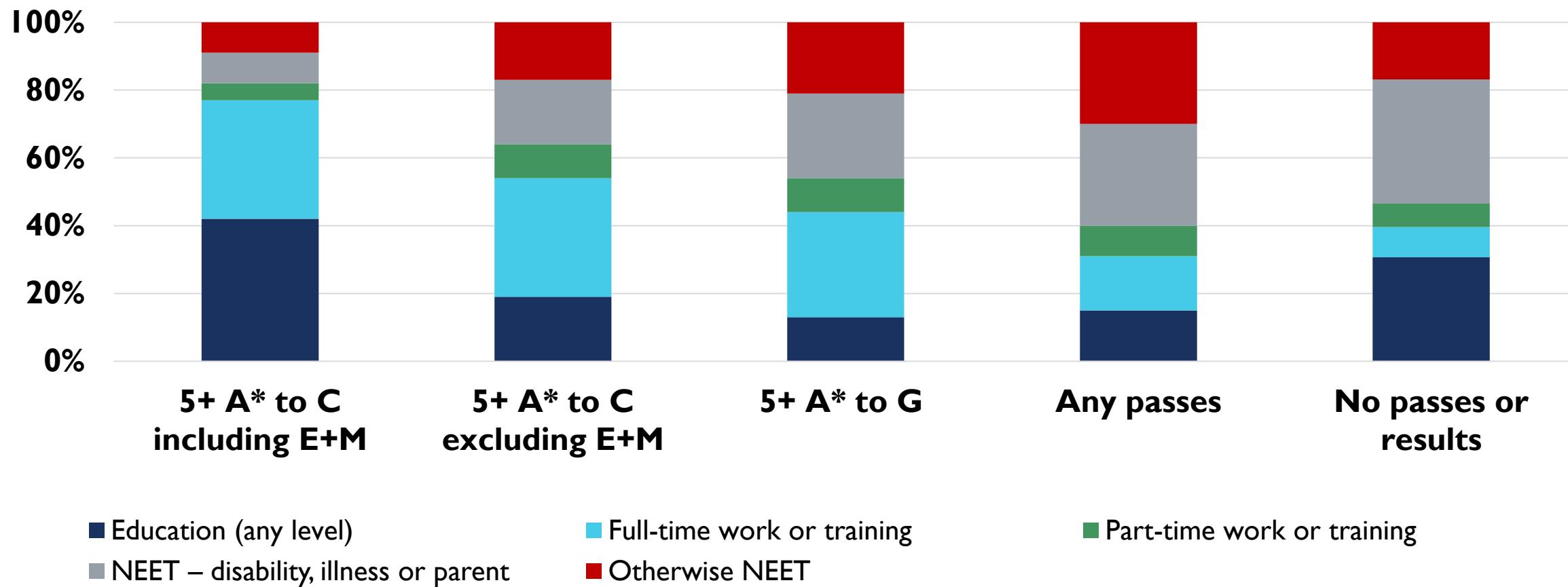
- Analysis of 4,080 care leavers providing data on or around their 21st birthday – the ‘OC3’ survey undertaken by local authorities
- Question about their ‘main activity’ – responses collapsed into five categories:
 - Education – full-time or part-time and any level
 - Full-time work or training
 - Part-time work or training
 - NEET due to disability, illness or parenthood
 - Otherwise NEET



SOME QUICK SNIPPETS

- Overall, 43% of care leavers NEET at 21
- Similar overall proportions of men (41%) and women (46%)
 - Women more likely to be disabled, ill or parenting – opposite for men
- Little impact of SEN – less likely to be studying, more likely to be in work
- Little neighbourhood deprivation effect (based on home location at 16)
- Care leavers with English as an additional language much less likely to be NEET (26%) – 49% in education, compared to 21% of other care leavers

IMPACT OF GCSE RESULTS AT 16



IMPACT OF Y9 TO Y11 EXPERIENCES

	Education (any level)	Full-time work or training	Part-time work or training	NEET – disability, illness or parent	Otherwise NEET
Persistent absence in one year	18%	23%	8%	30%	21%
Persistent absence in two/three years	9%	20%	10%	38%	24%
At least one fixed-term exclusion	11%	34%	6%	26%	23%
In alternative provision at any point	16%	15%	9%	30%	31%
All care leavers	21%	26%	9%	23%	20%

ANY QUESTIONS...?