

**connexions**

**OLDHAM**

***Moving On from Junior University 2007***

# **An Analysis of Junior University School Leavers in Oldham - 2007**

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## ***Moving On - Junior University 2007***

### ***An analysis of the Destination Pathways of the Year 11 Junior University Cohort - 2007***

#### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The following analyses of the destinations of 2007 Junior University (JU) Year 11 school pupils are based on information held by Connexions at 31st October 2007.
- 1.2 The JU Year 11 cohort for 2007 comprised 354 young people; 249 of whom were mentored by the JU mentoring team at Oldham Sixth Form College and 105 were mentored by Connexions personal advisers as an additional activity to the normal course of interventions they would make with these young people.
- 1.3 The data sets presented in this report is a sub-set of the full analysis of all young people completing Year 11 in Oldham in 2007. They are, to the best of our knowledge, accurate at the time of compilation. We are indebted to post-16 providers and individual young people and their families for their assistance in helping us track the 2007 JU Year 11 leavers to the extent that we have ascertained the whereabouts of **100%** of the cohort.
- 1.4 These analyses are based on the JU cohort from the 15 mainstream state secondary schools, though when comparisons are made with 'Oldham as a whole' this includes independent and special schools as well as the educated at home and not on school roll.
- 1.5 The data presented shows the destination outcomes of the whole JU cohort which is then split between those young people mentored by college staff and by Connexions personal advisers.

#### **2. PURPOSE OF THE JU PROJECT**

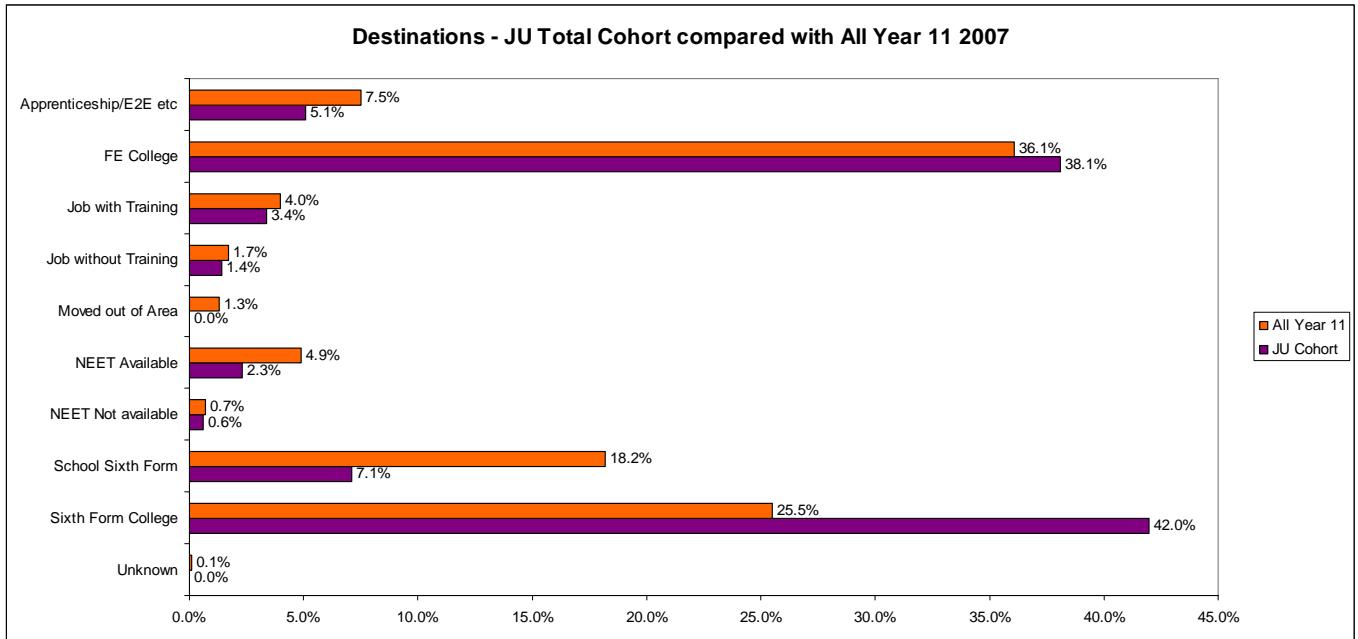
- 2.1 The prime purpose of the JU is to provide additional support to young people in Key Stage 4 who may, for a variety of reasons, experience difficulty in transition from Year 11 to post 16 learning.
- 2.2 Its target group is primarily those young people who should, with extra support, be able to achieve a level 2 (5 A\*-C at GCSE or equivalent) at the end of Year 11.
- 2.3 This extra support is provided through additional study support and personal information, advice and guidance (IAG). This additional IAG is particularly successful when provided to potential FE and HE students where there is little or no previous experience with the immediate family.

#### **3. KEY FINDINGS**

	<b>JU Total Cohort</b>	<b>JU College Cohort</b>	<b>JU Connexions Cohort</b>	<b>All Oldham Year 11 leavers</b>
Staying-on Rate	86.7%	85.9%	86.7%	79.8%
Entry to work-based learning	5.3%	4.4%	6.7%	7.5%
NEET rate	2.9%	3.6%	1.9%	5.6%
Entry to Level 3 FE	66.9%	69.2%	61.5%	62.8%
Participation in Learning	95.6%	94.4%	97.1%	89.7%

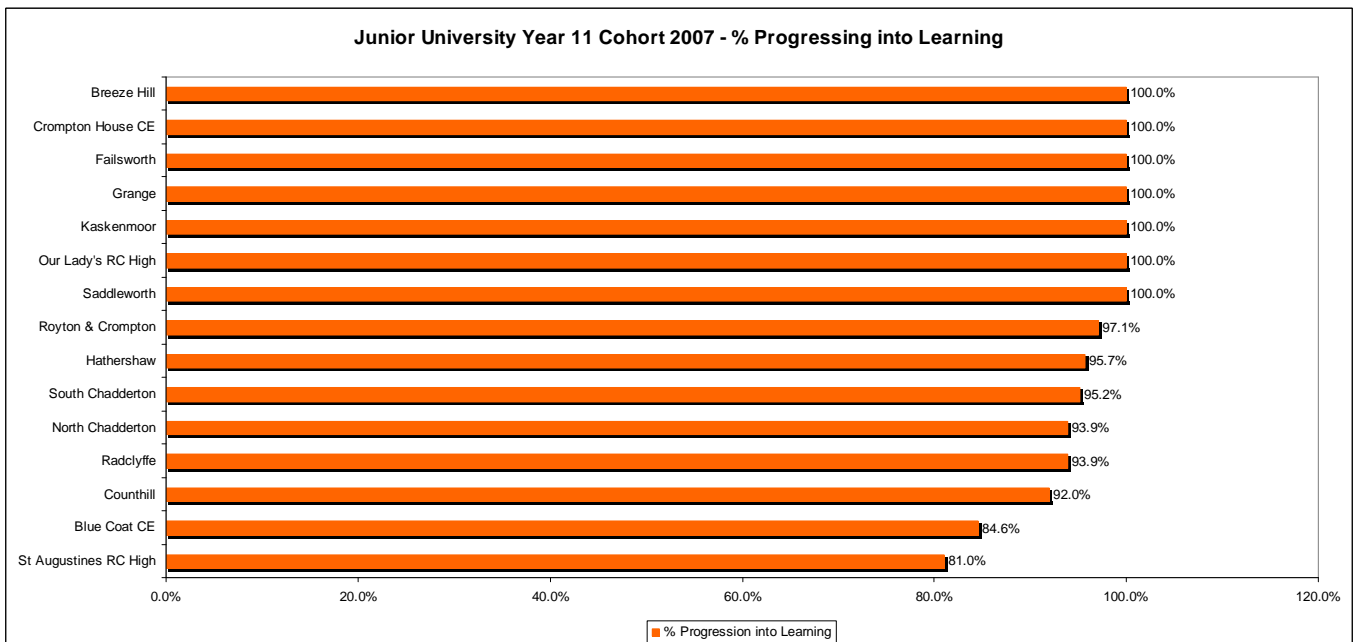
**4. WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?**

**4.1 Destinations of JU Total Cohort compared with all Year 11s in Oldham**



4.1.1 Overall outcomes are better than the Oldham average for the JU cohort with the NEET rate being almost half.

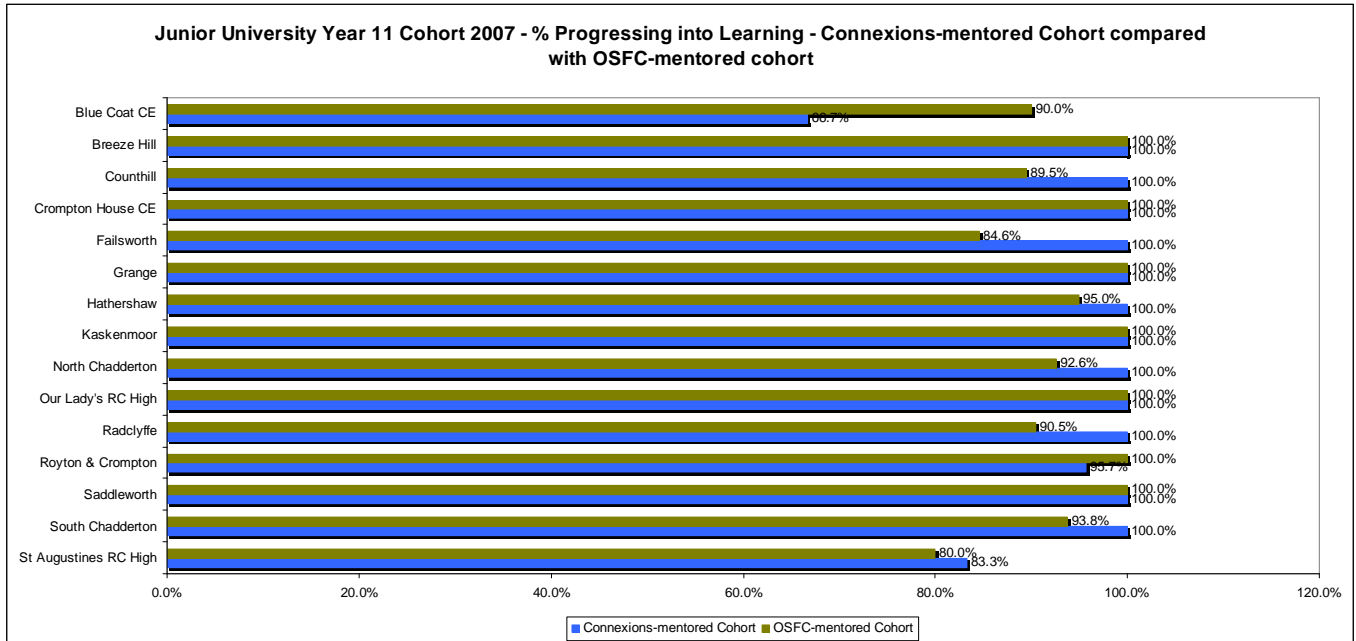
**4.2 Progression into Learning**



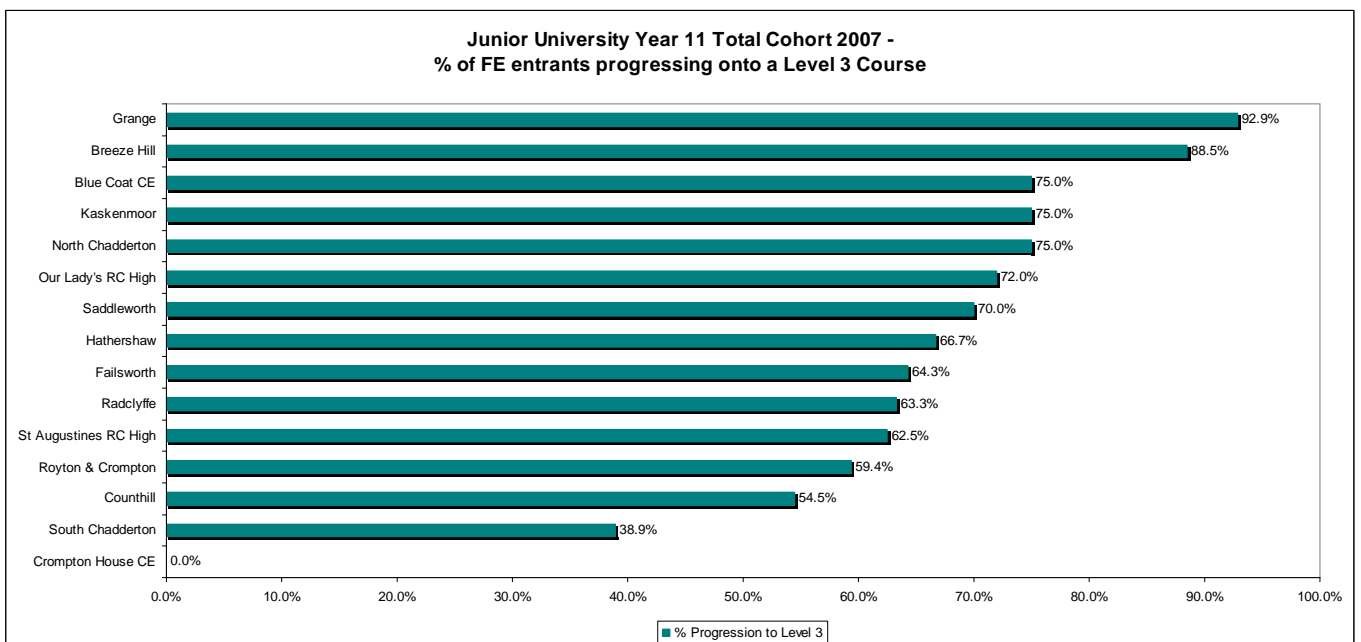
4.2.1 "Learning" includes: full-time further education; E2E; personal development opportunities (e.g. pre-E2E); Apprenticeships; jobs leading to NVQ 2; jobs with a Learning Agreement; and jobs with locally-recognised training.

4.2.2 The average for the JU cohort was 95.6%.

4.2.3 Participation in Learning – Comparison between the College-mentored & Connexions mentored cohorts



4.3 Progression on to Level 3 Courses

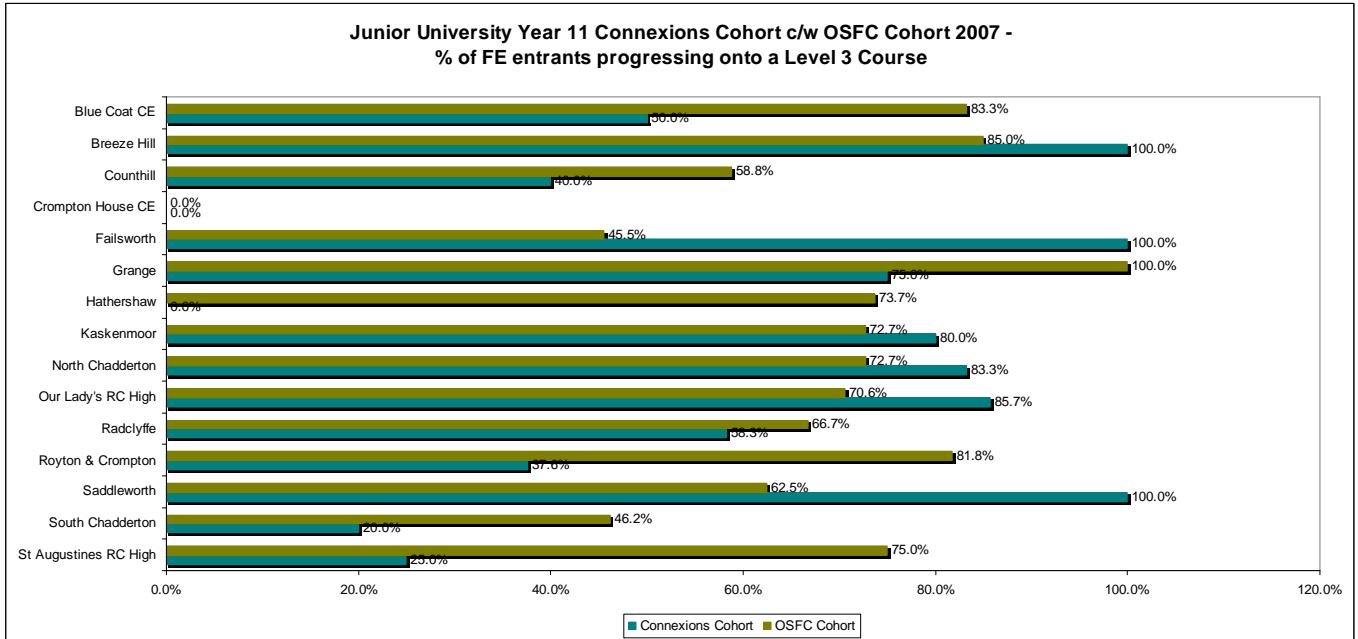


4.3.1 The average progression to level 3 was 66.9%, which was above the overall Oldham cohort's progression to level 3 (62.8%).

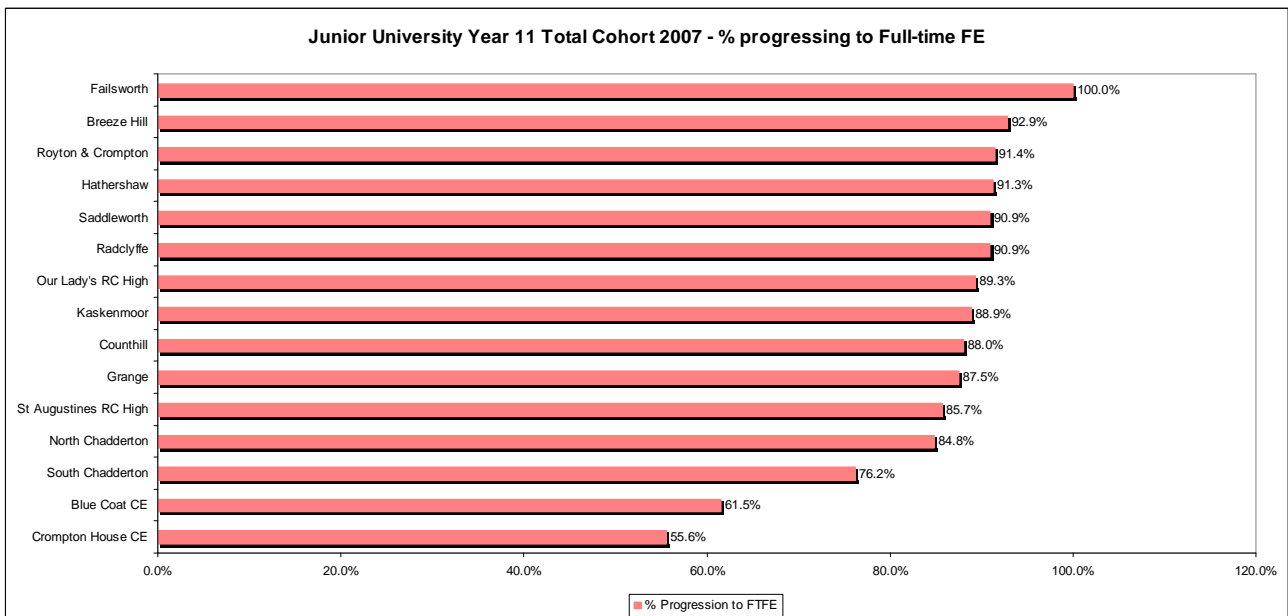
4.3.2 It is worth noting that a 38.0% of the cohort progressed to general FE colleges, of these 58.6% enrolled at The Oldham College. 24% transferred to Hopwood Hall and the remainder were mainly split between MANCAT and Tameside colleges.

4.3.3 Of the 305 young people who transferred to school sixth forms, FE College or Sixth Form College, 19 students (6.2%) enrolled on courses below NVQ Level 2, 82 (26.9%) enrolled on Level 2 courses and 204 (66.9%) enrolled on Level 3 courses.

- 4.3.4 Of the 82 young people transferring to Level 2 courses, 33 (or 40.2%) accessed courses where access to a level 3 is only possible by completing the level 2 course first.
- 4.3.5 Nonetheless, there is some cause for concern in the case of some schools, where progression to level 3 is well below the average.
- 4.3.6 The question inevitably arises as to whether in some instances, given the purpose of the project, the most appropriate Key Stage 4 students had been identified as the JU cohort.
- 4.3.7 Progression to Level 3 provision - Comparison between the College-mentored & Connexions mentored cohorts



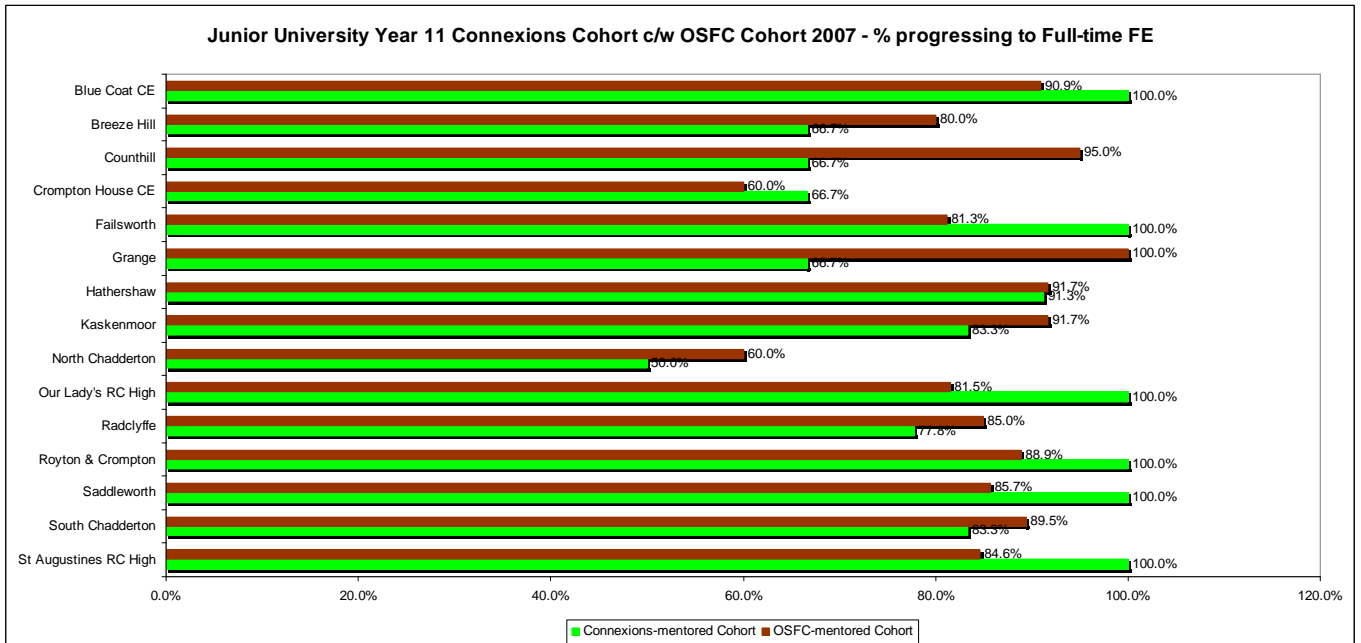
4.4 Progression into Full-Time Further Education



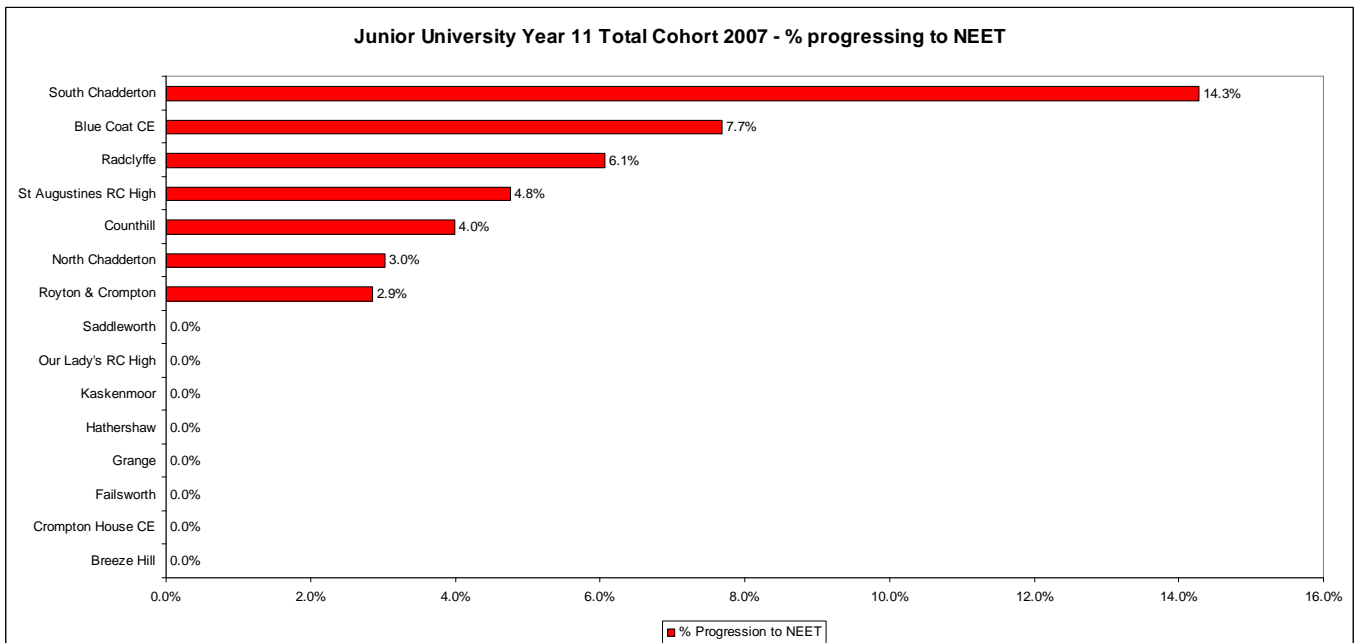
- 4.4.1 The JU staying on average was 87.1% compared with the Borough average Year 11 rate of 79.8%.

4.4.2 Assuming the prime purpose of JU is to encourage participants to progress into full-time education, perhaps with an eventual HE pathway in mind, there are again some inconsistencies with three school cohorts falling below the overall Borough average.

4.4.3 Progression into FE - Comparison between the College-mentored & Connexions mentored cohorts



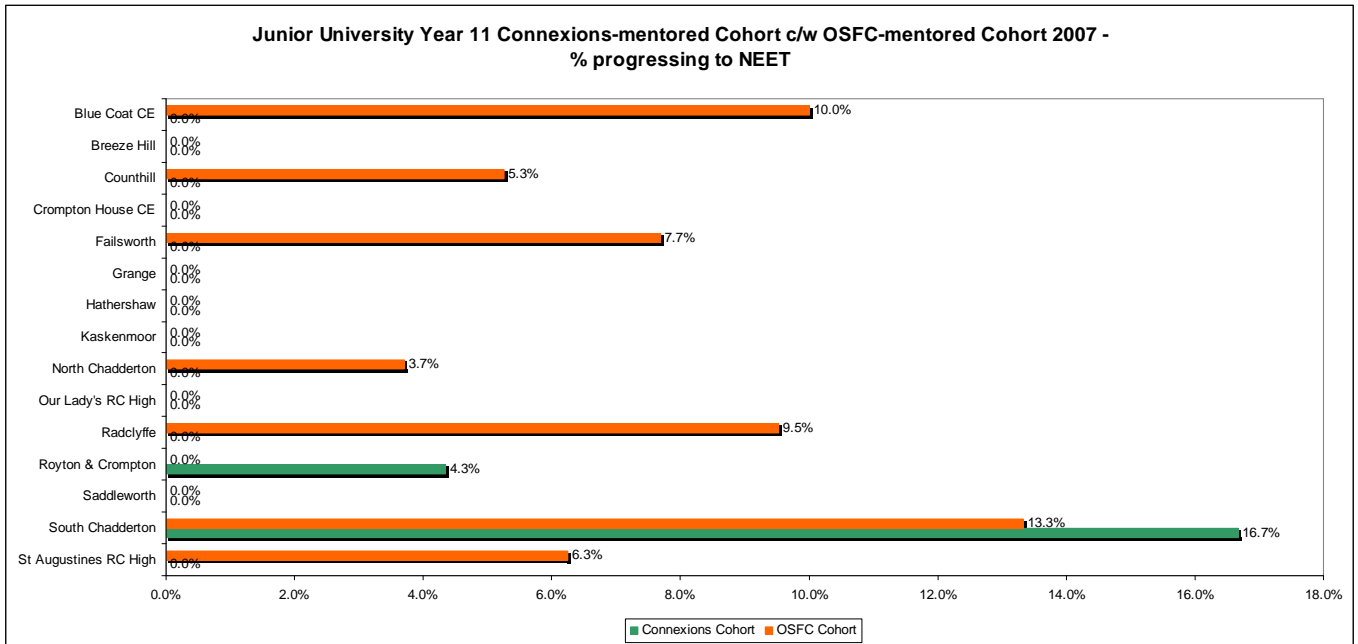
4.5 Progression into NEET



4.5.1 The NEET average for the JU cohort was 2.9% compared with the Borough average of 5.6%.

4.5.2 Given the stated purpose of JU it seems peculiar that three schools' JU cohorts have higher NEET rates than the Borough average and that, in the case of South Chadderton and Blue Coat, JU NEET rates are above their own school average.

4.5.3 Progression into NEET - Comparison between the College-mentored & Connexions mentored cohorts



## 5. Conclusions

5.1 The process through which key stage 4 pupils are identified and placed into the JU cohort by both schools and Connexions personal advisers needs reviewing in some schools, particularly where progression to FE is low, progression to level 3 FE is low and where NEET rates are high.