

Outcomes for young people with SEBD leaving specialist school

Report on Leavers from 2015

This report looks at students who left West Heath in July 2015 and investigates their progress since leaving. This is an extension of my previous study that investigated leavers from 2010 – 2014 which was compiled in September 2015.

Methodology

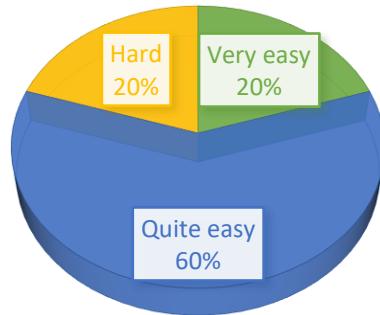
All participants had a statement of SEN and had attended West Heath as a student, leaving in July 2015. They were informed that their responses would be treated confidentially, and that the object of the study was partially to track their progress and partially to improve provision for current students.

In July 2016, questionnaires were posted out to 20 past students. A stamped, self-addressed envelope was included to encourage participation. However, only 5 questionnaires (25%) were returned which was disappointingly low, although it was a slight improvement on my previous study (Leavers from 2010 – 2014) which only had a 15.9% response rate. Of those that responded, 80% still lived with family, so it is of course possible that others, no longer living at home, did not receive their questionnaires.

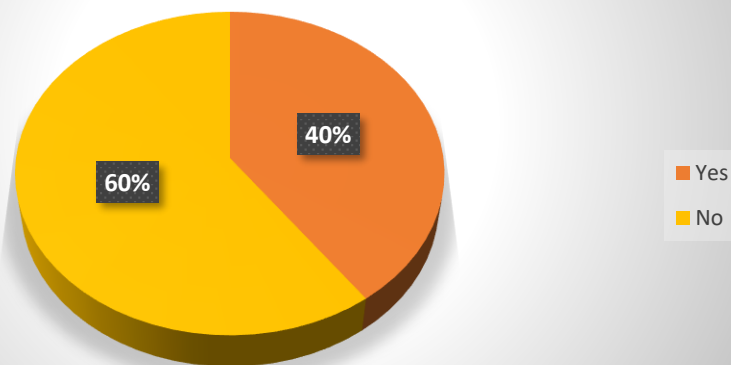
Results



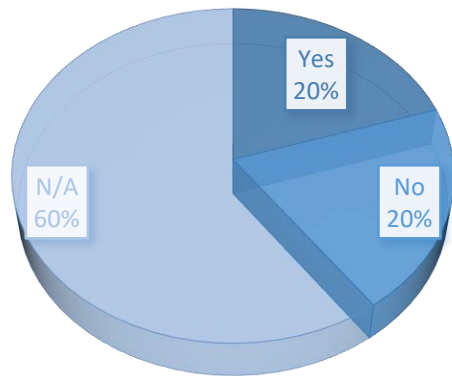
Q2) HOW EASY HAVE YOU FOUND IT TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL?



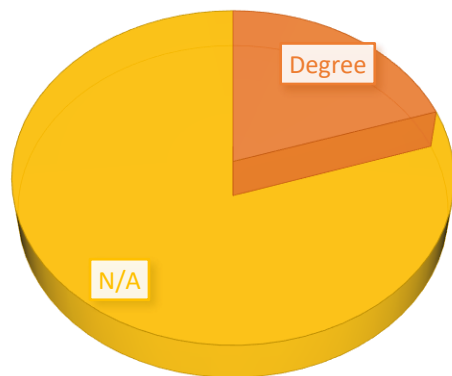
Q3) Since leaving West Heath have you continued studying?



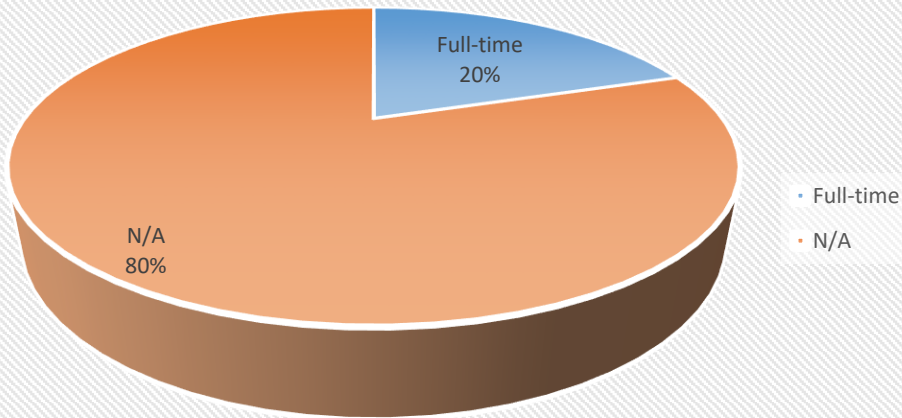
Q4) IF YES, ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING?



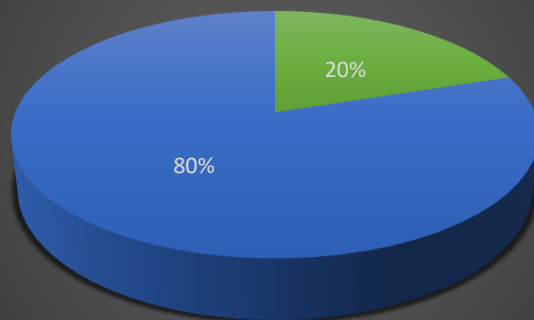
Q5) IF YES, WHAT TYPE OF COURSE ARE YOU STUDYING?



Q6) If yes, is it full or part-time?

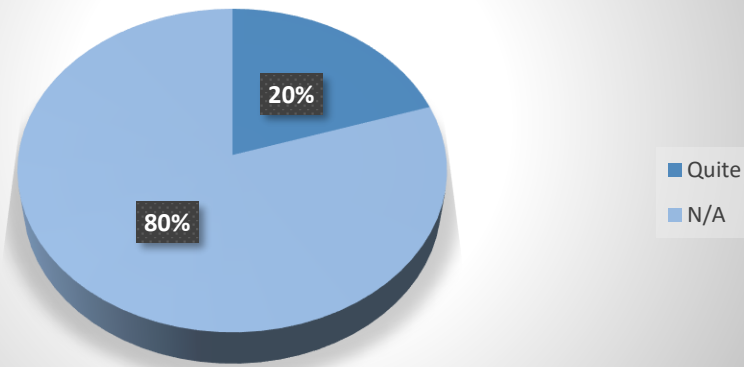


Q7) If yes, are you enjoying your course?

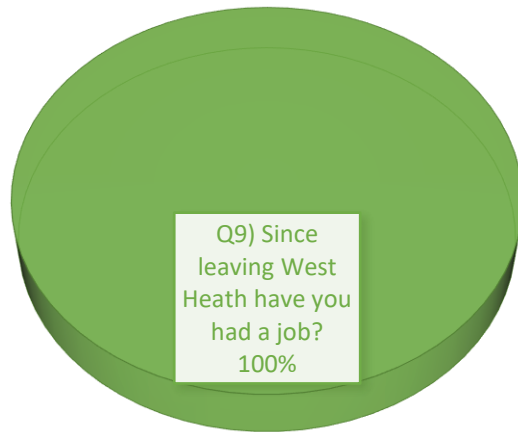


■ Yes ■ N/A

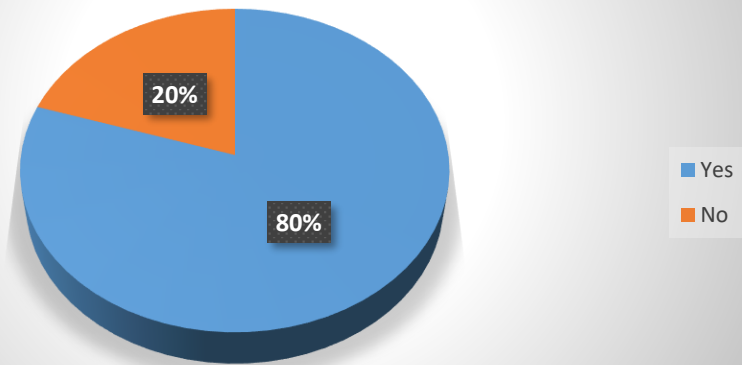
Q8) If yes, how confident are you that it will lead to a job?



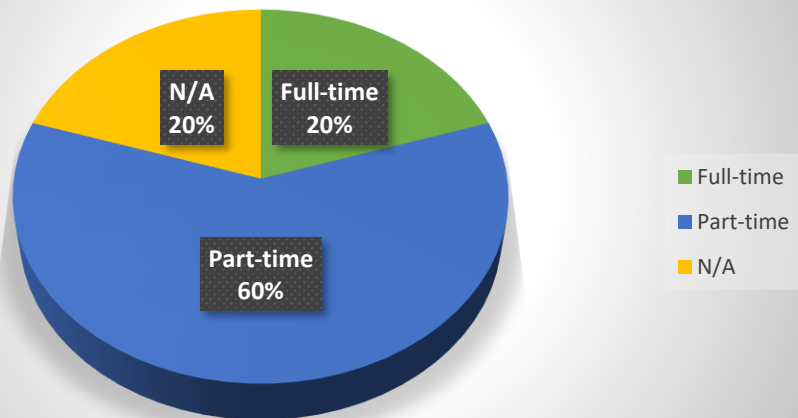
YES



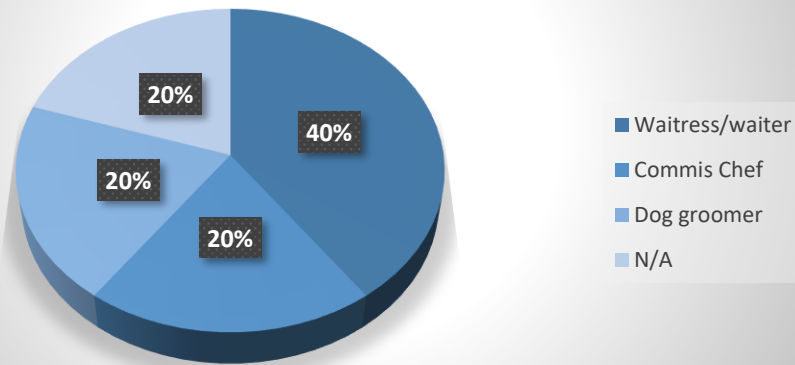
Q10) If yes, are you currently employed?



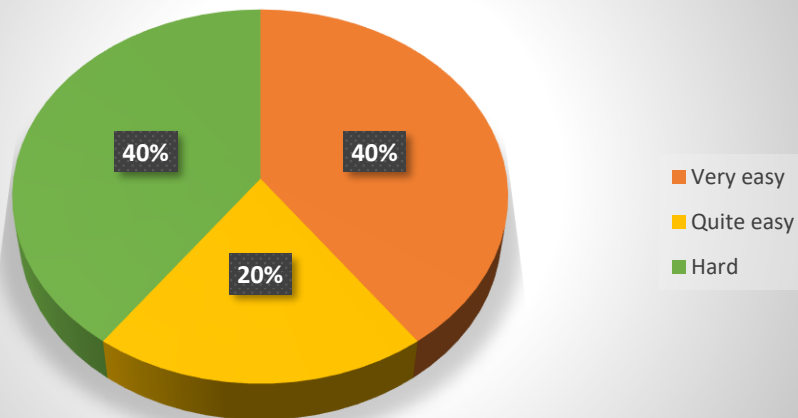
Q11) If yes, is this full or part-time?



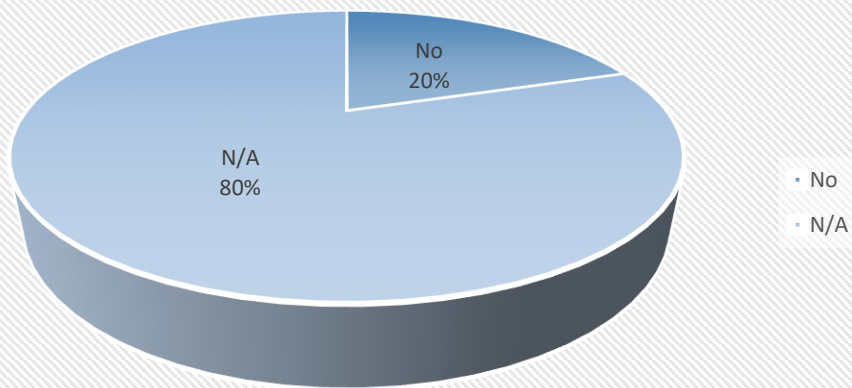
Q12) If yes, what is your current job role and job title?



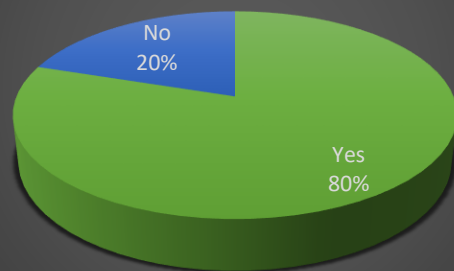
Q13) How easy was it to find a job?



Q14) If you are not currently working, is this from choice?

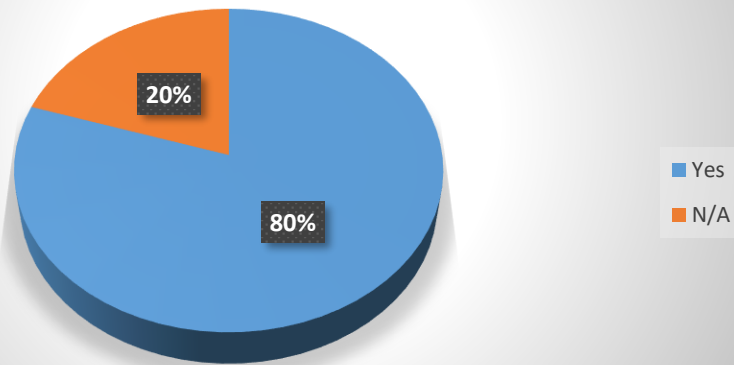


Q15) Do you feel that you were supported with your transition from school?



■ Yes ■ No

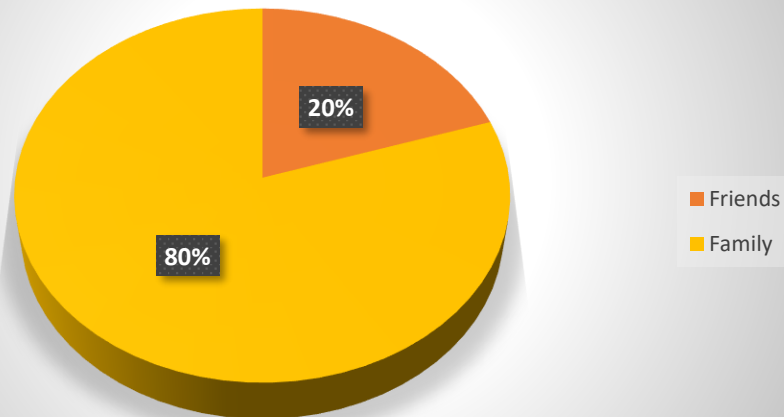
Q16) If yes, were staff helpful in advising you on possible options?



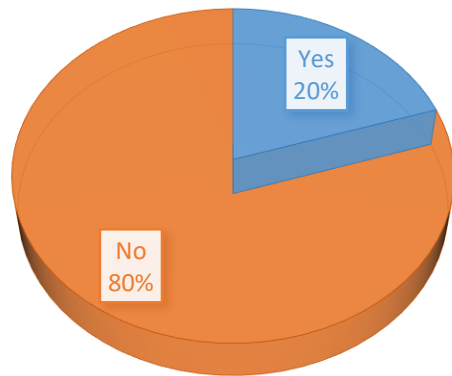
Q17) If no, why not?

No one helped me with my student finance.

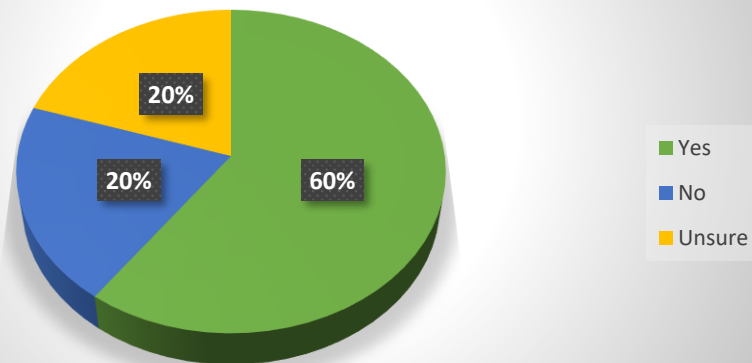
Q18) Where are you currently living?



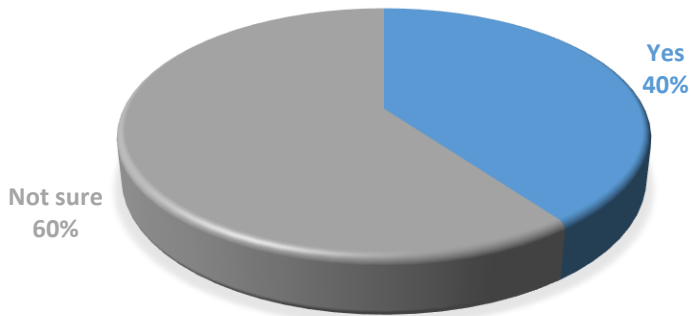
Q19) HAVE YOU PASSED YOUR DRIVING TEST?



Q20) Do you feel more confident now than you did at school?



Q21) DO YOU FEEL HOPEFUL ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?



Conclusions

Whilst it must be remembered that the results above only represent 25% of West Heath leavers from 2015 and therefore cannot be generalised to the other 75% who did not respond, it is nonetheless interesting to be able to take a snap-shot of outcomes on this sample. For example, 40% have carried on studying, and the one person who is currently studying is doing a full-time degree in Criminology which is a great achievement. Perhaps even more gratifying is that 100% have had a job since leaving West Heath, and 80% are currently working (albeit mainly part-time), with 60% finding it very/quite easy to find a job. This is in contrast to the Government figures from October 2014 which reported that only 49% of all youth in the UK were employed in work (either full- or part-time), and also an improvement on my previous report which found that only 62% of the sample were in employment.

Furthermore, it is encouraging to find that 80% felt supported with their transition from school and felt that staff were helpful in advising on possible options. This is also an improvement on my previous report which suggested that only 40% of leavers felt supported with their transition. It is also reassuring to find that 80% have found it very/quite easy to make new friends and take part in leisure activities; and that 60% feel more confident now than they did at school. However, it is perhaps noteworthy, and a sign of the times we currently live in, that only 40% feel hopeful about their future compared to 80% in my previous report.

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