

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
22 JULY 2013	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer(s) – Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning, Prevention
Contact Details - Tel: 863749

NEET (16-19 years not in Education, Employment and Training) Update

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny of the current position in the city regarding those young people 16 -19 who are not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET). To update Scrutiny on the work of the NEET Team, within the 0 -19 Service, and the actions taken to reduce the number of NEET young people in the City.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For Scrutiny to consider the report and endorse the actions taken by the 0 -19 Service.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Creating Opportunities Tackling Inequalities

- 3.1 There is strong evidence to indicate that the life chances of young people who remain NEET are significantly lower compared to the general population. Those young people who are NEET for over a 6 month period are more likely to be involved in the youth justice system, have dependencies on alcohol and drugs, exhibit risk taking behaviours, have poor mental health and have low self esteem.

The council has a statutory responsibility to:

- Track young people from age 16 to 19 and identify those young people who are NEET
- Support the targeted work with young people who are NEET to move them into Employment, Education and Training (EET).
- Work with partners – colleges, post 16 providers and schools, to ensure that each young person at age 16 and age 17 has a place in learning for the following academic year.
- Track the destinations of young people post 16 and post 17.

The Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) begins to take effect from September 2013 when the council's responsibility is then to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds have a place in learning and are, therefore 'participating'. Participation can take place in school through 6th form provision at a further education establishment, through apprenticeship provision and in work where other training is provided. In September 2015 this duty is extended to include 18 year olds.

With RPA the emphasis will be on increasing the number of young people who are participating and councils will be judged on their progress in working towards achieving 100% participation.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Historically, the NEET figure has been high in Peterborough compared to all Local Authorities and statistical neighbours. What, however, has been consistently low is the 'Not Known' indicator. This indicator relates to the number of young people in an area who cannot be contacted or where the

destination of the young person post 16 cannot be confirmed. Peterborough's Not Known figure has always been low compared to the National and Statistical Neighbour picture. The consequence of this is that although NEET has been high, virtually all of the NEET young people are known to the service and can therefore be worked with.

Two years ago with a change of service management, and the first steps of a realignment of the work of the adolescent services, greater scrutiny was placed on the NEET position in Peterborough with the service placing a higher priority on the reduction of NEET. This resulted in the following:

- Regular weekly tracking of the NEET and Not Known position in the city and aligning activity in response to the data
- The moving of resources to work with NEET young people
- A proactive approach to targeting those young people who might be at risk of becoming NEET after they left school
- Targeted programmes of support to address particular themes in relation to why young people are NEET. For example, an identification of a lack of employability skills with some young people led to the setting up of a Work Club for young people
- One to one intensive support for those young people who are hard to reach and persistent NEET
- Outreach work in ward areas where NEET is high
- After hours tracking and outreach activities
- The creation of a partnership group to monitor NEET.

As a result of the above, the number of young people who are NEET in Peterborough has dropped year on year.

Academic Age - 16 - 18 years olds - Adjusted NEET

Date	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2010/11	9.7%	9.6%	10.2%	9.3%	11.3%	13.0%	10.7%	9.7%	9.7%	8.8%	9.5%	9.8%
2011/12	9.8%	9.3%	9.7%	10.2%	11.0%	13.3%	10.0%	9.1%	8.7%	8.1%	8.0%	8.6%
2012/13	8.5%	7.7%	8.1%	8.3%	9.2%	11.3%	7.9%	7.5%	7.3%	7.4%	7.4%	7.6%

In May 2013 the NEET figure in Peterborough was 7.6%. In May 2012 the NEET figure was 7.73%. The full cohort of young people 16 -19 in the city is 6, 920. The total number of NEET young people as of May 2013 is 514 of this group 334 are available for work or training. Those young people not available for work might be carers, young parents or pregnant.

NEET and Vulnerable Groups

Although relative to the entire NEET cohort numbers of those young people who are under the Youth Offending Service and those who have previously been in the care system are small the impact of being NEET is significantly higher. A major focus for the 0 -19 Service over the last year has been to work with the Youth Offending Service and the Leaving and After Care Service to a) understand the data and b) provide a coordinated approach to supporting these young people into EET.

Destination of Young People Post 16

The most recent destinations data for the summer of 2010 Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 school and college leavers (published June 2013) suggests that although we are doing relatively well in moving young people into learning and work with training (apprenticeships) we lag behind in terms of the number of young people at the end of Key Stage 5 progressing to higher education.

Key Stage 4:

Indicator %	National	Peterborough
Sustaining education or employment/training	89	87
In 6 th form	37	53
On apprenticeships	5	3

Key Stage 5:

Indicator %	National	Peterborough
Sustaining education or employment/training	69	73
In Higher Education	48	39
In FE	8	19
On apprenticeships	3	3

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1
- Improving education attainment at Key Stage 4 particularly in English and Maths will improve the employability, or participation in learning, of young people leaving school and will therefore have an immediate effect on reducing NEET.
 - As we move towards the expectation of 100% participation in learning or work with training, the focus of the work with the NEET team will be on engaging with the most challenging and hard to reach young people. Improvement in outcomes for this group of young people will take time and some may never be in a position to sustain participation in learning. This highlights the difficulties associated with achieving 100% participation.
 - As of June 2013 we have 38 young people in the city who are in work without training who reached statutory school leaving age (16) in 2012. This is the equivalent cohort of those who will be affected by the raising of the participation age in September 2013 and will be deemed as 'not participating'. Using current figures this number would rise to 168 in September 2015. There needs to be a collective dialogue with employers to ensure that they commit to allowing young people employed to access appropriate training.

Employability programmes April 2012 – March 2013

Programme	Description	Targeted yp worked with	Moved from Neet to EET	Success rate (%)
Cross Keys funded IPA	Cross Keys funded IPA working with NEET young people 1:1 and in groups	58	36	62
Prince's Trust Team programme	12 week employability programme inc 5 day residential, 2 week work placement and community projects	48	41 (est)	85 (from 2011 -12 survey)
Work Club	City wide project to engage NEET yp weekly to improve employability skills and support applications to EET	69	52	75
Pre-ESOL course	Partnership with PRC to support yp with little or no English to access mainstream college courses at PRC	79	79	100
Total		254	208	82

The NEET programmes with the highest success rates are:

- **The Prince's Trust Team Programme**

The Prince's Trust Team Programme has been running in Peterborough for a number of years. In the last two years, success rates have improved due to a number of factors but include; more rigorous approaches to selection, a stable team of youth workers and a focus on some units of accreditation early on in the programme. The Prince's Trust has formally evaluated the deliver of the programme last year as being 'Outstanding'.

- **The Pre-ESOL**

The Pre-ESOL course delivered in partnership with PRC has been highly successful in moving young people into EET. The target audience for this programme is newly arrived young people who are not in any formal learning programme. These young people have not progressed through the school system in this country and are at risk of not gaining a place in learning or a work placement because of the language barriers. These young people are identified through Adolescent Services outreach in localities where these young people reside.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are NEET and, at risk of NEET, young people resident across the city and in all wards. Evidence indicates that through sustained investment in the reduction of NEET and the improving of participation for young people, demands on the social care, youth justice and health budgets are reduced. Through the continued investment in reducing NEET outcomes rates of re-offending are reduced, incidents of anti-social behaviour decline and access to learning increases. For example as a result of NEET out reach work in the Lincoln Road area of the city the police have identified that calls for service have significantly declined.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 N/a

8. NEXT STEPS

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- 8.1 Return to scrutiny at an appropriate point to update on progress in reducing NEET and improving participation in relation to the Raising of the Participation Age.
9. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**
Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
- 9.1 National Destination Tables for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/destinations-of-key-stage-4-and-key-stage-5-pupils-2010-to-2011>
Adolescent Services Performance Report
10. **APPENDICES**
- 10.1 None
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