

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board Detailed Performance Report June 2013

1. Details

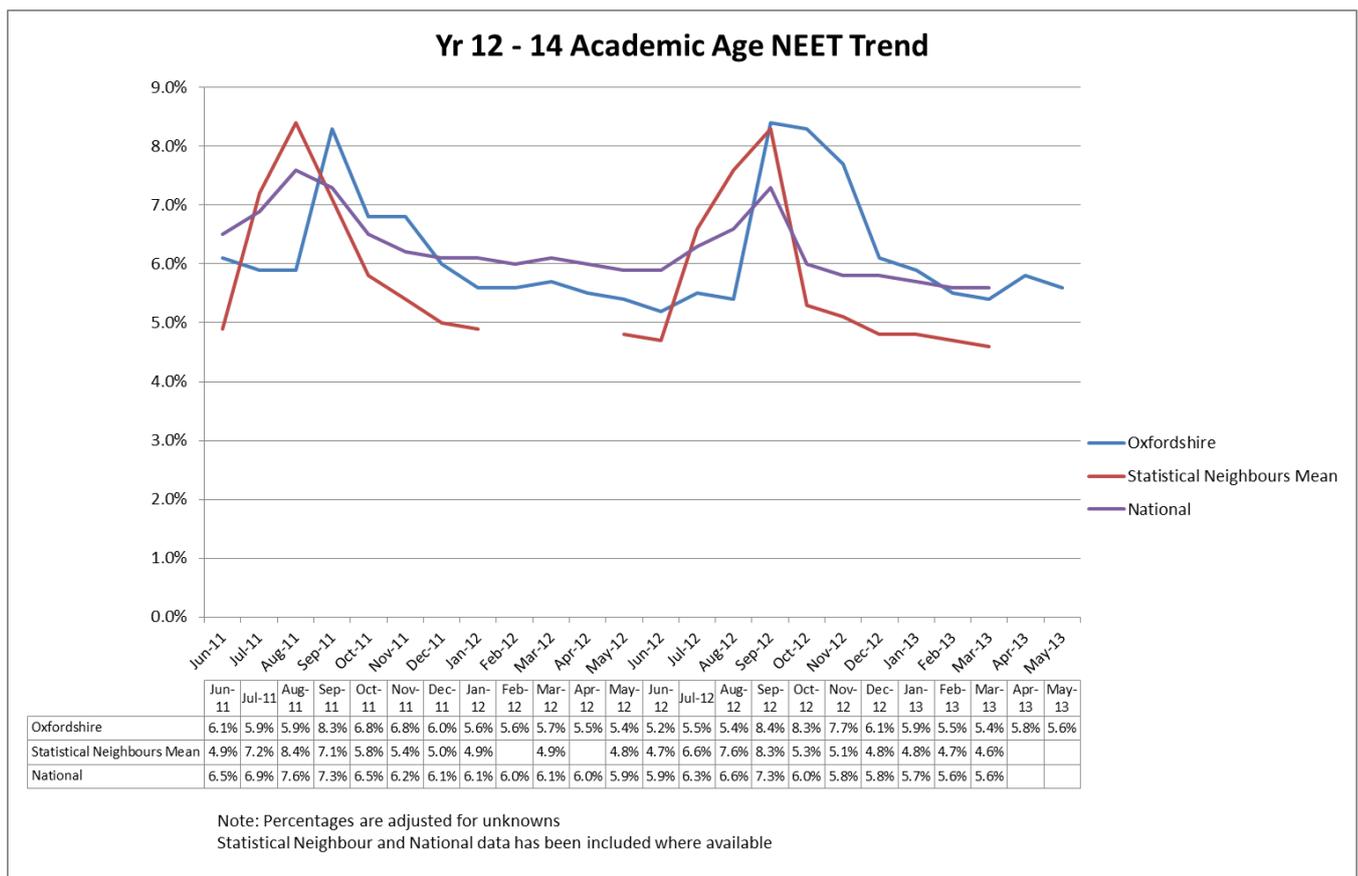
Strategic Priority: *Raising achievement for all children and young people*

Strategic Lead: *Frances Craven, Deputy Director, Education and Early Intervention*

PROGRESS MEASURE: To achieve less than 5% Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) for young people in National Curriculum Year 12 – 14 (885 young people). *The figure for June 2013 is 5.6% (997 young people.)* This is a challenging target set by Oxfordshire County Council.

Current indicator RAG Rating: RED

2. Trend Data



3. What is the story behind this trend? Analysis of Performance

3.1 Introduction of statutory duty to Schools to provide Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

- From September 12 all secondary schools including special schools were placed under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their students in years 9 – 11
- Schools have a duty to provide information to the local authority about the intended destinations of students in Year 11 and about the actual destination of these students post compulsory education
- Over 2012/13 schools have secured careers guidance, over 70% buying this in from external providers
- Progress has been slow in receiving information from schools about destinations but this has improved over the academic year and information has now been received from all but one schools regarding Year 11s 2011/12.
- Understanding and robust systems are now in place to ensure this information is collected in September/October 2013 for the 2012/13 cohort
- Tracking of young people in NCY 12 – 14 remains the responsibility of the Local Authority
- An IAG Schools/Colleges Tracking Officer has just been appointed to commence work in July 13, this post will work closely with the Schools supporting the quality of their Careers curriculum and timeliness of their statistics
- A Risk Of NEET Indicator (RONI) has been created enabling schools to get hard data evidence of the students in their school who are most likely to be NEET so additional work can be done to support these students

3.2 Changes in ways Government counts NEET figures

- From April 2013 the Government changed the way NEET figures were collected. Prior to this date NEET figures included all young people verified as being NEET but only included a proportion whose NEET status had 'lapsed'. A young person's status as NEET was previously deemed to have lapsed after 3 months if their situation as NEET had not been confirmed. These young people would appear as Not Known rather than NEET. A formula was used to identify which of the Not Known young people were EET and which NEET and the relevant percentage added to the NEET total. From April this year all young people who are NEET remain so until their status becomes in Education Employment or Training (EET) and these are all added to the NEET figure along with a proportion of those who have been EET but have not been verified within the specified timeframes. This change resulted in a rise in NEET figures in Oxfordshire of 0.4%. In some parts of the country this change made significantly more difference as tracking arrangements for NEET young people were less robust.

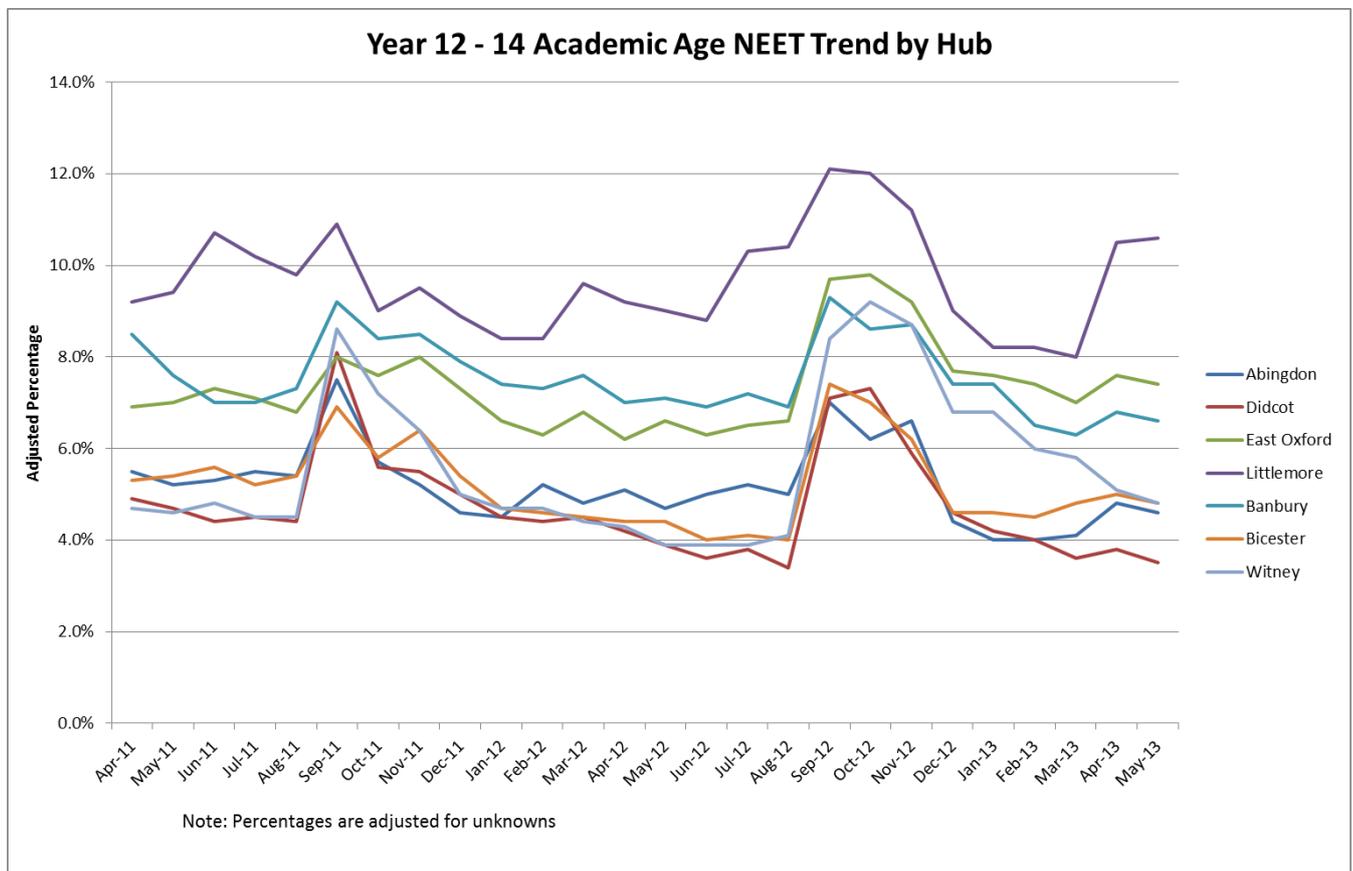
3.3 Raising Participation Age (RPA)

- From September 2013 the RPA will come into effect for learners aged 16-19. This means that from summer 2013, 16 year olds completing Year 11 will be required to 'participate' in learning until the end of the academic year in which they become 17
- From Summer 2015, 17 year olds will be required to participate in learning until their 18th birthday
- Participation is counted as full-time education, an apprenticeship, full-time work including at least 280 hours of education, a traineeship or home education
- In advance of the duty coming into being Oxfordshire County Council has produced a strategy to work towards 100% participation in learning. This is a cross – directorate plan aiming to ensure all young people across the county remain in learning through taking an integrated approach (see 4 below).

3.4 The NEET trend in Oxfordshire continues to have peaks followed by a downward trend with lowest levels remaining similar over time

- The legislative and policy changes outlined above all have an impact on both the number of NEET young people in the County and the way these young people are counted. As a result trend information, although valuable, is less reliable as an indicator of success.
- There is an annual peak in the NEET figure in September each year when all young people in education (school or college) are automatically shown as 'unknown'. As outlined above, a proportion of this unknown figure counts toward the NEET figure. The figure is then brought down as information is sought to identify the destination of individual young people
- Generally young people continue to remain in education, return to education, find jobs, apprenticeships or other training courses. This is in line with national and statistical neighbour trends.
- The job market in Oxfordshire is buoyant in relation to young people with over 367 jobs, apprenticeships and learning opportunities currently advertised on www.oxme.info/opportunities a number of these opportunities take a group of young people expanding the number of available places.
- Information about the type of young people who are NEET shows that a low level of attainment as a key factor
- 72.8% of young people who are NEET across the county have been so for 6 months or more.

3.5 NEET is not evenly spread across the county



- Banbury, East Oxford and Oxford Littlemore are NEET hotspots in the county. (Banbury 6.6%, Littlemore 10.6%, East Oxford 7.4%, Witney 4.8%, Bicester 4.8%, Abingdon 4.6% and Didcot 3.5%)
- Information down to ward level shows the areas of highest NEET in Oxford are Northfield Brook, Barton and Sandhills, Blackbird Leys, Littlemore and Rose Hill and Iffley whilst in Banbury the wards are Grimsbury and Castle, Neithrop and Ruscote.
- The Littlemore hub area is of particular concern as there was a sharp rise when the change in policy regarding lapsed NEET came into being – it was clear that only those young people on the NEET list were tracked not those who had lapsed. As a result we are tracking NEET young people every 45 days.

3.6 There are a high number of young people in employment without training

- Within the county there are 930 (Yr.12 – 14) young people who are successful in gaining jobs but these jobs have no learning.
- Under RPA from Summer 13, 16 year olds gaining jobs with no learning will not be considered to be 'participating'. There is a need to find ways of encouraging young people to stay in learning and employers to understand this need. Currently almost half the young people in employment are not provided with learning opportunities.

3.7 There are a number of vulnerable groups who need particular attention

- The Specialist NEET service was commissioned in July 2012, this service provides one to one support for young people who have learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD), are pregnant or teenage parents, are homeless, looked after or leaving care, young carers or known to the Youth Offending Service
- Young Carers in EET are 58.6% with a target of 65%. Under the new RPA arrangement young people who are young carers and registered with OCC as a young carer will all be included as 'participating' and EET. We are awaiting the final data from colleagues in Social Care and are confident that this data will enable at least hitting the target.
- Since Dec 12 the number of young people known to the YOS who are EET has risen significantly from 24% to 55% and appears to be maintaining at this level. In April 13 the DfE provided a new definition of LDD young people, this definition now only includes young people who had a 'statement' at school or have had a Section 139 assessment. This has created a significant reduction in LDD numbers.
- LDD young people are prone to moving in and out of EET. These young people are more likely to be involved in low level training than employment. There remains a shortage of suitable employment opportunities for this group. The new Specialist NEET service will target LDD young people to support them to move into EET, sustain their EET position and develop further skills to progress. There are particular challenges in finding employment for this group and work to increase employment options needs action.
- The number of young parents in Employment, Education and Training now is 25% (May 13) and since September 12 is on an upward trend. We are currently in negotiation with the Health Authority to try to get more robust data for this work.

3.8 The length of time Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has an impact on future employment prospects

- In the last year 840 young people were NEET for more than 4 months, 766 for more than 6 and 596 for more than 12 months.
- The longer young people remain in NEET the more difficult it is to find suitable and sustainable education, employment or training.

- Of NEET young people in the vulnerable groups 82.5% have been NEET for six or more months – these young people are being targeted by the Specialist NEET service.
- Action to target young people who have been NEET for six months or more will also be addressed through the revised area NEET/Not in learning (NIL) groups.

3.9 A number of young people frequently move in and out of education, employment and training

- It is difficult to quantify numbers in relation to this but data evidences this ‘revolving door’ effect showing young people in Oxfordshire moving between training providers and/or employment.
- This is most often as a result of young people not being ready for employment, education or training at 16, making ill informed choices about what they want to do or responding to family pressure to take any job.
- Young people in this group are not usually developing skills, knowledge or experience that supports their progress to sustained EET situations for the future

4. What is being done? Current initiatives and actions

In March 2013 a 100% Participation Strategy was written bringing together the relevant services within CEF and the Economy and Skills team within Environment and Economy. This document identifies the following objectives which include local aspirational targets:

- To achieve at least 90% average for 16/17 year olds (Year 12) in learning and 83% of 17/18 year olds (Year 13)
- To achieve less than 5% NEET (Years 12 – 14)
- To reduce Not known figures to less than 10%
- To ensure targeted support results in our most vulnerable groups achieving EET outcomes that are at least above the national average reported for these groups
- To ensure a whole system approach is developed, which ensures every young person aged 16 – 18 not participating in learning is identified and offered a suitable place in learning. To build this through: strong links with schools and colleges; effective management of transitions at 16; sufficient, responsive and flexible learning places, links with employers that encourage employment and learning; effective management of and engagement with NEET young people; and robust tracking arrangements
- To learn from national best practice and place Oxfordshire’s solutions within this category.

The document also contains a comprehensive action plan detailing specific actions that need to be undertaken to achieve the objectives. The headline actions and responsibilities are listed below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Robust tracking arrangements | Early Intervention Service (Youth Engagement and opportunities , Early Intervention Hubs and Children’s Centres) |
| • Links with Schools and colleges | Education and Early Intervention Service (Youth Engagement and Opportunities, Early Intervention Hubs and School Improvement) |
| • Secure sufficient, responsive and flexible | Economy and Skills |

places and secure links with employers to increase employment and employment with learning for young people

- Effective management of, and engagement with, non-participating young people

Early Intervention (Youth Engagement and Opportunities, Early Intervention Hubs, Children's Centres)