

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 03 DECEMBER 2015

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEETs) WORKING GROUP REPORT

Report by Councillor Peter Handley, Chairman of the NEETs Working Group

Introduction

1. Under its Terms of Reference, the Education Scrutiny Committee may establish working groups in order to explore issues further.
2. At the July 2015 meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that a working group of the committee be set up to consider in further detail the issue of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) in Oxfordshire.
3. This report provides a summary of the discussion and the recommendations of the working group to the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) Working Group

4. The NEETs working group is chaired by Cllr Peter Handley. Membership consists of the following ESC councillors: Cllr Mark Gray, Cllr Michael Waine, and Cllr Steve Curran. In addition, the Deputy Director for Education & Learning and other relevant officers attend the meetings of the group as required.
5. The group's initial meeting was held at County Hall on Thursday 03 September 2015. A follow up meeting of the working group was held on 24 November 2015 to consider some of the matters arising from the initial discussion.

Summary of Discussion

6. At the September meeting, the working group were provided with an overview of the number of NEETs in Oxfordshire and the county council's statutory duties in relation to NEETs. Members heard that figures have improved significantly over the last few years and that Oxfordshire is in a strong position compared to its statistical neighbours.
7. Furthermore the working group discussed the employment and apprenticeship opportunities available to young people in Oxfordshire, and heard from officers that the county council is working closely with local employers and

schools to match job opportunities with young people and to make sure young people have the right skills and training when they leave education.

8. Further information about the local and national picture in relation to NEETs and the council's responsibilities and work to support NEETs is available in the report attached at Annex 1.
9. Overall the working group were satisfied that the county council has robust systems in place to deal with NEETs and recommended that the issue does not require further attention from the committee.
10. In particular, the group noted that figures compare very favourably with neighbours and nationally, and advised that the council continue to look at areas of further improvement. There was acknowledgment that while individual cases of concern may occur, the county council provides appropriate support to young people not in education, employment or training in Oxfordshire and that the system used for updating children leaving education is working well.

RECOMMENDATION

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) **Recognise the positive trajectory of Oxfordshire County Council in supporting young people not in education, employment or training;**
- (b) **Encourage Early Intervention and Economy & Skills teams to link on a regular basis with the Education and Learning Senior Management Team to ensure clarity and joint working;**
- (c) **Ensure governors are aware of their statutory responsibilities in relation to NEETs.**

Councillor Peter Handley

Chairman of the Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) Working Group

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November 2015

Annex 1



Education Scrutiny Committee
Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) Working Group

03 September 2015

1. YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEETS) IN OXFORDSHIRE

The Local Picture (*Please note all statistics below use July 2015 data*)

- **How many young people are NEET in Oxfordshire? (National Curriculum Years 12 – 14)**

No. 602 (total number to track) 3.2% Actual NEET 3.5% Adjusted NEET

Adjusted NEET Comparison: National 5.4%
 SE 5.0%

Statistical neighbours

Cambridgeshire	3.6%
Bath and North East Somerset	3.5%
West Berkshire	6.9%
Hertfordshire	7.1%
Wiltshire	4.4%
Hampshire	4.5%
Gloucestershire	5.8%
Bracknell Forest	10.0%
Buckinghamshire	2.9%
Surrey	1.8%

- **How many young people's destinations are not known?**

No. 708 3.8% Not Known

Year 12 – 1.2%

Year 13 – 3.5%

Year 14 – 6.9%

Not Known Comparison: National 13.2%
 SE 16.4%

Year 12 – National 8.6% SE 13.2%

Year 13 – National 14.5% SE 16.1%

Year 14 – National 16.5% SE 19.9%

Statistical neighbours

Cambridgeshire	1.9%
Bath and North East Somerset	7.3%
West Berkshire	67.3%
Hertfordshire	42.3%
Wiltshire	8.1%
Hampshire	14.6%
Gloucestershire	16.4%
Bracknell Forest	66.0%
Buckinghamshire	2.2%
Surrey	5.6%

• **How old are the NEET young people?**

16 – 84	Year 12 – 133
17 – 181	Year 13 – 223
18 – 241	Year 14 – 246
19 – 96	

Adjusted NEET

Year 12 – 2.2%
Year 13 – 3.7%
Year 14 – 4.7%

Adjusted NEET Comparison:

Year 12 – National 3.5%	SE 2.9%
Year 13 – National 5.2%	SE 4.7%
Year 14 – National 7.5%	SE 7.5%

• **How long have these young people been NEET?**

Less than 3 months	– 119
3-6 months	– 177
6-12 months	– 170
12 months +	-- 136

• **Where do these NEET young people live?**

Oxford	– 166
West Oxfordshire	– 79
Cherwell	– 197
VofWH	– 71
South Oxfordshire	– 89

• **What is the level of qualification held by these NEET young people?**

Below Lev 1	– 241
Lev 1	– 145
Lev 2	– 90
Above Lev 2	– 5
Unknown	– 121

• **How many belong to vulnerable groups?**

LAC/LC	– 30
Young Carers	– 42
YOS	– 12
Homelessness	– 37
LDD	– 214
Teenage parents	– 104
Pregnant	– 27

2. COUNCIL’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Local Authority has a number of statutory duties linked to NEETs:

- i) Section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008 “Local authorities are required to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16-18 (inclusive) and those aged 20-24 with a learning difficulty in their area (under sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009)) and to make available to young people age 19 and below support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training”
- ii) The Education and Skills Act 2008 “further requires local authorities to promote the effective participation of all 16 and 17 year old residents in learning and to make arrangements to identify young people resident in the authority who are not participating”.
- iii) The Education Act 2011 “Local Authorities will retain their duty to encourage, enable or assist young people’s participation in education or training. They will be required to assist the most vulnerable young people and those at risk of disengaging with education or work”
- iv) The Education Act 2011 “requires schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for pupils in years 8 - 13 **and provide relevant information about pupils to local authority support services.** New statutory guidance “Careers guidance and Inspiration in schools” and non-statutory departmental guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff (April 2014) produced to support the duty. The new duty broadens school responsibilities including requiring a school to:
 - ♦ have a careers strategy;
 - ♦ be aware of the need for young people to achieve grade C or better in English and Maths;
 - ♦ work in partnership with employers;
 - ♦ ensure effective linkage to STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects;
 - ♦ develop entrepreneurial skills and linkage to out of school opportunities to help deliver career aspirations”
- v) Education Act 2011 “to enable authorities to fulfil these duties, they will continue to track **all** young people’s participation through the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) in order to identify those who are at risk of not participating post

16, or are in need of targeted support. Schools should work with local authorities to support them in recording young people's post 16 plans and the offers they receive along with the current circumstances and activities"

- vi) Statutory guidance 'Careers guidance and inspiration in schools' April 2014
"Schools should work with local authorities to identify those at risk of not participation post 16. Local authorities should have arrangements in place to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds have post 16 plans and received an offer of a suitable place in post 16 education or training under the 'September Guarantee' and that they are assisted to take up the place"
- vii) RPA Statutory Guidance on the participation of young people in education, employment or training (March 2013) "local authorities are expected to lead the September Guarantee process which underpins the delivery of this duty"
- viii) Education and Skills Act 2008 – "Schools should work in partnership with local authorities to ensure they know what services are available and how young people can be referred for support. All educational establishments have a duty to notify local authorities whenever a 16 or 17 year old leaves education or training before completion. It is for schools and LAs to agree local arrangements for ensuring this duty is met"
- ix) Statutory guidance 'Careers guidance and inspiration in schools' April 2014
"Local Authorities also track young peoples' progress after they leave school and schools may want to ask their local authority to share this information with them"
- x) (Section 27 of the Children and Families Act 2014). "Local authorities **must** carry out their functions with a view to identifying all the children and young people in their area who have or may have SEN or have or may have a disability (Section 22 of the Children and Families Act 2014). Local authorities **must** keep their educational and training provision and social care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities under review"
- xi) NCCIS guidance (DfE 2015/16 "CCIS is essentially a local database that provides local authorities (LAs) with the information they need to support young people to engage in education and training; to identify those who are not participating and to plan services that meet young people's needs. It also enables LAs to provide management information to DfE through NCCIS. Information recorded on NCCIS is used to:
 - monitor the extent to which young people are meeting the duty to participate in education or training. This requires pupils who reached the compulsory school leaving age in summer 2014 and beyond to continue in full time education or training, and apprenticeship, or full time employment combined with part time study until at least their 18th birthday
 - produce local authority monthly tables, which are available on the NCCIS portal, for services to compare and benchmark their performance against others
 - produce public tables that are available on GOV.UK:
 - proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds in education and training;

- NEET data by local authority; and
 - the September Guarantee
 - combine with other administrative data to help DfE produce statistical first releases (SFR) such as the KS4 and KS5 destination measures and the NEET Quarterly Brief
 - evaluate policies such as the Youth Contract and traineeships”
- xii) RPA Statutory Guidance on the participation of young people in education, employment or training (March 2013) “In order to discharge this duty, local authorities must collect information to identify young people who are not participating, or who are at risk of not doing so, to target their resources on those who need them most. The information collected must be in the format specified in the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) Management Information requirement. To meet this requirement, local authorities will need to have arrangements in place to confirm young people’s current activity at regular intervals. This may be through exchange of information with current education and training providers and others services as well as direct contact with young people”
- xiii) RPA Statutory Guidance on the participation of young people in education, employment or training (March 2013) “ Local authorities will be expected to continue to work with schools to identify those who are in need of targeted support or who are at risk of not participating post 16. They will need to agree how these young people can be referred for intensive support, drawn from the range of education and training support services available locally. Tools such as NEET indicators may support this”.
- xiv) RPA Statutory Guidance on the participation of young people in education, employment or training (March 2013) “16 – 17 year olds are, in certain circumstances, eligible to claim Job Seeker’s Allowance (JSA), Income Support (IS) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA). Whilst decisions about payment or benefit will be made by the Jobcentre Plus, any under 18 wishing to make a claim must first register with the local authority as a condition of entitlement. Local Authorities must follow the processes set out in the ‘Benefits Liaison Guidance’ issued by DWP to ensure that benefit regulations are adhered to”.

3. THE SYSTEM USED FOR UPDATING CHILDREN LEAVING EDUCATION

A number of related processes are used to ensure accurate information is received and input onto the CCIS system.

- a) Each year information of all young people in Year 8 is uploaded onto the CCIS database
- b) We are currently working with ICT to get a refresher of this information for Year 11
- c) Each year in March/ April/May schools provide a list of all the ‘intended destinations’ of young people in year 11. Through June to August, schools and colleges provide a list of all young people offered places
- d) In Sept/Oct schools provide a list of the actual destinations and colleges provide a list of all young people who have started a course

- e) Other Learning providers provide information about all young people in their provision
- f) Schools data team provide information about the GCSE and A level results
- g) Schools, colleges and learning providers inform LA when a young person leaves
- h) SEN colleagues provide information about young people with Education and Health Care Plans and support high need LDD young people
- i) Virtual school/Social Care data provides monthly information about LAC/CL
- j) YJS provides data about young people in Youth Justice
- k) Health provides data monthly on births to teenage parents
- l) Social Care provides information on Young Carers
- m) Early Intervention through Hubs and central Youth, Engagement and Opportunities team follow up and support young people with no intended destinations, young people with no actual destinations, those who have stated they want a destination, NEET young people and those young people who have moved to EET to check they are still in EET

4. SUPPORT FOR NEET YOUNG PEOPLE

Early Intervention – provides a range of support for NEET young people:

- www.Oxme.info – website containing opportunities information – Jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships, learning. This includes sending young people weekly ‘hot jobs’ information and workers current jobs/learning information. Links also to facebook and twitter
- Webchat and helplines - access every day to an on,ine helpline for young people to ask questions and receive immediate answers to a range of issues/problems
- Job Clubs, Drop Ins and Activities – access to regular activity
- Face to face appointments - individual appointments for specific support
- Outreach to NEET young people – contact from Hubs to every NEET young person every 45 days
- Specialist NEET Support – targeted at young people in vulnerable groups, working close with YJS, SEND, Virtual School. Young Carers, Family Nurse partnership. One to one support provided by specialists
- Direct contact with young people who have indicated they intend to do an apprenticeship (City Deal funded)
- Support for schools and colleges – to provide quality Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).
- Provision of annual Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) information highlighting young people most at risk of becoming NEET so support can be put in place by the school
- Data Sharing
- ESIF projects to be tendered through Big Lottery (Autumn 15) a) to support transition from school for those most likely to become NEET and b) provide engagement programmes for young people NEET for six months or more

(See detail in Statement of Service for EI – attached as annex)

Economy and Skills – provides a range of structures that support young people, working closely with the Skills Board and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

ESC10

- Prepares information about the local labour market, producing an biannual publication supporting schools and others to link learning with jobs available locally both now and predicted for the future.
- Links with developers for major construction projects to create Employment and Skills Plans (ESPs) aimed at securing opportunities and employment for young people both during construction and end- user phase (e.g. Westgate shopping centre)
- As part of Oxfordshire's city deal 'Oxfordshire Apprenticeships' (OA) works with employers with an aim to increase the number of apprenticeships available for young people by supporting them to take on apprentices. OA also works with schools to promote apprenticeships to young people as an option post 16 or post A levels and can provide one to one support to young people struggling to secure an apprenticeship.
- Provides 'Oxfordshire Work Experience' – a service paid for by schools to support schools/colleges with work experience for students.
- Manages 'Opportunities to Inspire' (O2i) linking schools and employers to enhance the CEIAG offer in schools.
- Maintains relationships with post 16 providers to influence learning provision to ensure sufficiency of places, including identifying any gaps and seeking to fill these.

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