



# haringey strategic partnership

for children & young people

## **AGENDA ITEM**

## **MEETING**

**Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board  
10 December 2007**

## **TITLE**

**NEETS UPDATE**

## **SUMMARY**

This report reviews the current NEET situation in Haringey and explores the range of approaches employed to reduce the numbers and any future developments likely to impact on progress towards achieving the 2010 PSA target.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the CYPSP note the contents of this report.

## **LEAD OFFICER(S)**

Lenny Kinnear, Chief Executive Connexions

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The NEET PSA target for Haringey set by government is to reduce the numbers of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training to 10.4% of the whole cohort by 2010. The glide path set out in Table 1 shows the year on year reductions that would be required to meet this target. DCSF calculates the annual NEET figure by averaging the monthly NEET figures for November, December and January of the following year

**Table 1. Glide path to meet PSA target**

<b>NEET %</b>	13.7%	13.0%	12.3%	11.6%	11.0%	10.4%
<b>YEAR</b>	Jan 05/06 (Base)	Jan 06/07	Jan 07/08	Jan 08/09	Jan 09/10	Jan 10/11 (Target)

- 1.2 Haringey under Local Area Agreement (LAA) arrangements selected the NEET target as one which could be achieved earlier than 2010 and thus attract additional funding. The glide path set out in Table 2 shows the year on year reductions that would be required to meet this target

**Table 2. Glide path to meet the LAA target**

<b>NEET %</b>	12.3%	11.6%	11.0%	10.4%
<b>YEAR</b>	Jan 06/07	Jan 07/08	Jan 08/09	Jan 09/10

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 At the end of October 2007 the Haringey NEET percentage was 10.8%. At the same time last year it was 13.9%. Figures during the period September – November must be viewed with some caution as it is a time of transition for young people and it takes a few months to confirm their destinations. However, there is some indication of a downward trend and it seems that the borough maybe on track to meet the January 08 glide path target of 11.6%.
- 2.2 There is a further indication of improvement in the figure for participation in employment, education or training (EET) which at the end of October 07 was 78.8% compared with 72.3% at the same time last year.
- 2.3 Encouragingly, when analysing the data for the length of time a young person has been NEET, the number of long term NEET (6 months +) has reduced significantly in the last month from 104 in September to 79 at the end of October suggesting that real inroads are being made with this most challenging group.

## **3. Activities to reduce NEET**

Activities can be grouped within the three key approaches to NEET reduction of prevention, intervention and sustainability.

### **3.1 Prevention**

- 3.1.1 An audit of IAG provision in Haringey schools is being carried out in order to develop an IAG entitlement for all students. This will improve KS3 and 4 transition as evidence shows that many 17 year olds disengage from learning due to making late or poorly informed decisions.

- 3.1.2 A future opportunities event for year 11 pupils and their parents was held at Alexandra Palace on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November with exhibitors from schools, colleges, universities, training providers and local and national employers.
- 3.1.3 To improve information on post 16 options, Choice, the pan London electronic prospectus of post 16 opportunities has been launched in the summer with information on all courses in colleges and sixth forms. This is available on the internet and is promoted to all pupils.
- 3.1.4 Connexions provides personal adviser time to every secondary school (a minimum of 1 day per week) and an agreed programme of activities including 1:1 interventions, group sessions and support for the schools IAG curriculum including teaching and learning materials for pupils in years 9-11.
- 3.1.5 September Guarantee: Connexions and the LSC deliver this initiative for all year 11 pupils. Their intended progression routes are recorded and tracked so that all young people are guaranteed suitable post 16 provision. Young people identified as at risk are followed up by Connexions personal advisers to provide 1:1 support into EET opportunities.
- 3.1.6 A September Guarantee Voucher scheme was introduced by the LSC in September to provide funding for personalised learning / training for school leavers who had not progressed into mainstream provision. £2000 per person has been made available to personal advisers to purchase suitable training or specialist support to enable young people to re-engage with EET opportunities.
- 3.1.7 Connexions funding has been used to develop bespoke job brokerage for Haringey NEET young people. It will run until the end of March 2008. The job broker runs employability workshops and makes links with local employers.
- 3.1.8 Pre 16 NEET prevention projects at Gladesmore and Alexandra schools. 40 young people in years 10 and 11 identified as at risk of NEET have been selected by the schools and provided with individual mentors drawn from the business community. The aim is to raise motivation, achievement and provide practical careers support.
- 3.1.9 Pre 16 Business Enterprise at Woodside High School and Park View Academy. This is aimed at young people in year 10 at risk of NEET who are supported to set up their own small businesses making and selling jewellery and accessories.
- 3.1.10 In partnership with Action for Kids, a local disability charity, young people in year 11 at Gladesmore and Northumberland Park with a Statement of Educational Need or on the School Action Plus register are offered specialist work experience.

## 3.2 **Intervention**

Intervention involves 1:1 work with young people and systematic tracking of the whereabouts and current situation of the whole 16-18 cohort.

- 3.2.1 A PA team is occupied full time in following up young people on the NEET register to keep track of where they are and to encourage them to accept support into employment education and training. The NEET Forum has agreed to develop local performance indicators to closely monitor targeted NEET work.

- 3.2.2 Young people who have been NEET for less than 3 months receive an agreed programme of interventions including testing their level of basic skills, help with creating a CV, job search and interview practice. Those who have been NEET for more than three months or who have complex problems are offered intensive support to deal with the practical or social barriers impacting on their lives. This may include referral to specialist agencies such as counselling.
- 3.2.3 Connexions advisers are working with schools and colleges to implement systems for early identification of young people dropping out of post 16 learning. Through pan London links with other boroughs Haringey young people studying elsewhere can be tracked and provided with support. This should be of particular benefit to Haringey where over 50% of young people remaining in education post 16 study in another area.
- 3.2.4 Arrangements are in place at CONEL for all excluded learners or those who drop out to be referred to Connexions for immediate follow up.
- 3.2.5 PAs work with colleagues in the YOS, CAMHS, Haringey homeless person's unit, and the teenage pregnancy team to identify NEET young people and provide them with intensive 1:1 support to help them manage the difficulties in their lives and to re-engage with employment, education or training.
- 3.2.6 A recruitment fair was held for NEET young people at CONEL in July and another large event was held on November 22 at Alexandra Palace. Exhibitors included schools, colleges, training providers and local and national employers. Young people were individually invited to attend by letter, texts and phone calls.

### **3.3 Sustainability**

For NEET reduction to be sustained there has to be a range of appropriate and appealing employment, education and training opportunities available to young people.

- 3.3.1 The September Guarantee voucher scheme is currently filling gaps for those young people who want short term very specialist training.
- 3.3.2 The specialised diplomas will provide a wider range of options at KS4 and will help to keep more young people engaged in learning.
- 3.3.3 Connexions commissioned two work based learning programmes for Haringey young people, Motiv8, who were not eligible for current mainstream programmes.
- 3.3.4 The NEET Forum now seeks evaluative reports on all work commissioned around NEET young people to identify what approaches are worthy of longer term investment.

## **4. Future Trends**

- 4.1. The opening of the new sixth form centre is likely to have some effect on NEET percentages in the long term as more Haringey young people remain in the borough to study post 16.

- 4.2. The specialised diplomas will provide a wider range of options at KS4 and will help to keep more young people engaged in learning.
- 4.3. The new ESF funding round is likely to provide some additional funding for specialist NEET projects.
- 4.4. An announcement this month from DCSF is also likely to contribute to the reduction of NEET in Haringey. The Secretary of State announced that the new NEET strategy will be strengthened by:
- Further strengthening the tracking system, by requiring all learning providers to notify the Connexions service as soon as any young person drops out.
  - Increasing the flexibility of provision, so that if any young person drops out, it will be easier for them quickly to access an alternative place in learning.
  - Extending Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), so that young people on a wider range of courses can receive support; and so that all young people on Entry to Employment courses (which are particularly important for those at risk of being NEET) receive EMA.
  - Extending the September Guarantee, so that 17 as well as 16 year olds are covered.
- 4.5. The NEET figures in Haringey are slowly but steadily reducing and with these new developments and continuing to build on the work of the last three years the borough appears to be on track to meet both its 2010 PSA and LAA targets.

### **Recommendation**

That the committee note the contents of this report.

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