

Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training – Action plan up date to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 25th February 2016

What are we trying to achieve, the outcome	Reduce the numbers of young people not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET)
Why we need to do it:	A Wales Audit Office Review of Councils in Wales in July 2014 found Councils are clearly committed to further reducing the proportion of young people not in employment, education and training (NEET), especially those aged 16 to 18, but planning is variable and Councils have made less progress in understanding the costs and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions.

A copy of the full WAO report can be accessed by clicking here:

http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_English.pdf

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme		Update	Next Steps	Delivery Date	Responsible Member/ Officer
WAO NEET 01	Together with partners, map and review expenditure on NEETs services to better understand the resources required to deliver the Welsh Government Youth Engagement & Progression Framework (YEPS)	A comprehensive mapping exercise of NEETs services has been undertaken by the Council and its partners (members of the Supporting Engagement in Education, Employment and Training (SEETs) Strategic Steering Group). This mapping was undertaken to identify the breadth and scope of services in line with the requirements of the Framework and enabled us to produce a baseline map of education, employment and training provision mapped against the Careers Wales 5 Tier model. As part of the framework requirements, this information has been shared with Welsh Government. The mapping exercise has also been used to inform the development of our ESF 'Inspire to Work' strand within the Priority 3 Youth Employment and Attainment programme.	Delivery of a comprehensive pathway into employment for 16-25 year olds under the ESF Regional Operation 'Inspire to Work'	Ongoing	Head of Engagement and Participation
WAO NEET 02	Clarify strategic approach to reducing the proportion of 19 to 24 year olds who	The RCT Supporting Engagement in Education, Employment and Training (SEET) Strategy 2012-15 clearly sets out the Council's priority to reduce the number of young people who are at risk of becoming, or who are NEET in the County Borough. The SEET Strategy focuses on	Continue with current approach and maximise opportunities through	Ongoing	Head of Engagement and Participation

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	<p>are NEET as well as their approach for 16 to 18 year olds.</p> <p>the ‘Right Systems’, the ‘Right Provision’ and the ‘Right Support’, the three main components set out in the Welsh Government Guidance ‘Reducing the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training in Wales’ (2009).</p> <p>The SEETs Strategy extends to young people up the age of 25, with the YEPS Framework being applied to 16 - 18 year olds. Although the Welsh Government YEPS framework does not apply directly to 19 - 25 year olds, we have applied these principles to our work with this age group.</p> <p>The underpinning Strategic Action Plan 2015 which delivers this strategy includes all key partners who are committed to the aim to reduce the number of young people who are NEET in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Actions are aimed at identifying those at risk of becoming disengaged from Education, Employment and Training as early as possible in order to tailor multi-disciplinary support and intervention to best match their needs.</p> <p>Specific targets are set for 2015-2016 to increase the number of young people aged 18-25 engaging in employment pathways, which is the focus of our ESF Inspire to Work Programme. There are also opportunities through the Communities for Work ESF programme to strengthen operational level links with Job Centre Plus in order to enhance the provision of services for 19-24 year olds.</p> <p>The 16-18 year old NEETs rate has decreased by 1.2% since 2011 and the 18-24 year old NEETs rate has decreased by 7.4% since 2012.</p>	<p>Communities for Work ESF programme to support 19-24 year olds</p>		

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WAO NEET 03	Focus on young people with significant or multiple barriers to engaging with education, employment or training rather than those who are more likely to re-engage without significant additional support.	<p>Vulnerability Profiling provides a means of early identification of those children and young people at risk of disengaging from learning as a result of socio-economic barriers they face outside of the school environment. It is now RCT's agreed single identification tool for potential disengagement from learning, and a number of teams within the Engagement and Participation Service are using it to drive and shape the provision of targeted services for children and young people aged 5-25 years.</p> <p>The Engagement and Participation Service is the first Local Authority Service area to base its service planning, delivery and impact measurement methodology on Vulnerability Profiling data. This data is also regularly shared and used by a number of partners including Careers Wales, Schools and the Education LAC Co-ordinator to inform planning and outcome monitoring. This work has been extended to Further Education with joint work with Coleg Y Cymoedd to reduce the number of early leavers in the first term of College. Specialist pre-engagement programmes are currently being piloted for young people identified as Tier 2 'not available' and are focusing on engaging young people experiencing mental health issues, substance misuse issues and caring responsibilities.</p>	Evaluate the impact of specialist pre-engagement programmes and support. Continue to expand use of Vulnerability Profiling	Ongoing	Head of Engagement and Participation
WAO NEET 04	Develop objectives and targets for reducing the number of young people NEET so that they can be held to account and their work aligns with the Welsh	<p>RCTs SEET Strategy clearly sets out objectives for reducing the number of young people NEET and progress is reported annually to the Youth Support Services Group. Annual targets are in place for 2015-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of LAC young people engaging in EET • Increase the number of LAC young people aged 18-24 yrs engaging in traineeships • Increase the number of young people aged 16-18 engaging in employment pathways 	Continue to monitor and report performance against targets to SEETs Strategic Steering Group and Elected Members	Ongoing	Head of Engagement and Participation

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	Government's targets and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of young people aged 18-24 engaging in employment pathways • Reduce the number of young people aged 16-18 in Tier 1 • Reduce the number of young people aged 16-18 in Tier 2 • Reduce the percentage of Year 11 school leavers NEET • Reduce the percentage of Year 12 school leavers NEET • Reduce the percentage of Year 13 school leavers NEET • Improve secondary school attendance rates 			
WAO NEET 05	Ensure that elected members and partners fully understand that councils have a clear responsibility for leading and co-ordinating youth services for 16 to 24 year olds.	The Council's Deputy Leader is the portfolio holder for the Youth Service in RCT and has monthly one to one meetings with the Head of Service. Through the MTFP service change process, elected Members have become increasingly aware of the Council's responsibilities for leading and co-ordinating youth services through Cabinet and Scrutiny reports. As the only Regional ESF programme agreed by Cabinet, the 'Inspire to Work' programme demonstrates the Council's commitment to young people aged 16-24 and the importance they have placed on investing in this population.	No further action required at this time	N/A	Head of Engagement and Participation
WAO NEET 06	Improve the evaluation of the effectiveness and relative value for money of the services and interventions in the area that are intended to reduce the proportion of young people who are NEET.	The effectiveness and relative value for money of the services and interventions intended to reduce NEETs has been evaluated in preparation for our engagement in the ESF Regional Programme. Spend, considered alongside outcome data has enabled a cost per participant value upon which future evaluation of effectiveness and relative value for money can be based.	Regular evaluation ongoing as part of monitoring ESF and non ESF activity	Ongoing	Head of Engagement and Participation