

NEET STRATEGY

SUMMARY REPORT**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform members of Scrutiny Committee of the publication of Darlington's NEET (not engaged in education, employment or training) Strategy.

Summary

2. Darlington has an established NEET Reduction Partnership. The role of the Partnership is to look strategically at the characteristics and barriers that prevent young people from engaging in learning and make recommendations regarding areas for development. The NEET Reduction Partnership reports to the 14 to 19 Trust which in turn reports to the Children's Trust.
3. The Partnership has commissioned the drafting of a NEET Strategy for Darlington.
4. The strategy was promoted at a 'launch event' on October 20th. An Executive Summary is being drafted for circulation to a wider audience.
5. The NEET Reduction Partnership has been successful in securing £647,812 of European Social Fund (ESF) monies to develop new learning programmes. The programmes are designed to engage young people outside of learning, at risk of disengaging or those who find learning difficult. The programme is called '*Skills4me*'.
6. Over the coming year the Partnership will be monitoring delivery of the programme and identifying areas for future development .

Recommendation

7. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

September Guarantee Guidance
September Guarantee Figures for 2008
Darlington's NEET Strategy

Lynn Kilpatrick Extension 2449

S17 Crime and Disorder	Young people at risk of offending often come from the NEET population. It is believed this strategy will assist in engaging those young people in positive activity.
Health and Well Being	This strategy should have positive outcomes in relation to the health and wellbeing of those young people involved.
Sustainability	There could be long term benefit to Darlington's economy and sustainability through young people engaging in training and early employment.
Diversity	This strategy is for all young people. No specific diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All 14-19 year olds at risk of becoming NEET.
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This strategy promotes the themes of Aspiring; Prosperous, Healthy and Safer Darlington within the Sustainable Community Strategy: One Darlington, Perfectly Placed.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. Government have set a national NEET target to be achieved by 2010 and produced a national strategy to achieve this. Our Darlington NEET Strategy 'Everybody's Business, Everybody's Contribution', complements the national strategy.
9. Each Local Authority has been allocated a target as their contribution to the reduction of the national NEET figure.
10. Under the Local Area Agreement, Darlington has a stretched NEET Target to reach by 2010, with milestones to reach year on year. The progression towards the target is calculated using the average percentage of young people who are NEET each November, December and January each year
11. The chart below shows the 2010 target & milestones for preceding years. Darlington achieved 6.8% in January 2008.

16-18 year old NEETS	Baseline average NEET % Nov 04-Jan 05	Provisional NEET target for 2010	Proportionate size of NEET reduction 2004-2010	Milestones				2010
				2006	2007	2008	2009	
D'ton Target	8.4%	6.2%	-32%	6.8%	6.6%	6.4%	6.2%	5.7% stretch target

12. It should be noted that the NEET population changes constantly. If we are to reduce the number of NEETs in Darlington we require the support of a range of partners and agencies.

13. The NEET Strategy has three main strands. Firstly prevention of young people becoming NEET. Secondly retention once young people are engaged and thirdly the sustainability of their job, training or education in the longer term.
14. We are confident that reducing the NEET figure is possible. The NEET Strategy will help to bring all stakeholders working with 14-19 year olds together so providing earlier intervention, targeted support and better sharing of information regarding young people at risk. Young people will receive better information, advice and guidance to meet their individual needs.
15. We are already making good progress. This year 99.8% of Darlington's Young People who left Secondary school in 2008 have been offered a place in training, education or employment.
16. The next stage is to ensure that the offer of a place for every school leaver is converted into actual starts in training, education or employment.
17. Reaching the local authority's stretched NEET Target in 2010 will release £233,475 of Government funding to the authority under the Local Area Agreement.

Outcome of Consultation

18. The NEET Strategy is the outcome of wide consultation with stakeholders involved with those considered NEET or at risk of becoming NEET in Darlington.
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