

Annex 2**Report to the Oxfordshire Public Service Board on the continuing work on NEETs**

This report outlines those activities of the Oxfordshire Learning & Skills Partnership Action Groups that focus or have an impact on the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) young people agenda. It also includes reference to emerging joint work with the Oxfordshire Children's Trust in tackling this issue.

OLSP Action Group 1: Impacting on Educational Standards, Experiences and Employment Outputs

The group along with representatives of the Children's Trust is organising a Careersfest in January 2011 at Kassam Stadium to support students and NEET groups, especially those residing in Oxfordshire's more deprived SOAs. The event will help young people to consider and understand the full range of education and careers pathways underpinning Oxfordshire's *Quality, Choice and Aspiration Strategy*. The event will also raise the importance placed by employers on the behaviour, attitudes and mindsets of young recruits to the workplace.

The work of the group is bringing together networking organisations such as the Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership, Science Oxford, etc, to carry out joint working in areas like work placements, referrals, etc, for all young people, and particularly those who are NEET..

OLSP Action Group 2: Employment and Skills Board:

The group has been promoting various employment schemes to employers making them aware of Apprenticeships, and the possibility of taking on young employees through the Future Jobs Fund for six months or more with a salary contribution to help with recruitment and retention of young people.

OLSP Action Group 3: Back to Work

OLSP co-wrote the Future Jobs Fund bid with Oxfordshire County Council to provide 60 jobs in the public/private and voluntary sector. OLSP has been promoting the scheme to employer members through the other Action Groups with several successes. The group has also been promoting Jobcentre Plus 18-24 offers. Part of the work is supporting Job Clubs and Cherwell District Council is investigating expanding provision especially for young people. Another member of the group is the co-ordinator of Oxford City Council's Enhanced Housing Option project and they are looking at reducing worklessness among those in social housing, focussing on NEETs and BMEs. Joint working between Jobcentre Plus and housing professionals is being explored to increase the EET knowledge in order to signpost clients including 'in-work' and 'better-off/income-maximisation calculations.

OLSP Action Group 4: Community Learning

The group with the Children's Trust is mapping the number of NEETS across six SOA localities in Berinsfield, Didcot, Banbury and Oxford and activities

available to identify possible projects. The other focus of the group is looking at provision of entry level ESOL in the County currently not funded. The target group for this provision includes young BME NEET people often unaccompanied minors.

Behaviours, Attitudes and Mindsets (BAM) Action Group:

This group is focussing on emotional intelligence and widening the scope of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme. The members of the group include secondary and primary schools, colleges, JCP, Oxfordshire County Council's CYPF directorate, employers, the voluntary sector, psychologists, and the private sector. Two specific projects are:

1. looking at ways of helping young people make the transition between primary and secondary school, and identifying young people at risk early on.
2. young people leaving school and moving into EET, helping employers, parents, school governors, to understand the needs of young people and their own emotional responses.

OLSP NEETS Sub-group:

This time-limited group chaired by Sean Kearns of Oxfordshire Connexions brings together the Children's Trust, employers, training providers, Connexions, County and District Councils, the voluntary sector and other partners to develop practical solutions to help disadvantaged young people into education, employment and training. The mapping work of the group will identify available services for the young people, link up provision, identify gaps and develop solutions. It will use examples of good practice and find ways of replicating them across the County.

The work of all the OLSP is closely related and aligned to other relevant thematic partnerships, in particular the Children's Trust and the Health & Well Being Partnership so as to avoid duplication and promote synergy between the difference partners and activities.

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