

# Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

6 September 2012

## Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

### Recommendation

To consider the report and the initiatives being taken to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training, and to make any appropriate recommendations.

### 1.0 Purpose of report

At its meeting in February 2012, the Committee considered an [initial report](#) on young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs), which set out the policy context in which the Authority is working with young people who are NEET in Warwickshire. Following this, the Committee requested a more detailed report on the number of NEETs by area.

### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Recent changes in legislation, the economic climate and government budget savings are having an impact on the number of young people who are NEET. These factors were detailed in the previous paper and include:
- A new duty on schools to provide impartial information advice and guidance (IAG) to young people in statutory education from September 2012.
  - The replacement of the Education Maintenance Allowance by a Bursary Fund.
  - Difficulties experienced by providers in the delivery of the Foundation Learning programme due to the requirements of the new model.
  - Reduced transport subsidies for post-16 learners.
  - A reduction in the funding available for commissioning impartial IAG.
- 2.2 The Government is committed to reducing the numbers of young people who are NEET and tackling youth unemployment, and the number of NEETs remains a key performance measure for Warwickshire County Council.
- 2.3 The Government's Raising the Participation Age (RPA) strategy raises the age that young people remain in education or training to age 17 by 2013 and up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday from 2015. Young people will be able to participate in a way that best suits their needs and aspirations; for instance in full-time education at school or college; on an Apprenticeship or part time if they are also working or volunteering full time. Promoting effective participation in education and training is a statutory duty of the Local Authority under the Education and Skills Act (2008).

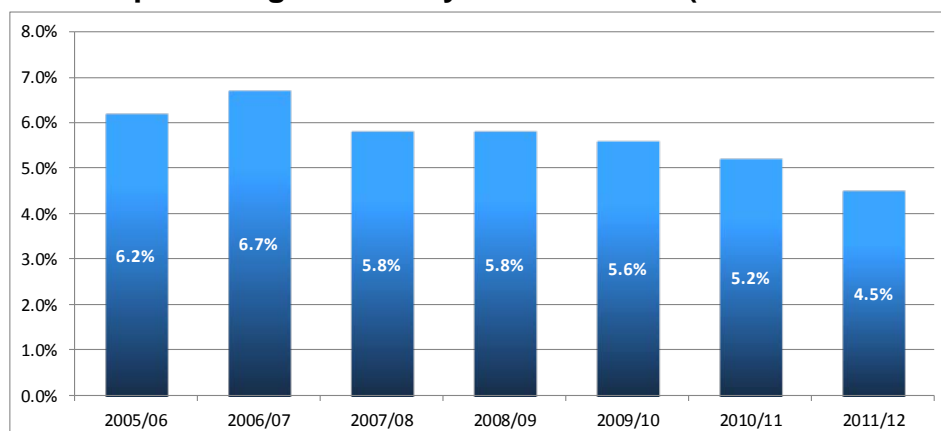
### 3.0 Issues

- 3.1 The DfE-published Warwickshire NEET figure for 2011/12 stands at 4.5%. The proportion of young people county-wide aged 16-18 who are NEET is below the national average, and is falling. However, the numbers of NEETs are not uniform across the county with higher numbers and percentages in North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 3.2 The percentage of NEETs at age 17 and 18 are significantly higher than at age 16.

### 4.0 NEETs in Warwickshire

- 4.1 There are three different measures of the number of NEETs on which we are required to report:
- The number of 16-18 year olds who are NEET
  - September Guarantee of an offer of learning for young people in years 11 and 12
  - Destinations of young people at the end of Year 11
- 4.2 The DfE-published NEET figure is an average of the November, December and January submissions to the DfE from the contracted Information Advice and Guidance provider. Up until 2010/11, this covered 16-18 year olds in Warwickshire institutions. This changed in 2011/12 to include young people resident in Warwickshire up to the end of the academic year in which they become 19.
- 4.3 Warwickshire has seen the number of NEETs reduce from a peak of 6.7% in 2006/07 to 4.5% in 2011/12. This represents around 830 (estimated) young people aged 16-18 of the 18,418 cohort. It places Warwickshire 30<sup>th</sup> of 152 Local Authorities in England and 2<sup>nd</sup> within Warwickshire's group of 11 statistical neighbours (those local authorities deemed to have similar characteristics and used for benchmarking progress).

**Table 1: percentage of 16-18 year old NEETs (2005-06 to 2011-12)**



Source DfE

**Table 2: number of 16-18 year olds who are NEET by district**

District	NEET		
	Actual Age 16-18		Academic Age 16-18
	Jan-10	Jan-11	Jan-12
North Warwickshire	8.4% (127)	7.5% (106)	5.2% ( 97)
Nuneaton & Bedworth	6.2% (260)	6.8% (275)	4.6% (212)
Rugby	7.2% (214)	4.7% (132)	3.9% (119)
Stratford	3.1% ( 97)	2.9% ( 87)	3.3% (118)
Warwick	4.6% (171)	4.6% (162)	4.0% (152)

Source CSWP

**Table 3: percentage and number of NEETs by age group**

Age	NEET % (estimated n <sup>o</sup> )
Age 16	3.0% (180)
Age 17	4.3% (270)
Age 18	7.3% (440)
Combined	4.5% (890)

Source DfE

#### 4.4 Vulnerable Learners

From 2012, the IAG provider is reporting quarterly on NEETs by:

- Young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD)
- Young people supervised by young offenders team (YOT)
- Pupil Referral Unit attendance (PRU)/excluded pupils
- Looked after children (LAC)
- Teenage mothers
- Teenage pregnancy
- Ethnicity (Black and Minority Ethnic, BME)

Quarter 1 data provides information for June 2012 where the total number of NEETs is at its lowest point in the year and stands at 3.2% (543). Table 4 sets out the number and percentage of vulnerable young people who are NEET as at June 2012.

**Table 4: Warwickshire 16-18 NEETs by vulnerable group, June 2012**

Vulnerable Group	Proportion of vulnerable group who are NEET	Others in vulnerable group not NEET	Proportion of NEET cohort of 543
YOT (aged 16-17)	21.3% (19)	78.7% (70)	3.5%
LAC	16.7% (18)	83.3% (90)	3.3%
LDD (aged 16-25)	6.8% (125)	93.2% (1,717)	23.0%
PRU/excluded	19.6% (33)	80.4% (135)	6.1%
Teenage mothers	31.5% (81)	68.5% (176)	14.9%
Teenage pregnancy	32.6% (30)	67.4% (62)	5.5%

Source CSWP

The percentage of Warwickshire's black and minority young people (BME) who are NEET is at 2.1% (33). Because this percentage is lower than the

cohort as a whole, they are not included as an identified vulnerable group in the table above.

#### 4.5 NEETs targets

Table 5 sets out the agreed NEETs targets based on the number of young people in post-16 provision in Warwickshire institutions.

**Table 5: 16-18 NEETs Targets 2010-2015**

	2010 Target	2010 Actual	2011 Target	2011 Actual	2012 Target	2013 Target	2014 Target	2015 Target
<b>Existing targets</b>	4.6%	5.2%	5.2%	4.5%*	5.2%	5.0%	TBC	TBC

*\*based on the new methodology, which measures young people resident in Warwickshire up to the end of the academic year in which they become 19*

Table 6 sets out proposed targets for NEETs based on the new methodology, which Cabinet will be asked to agree.

**Table 6: 16-18 NEETs Targets 2010-2015**

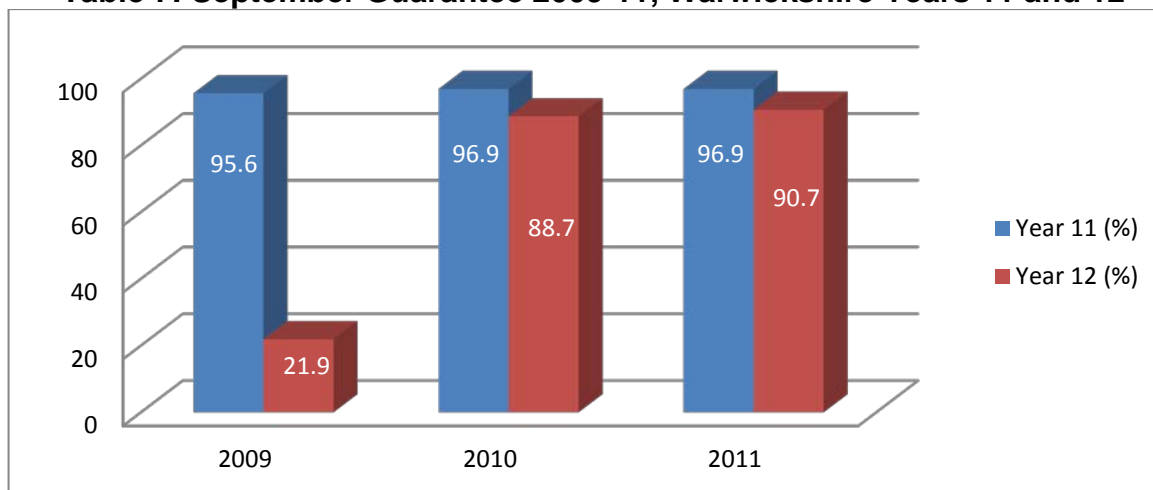
	2010 Target	2010 Actual	2011 Target	2011 Actual	2012 Target	2013 Target	2014 Target	2015 Target
<b>Proposed targets</b>	4.6%	5.8%*	5.2%	4.5%	4.5%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%

*\*recalculated using new methodology*

#### 4.6 September Guarantee

The September Guarantee is an offer of learning to all young people at the end of year 11 and year 12. This measure originated in Coventry and Warwickshire and is now national policy. Warwickshire stands at 96.9% and is the highest year 11 offer of learning across England. The Local Authority has focused effectively on increasing the offer of learning at year 12, resulting in an increase from 21.9% in 2009 to 90.7% in 2011. The year 12 target for 2012 is 93%.

**Table 7: September Guarantee 2009-11, Warwickshire Years 11 and 12**



Source CSWP

#### 4.7 Destinations at the end of year 11

The Year 11 Activity Survey is an annual survey undertaken in November which reports the educational/employment outcome statistics of young people educated in Warwickshire and who completed their statutory education at the end of June. Table 8 below shows that in 2011, 95.7% of Warwickshire young people in Year 11 entered a positive destination decreasing slightly from 97% in 2009.

**Table 8: 2006-11 Warwickshire destinations at the end of year 11**

Status	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Continuing in Education	80.3%	80.6%	83.4%	88.1%	89.2%	89.5%
Training (non-employed)	2.4%	2.5%	2.8%	2.3%	1.8%	0.6%
Employment	9.7%	10.9%	8.9%	5.8%	4.9%	5.1%
Vol & P/t Activities	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%
<b>Positive Outcomes</b>	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
NEET	5.6%	4.4%	3.7%	2.7%	3.2%	3.1%
Not Available Left Area	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	1.3%
<b>Negative Outcomes</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100.0%

Source: Year 11 Activity Survey 2011, Connexions. Percentages rounded to one decimal point - this may make sub-totals appear erroneous.

#### 5.0 Initiatives to engage those young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET

Reducing the number of NEETs remains a high priority for the Government and the Council. Detailed below are the initiatives being taken currently to support young people into education, employment or training.

- (i) A Risk of NEET indicator (RONI) has been developed to support the DfE national strategy of raising the participation age. It provides an analysis of the data held by the Authority on young people in year 10 and identifies the characteristics that evidence has shown, puts the young person at risk of becoming NEET by age 16 (see **Appendix 1**).

Following a pilot in five secondary schools of the RONI process during 2011/12, the Authority will:

- Work with 18 secondary schools in Warwickshire to provide RONI reports in September 2012. Schools will use these to plan intervention measures at targeted year 10 pupils.
  - Roll out RONI programme to all secondary schools by 2013.
- (ii) The Authority commissions provision from a wide range of learning providers to ensure that there are sufficient places across the county in education and/or training for young people. It also seeks to influence externally funded European Social Fund (ESF) programmes in a commissioning capacity to ensure that provision is secured where it is most needed geographically, i.e., in the north of the county. Currently for 14-16 year olds who are at risk of becoming NEET, there are 270 places of learning for young people funded by ESF. This contract is managed

by North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, is countywide and is delivered by a number of sub-contracted institutions. For 16-18 year olds who are NEET, the number of ESF-funded places is 639 delivered over a three-year period. This contract is managed by CSWP and is also available across the county.

- (iii) The Authority currently contracts with Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership (CSWP Ltd) who are the commissioned IAG provider for vulnerable groups. The contract prioritises work with NEETs and provides support and guidance to young people on a 1:1 basis and in group sessions. The contract also ensures the placing of young people with suitable learning providers and the tracking, monitoring and reporting on the status of all young people. The contract focuses on vulnerable groups and there is dedicated Connexions advisor time for Looked After Children/care leavers; teenage mothers; young offenders and young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities.
- (iv) A 2012 summer programme has been commissioned with places for 90 learners across a range of providers targeted at PRU leavers, young people who have been home educated and Looked After Children. The provision aims to re-engage young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET and provides support to encourage young people to continue in learning as part of the September guarantee.
- (v) North Warwickshire and Hinckley College have secured funding as part of a Government trial to provide 15 young people who have special educational needs with intensive support into long-term paid work. The programme is called 'Supported Internships' and is due to start in autumn 2012.
- (vi) The Authority convenes and is represented at a wide range of external meetings sharing information on performance and exploring where collaboration is possible in order to reduce NEETs e.g., County NEET group, 11-19 County Strategic Partnership.
- (vii) The work undertaken to reduce NEETs is a key work stream of the Authority's strategy to meet the requirements of the raising of the participation age.
- (viii) Discussions are underway with the Troubled Families Coordinator with a view to including work with families that include a member of one of the vulnerable groups (see above) within the Troubled Families programme.

## **6.0 Summary**

- 6.1 While the number and percentage of young people who are NEET compares well with other neighbouring authorities and nationally, it is a concern that there are a significant number of young people who are not in employment, education or training at 16 when they leave school and that the number grows at age 17. It is a further concern that numbers of NEETs are higher in the north of the county. The Committee will note as well that a very significant

number of these young people are from vulnerable groups. The initiatives set out in this report sets out some of the initiatives to track young people but more particularly to intervene early to prevent young people becoming NEET. However, it will require a coordinated and coherent response from all the agencies and organisations supporting vulnerable young people, including Target Youth Support, support for excluded children, early intervention and the Trouble Families initiatives to reduce these figures further faced with a difficult financial context.

- 6.2 The Committee is asked to comment on the report and the approach taken to reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Yvonne Rose – Service Manager Secondary Phase	<a href="mailto:yvonnerose@warwickshire.gov.uk">yvonnerose@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel 01926 742968
Head of Service	Mark Gore – Learning and Achievement	<a href="mailto:markgore@warwickshire.gov.uk">markgore@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel 01926 742588
Strategic Director	Wendy Fabbro	<a href="mailto:wendyfabbro@warwickshire.gov.uk">wendyfabbro@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Heather Timms	<a href="mailto:cllrtimms@warwickshire.gov.uk">cllrtimms@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

**Risk of NEET Indicators (RONI), Phase 3, May 2012**

**Contributing Factors:**

1. Has a SEN Status
2. Is Pregnant or teenage mother
3. Is a Looked After Child
4. Is supervised by the Youth Offending Team
5. Didn't achieve the National average score at Key Stage 2
6. Didn't achieve the National average score at Key Stage 3
7. School attendance is below 85%
8. Experienced one or more Fixed Term Exclusions
9. Experienced one or more Permanent School Exclusions