

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 1 May 2012	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Strategy Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the information and advise of further actions required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure that all young people aged between 16 and 19 are offered a suitable course of post 16 study. The authority has an additional duty to offer targeted support for the most vulnerable groups. This includes children who are looked after. From 2015 the duty changes to ensuring that all young people participate in learning up until the age of eighteen.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The Specialist Education Services (SES) team takes a strategic lead on the council's policies and plans for raising participation and ensuring that all young people are fully prepared to be economically independent during their adult lives.
4. There are three key areas to this strategy:

Locate and engage

Most Southwark 16 year olds progress into further education. A small number do not. Many of these young people are known to us and engage with our services and the majority will progress into learning. When a young person does not engage with our services we work to locate them and engage them in some form of positive activity.

Develop

There is a vast array of education, pre-employment and employment opportunities in Southwark. The challenge is in ensuring that pathways for learners are coordinated, and that provision is accessible and of high quality. Central to this is understanding what young people and employers need and want, and ensuring that the local offer provides appropriate solutions.

Place

As young people finish their education, many have a clear idea of where they want to go. In the current economic climate many will need additional support to achieve their goals. Others will have successfully finished their studies but lack focus as to how they progress to economic sustainability. Some will have failed to complete their studies or will have failed to engage properly. All will need some help in finding the place that they want to be in as they turn 20.

5. The SES team works closely with the Adolescence and After Care Team to ensure that all children looked after are supported throughout the journey described above.

Description of activities

Tracking group

6. This group meets regularly [every six weeks] to track and target young people in care who are at risk of being NEET, from year 10 onwards or those who are already NEET and excluded from school. To focus on, intervene and develop action plans in collaboration with allocated workers, carer or semi-independence provider

Apprenticeships

7. Apprenticeships are seen as a very important pathway for young people. Support is offered to children looked after to secure an apprenticeship through designated apprenticeships, offered to care leavers, with Southwark Council. These jobs are usually within the Adolescent and after Care Service. Young people's skill levels are developed through pre-apprenticeship workshops, in English, maths, CV writing and interview skills, with a designated adviser. A minimum of one place for a care leaver is also ring-fenced on the highly regarded KPMG stars project. KPMG is one of the best-known names in business, whose network of member firms provides Audit, Tax, and Advisory services to local, national, and multinational organisations. In addition to ring fenced opportunities with the council CLA also have access to apprenticeships and jobs via connexions. Recruitment for 2011- 12 into apprenticeships with De Vere cookery and customer service were particularly successful due partially to absence of entry requirements

Engagement project

8. Research showed that high number of NEET young people in care who were over the age of 16 suffer from Dyslexia. This project aims to re-engage and support these 16 to18 year olds back into education through an informal digital media project in a dedicated safe place in Southwark College. The young people have support to access taster sessions, courses and learning support particular for those with dyslexia. They receive ongoing careers education, information, advice and guidance) CEIAG and mentoring, while having the opportunity to achieve the Arts Award at level 1 or 2.

Drop in Centre

9. A high number of care leavers are reluctant or ill equipped to access statutory services on their own. The Adolescence and After Care Service runs a drop in centre at their headquarters. This is run through a youth work approach, with access to multi-agency support. A specialist adviser is allocated to each young person for whom they will develop an individual action plan to help them become EET, (in education, employment or training). The centre allows young people to have access to engaging projects that are linked to it.

Policy implications

10. New legislation transfers the responsibility for careers advice from the local authority to schools from September 2012. We do however retain responsibility for offering advice and guidance to the most vulnerable. From 2013 young people will need to stay in full-time education or training until they are 17 or be in a job with training. From 2015 (Raising the Participation Age) RPA will apply to 18 year olds as well. Planning for this change is in process.

Community impact statement

11. This scheme supports some of the more vulnerable young people in the community and aims to narrow the gap between them and the general population.

Resource implications

12. The plans can be met within existing resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
NEET publicity information, raising participation strategy	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Phillippa Beagley 020 7525 5162

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Activities for NEET's in Southwark

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Deputy Director, Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Report Author	Darren Coghlan, Head of Service for Specialist Education	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 May 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	18 April 2012	