

Hidden Talents: Re-engaging Young People

Summary

This paper provides an update for the Board on the current project work on young people not in education, employment or training aged 16-24.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the further work carried out.

Action

Members and officers to take forward the actions summarised in this report.

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Hidden Talents: Re-engaging Young People

LGA Hidden Talents - update

1. The work on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is particularly topical, with the impact of the recession being greater on young people than on older workers. The latest figures (DCSF NEETs Statistics Quarterly Brief, August 2009) highlight 959,000 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training.
2. Of these, 208,600 are aged 16-18. This is the target group for the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) 14 and for local authority measures related to national indicator 117 in Local Area Agreements. Our work is taking place at the same time as a number of government reviews.
3. A roundtable event was held at the LGA on July 9th. 29 people attended with participants sharing a range of views and supporting the LGA in its approach to this work.
4. Following the roundtable event a short consultation was held, with 30 responses received from national organisations, third sector organisations, connexions services, local authorities, businesses and regional agencies. A series of bi-lateral meetings are also in progress with key organisations and networks, academics and government departments.
5. Two further publications are currently being finalised: *Hidden Talents: the solutions* highlighting the policy changes needed to developed an effective local approach, and a case studies document celebrating the success of young people who have broken through the barrier of being defined as NEET.
6. The following events are also planned to build on and disseminate the work:
 - 19 October (tbc) – a proposed joint event with the Princes Trust for young people to share views with politicians;
 - 22 October - National Children and Adult services annual conference in Harrogate. Cllr Margaret Eaton will deliver a keynote speech highlighting our work on young people and a host a “hot topic” event at the conference;
 - 4 November - LGA Hidden Talents, re-engaging young people summit, funded by the National Apprenticeship Service;
 - 19 January - National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) annual conference for local authorities. Cllr Margaret Eaton has been invited to deliver keynote address on the subject of “care leavers” alongside HRH Princess Anne.

Financial Implications

7. The work is being carried out within existing resources and being further supported by the programmes of the National Youth Agency and NIACE.

Implications for Wales

8. We have analysed the differences in policy context for Wales and are working with NIACE Dysgu Cymru to ensure key contacts are involved in the project.

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