

Joint Overview and Scrutiny on NEETS: Draft Action Plan 2008-10

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Responsibility & Timescale</i>	<i>Progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That the new DCC working through their Children’s Trust, 14-19 Partnerships, with employers, the County Durham Economic Partnership and the LSC take the lead role in putting together a strategic commissioning plan for young people who are NEET 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Produce Joint Strategic Commissioning Plan and share with CEB Joint Commissioning Unit partners and Economic Development Partnership ▪ Partners take full responsibility for the strategy and its actions ▪ Commissioning Strategy monitored and reviewed and revised to inform future planning e.g. Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-12 	<p>CYPS Strategic Lead [Head of Extended Services]</p> <p>By August 2008</p> <p>By January 2009</p> <p>By February 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 2008: Joint Strategic Commissioning plan produced and shared with CEB Joint Commissioning Unit partners. ▪ To share with partners in the CDEP to contribute to Economic Strategy Action Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Strategic Commissioning Plan should identify targeted investment and intensive support based on need and build on a range of projects and activities that exist already 	<p>Needs and Gap analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All existing projects mapped against need 	<p>14-19 Partnership</p> <p>By January 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be completed by Area Planning Groups to ensure provision matches identified needs, and where gaps identified provision or other activities commissioned. [Jan 2009]

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review the quality of Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) offered to 14-19 year olds to enable them to make choices about their future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Produce IAG Strategy for County Durham ▪ Produce regular Briefing notes for Governing Bodies of Schools; College Corporations; Directors of Work Based learning Provider organisations ▪ Embark on IAG National Quality Standards self assessment exercise to identify gaps against National Standards at individual institution level, area and county levels ▪ Identify areas where implementation support required, and identify appropriate means of meeting support needs ▪ Embed use of 14-19 Prospectus to enable access for all young people, their parents/carers, and those working with them. Ensure prospectus is accurate, and comprehensive to include new programmes as they are available. ▪ Pilot Common Application Process for post 16 options 	<p>14-19 Partnership IAG Strategy Group [Chair: Executive Director, Connexions] 1st set of briefing notes produced September 2008 2nd set produced November 2008</p> <p>Workshops held Oct/Nov 2008</p> <p>Self assessments submitted by 19th December 2008.</p> <p>Produce support plan by January 2009, indicating high, medium and low priorities, and methods for delivery.</p> <p>Deliver workshops and other promotional work by June 2009</p> <p>Trial arrangements Jan-March 2009 Full roll out by September 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2008: Draft Strategy agreed. Briefing note for all sectors produced. To be included on School Governing Body agendas during Autumn Term 2008. Encourage other partners to consider at equivalent executive meetings ▪ Self assessment workshops for all providers leading to completion of exercise by November 2008 ▪ Support plan produced and delivered at appropriate levels e.g. individual provider, area or county level, with priority actions completed by March 2009 ▪ Continue to embed prospectus within IAG to ensure all young people, their parents/carers and those who work with them use the prospectus as the main source of information on 14-19 provision. ▪ Launched on 1 October 2008. Promotional materials produced for all schools

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Responsibility & Timescale</i>	<i>Progress</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce electronic individual learning plans in pilot schools 	Work with volunteer schools Nov. 2008-April 2009; review and if necessary revise arrangements prior to full rollout from Sept. 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot to begin Jan 2009; review March 2009 prior to full roll out for Sept 2009. Launched 1 October 2008. Schools to volunteer to be in pilot. Plan for full roll out Sept 2009. <p>WORK UNDERWAY</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC and its partners consider transport costs to sixth forms, colleges, and work based learning establishments for all post 16 year olds with a view to alleviating financial implications of transport to a centre of learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYPS SLT to consider and propose amendments to current post 16 transport policy. Transport and Access Co-ordinator 14-19 to produce a plan demonstrating how the entitlement can be secured in each local area using a mix of cost effective approaches Increase accessibility to learning by the use of Virtual Learning course delivery 	<p>CYPS SLT Initially by October 2008; annual review</p> <p>14-19 Partnership Transport Co-ordinator Interim Plan to be produced by February 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCSF short-term funding targeted at rural areas enabling the commissioning of a “Transport and Access Co-ordinator 14-19” to produce a plan demonstrating how the entitlement can be secured in each local area using a mix of cost effective approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop protocols and procedures so that information about young people in learning can be shared between responsible bodies so that learners do not fall through the net but are tracked and supported into learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on the Children’s Trust agreed Information Sharing arrangements (Nov 2008) Encourage use of Individual Learning Plans by young people to provide useful information to support transitional arrangements. 	14-19 Partnership By March 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data already shared in individual cases. Office of the Information Commissioner specifically prevents mass sharing of information on young people unless young people give their permission.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This needs to include employers receiving young people on placement or into employment 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In respect of individual young people, the referral system needs to be effective to ensure young people are able to access the appropriate provision. Future Needs Support Plans for those with statements of special education needs reviewed; positive feedback obtained from post 16 providers <p>FURTHER ACTIVITIES PLANNED to address referral arrangements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful tracking to identify early those young people who are NEET or who are at risk of becoming NEET. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain CCIS database of young people 13-19 to ensure those becoming, or in danger of becoming NEET are identified early, and preventative measures implemented Ensure information is accurate and up to date, and DCSF requirements are met. Share with relevant partners e.g. Local Children's Boards, 14-19 Partnership and sub-groups. 	<p>CYPS [Connexions] Ongoing activity.</p> <p>September Guarantee by Mid October 2008 Annual Activity Survey of School Leavers by January 2009</p> <p>Annual NEET data by mid February 2009</p> <p>Provide quarterly information to Children's Trust and partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers and percentage of those 16-18 year olds whose current activity is 'Not Known' have continued to reduce. Significant updating exercise in order to meet the September Guarantee for 16/17 year olds NB Data for July-Sept is subject to annual change in methodology, required by DCSF. 2008-9 Quarter comparisons with previous year to ensure that progress is being made to achieve interim target 2008-9 and 2010-11 target.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plethora of projects are evaluated and considered for mainstream funding. It is imperative that the new Durham County Council and its partners invest in what works and see this as core partnership business / mainstream activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that projects are evaluated against original criteria to identify those that should continue to be funded Monitor and evaluation the contribution of the Youth Participation interventions with targeted young people Strategic over-view and co-ordination of “plethora” of delivery to inform Strategic Commissioning Build in flexibility of funding to permit rapid response and tailored interventions to meet need 	<p>14-19 Partnership July-October 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation activities undertaken for inclusion in LSC ESF Project 2008-11 Use made of a range of funding streams to address issues of particular groups of young people Commissioning plan used to align funding to support strategic priorities <p>PROGRESS MADE</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working group recommend that the new Durham County Council and its partners learn from the lessons of these organisations and work to reflect in their policy and procedures on recruitment and selection an increase in the number of young people taking up positions in the new Durham County Council and within partner organisations thereby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC HR policy to promote recruitment of apprenticeships Identify funding and encourage partners to incentivise recruitment of apprenticeships Assist the development of employer support packages that reduce the red tape when employing young people 	<p>New DCC HR policy By June 2009 Strategy to include target numbers for posts created/identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiating with “Inspired Spaces”, the BSF preferred bidder to assist this process. Working Neighbourhood Funding in Easington, Sedgefield and Derwentside is supporting the process. Activities of Durham Education Business partnership in working with employers to support work related learning and work experience.

leading by example.			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working group recommend that the new Durham County Council and its partners build on work to promote interaction between young people and other sections of society, in particular the business community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement a robust employer engagement strategy that offers customised support to employers and young people. ▪ Support the delivery of the CDEP Enterprise in Education Strategy and Implementation Plan in relation to NEETs ▪ DCC procurement to encourage contractors and suppliers to support the work-readiness, education and employment of young people. ▪ Identify sources of additional funding to secure the above 	<p>By February 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A clear objective in the recent formation of the County Durham Employment and Skills Partnership is to increase employer engagement with young people. The County Durham Skills Summit took place on 14.11.08 and sought to convince employers of the value of engaging with young people. Over 150 organisations attended the Summit, including over 80 employers. ▪ Follow up with employers ▪ 14-19 Partnership Employer Engagement Strategy prepared.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working group recommend that the new Durham County Council and the County Durham Partnership reflect in their strategic planning actions that will break the cycle of deprivation and improve quality of life for all communities living in poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared target to reduce NEETs within LAA ▪ Develop Action Plan to address issues as part of Economic Partnership Action Plan. 	<p>Children's Trust By June 2009</p> <p>Draft Action plan prepared by CDEP December 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Priority within Children and Young People's Plan 2005 - 2008 <p>Family Support activities underway</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the Family Support strategy reflects the specific needs of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET or who are already in the NEET group; ▪ Family Learning and First Step Learning to raise aspirations ▪ Adult skills development to improve parent /family employability 	<p>CYPS/ACS to agree issues relating transfer of staff from CYPS to ACS by January 2009</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working group recommend that as part of the development of a strategic commissioning plan for young people who are NEET discussions take place with 3rd sector organisations working to alleviate NEETs with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. commissioning delivery as appropriate and b. exploring opportunities that exist in the 3rd sector when it comes to accessing funding to support project delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify good practice within VCS agencies for inclusion of evaluation in the commissioning process. ▪ Explore opportunities through the Community of Interest for accessing other sources of funding 	<p>Children’s Trust By October 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community of Interest representative invited to join the 14-19 Improving Participation Group ▪ Involvement with Acumen Trust in preparing proposals for national funding [outcome awaited] ▪ VCS organisations will be involved in the delivery of the ESF Youth Participation project commencing Jan. 2009

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Working group recommend that as part of the development of a strategic commissioning plan for young people who are NEET that funding available is mainstream and ring fenced targeted at the 14-19 year olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Commissioning Plan to ensure temporary funding opportunities are used to complement existing strategy Ensure funds are mainstreamed as far as possible Seek to reduce the reliance on short-term funding and ensure on-going support for young people involved during the exit strategy of short-term interventions Seamless transition of LSC funded programmes as responsibility for 16-19 moves to DCC 	<p>14-19 Strategic Partnership, partners Ongoing. ESF project proposal [September 2008]</p> <p>14-19 Partnership to consider opportunities to 'mainstream' funding/activities by Dec. 2008. Interim solution to align funding streams to Increasing Participation Action Plan</p> <p>DCC/LSC to devise plan to deliver transition arrangements by May 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented and driving process for ESF tender and delivery plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That DCC Overview and Scrutiny receives an update on progress in relation to all the recommendations in the scrutiny report in six months time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan developed and summary report updating on progress to be prepared for consideration by DCC and partners 	<p>By November 2008</p>	<p>Report produced Nov. 2008</p>