

One Step Ahead:

Facing the NEET Challenge – innovation in public policies for youth by the Welsh Government

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The NEET challenge in Wales



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- The **16-18** year old % who are NEET has not changed much compared to the previous 5 years of data;
- 12.5% of the **16-18** year old population are NEET (i.e. 12,700 young people);
- The **19-24** year old % who are NEET has risen dramatically compared to the previous 5 years of data; and
- 23.4% of the **19-24** year old population are NEET (i.e. 56,800 young people).

The issues



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- Increasing need to address youth unemployment and the high rate of NEETs;
- Fragmentation of a range of formal and informal interventions;
- Clarity of the lines of accountability and responsibility;
- Variable engagement with employers; and
- Integration with pre-16 prevention and family-based action.

Innovation by the Welsh Government: A new Division



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- The Department for Education and Skills is setting up a new 'Young People Engagement and Employment Division';
- To help young people aged 11-24 progress into education, training and employment where they are troubled, discouraged, lacking direction and motivation, and/or have complex needs; and
- Bringing together policy teams for:
 - Youth Support and Careers Services;
 - Youth Employment (16-24) ;
 - Interventions for 11-16 year olds; and
 - Vocational Pathways and Work Experience (11-24).

Innovation by the Welsh Government: A co-ordinating Plan



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- The 2011-2015 Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan (aimed at young people aged 11-25)
- Co-ordinates and monitors an integrated suite of programmes and action; and
- Key programmes include:
 - Jobs Growth Wales;
 - Pathways to Apprenticeships;
 - Young Recruits;
 - Traineeships and Steps to Employment; and
 - Reach the Heights.

New Programmes: Jobs Growth Wales (starts April 2012)



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- 4,000 job opportunities per year for unemployed young people, aged 16-24, giving them work experience for a 6-month period;
- Participants paid at or above the National Minimum Wage for a minimum of 25 hours per week;
- Will cater for young people that are job ready but have had difficulty securing employment; and
- The outcome is to support young people to enter sustained employment including, where appropriate, an apprenticeship opportunity.

New Programmes: Traineeships and Steps to Employment (started August 2011)



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Traineeships - for learners aged 16-19

- *Engagement* training - entry level option to confirm an occupational focus or address learning barriers;
 - Occupationally focused learning programmes; and
 - Bridge-to-Employment - linking employment-ready young people with employers or further learning at a higher level.

Steps to Employment – for adults 18 +

- Work Focused Training - vocationally focused learning to enter employment, further learning or Route-ways to Work; and
 - Route-ways to Work - links 'job ready' participants with recruiting employers or bespoke training for a specific labour market for up to eight weeks duration.



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Further Information

Contact:

YouthEngagementandEmploymentunit@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

Refer to:

www.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/