

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING



Please note this meeting will be audio recorded.

Date: Wednesday, 10th July 2013

Time: 7.15pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Causeway House, Braintree CM7 9HB

Membership:

Councillor P R Barlow	Councillor F Ricci
Councillor C A Cadman	Councillor W J Rose
Councillor Dr R L Evans (Chairman)	Councillor A F Shelton
Councillor P Horner	Councillor J S Sutton
Councillor S A Howell	Councillor J R Swift
Councillor R P Ramage	

Members are requested to attend this meeting, to transact the following business:-

PUBLIC SESSION

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Member Declarations.**
 - i. To declare the existence and nature of any interests relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice (where necessary) before the meeting.
 - ii. To declare the existence and nature of any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote on any particular matter.
3. **Minutes.** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29th May 2013 (copy previously circulated).
4. **Question Time.** (See paragraph below).

5. **Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Review of Moving Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) into Education, Employment or Training.** To consider the attached report (page 1) and commence the Committee’s review with the following invitees:

Andy Wright	Corporate Director, Braintree District Council
Tracy Turner	Interim Localism Programme Manager, Braintree District Council
Nathan Rowland	Community Projects Officer, Braintree District Council
Dave Cope	Customer Services Operations Manager, Braintree and Witham Job Centres
Paula Hornett	Senior Strategic Commissioning Manager, Employability and Skills, Essex County Council

6. **Task and Finish Groups – Composition of Groups.** To consider the attached report (page 22).
7. **Decision Planner.** To consider the Decision Planner for the period 1st July 2013 to 31st October 2013 (previously circulated)
8. **Urgent Business.** To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.
9. To agree the exclusion of the public and press for the consideration of any items for the reasons set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

At the time of compiling the agenda there were none.

PRIVATE SESSION

10. **Urgent Business.** To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in private by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

A PEACE
Member Services Manager

The last page of this Agenda is numbered 24.

Contact Details

If you require any further information please contact Alastair Peace on 01376 552525 extension 2602 or e-mail alastair.peace@braintree.gov.uk

Question Time

Immediately after the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved there will be a period of up to 30 minutes when members of the public can speak.

Members of the public wishing to speak should contact the Council's Member Services Section on 01376 552525 or email chloe.glock@braintree.gov.uk at least 2 working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public can remain to observe the whole of the public part of the meeting.

Health and Safety

Any persons attending meetings at Causeway House are requested to take a few moments to familiarise themselves with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of a continuous alarm sounding during the meeting, you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by a Council officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is either switched to silent or switched off during the meeting.

Comments

Braintree District Council welcomes comments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please let us have your comments setting out the following information

Meeting Attended Date of Meeting.....

Comments.....

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Contact Details:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny Review of Moving Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) into Education, Employment or Training		Agenda No: 5
Corporate Priorities:	Building a prosperous district Boost employment skills and support business People feel good Supporting vulnerable people in our community	
Report presented by:	Background information from several officers.	
Report prepared by:	Alastair Peace, Member Services Manager	
Background Papers:	Public Report	
Options:	Key Decision: No	
Executive Summary:		
<p>At its meeting on 29th May, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to scrutinise moving young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) into Education, Employment or Training. The terms of reference for the review agreed by the Committee are set out in Annex A.</p>		
<u>Background Briefing</u>		
<p>By way of background briefing to this review, the following information is provided:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NEETs in Braintree District – An overview of national and district statistical information available is set out in Appendix B. Information is available from a few sources who each record information for different age groups of young people;• Policy Briefing – A general policy briefing on young people, worklessness and NEETs is set out in Appendix C;• General Information – General background information including factors causing NEET status, apprenticeships and a scrutiny review carried out by Basildon District Council is set out in Appendix D.		

Next Steps

Scoping

Members are invited to consider scoping the scrutiny review in the light of the information provided in this report and at the Committee's meeting on 10th July and to possibly focussing the Committee's terms of reference at Appendix A.

Future Invitees

Members are invited to consider organisations and individuals they wish to invite to future meetings of the Committee as part of this review. Possible invitees include:

- Essex County Council (in addition to attending the meeting of 10th July);
- Job Centre Plus (in addition to attending the meeting of 10th July);
- The College at Braintree;
- Schools;
- Employers;
- Organisations supporting young people including those with special needs;
- Young people who are or have experienced being NEET.

Engagement with Young People

It is proposed that young people who are or have experienced being NEET are invited to a future meeting of the Committee. It is also proposed that a separate informal meeting of some members of the Committee with young people who are or have experienced being NEET is explored.

Also, the Committee has previously used the Council's website and local newspapers to engage with people in its scrutiny reviews. In addition to using these media, on this occasion, it is proposed to also use social networking media (e.g. Facebook) to engage with young people including those who are or have experienced being NEET.

Decision:

Members are invited to consider the report as part of the Committee's scrutiny review of moving young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) into Education, Employment or Training.

Purpose of Decision: To agree actions in support the Committee's scrutiny review.

Corporate Implications	
Financial:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	None arising from this report.
Equalities/Diversity	To be considered in the review.
Customer Impact:	To be considered in the review.
Environment and Climate Change:	None arising from this report
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Young people who are or have experienced being NEET and various stakeholder organisations supporting people who are NEET will be consulted.
Risks:	None arising from this report.
Officer Contact:	Alastair Peace
Designation:	Member Services Manager
Ext. No.	2602
E-mail:	alastair.peace@braintree.gov.uk

Appendix A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee –Scrutiny Review of Moving Young People who are NEET into Education, Employment or Training

Terms of Reference

- a. To identify the number and locations of young persons who are NEET and the problems this causes.
- b. To understand the skills gaps being faced by local employers and if the type training offered meets the gaps.
- c. To identify and evaluate the organisations, facilities and support services available to help move young people who are NEET into education, employment or training.
- d. Where appropriate, to recommend improvements to those organisations, facilities and support services to help move young people who are NEET into education, employment or training

NEETs in the Braintree District

National Picture

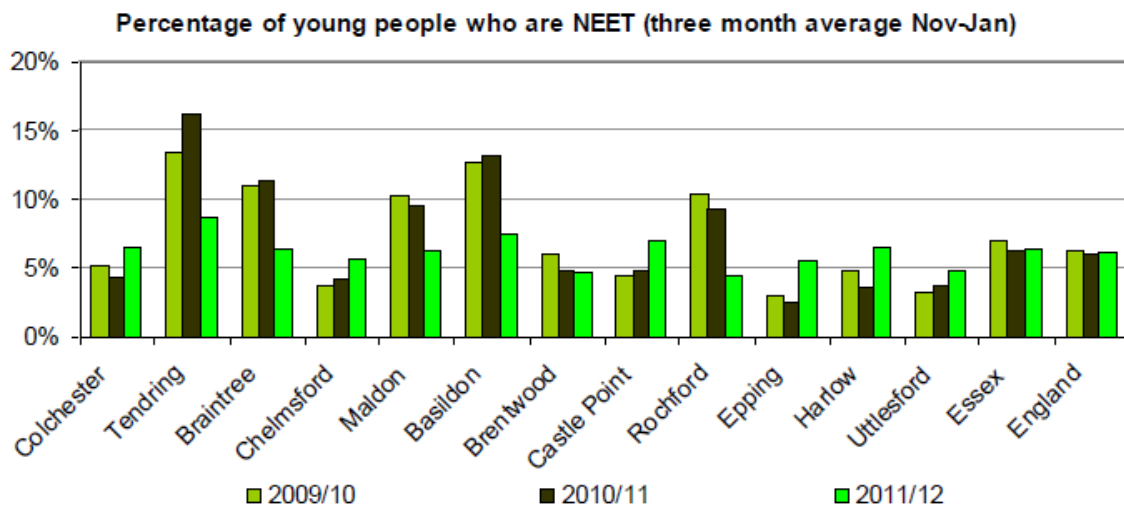
- According to the Department of Work and Pensions, there were 1.09 million young people (aged from 16 to 24) in the UK who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), up 21,000 from October to December 2012 but down 101,000 from a year earlier.
- The percentage of all young people in the UK who were NEET was 15.1%, up 0.3 percentage points from October to December 2012 but down 1.3 percentage points from a year earlier.
- Just over half (53.0%) of all young people in the UK who were NEET were looking for work and available for work and therefore classified as unemployed. The remainder were either not looking for work and/or not available for work and therefore classified as economically inactive.

NEETs Monitoring

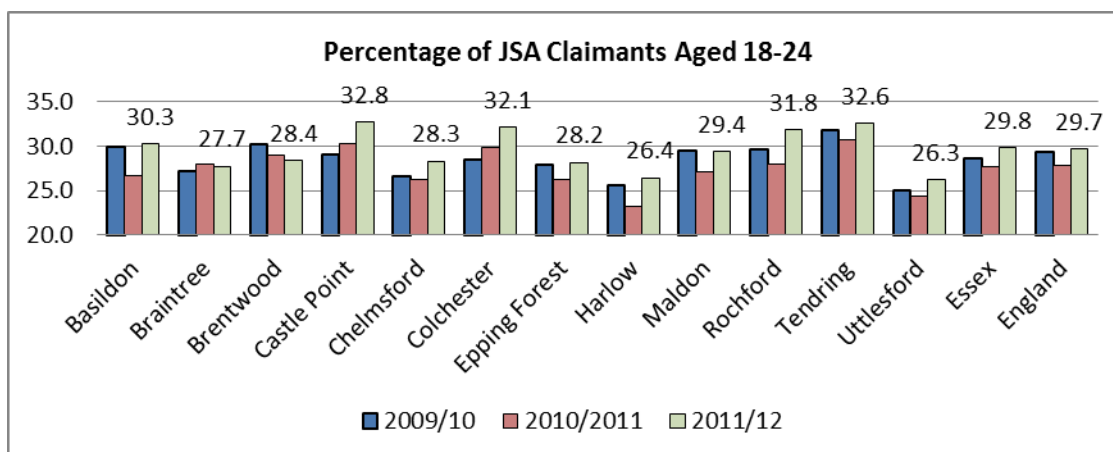
- Nationally NEETs are classified as any young person Not in Employment, Education or Training aged between the ages of 16 and 24; however there are different tracking systems for 16-18 year olds and those aged 18-24. This makes the process of tracking NEETs as a whole difficult as there is no one central source for this information and parties can vary in what they themselves consider a "NEET".
- Essex County Council tracks all 16 – 19 year olds (approximately 48,500 young people). This can be from 1 year in full time education, 6 months in training, 6 months in jobs without training etc. Those that cannot be tracked within these timescales have an adjustment factor and presume that a certain percentage of these are NEET or EET.
- Tracking 18-24 year olds NEETs relies on a range of national sources including the Department of Work and Pensions and Benefits Claimant figures.
- It is not possible to consider figures to be exact for either age group as systems rely on the Young Person themselves actively in engaging with agencies in some way, either by completing an education leavers tracking survey or going to Jobcentre Plus and registering as unemployed.
- An additional factor is that many university graduates factor into this age group (Graduate unemployment nationally was at 21% in 2011 (ONS)) and is another issue that may need to be considered.

The Braintree District Compared to other Districts/Boroughs in the ECC area

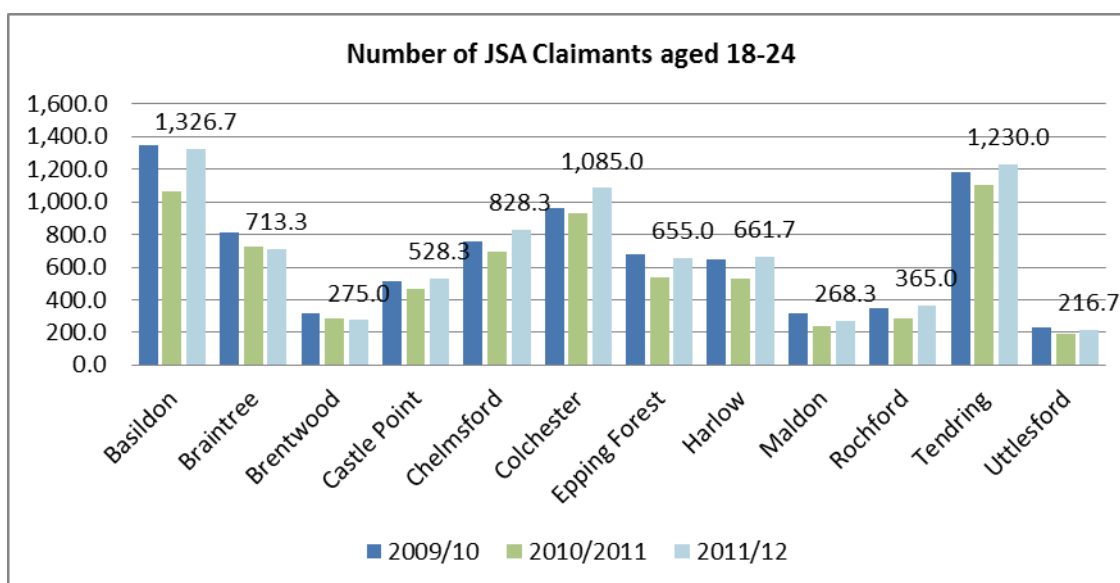
- According to the Essex Needs Assessment for Schools, Children and Families; *“the percentage of 16 to 18 years olds in Essex who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) remained stable in 2011/12 at 6.4%, after a slight fall in the previous year. However, the Essex figure is still above that for the East of England and England as a whole. Tendring and Basildon have the highest proportion of NEET young people. However, the proportion has decreased in Tendring, Maldon, Braintree, Basildon and Rochford.”*



- JSA Claimants Aged 18-24**
Essex County Council tracks NEETs up to 19 years old, as such indicative levels for the 18-24 age group are taken from alternative sources. One alternative indicator NEETs is Jobseekers Allowance claimants levels for people aged 18-24. The graph below has been extracted from the Office of National statistics to cover the same timescales as the NEETs Percentages (above). The percentage given is as a proportion of all JSA claimants of all ages within the Local Authority Area. 2011/12 figures show that in the Braintree District, the percentage of JSA Claimants fell slightly from the previous year from 28% to 27.7%. Braintree District and Brentwood Borough were the only areas which saw reductions on the previous years, all other districts and boroughs saw increases of between 19.9% and 3.8%.



2011/12 figures show that in the Braintree District, the average **NUMBER** of JSA Claimants aged 18-24 also fell slightly from the previous year in the same time period from 723 to 713. Again, Braintree District and Brentwood Borough were the only areas which saw reductions in the average number of claimants.



Despite this reduction in the percentage and the number of claimants aged 16-24, the Braintree District is still ranked 5th highest of the 12 districts/boroughs in the Essex County Council area, with Basildon having the highest number and Uttlesford the lowest.

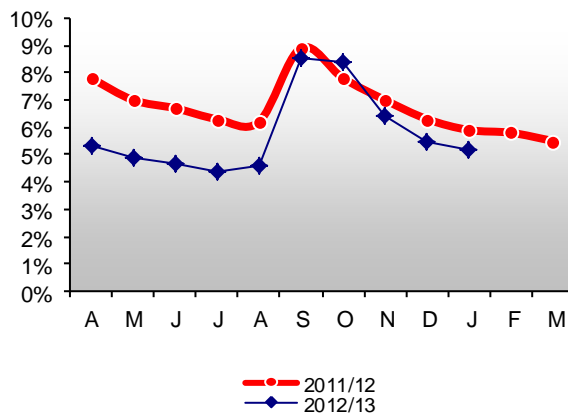
In the Braintree District

- Figures from March 2013 show that 235 people or 4.8% of 16-19 Year olds in the Braintree District were classified as NEET by Essex County Council. This is a decrease of 0.4% or 15 people compared to figures from February 2013. Figures from the Department of Work and Pensions show that in March 2013 there were 765 JSA claimants aged 18-24. Whilst there is a one year overlap between the two different datasets, it is possible to assume that there could be up to 1000 young people (16-24) in the Braintree District who are not in Education, Employment or training. This

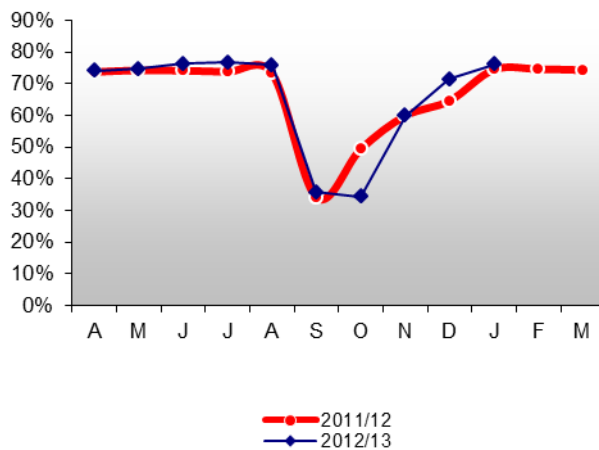
figure would also not include any that are claiming other out of work benefits such as Disability Living Allowance or those that are not currently claiming benefits at all.

- Trends for NEETs can be seen the graphs (below) provided by Essex County Council. These graphs compare trends for NEETs aged 16-19 from 2011/12 and 2012/13 (currently incomplete).

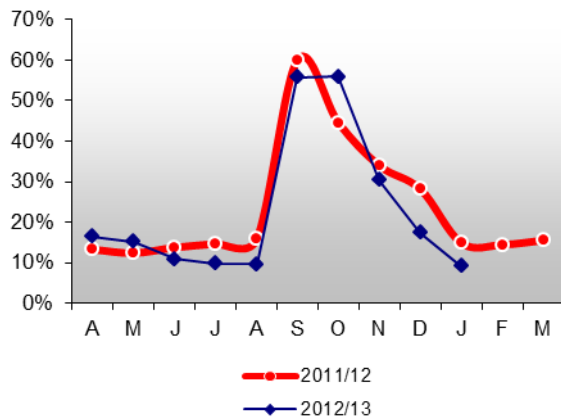
Adjusted NEET % 16 - 19 year olds in Braintree broken down by Month for 2011/12 to Present



Young People In Learning in Braintree broken down by Month for 2011/12 to Present



**Young People Unknown in Braintree
broken down by Month for 2011/12 to
present**



- The graphs show that in general the amount of NEETs (16-19 only) has decreased slightly compared to the previous year.

The amount of NEETs peaks annually in September and October, before settling down around January.

Appendix C

BRIEFING: Young people, worklessness and NEETs

The LGA document Hidden Talents, published in March 2012, set out the case for joining up and personalising support for the most disengaged young people, and those at risk of longer term disengagement, so that they can participate more effectively in work, learning and volunteering. Their research showed that young people between 13 and 24 years old could expect to receive support from at least eight different national organisations, through 33 different funds and schemes. These spanned 13 different age groups at a cost of £15 billion each year (excluding school funding).

Of the 33 different funding streams the LGA consider there is a case for pooling the following six streams, which have an estimated combined annual budget of over £1.1 billion:

Youth Contract
16-19 bursary fund
Adult Dependents Grant
Care to Learn
Residential Support Scheme
Work Programme



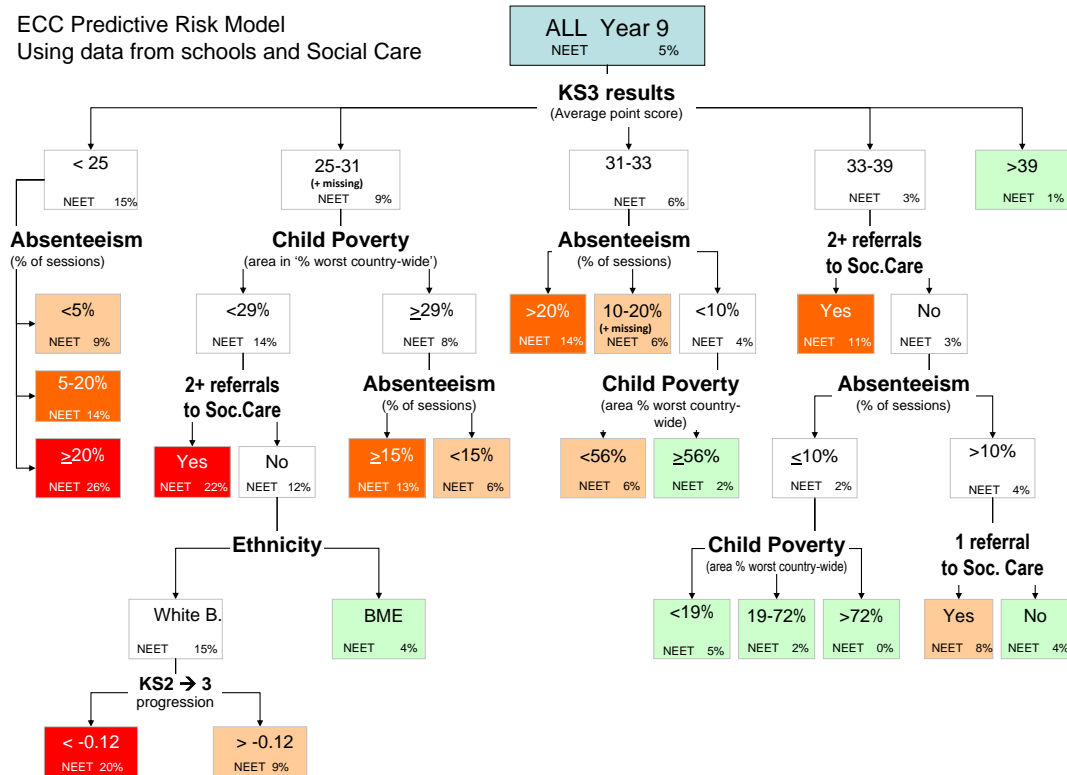
Young people at risk of becoming disengaged

Research by Essex County Council shows that nationally young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) are more likely to have parents with qualifications below 'A' level, parents in routine or lower supervisory jobs, and to have been eligible for free school meals.

Nationally 27% of persistent truants and 11% of occasional truants are NEET, compared to 5% of young people who have not truanted. 36% of young people with no reported qualifications and 28% with under four D-G grades at GCSE are NEET, compared to 2% who received 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE. Young people with risky behaviours (reported in Year 9) such as smoking cigarettes or cannabis, vandalism, graffiti and shop lifting are twice as likely to end up NEET after Year 11.

The model below is Essex County Council's Predictive Risk Model for becoming NEET using data from schools and social care. The average chance of becoming NEET is 5%.

ECC Predictive Risk Model
Using data from schools and Social Care



The LGA list the following factors as most likely to cause young people to become disengaged:

- **Place** – a weak local economy can have a fundamental impact on participation levels and drive families into periods of long term unemployment
- **Family, poverty and early experiences** – intergenerational worklessness, family disadvantage and low self-esteem, driven by a combination of low achievement and an unsupportive family environment. The recession can also cause further isolation in long term unemployed parents, which in turn increases the risk to their children of future disengagement.
- **Qualifications** – educational underachievement is a significant determinant of unemployment
- **Personal barriers** – disabled young people are more likely to be caught up in periods of long term unemployment. Research by the National Foundation for Educational Research showed 15% of disabled young people being out of work for over a year. Research by the National Autistic Society shows that only 15% of adults with autism are in full time employment. Teenage mothers are also at risk with 40% leaving school with no qualifications and only 29% in education, employment or training. 30% of young people with statements of special education needs at 16

were not participating in any work or learning at 18, compared to 13% of their peers. Other personal contributory factors can include drug and alcohol problems, bereavement, and general health or mental health problems in young people or their immediate families.

- **Gender** – disengagement has been increasing in both genders over the last 10 years, but the recession has accelerated the trend, with the number of young men out of work and learning increasing 3 times faster than women between 2010-2011.

The IPPR report *From Learning to Earning* found that employers are increasingly reluctant to hire teenagers, with only 6 per cent of UK employers recruiting straight from school. School leavers are competing with far more experienced workers for the same jobs, as well as more highly qualified young people leaving further or higher education. The IPPR also point out that young people tend to be hit harder by recessions than more experienced workers. Young people (16-24) in London and the UK are persistently less likely to remain in employment from one quarter to the next when compared to older workers (25-64). They are also three times more likely to move from work to unemployment than older workers in the UK.



The LGA believes that local partners should be innovating to re-design services that:

- Give young people a strong role over all the provision in their area
- Equips young people in the area with the support, skills and knowledge to compete in local employment markets
- Develop services that follow young people as they grow up, with additional tailored support for the most disengaged young people
- Identify the young people most a risk of becoming marginalised and deliver early interventions to prevent it happening.

The LGA also believe local partners should be:

- Commissioning and developing further education, apprenticeship and welfare to work provision that equips all young people with the skills to fit their long term ambitions and meets the needs of local employers

- The IPPR also calls for a more strategic approach to meet the needs of young people focusing on:

- [illegible]

What is the evidence of 'what works'?

The National Federation for Educational Research report *Approaches to supporting young people not in education, employment or training – a review* identifies a range of approaches at different levels for assisting young people at risk of becoming NEET.

At a strategic local level the NFER highlight the need for local authorities to have a whole area plan for NEET reduction tied to other area wide strategies. Commissioning should be based upon a needs analysis with good data sharing between partners and a multi-agency response. At practice level there should be an action plan with clear targets and a timetable for implementation. A number of preventative strategies or remedial measures can be applied which include:

- Identifying need early
- Intervening early with families at risk of poor outcomes
- Developing informal learning and volunteering opportunities for young people
- Developing alternative and flexible learning opportunities for young people who do not benefit from conventional classroom experiences
- Offering financial support and incentives to learning



The NFER also stress the need for local authorities to engage local employers in the design of offers, and to raise awareness of what local employers can offer to young people, and involve local employers in information, advice and guidance in schools.

The NFER points to four specific programmes which were evaluated with evidence of positive outcomes. These were:

- **Activity Agreement pilots in England** – these involved young people over 16 in the design of their learning, offered the intensive support of an AA advisor and provided a financial incentive
- **Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme in England** – this was a programme for young people aged 14-16 which was integrated into the school curriculum

- **vTalent Year programme** – a programme for young people aged 16-24 focusing on building young people's capabilities and confidence and giving them an experience of work over a long period combined with mentoring and pastoral support
- **Community based youth organisations in the US** – these offered job training alongside education and life skills to young people over the age of 16 in the US.

A key report covering both worklessness and co-design is the DWP report of June 2011. The DWP launched a Worklessness Co-design Pilot in June 2010 with five local authorities – Birmingham, Bradford, Lewisham, South Tyneside and Swindon. The project's aim was to explore ways of working together to tackle worklessness and develop a shared understanding of the evidence on what worked. Each area adopted a different approach with different priorities.

Overall learning from the project included:

- **Time** – even though the partnerships built on existing relationships it took significant amounts of time to establish new partnership agreements, agree priorities, design solutions and move to delivery
- **Leadership** – effective leadership is needed to overcome obstacles and build momentum for co-design activity
- **Evidence and evaluation** – a key driver of success was the embedding of evaluation and evidence of what worked into the design, and planned into delivery. However limited time and resource meant that the evidence base still required further development by the end of the project, ie the cost benefit analysis on the outcomes of the pilot
- **Economic climate** – some partners found it difficult to engage with the project due to reduced resources and staffing levels, and some had a tendency to retreat back to the delivery of core services. Reduced or uncertain funding also meant that some areas could not move to the delivery phase as quickly as they would have liked.

Birmingham - The Birmingham co-design pilot focused on four cohorts:

- Jobseeker's Allowance recipients
- Housing Association referrals
- Community Agency referrals
- NEET referrals.

The co-design pilot integrated with, and helped to shape, their Community Based Budget. The partnership includes the City Council, Jobcentre Plus and local private and third sector organisations. They have developed an intensive one-to-one, person centred support service. The aim is to ensure support is tailored and

appropriate and prevent the cycling in and out of work and employment support programmes.

Bradford - Bradford have connected their 'Think Family' approach to worklessness; looking at worklessness from the family perspective, and the work of their Children and Young People's Services to address child poverty. Their partnership has been widened to include agencies not previously involved in tackling worklessness, including the police, housing and health, to deliver pathways to employment and skills that ultimately meet with the needs of employers. Bradford have worked with the Audit Commission to develop a framework for cost benefit analysis to demonstrate the benefits of their co-design work.

Lewisham - The Lewisham co-design work comprised three strands:

- **Personal budget project** - offering personalised support to long term unemployed through a local housing association
- **EmployAbility** - a project carrying out ethnographic research into the motivation, capability and networks of residents
- **Community Budgets** - a strong employment focus, including a family budget project aimed at tackling intergenerational worklessness.

South Tyneside - The co-design project in South Tyneside, aimed to address generational unemployment by providing access to high quality, flexible and intensive employability support to out of work residents within their own locality. The project was jointly funded with Jobcentre Plus providing a team of eight advisors with full access to programmes and service, and South Tyneside Council funding the costs of setting up 'Opportunity Centres' in four locations across the Borough. These have provided residents with a comprehensive employment, enterprise and skills service in one location.

South Tyneside Council are also leading on the development of a wider partnership with providers who are delivering publicly funded employment, enterprise and skills programmes.

Swindon - Swindon have established and developed Plan 500, the aim of which is to be the single point of entry for employers who wish to engage with young people aged 16-24. Over the 12 month span of the project, Plan 500 will generate 500 new work related opportunities comprising:

- 50 more businesses linked to Diploma schools
- 50 young employees achieving a work based qualification
- 150 new work experience opportunities
- 100 young people being mentored by members of the business community
- 150 new apprenticeship opportunities

What are the views of young people in Essex who are NEET?

Research undertaken in 2010 by ImpAct Universal for the Essex Partnership shows that the major motivators into employment, education or training for young people in Essex are money (30%) and what they enjoy (18%).

Interviews with young people in Essex who were NEET revealed that the biggest barriers preventing them from engaging were a lack of courses or jobs they wanted to do and having no qualifications, followed by transport issues (length of time and cost), and lack of pay. Lack of confidence was also cited as a big issue.

60% of NEET young people in Essex who were interviewed felt that services were not available when they needed them, or they didn't know about them. Support mainly came from friends, parents and carers in addition to 'professionals', but 20% of young people said they received no support at all.

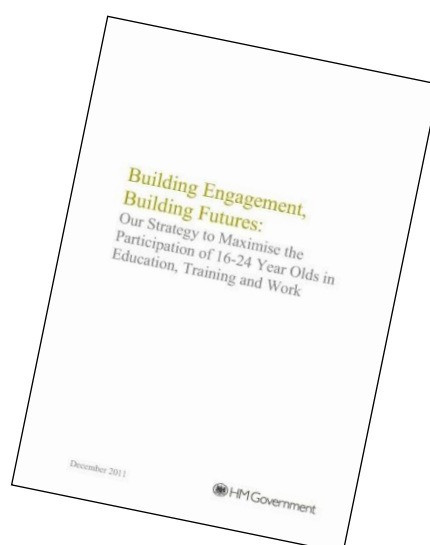
The research revealed a generally poor perception of schools and teachers. Some young people said they were more focused if they had one to one help when required, but a significant number of those who had problems at school, or who had been excluded, felt that no help was offered at all.

What is the current policy agenda for young people, worklessness and NEETS?

In April 2012 *Building Engagement, Building Futures* set out the Government's key priorities for action to maximise the proportion of 16-24 years olds participating in education, training and work. These are:

In April 2012 *Building Engagement, Building Futures* set out the Government's key priorities for action to maximise the proportion of 16-24 years olds participating in education, training and work. These are:

- Raising attainment in school and beyond to ensure that young people have the skills needed to compete in a global economy
- Helping local partners to provide effective and coordinated services that support all young people, including the most vulnerable, (to meet full participation for 16-17 year olds by 2012)
- Encouraging and incentivising employers to inspire and recruit young people by offering more high quality Apprenticeships and work experience places



- Ensuring that work pays and gives young people the personalised support they need to find it, through Universal Credit, the Work Programme and the Get Britain Working measures
- Putting in place a new Youth Contract worth almost £1 billion over the next three years to help get young people earning or learning before long term damage is done.

NEETs – General Background Information

Factors Underlying NEETS

A review carried out by the University of Essex, NEET in Essex: A Review of the Evidence (2010), identified the following underlying factors associated with NEET status:

- economic deprivation and non-working parent(s);
- poor access to local jobs;
- low academic attainment;
- large family size;
- parental conflict;
- poor schools;
- teenage pregnancy and parenthood;
- truancy;
- special education needs and learning difficulties;
- low motivation and aspiration including lack of confidence, sense of fatalism, and low self-esteem;
- ‘locked-in’ and dense local social networks;
- low levels of parental support;
- living in care or living independently; and
- health problems.

Supporting NEETs move into Employment, Education and Training

The University of Essex review identified that young people living in deprived areas suffer low levels of local employment, a sense of fatalism and limited outlooks, and lack access to formal employment networks. Similar to other reviews, the lack of formal educational qualifications that can unlock the door to employment and training was a critical factor in being NEET.

The review considered several support mechanisms including:

- **Mentoring.** Evidence on effectiveness of mentoring is mixed but suggests that mentoring can increase the chances of finding employment, especially if mentors are better matched to the mentored.

- **Teenage pregnancy and parenthood.** Having a child at an early age makes it problematic to engage in employment, education or training, particularly for young mothers. Recruiting older and more experienced mothers to mentor teenage mothers significantly reduces child maltreatment.
- **Transport.** Young people in deprived areas travel little and think locally. This affects where they will seek employment or training. Disadvantaged young people who are qualified drivers are twice as likely to be employed as those not qualified to drive.
- **Housing.** Overcrowding and moving house are significant factors underlying poor academic achievement.

Scrutiny Review - Basildon District Council

NEET Categories

A scrutiny review of barriers facing young people who are NEET and how these may be overcome was carried out by Basildon District Council in 2010. The review found that the NEET category is not a homogenous group, with the reasons for each young person being in this category varying significantly. Young people defined as NEET can be broadly defined as falling into one of three categories:

- **Core** – Have personal barriers and negative educational experiences such as truancy and bullying; have below Level 1 qualifications (GCSEs graded D-G); feel they have little information and choices and are most at risk of becoming long term NEET.
- **Transitional** – Have taken time out before taking up further education; are undecided on what route to take; face little or no personal barriers and are NEET for 3 – 6 months.
- **Floating** – Lack direction and have spells of unemployment between jobs and education, but are open to learning and have above Level 2 qualifications (GCSEs at Grade C and above).

The Basildon review also identified the complex make-up of the NEET group in Basildon at that time which included the following:

- 70 teenage parents
- 34 young offenders
- 24 in care/care leavers
- 8 young carers
- 47 young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Among other findings, the review found the attainment of Level 2 qualifications crucial for young people and having a direct impact on the ability of businesses to source employees. Furthermore, the lack of qualifications was a significant factor in why young people remain NEET. The absence of GCSE Mathematics and English, in particular, limited choices for young people to access further education, employment or training. With no GCSE re-sit provision within the Basildon District, the opportunity for young people to obtain GCSEs was a further barrier.

The recommendations included that provision for young people to re-sit their GCSE's in Mathematics and English be made available within the Basildon district and this provision be innovative reflecting the fact that young people who have struggled in a conventional education environment are unlikely to prosper if met with the same environment.

Apprenticeships in Braintree District

Apprentice starts taken up by young people, aged 19-24, resident in the district are as follows:

Dates	Number of Starts
August 2011 – July 2012	443
August 2012- January 2013	233

These figures include 14 apprenticeships provided by Braintree District Council for Financial Year 2012-13. In addition, the Council has provided 5 Green Team placements (coordinated with Groundwork) since May 2013, with 5 more due to start in September.

There are a number of issues related to the consistency of these figures e.g. different timescale measurements and age categories which council officers are attempting to resolve.

Task and Finish Groups – Composition of Groups	Agenda No: 6
<p>Corporate Priority:</p> <p>Report presented by: Councillor Dr R Evans, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Report prepared by: Alastair Peace, Member Services Manager</p>	
Background Papers:	Public Report
Options:	Key Decision: No
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>At its meeting on 29th May 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the following Task and Finish Groups be established:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of Public Services in Rural Areas. The Terms of Reference for this group is set out in Appendix A. 2. Operation of the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme At its meeting on 29th May 2012, the Committee agreed that the Terms of Reference for this group would be agreed at the Committee's meeting in September with the aim of starting the scrutiny review around November. <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Steering Board, comprising Group Leaders and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, recommends the composition and Chairman of the Task and Finish Groups as set out below.</p> <p>The Committee is invited to consider the Steering Board's recommendations.</p>	

Decision:	
1.	That the Task and Finish Group reviewing Provision of Public Services in Rural Areas comprises: Councillors Bowers-Flint, Banthorpe, Cadman, Finbow, Fincken, Galione, Horner, Johnson, Parker, Pell, Shelton, Swift (12 Members). Chairman of the Group: Cllr Bowers-Flint.
2.	That the Task and Finish Group reviewing the Operation of the Council's Tax Support Scheme comprises: Councillors Allen, Barlow, Bishop, Canning, Cunningham, Gibson, Santomauro, Ramage, L Walters, Wilson (10 Members). Chairman of the Group: Cllr Cunningham.
Purpose of Decision:	
To agree the composition and Chairman of the Task and Finish groups.	

Corporate Implications	
Financial:	None
Legal:	None
Equalities/Diversity	None
Customer Impact:	None arising from this report.
Environment and Climate Change:	None
Consultation/Community Engagement:	To be considered as part of the reviews.
Risks:	Not applicable
Officer Contact:	Alastair Peace
Designation:	Member Services Manager
Ext. No.	2602
E-mail:	alastair.peace@braintree.gov.uk

Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Provision of Public Services in Rural Areas

Terms of Reference

- a. To identify any impacts specifically as a result of living in rural areas in the district to the delivery of public services (in particular, those delivered by Braintree District Council, Essex County Council, Police and Health Services). Impacts should include consideration if any result in social isolation or exclusion and those services delivered by authorities across district borders.
- b. To identify how the services in rural areas might be improved where any adverse impacts are identified.
- c. To identify where costs of the provision of services impact on rural areas.
- d. To consider the relationship between Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and Parish Councils in the delivery of these services and the proposed related RCCE led coordinated and streamlined volunteer advice services.