

Meeting of:	<b>Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 16 January 2020</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Youth Engagement & Progression Update
Purpose of Report:	To make members aware of the progress made over the last six months of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the current levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
Report Owner:	Nisha Shukla, Engagement & Progression Coordinator
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning & Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cllr Lis Burnett Morwen Hudson, Head of Standards and Provision Martin Dacey, Lead for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Tara Reddy, Senior Youth Manager
Policy Framework:	The recommendations of this report are within existing policy framework and budget.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This report is to make members aware of the reduction of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in the Vale of Glamorgan.</li> <li>• The annual destination survey of school leavers is carried out in October by Careers Wales on behalf of Welsh Government. The Welsh Government official statistical data, released in April 2019, highlights the level of young people NEET has reduced in National Curriculum Year (NCY) 11, 12 and 13, whilst remaining below the Welsh average for all NCY groups:</li> <li>• Year 11 young people NEET in the Vale is the lowest in Wales, at 0.50% and considerably under the Welsh average of 1.6%.</li> <li>• Year 12 young people NEET in the Vale is 0.4%, below the Welsh average of 0.7%.</li> <li>• Year 13 young people NEET in the Vale is 1.55% below the Welsh average of 2.53%.</li> </ul>	

The reduction of the number of young people NEET in the Vale has been due to the range of alternative education providers contracted through the Local Authority (LA), European Social Fund programmes and strategic partnership working.

## **Recommendations**

1. That Members consider the progress made in the last 12 months of the implementation of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) to reduce the number of young people NEET in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. That Scrutiny Committee [Learning and Culture] receives a further progress update report in 12 months.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. The Council has a strategic responsibility for implementing the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) to reduce the number of young people Not in Education Employment or Training.
2. That the Scrutiny Committee [Learning and Culture] has continued oversight of the YEPF.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The YEPF implementation plan set targets to reduce the numbers of young people aged 16-18 who are NEET in Wales to 9 per cent by 2017 and to further reduce the proportion of young people aged 19 to 24 who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.
- 1.2 This report seeks to make elected members aware of the progress made in the Vale of Glamorgan in respect of reducing NEETs and the milestones achieved.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The Welsh Government official statistical data on NEETs for 2018 was released in April 2019. The annual survey of school leavers undertaken by Careers Wales in October of each year on behalf of the Welsh Government provides a snapshot of pupil destinations. It includes pupils in year 11 who have reached statutory school leaving age and pupils leaving school in years 12 and 13. The data indicates that NEET levels for all three year groups fell in 2018 which is very positive.
- 2.2 Since its implementation in 2014, the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework has been instrumental in reducing the number of young people NEET in the Vale.
- 2.3 The number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training in Year 11 reduced from 1% in 2017 to 0.5% in 2018. Significantly below the Welsh average of 1.6%, the Local Authority is ranked first position for having the lowest

percentage of NEET young people in Wales, compared to third lowest Local Authority last year.

- 2.4** Year 12 NEET figures have reduced from 0.6% in 2017 to 0.4% in 2018. Again under the Welsh average of 0.7%, the Vale ranking however fell to 7th position compared to 5th position last year.
- 2.5** Year 13 NEET figures have reduced greatly from 2.85% in 2017 to 1.55% in 2018, whilst remaining below the Welsh average of 2.53% and places the Vale in 4th position compared to 13th position in 2017.
- 2.6** The reduction of NEETs in Years 11, 12 and 13 in the Vale has been due to various programmes and initiatives which are summarised below.
- 2.7** The continuation of the Early Identification exercise carried out by schools flags up young people who have been categorise as RED, AMBER or GREEN depending on analysis of risk factors. The task is carried our twice annually by leads of KS3 and KS4.
- 2.8** Pupils from key stage 3 (KS3) and key stage 4 (KS4) who are identified as RED, are considered for support from the European Social Fund, Inspire to Achieve (I2A) programme. The preventative programme helps reduce the number of young people at risk of becoming NEET. In 2018, 107 pupils were enrolled onto the I2A programme. The programme has set three common results indicators to measure impact of participants at risk of becoming NEET which are: 'gaining qualifications upon leaving'; 'in education, employment or training upon leaving'; and 'at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving'. There were 103 year 11 leavers in 2018, 22 of these young people entered education or training. This figure is likely to increase to approximately 40 young people once Careers Wales have collected the data from colleges as part of the 2019 destination survey during November and December 2019. Six young people were confirmed NEET, and the remaining number of young people are considered unknown or uncontactable. The local authority are working to reach out to this cohort, to reduce the number of unknown NEET young people.
- 2.9** The ESF Inspire to Work (I2W) Programme is measured on the reduction of young people NEET aged 16-24 through entry into the labour market, thus reducing youth unemployment. The ESF programmes are managed regionally in partnership with Cardiff Council, Newport Council, Monmouthshire Council, Llamau, Careers Wales, Gwent College and Cardiff and the Vale College. Newport Council have the strategic overview and are the lead agency for the programmes.
- 2.10** There were 10 young people aged 16-17 enrolled on to the I2W programme in 2018/19, five of these young people have entered education, training or employment, the remaining five are still receiving support from the programme. There were a total of 65 enrolments to the programme aged 18-24, all of which have received or are still receiving ongoing support. 18 have entered employment and five have entered further education/training.
- 2.11** The Local Authority and schools have independently commissioned a number of providers to deliver vocational education to pupils educated otherwise than at school (EOTAS) in KS3 and KS4. There are a total of 11 alternative education

providers working with comprehensive schools, the Local Authority and the Pupil Referral Unit. The largest engaging alternative education provider in the Vale is Motivational Preparation College for Training (MPCT), engaging 189 learners of all abilities across years 9, 10 and 11 in 2018/19, an increase of 30% from the previous year of 132 learners. Pupils gained qualifications in BTEC and or City and Guilds, achieving a total of 192 qualifications in 2018/19.

- 2.12** Cardiff and the Vale College Junior Apprenticeship programme enrolled eight pupils from year 11, to study automotive, construction, hair and beauty, multi-skills and hospitality and catering. Five pupils gained level 2 Institute of Motor Industry (IMI), City and Guilds and NVQ qualifications. The remaining three pupils entered full time courses at the college to study vehicle maintenance, painting and decorating and introduction to building services. In 2018/19, 77 pupils were enrolled onto the College's 14-16 pathways programme, 51 of these pupils completed their courses and 26 pupils were transferred back to school.
- 2.13** In 2018-19, Associated Community Training (ACT) Schools provided education for 21 Vale pupils. Nine learners continue their education with ACT this academic year, the remaining 12 returned to school. All KS3 learners completed their Aged Cymru Entry 3 qualification in Personal and Social Education (PSE) and work related education. This is a requirement for progression onto the KS4 program and a development of skills for the Welsh Bacalaureate should a pupil reintegrate back into mainstream education. The majority of learners in KS3 showed progression in their literacy and numeracy, in most cases, learners were seen to improve by one level for example from level 3 to level 4.
- 2.14** The Youth Engagement and Progression Board continues to meet quarterly and monitors the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework annual grant work plans. The board ensures the reduction of young people NEET in the Vale and relative to Wales as a whole, by monitoring performance, scrutinising NEET data and ensuring tracking of vulnerable groups. The board looks at quarterly data of young people aged 16-18, this includes the number of NEET young people, and unknown NEET young people. The Board also provides leadership, monitors the outcome of strategic partnership work and the use of resources to help reduce the number of young people NEET in the Vale.
- 2.15** A directory of alternative education provision for statutory school age has been developed. The directory is a useful resource for schools, placing an emphasis on the availability of alternative education providers for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs who may benefit from more bespoke learning pathways. The range of provision is varied and subject specific to meet the needs and interests of young people. The providers have worked with the LA and supported young people. The directory provides details of delivery, expected learning outcomes, qualifications, progression routes and costs.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** Reducing the percentage of young people from becoming NEET is set out in the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy. It helps support the national and local indicator of percentage of young people in education, employment or training, under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- 3.2** The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan outlines a clear link to education and reducing the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training, that's set out in well-being outcome 3 'An Inspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale' and - objective 5, 'Raising overall standards of achievement'. This objective contributes to the wellbeing goals of a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and a globally responsible Wales.
- 3.3** The variety of provision continues to develop with a wide range of offers from alternative education providers, vocational learning with progression routes, tailored support, and information and guidance. This should help learners explore their interests and realise their potential. We are proud to be offering a wide range of subject pathways through our partners that will help inspire young people to fulfil their potential.
- 3.4** Improving standards of alternative education provision is important to us and we want to ensure that provision is quality assured through regular contracts management meetings with the providers. The process ensures we monitor the progress of learners. Monitoring is undertaken to make certain that learners are receiving value for money and that provision has a positive impact on young people's education and wellbeing.
- 3.5** We work collaboratively with internal and external partners that include agencies, education and training providers, Careers Wales and Welsh Government, to help meet the well-being objective.

### **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1** The Welsh Government Youth Engagement & Progression Framework (YEPF) is part of the Core Youth Support Service Grant of £158,452, of which £28,955 goes towards the work of the YEPF and provision. No changes to the grant have been announced by Welsh Government at this stage for 2020-2021. Discussions about refreshing the YEPF by Welsh Government commenced in November 2019. The total cost of the European Social Fund (ESF) projects Inspire to Achieve (I2A) and Inspire to Work (I2W) for the Vale is £1,671,743. The percentage of grant funding income received is £716,513. This funding is from 1st April 2016 to 31

December 2022 for the I2A project and from the 1st April 2017 to 31st December 2022 for the I2W project.

### **Employment**

- 4.2** The money allocated towards the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework has helped secure the YEPF coordinator role and specialist provision for vulnerable young people who are particularly hard to engage. An officer has also been appointed using ESF funding.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.3** The Engagement and Progression Framework supports the early identification of pupils at risk of becoming NEET and enables support to be put in place to ensure equality of access to education, training and employment opportunities.

## **5. Background Papers**

None