

PRD project – case study: Phase 2

Building effective practice in partnership working to support young people (18- 24) to progress to employment, including apprenticeships



Project title – ADDESSING NEET AGENDA IN CUMBRIA

Worth reading if you are interested in:

- Agencies coming together to address issues
- Formation of new groups to address specific group issues

Contact information

Main contact: Catherine Clarke

Name of Peer Review and Development (PRD) group: Cumbria Youth Alliance

Participating organisation(s):

Cumbria County Council post 16 Educational Advisors

Allerdale District Council

Allerdale District Anti Poverty Strategy Officer

Gen11 Training

PinC (LGBT) representative group

National Apprenticeship Service

Kendal College

TCV/Clip – Cumbria Youth Volunteering Programme

South Lakes Young Carers Project

NACRO

Rathbone Training

Impact Housing Foyer Project

Lancaster Farms – North West Prisons PRD Group

Cumbria CVS Barrow Community Learning Group

Cumbria Social Housing Partnership

Riverside Housing Association – Youth Contract Delivery Agent

Brathay Hall – Youth Contract delivery Agent

Cumbria Business in education partnership – employers network

Soundwave Music Engagement project

Cumbria Constabulary

Cumbria Anti Poverty Strategy Group

West Cumbria Anti Poverty Strategy Group

Living Well Trust

Unity Drugs and Alcohol Rehab Provision in Cumbria

Derwent and Solway Housing

Appleby Road Garden Project
 JHP Training
 Carlisle Youth Zone
 Groundwork Trust
 Inspira (Connexions)
 Appleby Heritage Centre
 Drop Zone Youth Project
 Leonard Cheshire Disability Project
 West Cumbria Achievement Zone – alternative provision
 Job Centre Plus (Dept of Employment)
 AWAZ (BME network)
 Learning2Change (Disability network)
 West Cumbria Trades Hall

What was the original PRD project designed to achieve?

In Phase 1 of the project we set out to...

*..(please indicate **why** you used the approach that you did)*

Bring organisations together to ensure information was shared and networks were established that would enable young people to access services relevant to their needs and aspirations- this engaged employers, young people, training providers etc and brought them all together to look at what worked. We wanted to help young people identify suitable pathways and increase the number of young people going into work locally with employers. We also shared information about informal and formal learning opportunities and how young people could move from informal to formal learning opportunities using a number of agencies within the PRD. The voice of young people is essential when looking at why many young people are recycled within the system and drop out of mainstream provision.

and we achieveda network was set up – 4 events held attended by 59 delegates and the voice of young people who were hard to reach and engage was able to input into the shaping of provision at a local level. We established a multi agency network supported by National and Local Government and with key partners from training providers, further education providers, employers to come together as part of a wider strategy to reduce the number of young people who are NEET in Cumbria.

- Meeting held with NW Prisons Head of Education and Training at Lancashire Farms Young Offenders' Institute to establish working relationship with them as part of NEET provision eg referral of young offenders before release back to Cumbria to connect them with appropriate providers in their area.
- Agreement reached with Inspira (Connexions) to take part in the next project.
- Working relationship established with CBEC employer network with 5000 members.
- Working relationship established with Cumbria Adult Education Service development workers in each district for 19+ curriculum development.
- Working relationship established with National Apprenticeship Service and Fairtrain voluntary sector apprenticeship.

Following on from these events it was agreed the network would continue and groups wanted to work together sharing good practice and developments so that young people who are marginalised in the education and labour market could benefit from our joined up approach.

How did the phase 2 activities embed or extend the work undertaken in phase 1 of the project?

In phase 2 we wanted to....

Continue with this network and build on the work undertaken during phase 1

Develop a more co-ordinated approach bringing together key players so that we could influence key decision makers such as the leader of Cumbria County Council and the Anti Poverty Strategy Group for Cumbria. We also wanted the network to be more pro-active in how it shared information about what each partner was doing to try and avoid duplication and jointly identify suitable pathways for our young people who were neet. We wanted to highlight opportunities to move from informal to formal learning and to show bursaries, grants and apprenticeship funding that was available so that groups could have discussions with local employers.

We also wanted to address key issues for the most marginalised of young people such as young people leaving custody, young people who are carers within their families, those leaving care and young people living in the homeless foyers around the County. We wanted to further open up the network to include Social Housing Providers.

We also wanted to help more young people move from NEET to EAT through informal and formal learning opportunities

and we achieved or are working towards achieving....

We have had a number of meetings with key strategic decision makers to tell them about the work including the leader of Cumbria County Council, the Leader of Allerdale District Council and Representatives/Officers of the Local Authority to see what could be offered to young people not able to access the apprenticeship opportunities currently being offered.

We have held two further workshop/forums attended by 43 delegates. Several of the new strategic partners have attended eg Inspira Manager and the Mayor of Workington.

The widening of the network to include statutory local and regional strategic partners, more providers and also alternative provision providers, leaving care professionals, criminal justice representatives and developing a sustainable network that could come together at least once per year or more if funding can be secured to focus on how we work together to create opportunities for young people.

Cumbria Housing Partnership for example has created 22 apprenticeship opportunities during their time with the network through using their supply chain and writing into the specifications the need to commit to providing an opportunity for a young person for every £1million pound of their contract.

Cumbria County Council reported that as a result of the NEET event held in Penrith during September 2012 they have created opportunities for 60 young people apprentices within Cumbria County Council and their wider supply chain.

Foyer projects run by Impact Housing have moved from informal to formal learning programmes with their young people and have identified programmes that support young people to progress into local college places through joint working with Kendal

College through taster days and through one to one interviews and advice and guidance sessions.

We have also identified the need to set up a network that would focus on post release young people and try and link them into a provider that would enable them to continue learning and developing when back in their own community. This will be the focus of the network in the next few months working with NW Prisons.

A virtual e network has been set up to share information on opportunities for young people and this is now freely sharing a lot of information on the various opportunities

What has been the main impact of the project and how will this affect key stakeholders such as learners, the PRD group and participating organisations?

Definition – impact = “A change in behaviour as a result of engagement with the PRD activity.”

*The main **impact for the PRD group** has been or will be*

The main impact has been exploring new ways of working, be it adding accreditation to formal learning or taking a successful method of engagement from one area to a different group eg Mencap working with CYA to use Duke of Edinburgh Award with young people with learning disabilities.

Networking and sharing information on bursaries, support for employers, vacancies, provision for informal and formal learning and also highlighting models of good practice. Enabling providers to have better access to information about opportunities and progression routes for young people. Feeding in the needs of young people such as those with caring responsibilities has informed FE providers about how more flexible provision would retain certain learners.

Ability to reach key strategic decision makers

*The main **impact for the participating organisations** has been or will be*

Formation of a network – making links between providers and FE colleges for example so that progression routes can be identified. More access to relevant up to date and factual information about the various programmes that are being run and how the providers link up with statutory agencies such as Job Centre Plus And Cumbria County Council. For example the suggestion of a post release network of providers to work with NW Prisons brought together 10 organisations straight away who scarcely knew of one another's existence due to being from different sectors.

The requests for action on access to apprenticeships has led to the National Apprenticeship Service working directly with equality and diversity networks now discussing how to improve links from pre-apprenticeship and informal provision for those communities.

*The main **impact for the learners** has been or will be*

More access to information about opportunities – shared knowledge means providers can make more effective judgements about where they refer learners especially those in danger of social and economic exclusion. Informal providers moving into accreditation means their learners are being offered accreditation for the first time in community provision and this will increase with the relaxation of SFA rules on guided learning hours.

*Has there been an **impact for other stakeholders**?*

Closer working together – establishment of a network to distil, disseminate and publish information from and for the network

Closer links between statutory and third sector partners

More young people moved into formal learning opportunities or apprenticeships

What will be done differently and what are the key learning points?

Widening of the network. Continuing the network so that we can share information about the various programmes that are open to young people is essential as we try and move young people forward in a suitable and sustainable learning route. Cumbria has so many diverse and discreet working groups that to join up thinking or development is difficult. We have been attending key strategic meetings to represent the needs of providers and learners to inform strategy development and to bring leaders into forums with providers and learners. This process needs to continue.

What resources should be shared with the FE and Skills sector?

(Please list and submit with the case study)