

PRD project – case study

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



Project title - Understanding and overcoming the barriers and issues on participation by the 18+ NEET group

Worth reading if you are interested in:

- Findings related to lack of participation in learning by 18+ NEET young people
- Understanding the use of NOMIS data for identifying NEET hot spots
- Lessons learnt from engaging with multiple agencies all of whom have an offer to NEET young people
- Collaboration to avoid duplicating effort
- Enhanced networking between local organisations, all of whom can provide support to NEET and unemployed young people.

Contact information

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Name of Peer Review and Development (PRD) group: South Hampshire PRD

Participating organisation(s): Aspire Learning and Development, Enham, Fareport, National Apprenticeship Service, IYSS Portsmouth & Southampton.

What the PRD group set out to do and why

This project set out to take stock of the underlying issues that are causing the current increase in the number of young people aged 18+ to become NEET in the South Hampshire areas. The partners researched with current and recent NEET young people the reasons for the recent increase in NEET numbers. They then reviewed their individual efforts and the wider local offering available to assess measures available to minimise the NEET group. Network Exchange events planned in both Portsmouth and Southampton, to bring together the multitude of providers each with their own offer in order to increase understanding, opportunities to network and collaborate and generate face to face contacts to promote cross referrals. The groups prepared action plans which identified gaps in the offer and landscape for learners which need to be filled to ensure that learners have the most appropriate learning offer available to meet their identified needs.

What has been achieved so far

The PRD group has:

1. Researched available NEET data to identify NEET hotspots on which to concentrate efforts.
2. Researched with NEET and no longer NEET young people the barriers to participation.
3. Made contacts with new organisations in the localities of Portsmouth and Southampton which are able to add breadth and depth to the offer of support to young people to help to overcome the barriers to participation.
4. Run one of the two network exchange events, in the Portsmouth hotspot to bring together the multiple agencies able to provide elements of support.
5. Created a local action plan, directory of offers and up to date contacts sheet for organisations able to support the NEET young people in the area.
6. Through the links created at the event earlier in July there has already been cross referral of learners between programmes and onto Apprenticeships.

What still needs to be done

1. The compilation of the findings from the research into barriers to participation.
2. The compilation of the final report.
3. Continued joint working to build on the contacts and provide opportunities to continue to collaborate and share opportunities and resources
4. The second of the two Network Exchange and Collaboration events in the Southampton area.
5. Auctioning all of the ideas that evolved from the Portsmouth Network Exchange event.
6. Continuing to build on the foundation in the Southampton area to dovetail a future event into the calendar of existing activities.

Resources to be shared with the sector

1. The NEET questionnaires
2. The templates, briefing sheet and papers supporting the organisation of the Network Exchange events
3. NOMIS data on the Portsmouth and Southampton NEET hotspots
4. A database of the multiple agencies offering support in an identified hot spot.
5. A Directory of Services for the multiple agencies in each of the hotspots.

Key learning points

1. The key barriers to participation are not about the offer, they are about extrinsic factors which need to be addressed prior to any interest in learning and progression opportunities.
2. The understanding by NEET and unemployed young people on 18+ programmes available is minimal.
3. The understanding by inter-agencies of others in their locality that could support their cohort is low and needs constant update as staff change and offers change. This cannot be a one-off effort.
4. There is a potential for duplication of effort if agencies do not collaborate and support one another.
5. There is a belief that unemployment is acceptable and so the motivation to gain support is lower in times of higher unemployment.

