

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID) - DRAFT

Review: Post-16 Education, Employment and Training

Scrutiny Review Committee: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Director leading the review: Alison Cramer, Head of Partnerships and Service Support

Lead Officers: Holly Toft, Head of Post-16, Play and Youth

Overall aims of the review:

1. To explore how to sustain improvements and continue to increase the number of young people progressing to, and in, post 16 education, employment and training; and
2. To suggest ways to prevent young people becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the first place.

Objectives of the review:

1. To understand the profile of 16-18 and 18-24 year olds in Islington currently progressing to and in education, employment and training; and which groups of young people are most vulnerable to being NEET
2. To assess the strategic role of Islington Council in helping to increase the number of young people in EET
3. To understand the obstacles to progression into EET
4. To identify and assess specific measures which will increase the progression into EET for groups of young people with low levels of participation in EET and other young people vulnerable to becoming NEET
5. To assess the availability and effectiveness of information, advice, guidance and employability skills support for young people regarding post 16 education, employment and training
6. To examine 'promising practice' approaches at school and local authority level that indicate the best success in reducing the number of young people NEET and preventing young people becoming NEET, and how they might apply locally.

N.B. Objectives 2, 4 and 5 cover implementation of the Employment Commission recommendations, an area highlighted by the Committee for review.

How is the review to be carried out:

Scope of the Review

The review will focus on:

The national context

- Legislative framework
- National policy

Supporting young people

- Profile of young people NEET
- The local offer to support young people including roles, responsibilities, opportunities and resources
- The support available to young people within schools
- Obstacles for young people to progress into EET

Opportunities to make local arrangements more effective

- Partnership working between schools, the council, post-16 providers, businesses, and the voluntary and community sector.
- Local and external projects, models and approaches to support young people and vulnerable groups – promising practices

Types of evidence:

- **Documentary evidence including**
 - Contextual report/presentation
 - 'Reading list' of key documents for Committee members
 - Outcomes data for young people in Islington
 - Case studies
 - Government guidance and officer briefing notes
 - Service plans, performance indicators and update on impact
- **Witness evidence including**
 - Officer presentations
 - A range of secondary schools
 - Other local authorities
 - The Progress Team, the Careers Network and the Youth Employment Team
 - The Business/Employment Board
 - Other organisations delivering projects to support EET
- **Visits**
 - Young people
 - Services delivering support to young people

Additional Information:

This topic addresses the following strategic corporate objectives from Islington's 2015/19 Corporate Plan:

- Helping people find the right job: Create change for the next generation
- Making Islington a place where our residents have a good quality of life: Help children to achieve their potential

The main issues are:

- The rate of young people who are NEET in Islington has previously been persistently above the central London average. This issue is complex and has been stubborn to shift. However, recent figures have seen a welcome reduction in the NEET population.
- This group is a broad and diverse group with differing needs. Being NEET, whether at 16, 17 or 18 either may be a consequence of, or compound the outcomes for young people in alternative provision, attending New River College, known to the Youth Offending service or be in some other way vulnerable such as a child who has been

looked after by the Council. However, the problem does not stop there; the chance of being NEET increases with age because some young people continue not to have the skills or opportunities to move on.

- The 'NEET' status affects young people's life chances and has cost implications to the public sector. Spending time NEET at a young age has a detrimental effect on physical and mental health with unemployment linked to ill-health, poor mental health and an increased risk of suicide. There are various risk factors and pre-cursors aligned to young people who end up NEET which can then transform into later forms of disadvantage and poor welfare outcomes. This impacts not just on education but also health, employment, welfare and housing. The time spent NEET also affects public finances through increased welfare and healthcare spending and can contribute to late intervention spend. The average 16-18 year old NEET has an estimated cost of £56,000 before retirement age. This is based on the costs of welfare benefits payments, costs to health and criminal justice services, and loss of tax and national insurance revenue.

In carrying out the review the Committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

Programme	
Key output:	To be submitted to Committee on:
1. Scrutiny Initiation Document	28 June 2016
2. Concluding Discussion	28 February 2017
3. Draft Recommendations	20 March 2017
4. Final Report	8 May 2017