
**SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE MONITORING – NOT IN EDUCATION
EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEETS)**

Background

1. When considering its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive a series of performance monitoring reports which would focus mainly on the Estyn Inspection Action Plan and Annual Performance of Schools. The Director of Education identified certain performance areas within the overall report which are already available to be scrutinised, ahead of the main report. This report will focusses on the performance information relating to young Cardiff people who were not in education, employment or training (Neets).

Previous Scrutiny Comments

2. At Committee on 11 November 2014, Members received an update on progress to address the Estyn recommendation relating to Neets. The Committee welcomed the positive picture being portrayed, although Members did note that precise data was not yet available. Members particularly appreciated the description of the work being undertaken with the 180 originally identified Neets and that through intervention 121 now have a destination with 23 fully engaged.
3. In May 2015, when the Committee reviewed the Education and Lifelong Learning Quarter 4 performance report, Members agreed to write expressing concern at the relatively high level of young people in Year 11 who had been identified through the Vulnerability Assessment Profile as “Red”, and that some schools were not following the framework. Members also highlighted

the risks associated with the reconfiguration of the Youth Service and its impact on Young People not in education, employment or training. Concern around the level of Neets and vulnerable pupils was also highlighted by Estyn in their recent letter and therefore the Committee considered the reduction in the number of Neets to be a key challenge, recommending that the Directorate maximise its efforts to address this matter.

Progress report

4. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has provided a progress report, copy attached at **Appendix A**. The progress report includes an overview as at the end of 2013/14 academic year for Year 11 school leavers, the Vulnerable Assessment profile (VAP), Year 11 profile and post 18 data.
5. The progress report also provides details of the current position in respect of the number of 16 – 18 year olds in Cardiff as registered by Careers Wales, as well as the current year 11 pupils by RAG status, Ethnic group, Cardiff neighbourhoods and Year 13 school leaver destinations data. It also includes a list of key priorities for action over the next three to six months which have been developed to directly support and advise young people who are at risk, as well as addressing the key target to reduce the number of Neets. In addition details of the next steps to be taken are included in paragraph 7 on page 6 of **Appendix A**.
6. The Progress report includes (at **Appendix 1 – 4**), details of the number of Neets for each Secondary School, comparative core city data, Year 11 pupils identified through VAP and year 13 school leaver destination data by secondary school.

Scope of Scrutiny

7. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review the performance in the two areas and how this information will enable the Education Service to achieve its principal responsibility to raise education

standards and improve outcomes for all learners. It will also enable Members to enquire as to:

- i. How have Cardiff schools and the Council performed in achieving their responsibilities in respect of young people who are not in education, employment or training?
- ii. Have any lessons been learnt from the analysis of the impact of previous initiatives and strategies and what actions have been taken to address any issues?
- iii. What actions have been implemented to ensure improvements in provision in areas achieving below the Consortium average and the All Wales average?

Way Forward

8. Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills) will attend the meeting and may wish to make a statement. Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Simon Morris (Achievement Leader, Youth Support), will introduce the report, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
9. Members may wish to consider the information in the report, the officers' presentations and answers to Members' questions, and to consider highlighting any issues for further investigation or more detailed monitoring over the next year.

Legal Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out

any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- ❖ Consider the information contained in this report and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning; and
- ❖ Identify any issues for further consideration or investigation.

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County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

2 June 2015