

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REVIEW

1. Increase achievements and their recognition

Increase the numbers of young people who achieve formal recognition or qualifications which have *nationally recognised currency and portability* with employers, educationalist and trainers. These should either be on, or steps towards the “national framework of achievement”, and take place in a choice of settings including voluntary sector programmes, and recognise and embrace youth volunteering.

Whilst a PSA target could continue the reduction of NEET figures we would call for the lessons and outcomes of current or pending pilots to be integrated into any future strategy for reducing NEETS. For example the LSC evaluation of impact of funding on learning for those making the transition from NEET to ETE. (foundation learning pilots) and New Deal for Skills Activity Agreement pilots.

Case study: In 2006 the Prince’s Trust launched a new City and Guilds qualification for those completing its Team programme. (This is a 12-week personal development programme, which enables 16-25 year olds – the majority unemployed - to develop their confidence, motivation and skills through teamwork in the community. 68 per cent of unemployed participants find work or enter education or training after completing the programme.

The City & Guilds Certificate in Personal, Teamwork and Community Skills is available at Entry Level 3 and Level 1 on the National Qualifications Framework and was developed by The Prince’s Trust, Trust Delivery Partners, City & Guilds and the Learning and Skills Council. 8,000 young people are expected to take this course in 2006-2007

2. Personal support

Increase the level and quality of personal support through (e.g. through community based volunteering and mentoring.)

PSA targets could focus on the number of young people/NEET who take up the use of a supporter whose who has sufficient time to build up a relationship over a period of time and are subsequently engaged in a “meaningful activity. For example - “targeted youth support” DfES materials 2006

Case study: The Prince’s Trust supports a broad range of young people – from careleavers aged 16-21, to unemployed young adults aged 18-30 to be supported by trained volunteer Mentors to either achieve their personal development goals or set up in business. In 2006-2007 over 6,500 mentors will provide this help to over 9,500 young people.

3. Continuing Support and opportunity – beyond 19

The current age upper limit to the review of Children and Young People is 19. The Prince's Trust works harder to reach young people who may have missed stages in both their personal, educational and socio-economic development due to a range of multiple and complex factors – care system, offending behaviour, geography – whether in inner-city or rural deprivation, poor health and well-being, poor or absent parenting, being young parents, young carers, having a disability, suffering discrimination, experiencing homelessness, or having special educational needs. To ensure these young people have second and third chances to re-engage, rehabilitate, or indeed make a start with opportunities and get their lives back on track, the age at which these opportunities are available should be extended and flexible beyond the age of 19 – both in practice and in terms of their special recognition in a national youth strategy.

Case Study: The Prince's Trust offers opportunities to young people between the ages of 14 and 30, the majority are aged 16- 25. One example of a mixed age range programme is Team – which allows and encourages a recruitment mix from 16 to 25. This enables young people who have previously been unable or unwilling to engage with other support to get involved – when they are ready. We then provide support to try and ensure their continued retention and positive outcomes.

4. Target groups

Provide targeted positive routes to employment training and education to young people, not only NEET but who are also from:

- a. care backgrounds
- b. ex-offenders
- c. refugees/asylum seekers
- d. BME communities
- e. lone parents
- f. disabled

PSA targets might reflect a benchmark proportion of these groups within local demographic NEET profiles groups. The emphasis would be to look beyond these labels of disadvantage, whose purpose is to inform targeted recruitment and support rather than be an indicator of future potential.

For more information on The Prince's Trust's target groups go to www.princes-trust.org.uk and for our research into their aspirations and attitudes refer to Hardest To Reach – Prince's Trust 2004

5. Promoting Health and Well-being

Encourage a quality of service delivery that demonstrates healthy living and lifestyles: addressing issues of: drug and alcohol use, poor mental health, and diet

in the commissioning and audit of youth services. The message here is about not only setting targets for the health of the nations youth but demonstrating it in the provision of services in how we provide positive role modelling, positive encouragement of self-esteem and identity, and feeding of the young people bodies and minds, whilst engaged in services.

In 2006 The Prince's Trust completed research into the health needs and attitudes of young people, comparing those coming through its programmes and a control group. This is due to be published at the end of 2006

6. Involvement and participation of children and young people

Increase the involvement of children and young people (from their perspective as consumers or clients) in a range of ways that improve the quality of delivery a service.

Young people can not only be involved in assessment of services but in their commissioning – through training, interviews and focus groups.

Case study: The Prince's Trust used a DfES grant to run a national young people led project – A National Voice. From 2003 management and mentoring support enabled this project to be directed by and for young people in and leaving care in England. Running campaigns, lobbying parliament and developing a network of local groups this group was also helped to establish itself as Ltd Company in 2005 and is now working towards charity status. The Board is exclusively young people. www.anationalvoice.org

JC/Prince's Trust/September/2006