

NEETs Co-ordination and Support Research and Audit Report

**Mapping the Provision in Washington for
Young people aged 16-19 years old**

**Commissioned by the Washington Area
Committee
(Faye Gething 2011)**

Forward

There have been numerous pieces of research into NEET (not in education employment or training), such as Learning at work (Children, young people and learning scrutiny Committee Review Policy, Increasing Participation (DCSF), the Wolf Report, Supporting Youth Employment (HM Government) to name but a few.

The aim of this piece of work is not to duplicate this work, but to look at the provision of opportunities for young people in Washington and the characteristic of the young people seeking them. Worklessness affects the lives of young people, their families, the communities and economic growth.

This report will highlight the difficulties and issues young people face.

It will also give an awareness of the workings and mechanisms of the unemployment register and clarify some of the terminology used in various reports.

In doing this research the NEET unemployment register, held by Connexions, will be used to identify patterns of engagement, identify barriers, examine how recent changes in legislation and government cut backs will affect young people and look at the current provision available to be able to identify any gaps in the provision.

Along side this research a survey of employers is being conducted which will enhance and influence the findings and recommendations.

1. Background and Methodology

The NEET Unemployment Register

Connexions hold a data base known as Profile which records young people's destination i.e. what they are currently doing. A young person not in education, employment or training is known as NEET.

To record a destination of EET (i.e. in training, further education, apprenticeship or work) this has to be confirmed by the young person, their parent/carer or a third party such as a college or training provider. It cannot be assumed. When a destination is recorded a start date is entered on the system. To maintain the accuracy, the destination has to be confirmed again at various stages, this is called the "currency".

To keep this currency, "tracking" has to be done. Tracking is where young people are contacted to confirm destination information or to re engage.

The time limit for currency is:

- Full time education once a year
- Training every three months
- Employment with training yearly
- Temporary/part time work every 12 weeks
- Work without training every 12 weeks
- NEET at least once every 12 weeks
- Illness, pregnancy, teenage parent every 12 weeks

If "tracking" is not done, within the time limit, then the currency expires and they become "lapsed" or "unknown". "Lapsed" is when a destination has been for a set period of time, i.e. a one year college course which has a set date of starting and finishing. Unless confirmation is gained then the destination becomes lapsed.

The amounts of tracking needed vary from month to month in Washington as currency lapses. This averages about 50 -60 monthly. However this rises to large numbers over the summer months and reaches over 1100 lapsed and over 1100 unknown during the summer months. As most young people start courses and training in the months after leaving school then currency will run out at this time the following year.

When Connexions are informed that a young person has left a programme/training, then the young person's destination becomes "unknown" until contact is made with the young person to clarify the situation.

The register is split into "NEET actively seeking" and "NEET not available" The "not available" are those who are unavailable for work due to illness, pregnancy, teenage parent, multiple social problems or have a custodial sentence.

Actively Seeking are those young people who are registered as NEET at the Connexions Centres and looking for opportunities. The number of intervention with Connexions and the number of submissions indicates how active these young people are in seeking opportunities. When tracking is done regularly the young people remain engaged and call regularly to the Connexions offices to apply for opportunities. They are put forward for vacancies, training and other programmes and are recorded on the data base as "submissions".

There is an electronic vacancy service available through Connexions Tyne and Wear run by the HUB service whereby young people can apply online.

The format for collating NEET and cohort numbers has slightly changed. Those young people who accessed education outside the area i.e. Newcastle or Gateshead colleges, counted in the area they were being educated. This has now been changed to residency (the area in which they live) which will impact positively on the Washington unemployed register, as almost 89% of the young people from Sunderland who attend these colleges come from the Washington area.

Methodology

For part of the research the Connexions Service data base was utilised. This allowed for the examination of the information in great detail and the creation of a spreadsheet recording all aspects of the young people including;

- Age
- Gender
- Occupational choice
- Qualifications on leaving school
- Qualifications post 16
- Barriers
- Number of weeks unemployed
- NEET %
- Submissions
- School attended
- Numbers participating in adult training provision (New Deal)

To supplement this work, young people were contacted who were on the register, both “actively seeking” and “not available”, to confirm the information was correct and promote opportunities. Young people who were lapsed and unknown were also contacted to confirm their destination and reduce numbers so that the information was robust and accurate.

Organisations offering training were visited to ascertain what was on offer and any problems they were experiencing. This included:

- Springboard
- Oxclose and District Young People’s project
- BTCV
- City of Sunderland College
- ESP manager
- Job Centre Plus
- Volunteer Service
- Green Collar Provision at Nissan

To supplement this a provider breakfast was attended at Job Centre plus which was to show case the new adult provision. Providers present were interviewed. Alan Rowan the 16-18 Manager in Sunderland was also contacted to look at changes in EMA, and look at the NEET Action Plan for Sunderland. NEET was the responsibility of the Connexions Services up till April 2008 when it transferred to the Local Authority. Sunderland was given a red tag by the Comprehensive Area Assessment and was under intense scrutiny and pressure to

reduce the high numbers of NEET across the city. A NEET improvement group was formed and an action plan produced.

Added to the above various research documents have been referenced that have been produced both nationally and locally, as have the changes that the government is making to EMA payments, University fees, changes to training programmes, raising of the participation age and how these will affect the opportunities available to young people.

2. NEET (Not in education, employment or training)

2.1. At the time of writing this report, the NEET for 16-18 year olds in Washington currently stands at 7.4% which is the lowest across the city. (See Appendix attached)

2.2. When looking at the unemployment register this is a snap shot in time, as the register is never static. It is in a constant state of “churn” as young people leave the register and others join it.

2.3. At this time the register is at its lowest ebb just before 2011 school leavers join the register along with 2009 and 2008 leavers who have completed one or two year courses, or training. The register will peak in August/September when it will rise to about 260.

2.4. Prior to scrutinising the register and looking through the unemployed register, young people were contacted to ensure that the information is current and robust and “lapsed” and “unknown” are at a minimum.

2.5. There are 124 young people on the register of which 90 are actively seeking and 34 are not available. The not available consists of

- 18 teenage parents
- 5 pregnant
- 5 illness
- 6 unknown

Although the teenage parents/pregnant make up 76.5% of this cohort (34), a further 22 teenage parent/pregnant are in employment, training or work. Some of this group will start the Young Mums Connect course in September, others are only wishing to consider part time employment as they juggle with parenthood.

2.6. Of the 90 that are actively seeking

- 12 aged 16
- 34 aged 17
- 44 aged 18

(See Appendix attached)

Putting this into the context of their peer group and school leaver group, the numbers are pretty evenly spread across the age groups in Washington.

- 2010 leavers 26
- 2009 leavers 30
- 2008 leavers 34

2.7. Drilling further down into the register it is evident that the young people in Washington are active and diligent in their search for employment and have completed between 1 and 7 opportunities and have many recoded submissions.

2.8 The cohort is spread throughout the villages in Washington but the larger cohorts are concentrated around Concord and Albany 31% (See Appendix attached). This has been looked at many times and although other areas have decreased in numbers these areas always remain high.

2.9. The movement is often sideways rather than advancing as most of the programmes have focused on personal development with Connect Courses, The Princes Trust, E2E, Foundation Learning, Activity Agreement, ESP and GO4IT. These courses are valuable; they help young people develop and mature, and keep them engaged. However, repeating similar programmes offers little extra value with 44% achieving no further qualifications or vocational training since leaving school and have had no contact with employers. Often the only work experience these young people have had is a 2 week work experience programme whilst at school.

2.10. Asking at what stage these young people are at in finding a suitable opportunity:

- 4 are awaiting outcomes from interviews
- 9 have places and are awaiting a start date
- 2 have been ill but are now fit to start work/training
- 1 is a carer who dips in and out of the register when caring duties allow
- 16 have had personal and social difficulties but now able to move forward
- 4 refuse to look at training as are not eligible for EMA
- 47 refuse to consider more training and only want employment/apprenticeship
- 7 are reluctant to engage although maintaining contact with Connexions.

2.11. Their aspirations are wide and varied covering 15 occupational areas. (Appendix) but opportunities are few.

3. Vacancies

Connexions held 110 vacancies across Tyne and Wear, 21 of which were in Sunderland. 90 of these employers were asking for English and Maths at grade C or above. Most are asking for level 2 qualifications for level 2 training. This service is provided by the Connexions Tyne and Wear HUB.

The National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (NAVMS) had 200 apprenticeships for Sunderland last year and 2000 applications. To supplement this Sunderland Connexions also produces weekly lists of part time external vacancies from the Job centre Website and the Metro Centre. Staff at Connexions register on other web sites to look for appropriate vacancies in face to face interviews and clients are given lists which hold 33 such web sites. Some clients register with the employment agencies in Washington. Work is often part time and temporary and can sometimes just offer random days of employment.

4. Training Provision

4.1. Sunderland Connexions have produced a directory which contains all the apprenticeships and Foundation Learning providers who offer opportunities to young people in Sunderland. There are 60 in all, some are national, some are spread across Tyne and Wear and there are 22 in based in Sunderland, 3 of which are in the Washington area.

- SETA (Sunderland Engineering and Training Association) based on the Wear industrial Estate, offers apprenticeships in Engineering and recruits once a year. They request GCSE maths, English and science at grade “c” or above and will take 2-3 apprentices across Sunderland each year.
- 1st degree (NEETA) who are based at Concord and offer Foundation Learning and apprenticeships in hairdressing.
- BTCV based on the Pattison Industrial Estate offers Foundation Learning. Any young people ready to progress are subcontracted to another provider.

4.2. Added to this Oxclose and District Young People’s Project (ODYPP) offer some Foundation learning for Springboard along with other personal development programmes dependent on funding

4.3. The City of Sunderland College offer Connect Courses in the community, one based at The Millennium Centre at Concord, one for young mums at The Children’s Centre in Concord and another level 2 course for young mums at the Albany Centre.

5. Job Centre Plus and Adult Provision

Job Centre Plus offered “New Deal” to clients aged over 18 who had been registered unemployed with them for 6 months. There are currently 41 Washington young people participating in this at the moment. This programme is no longer running and is being replaced with a package of initiatives under the “Get Britain Working” umbrella.

A more flexible approach is being developed which is more client centred and in a range of community settings to develop one stop shops rather than clients being sent from one centre to another to access information and help. Work clubs are being offered where young people can get help with CV’s, access, to phones, postage and IT and help with job search. Clients will have the opportunity to do voluntary work to gain experience or 2-8 weeks work experience with an employer. Anyone failing to demonstrate that they are actively seeking work will have sanctions on their benefit. While on these programmes the clients will continue to claim Job Seekers Allowance and travel expenses and so will remain classified as NEET.

There is also an Enterprise Allowance of £40 per week for anyone wanting to set up their own business. When clients (aged between 18 and 24 years) have been registered unemployed with Job Centre Plus for 39 weeks, it will be mandatory for them to take part in the Work Programme regardless of what benefits they are claiming. Everyone will be allocated an adviser and offered the universal service of CV’s and job search each week. They have the opportunity to do personal development programmes and gain qualifications. Once employment has been found they will be supported and contacted by their adviser for up to 2 years. Clients on the first two of these options will be paid travel expenses and will continue to sign fortnightly for their benefit.

6. Projects

6.1. ESP (Engagement, Support and Prevention Projects)

The aim of both ESP Projects is to increase young people’s participation in learning through locally defined interventions focussing on:

- Provision to support progression into mainstream learning
- Work to prevent young people disengaging
- Support the young people during periods of transition
- Work to reengage those young people who are NEET

Both projects compliment existing provision by targeting its services toward young people in need of additional help offering a choice of Accredited Courses and Non Accredited support

ESP1: Delivery was divided between partners offering Accredited support (40% delivery) and a team of 5 Project Workers offered non accredited support (60% delivery) to young people across the city. Partners included City of Sunderland College, the Training Consortium and eight organisations from the Voluntary Sector. The Project had major impact on the reduction of NEET and was successful in achieving targets. This phase has now ended.

ESP2: The aims are similar but it is primarily focused on 17-19 age cohorts and includes a Supported Apprenticeship Programme and additional partners i.e. SAFC Foundation and Sunderland Futures. All Accredited and Non Accredited delivery for the new project will be delivered by the range of partners. The project has two Project Workers working across the city, directly supporting recruitment, referrals and delivery.

Funding for ESP is via the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) operating on behalf of the Young People's learning Agency (YPLA) as a co-financing organisation for the 2007 – 2013 European Social Fund (ESF).

6.2. Activity Agreement.

Activity Agreement offered support to young people for up to 20 weeks. Young people could be supported in various ways, this could include support to gain literacy and numeracy qualifications, vocational qualifications, help with travel and clothing as well as help in finding employment. They were also paid an allowance of £30 per week. Progression rates into EET progressions averaged at 46% across Sunderland. There were 2 Activity Agreement workers in the Washington area, helping young people but this programme of work has now finished.

6.3. GO4IT

Go4it provided activities and courses for NEET young people. This was run by Oxclose and District Young People's Project (ODYPP) in Washington. ODYPP worked with some of the most challenging young people and has an excellent record of engaging with them. ODYPP used this funding to initially engage with the young people then moved them into E2E provision. This maximised the use of the funding and created a progression route for the young people involved. The GO4IT funding has now ceased.

7. Other Factors Influencing NEET and Provision

7.1. Raising the Participation Rate (RPR)

There are misconceptions around this issue. The participation age will rise to 17 in 2013 and 18 by 2015. This does not mean that young people will remain in compulsory full time education for a further year or two. They will still have the choice of education, employment or training. These cohorts will not be calculated as being NEET but there will still be "churn" in these cohorts of young people, and they will still need appropriate provision.

7.2. Connexions Service/All Age Guidance service

The Connexions Service in Washington has been pivotal in engaging with young people and moving them into education, employment and training (EET). Staff were placed strategically across Washington, working in partnership with other agencies, being pro active in finding opportunities for young people and doing preventative work to stop drop out.

Placing staff at all points of transition has increased EET to EET movement rather than EET to NEET. The Connexions office is well placed, at The Galleries, and last year had 4,068 young people parents/carers calling for information, advice and guidance and there are over 800 CV's and covering letters on the data base. The Connexions Service has, like other government departments, had their budgets cut, so there is a reduction of staff working on front line delivery.

The National Careers Service will be implemented from September 2011-April 2012 and will have 3 strands:

- Face to Face for adults
- Telephone service for all ages
- Web/email for all ages

Responsibility for careers education and guidance for young people will no longer be the responsibility of the local authority and will transfer to schools. It will be left to schools to buy in provision. No extra monies are available to schools for this. Only the most "vulnerable" school leavers will be able to access face to face help from the local authority paid from the early intervention grant. The local authority will still have the responsibility of "tracking" young people to ensure they have an offer of a place in education or training.

7.3. EMA

EMA is means tested, so is dependant on parental income, and young people have been able to claim up to £30 per week. For those who claimed EMA in 2009/10 they will be able to claim the same weekly amount 2011/12. For those who applied 2010/11 payments will reduce to £20

For those first applying 2011/12, those young people who are

- Care leavers
- Young people in receipt of Income Support
- Receiving Employment Support Allowance and Disability Allowance

Weekly payments will be replaced by a bursary of £1200 per year. Other students facing financial difficulties may be able to claim help with transport, food and equipment.

7.4. University Course Fees

The cost of university tuition is due to rise considerably next year. Competition for places this year will be fierce as young people try to gain a place at University while fees remain lower. There will be increasing numbers of young people looking for employment and apprenticeships this will in turn impact on the provision being further reduced for those less able.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Demand

Demand for training/apprenticeships/employment far outstrips the provision. There is a plentiful supply of personal development programmes but insufficient apprenticeships or full

time employment opportunities. There are Foundation Learning opportunities and apprenticeships but nothing in-between to help young people move forward.

8.2 Employment Opportunities

The young people on the unemployment register are active in their search for employment but lack of opportunities is hampering their progress. Any extra provision would help these young people in the plight they find themselves. It is the ultimate aim of most young people, whether leaving school at 16, after further education, completing a degree or post graduate course, to find employment. Those who leave younger find themselves more disadvantaged by having to make decisions earlier with ever decreasing opportunities available to them and a highly competitive and flooded job market.

8.3 Lack of employer contact and involvement:

Many young people are participating in training opportunities without access to employers and the labour market, so are ill prepared for the working environment they are trying to enter. There is a need for more employer involvement. Swindon Borough Council has introduced what is called "The Plan 500 Model" where employers are being asked to participate either in creating opportunities, offering help with Diplomas, qualifications, work experience or acting as mentors for young people.

8.4 Fast Tracking:

Some training providers are attracting young people with offers of apprenticeships and moving them rapidly through an NVQ and in house training. The young people are returning to the register after 6 months having completed their "apprenticeship" and having had little or no employer contact. This results in more "churn" on the register and consequent rise in NEET, the lowering of the standard of apprenticeships and the disillusionment of young people.

8.5 Transport:

Transport remains an issue for young people accessing training provision in Sunderland. Many young people need to access transport to reach the Galleries or Concord bus station in order to access transport to Sunderland. If the provider is not in the city centre another form of transport is required again. This can mean 6 buses a day and long periods of travel.

8.6 EMA

With the changes to EMA and the introduction of the bursary scheme there may be reluctance from some young people to take up training opportunities. Without reward some young people are reluctant to engage. When the Training Allowance of £35 per week was replaced by the EMA payments we saw an initial dip in take up of opportunities.

Young people will be in the extended child benefit period for 20 weeks after leaving education and parents/carers will continue to claim any related income support for them. When this finishes at the end of October some families will be up to £50 per week worse off. It is usually at this point that young people reconsider their situation. If young people start training or education then the child benefit is reinstated and consequently any income support payable.

8.7 Effects of cutbacks and loss of programmes

With the cut backs to Connexions and front line staff, the loss of the two Activity Agreement Workers and the loss of an ESP worker (specifically for Washington) this will impact on the support now available to young people. With these workers/programmes in place there has

been a significant, steady reduction in the NEET in Washington over the past few years, from 184 in 2006 to 124 in 2010.

8.8 Evidence of good practice

There is evidence of good provision having been created, previously, with supported apprenticeships through ESP and the Springboard Consortium and the Golden Hello for employers taking young people on apprenticeships. Having spoken to the college, training provision and the ESP manager, there is evidence, that if employers are helped financially they are more than willing to engage, employ and train young people,

8.9 Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning has now replaced the E2E provision for young people. For training providers to access income, the young people must gain qualifications. The resulting process means there may be reluctance for providers to take the less able young people who may leave early or not achieve. This also presents a problem of where the young people progress to. If they have achieved the basic qualifications with one provider another provider will be limited in what they can offer them, as they will not be able to draw down the funding as it has already been claimed. This will reduce options for young people further.

8.10 New Work programme

When young people were participating on the New Deal Programme and working they were taken off the NEET figures. With the new programmes the criteria to start has risen from 25 weeks to 39 weeks NEET which will mean young people will remain on the unemployed register longer. The options on entering the new programme will mean that some young people will be on personal development programmes, so claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and remain NEET.

8.11 Lack of quality, impartial career guidance

There has never been a time when quality career guidance has been needed more. The Country is in a state of economic down turn and although there has not been a double dip it has certainly flat lined. The market place is flooded with experienced, qualified people looking for employment making it even harder for young people to compete.

8.12 New Government Proposals

The Government has pledged to provide funding for up to 250,000 Apprenticeships nationally over the next 4 years and funding for 100,000 work placements over the next 2 years. The Government has announced a wide range of packages to support vocational training which include:

- Reduction in bureaucracy around apprenticeships and allow large employers to provide both on and off the job training. This will be piloted by BT, TUI and McDonalds.
- 10,000 new Access to Apprenticeship to be created for 18-24 year olds who cannot immediately find an employer to take them on due to lack of skills or experience.
- A £10m per annum Innovation Fund to give delivery organisations, in particular the voluntary and community sector, a chance to develop innovative solutions to help disadvantaged people particularly young people who are NEET. As yet no details are available.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is evident that there is excellent partnership working across Washington to help young people gain opportunities and to make the most of the provision available.

Partnership working should form part of this new initiative and support existing arrangements

9.2 With low levels of vacancies or apprenticeships, the loss of projects, the raising of university fees and changes to the adult provision provided by Job Centre Plus, little improvement could be made on the unemployment figures and in fact it will be difficult to retain it at its current levels

Extra provision need to be created to make up this deficit and it needs to be flexible to suit the needs of the young people. This could be created through intermediate labour market opportunities, apprenticeships or supported apprenticeships.

9.3 The provision must contain substantial amounts of employer contact and support so these young people can compete in the growing competitive market they find themselves.

9.4 The provision needs to cover a wide range of occupational areas to accommodate the aspirations of the young people.

9.5 The provision needs to be able to provide the opportunity to gain qualifications, where appropriate.

9.6 For best value it should be carried out in partnership to offer progression routes for young people.

9.7 Start dates should be flexible and respond to the needs of the young people

9.8 The provision needs to be varied to accommodate clients of different abilities and achievements.

9.9 The provider needs to be able to show that they have a substantive amount of employer contact to be able to support these programmes.

9.10 There are a further 30 young people aged 19 are on the unemployed register facing the same difficulties and consideration should be given to this group.

9.11 Work needs to be carried out with employers to engage them in the process. The Employer Demand Survey and the proposed Business Breakfast will be the first step in achieving this.

9.12 The NEET Improvement Group is running parallel with the work of the Washington Area Committee and some of the aim and objectives are the same. It would advantage both groups if a representative from each group attended the others meetings. This would avoid duplication and good practice could be shared across the city.

9.13 Some funding needs to be sought to assist young people who will receive no EMA payments.

9.14 There has been a significant loss in workers on the ground supporting young people. It may be possible, in the short term, to gain support through a SWITCH project, if a proposal was put forward to them. Alternatively new initiatives/programmes may arise through the new Innovation Funds that the government has proposed.

9.15 To ensure that the maximum impact is gained for the young people consideration should be given to aligning the work to current provision. This would save with on costs/management fees. It could also compliment further progression for existing programmes.

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Ingeus
BTCV
Alan Rowan 16-19 Manager
Dave Hall, Director of Work Based Learning, City of Sunderland College
Azure
Family and Adult Learning
Zenos
Volunteer Service Sunderland

Background Papers

New Arrangements for Careers Guidance, Dr Sharon Goddard
Increasing Participation, DCSF
The Youth Inquiry, UK Commission for Employment and Skill
Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee Policy review 2010-2011
The Wolf Report, Professor Alison Wolf, 2011
Careers England, Professor Tony Watts
Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Phil Barrett
Supporting Youth Employment, HM Government
DWP Worklessness Co-design DWP 2011
What works engaging young people who are not in education, employment or training. DFE
2010
NEET Action Plan

Appendix

DATA 16/06/11 PRODUCED USING POSTCODE REPORTS

16-19 NEET Available	DH4	DH5	HTON	NE37	NE38	WTON	SR1	SR2	SR3	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16	0	1	1	5	4	9	0	5	1	6	6	1	19	29
17	21	23	44	15	18	33	6	24	20	31	37	7	125	202
18	20	20	40	15	19	34	5	38	39	55	40	11	188	262
19	21	19	40	23	17	40	14	42	48	63	55	13	235	315
Total NEET available	62	63	125	58	58	116	25	109	108	155	138	32	567	808

16-19 NEET Not Available	DH4	DH5	Houghton	NE37	NE38	Washington	SR1	SR2	SR3	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16	4	2	6	1	8	9	0	3	1		1	0	5	20
17	7	7	14	4	11	15	2	9	5	11	12	4	43	72
18	14	10	24	8	8	16	4	15	9	18	19	1	66	106
19	0	10	10	8	0	8	7	18	24	17	11	1	78	96
Total NEET Not Available	25	29	54	21	27	48	13	45	39	46	43	6	192	294

16-19 Not Known Currency Expired EET - Lapsed date 16.06.11	DH4	DH5	Houghton	NE37	NE38	Washington	SR1	SR2	SR3 PN	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16			0	1		1			2	1	1		4	5
17	3	6	9		1	1		6	9	13	18	1	47	57
18	9	6	15		1	1	3	16	24	30	24	8	105	121
19	18	10	28	2	3	5	3	27	20	32	28	5	115	148
Total Currency Expired EET	30	22	52	3	5	8	6	49	55	76	71	14	271	331

Currency Expired NEET	DH4	DH5	Houghton	NE37	NE38	Washington	SR1	SR2	SR3 PN	SR4	SR5	SR6	SLAND	Total Per Age
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	4
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	7	7
Total Currency Expired NEET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	2	0	12	12

Other situation not known																
16	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	1	4	0	0	0	5	5
17	1	1	2		0	0	0		2	4	0	4	2	0	12	14
18	3	2	5		2	1	3		2	13	6	4	5	0	30	38
19	16	12	28		6	8	14		1	26	27	31	33	13	131	173
Total other situation not known	20	15	35		8	9	17		5	44	37	39	40	13	178	230

Total EET 16-19	DH4	DH5	Houghton		NE37	NE38	Washington		SR1	SR2	SR3	SR4	SR5	SR6	North	Total
Adjusted EET	1099	740	1839		795	1277	2072		114	1273	1535	1538	1266	753	6479	10390

16.06.11

Approximate based on postcode search	DH4	DH5	Houghton		NE37	NE38	Washington		SR1	SR2	SR3 PN	SR4	SR5	SR6	North	Total
16-19 EET	1069	718	1787		792	1272	2064		108	1224	1480	1462	1195	739	1934	5785
total 16-19 NEET	87	92	179		79	85	164		38	151	144	197	179	38	217	560
total not known (currency exp+Unknown)	50	37	87		11	14	25		11	96	95	119	113	27	461	573
Total 16-19 cohort	1206	847	2053		882	1371	2253		157	1471	1719	1778	1487	804	2291	6597

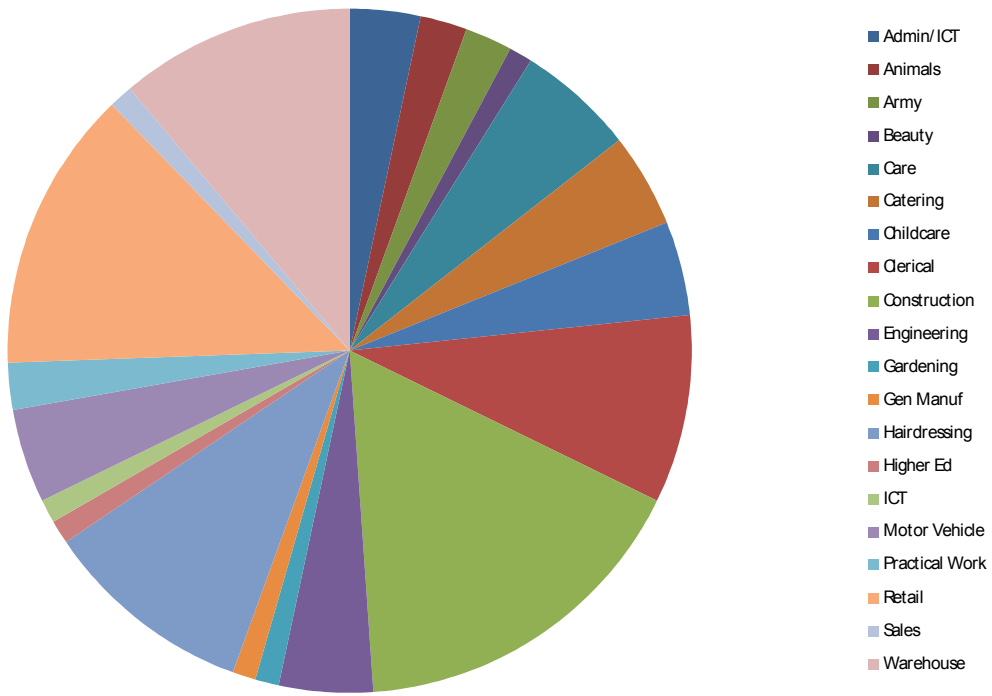
Adjustment factor																
8% lapsed EET are NEET	2	2	4		0	0	1		0	4	4	6	6	1	22	26
58% lapsed NEET are NEET	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	2	2	2	1	0	7	7
92% lapsed EET are EET	28	20	48		3	5	7		6	45	51	70	65	13	249	305
42% lapsed NEET are EET	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	1	1	2	1	0	5	5

Adjusted EET	1097	738	1835		795	1277	2071		114	1270	1532	1534	1261	752	2013	6095
Adjusted NEET	89	94	183		79	85	165		38	157	150	205	186	39	225	593

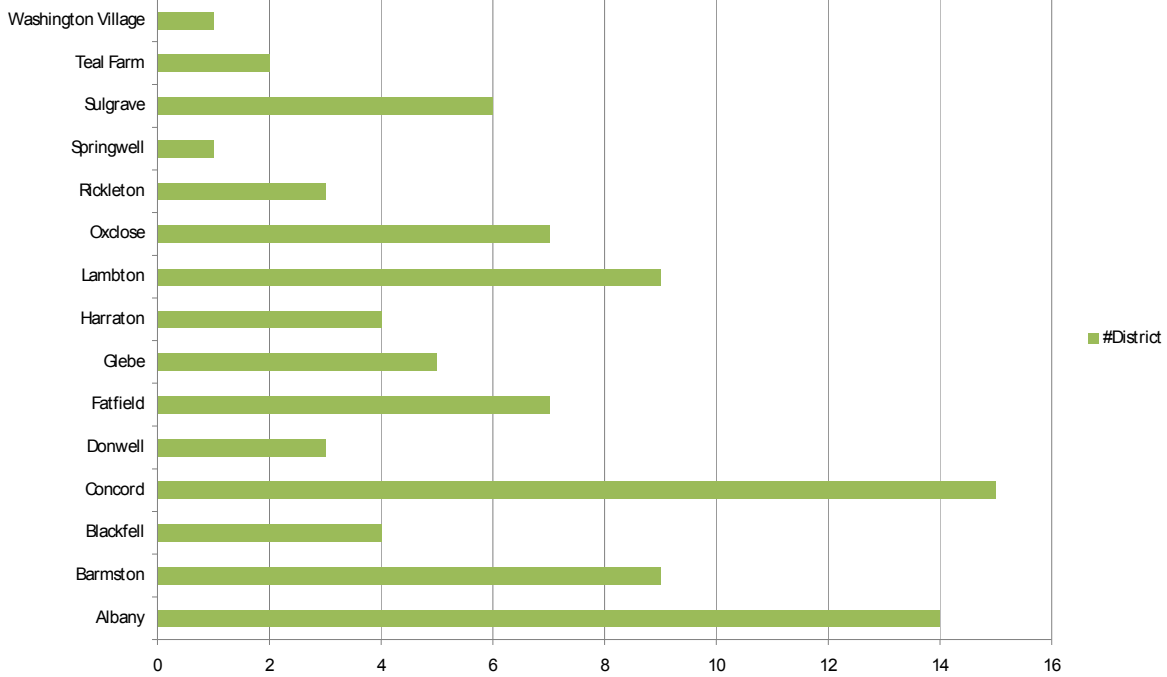
Not known %	4.1%	4.4%	4.2%		1.2%	1.0%	1.1%		7.0%	6.5%	5.5%	6.7%	7.6%	3.4%	20.1%	8.7%
Adjusted NEET%	7.5%	11.3%	9.1%		9.1%	6.3%	7.4%		25.3%	11.0%	8.9%	11.8%	12.8%	4.9%	10.1%	8.9%

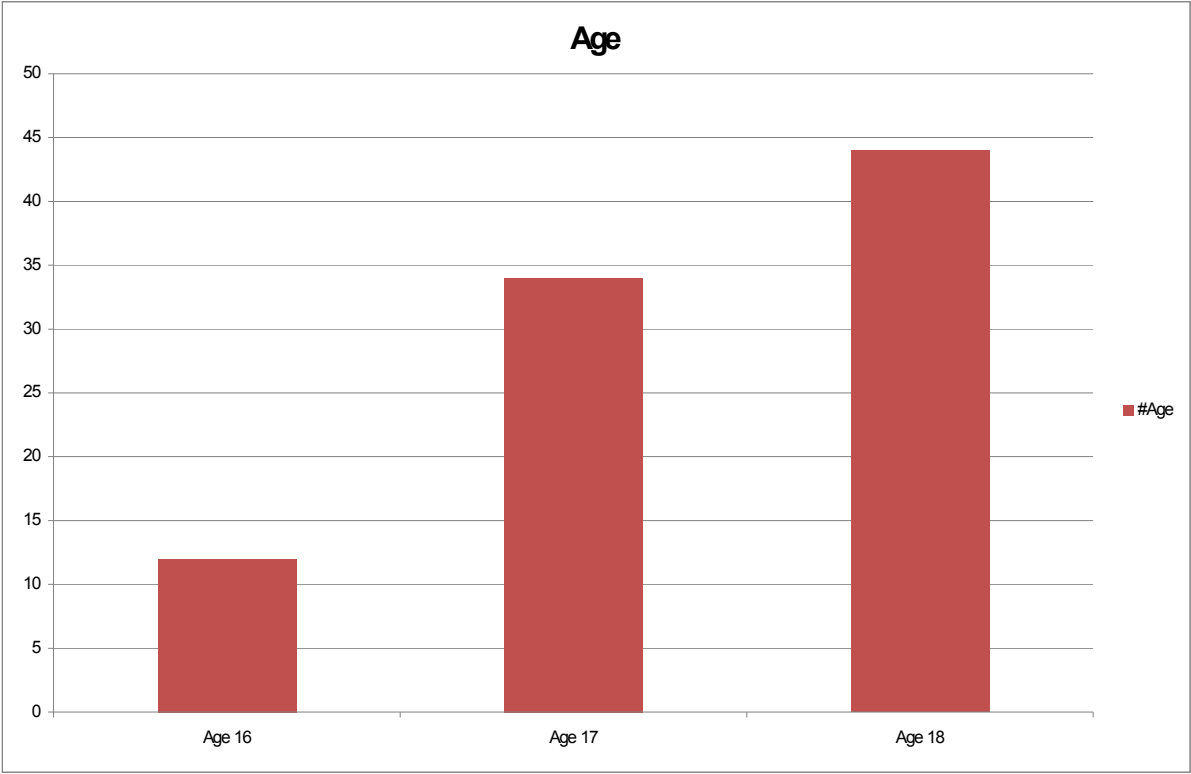
Adjusted NEET reduction needed by 28/02/11 to meet team target 8.1%	-7	26	20		8	-25	-16		26	41	14	65	69	-25	44	52
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Job Choice



District





Project Brief for Call for Projects Washington Area Committee**NEET Support & Co-ordination in Washington*****CALL FOR PROJECTS***

Washington Area Committee would like to invite all local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and statutory providers to submit a full application that will deliver support, guidance and a programme of work to assist and support Washington's young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). Applications will be considered from VCS groups who have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories. VCS groups must adhere to accounting requirements in accordance with the Companies Act.

1. Introduction and Background

- There is an opportunity for local VCS groups and statutory providers with a track record of successful delivery with young people in Washington not in employment, education and training (NEETs) to deliver a project on behalf of Washington Area Committee.
- Washington Area Committee has identified the need to increase support available to Washington's NEETs and to ensure proactive relationships are developed with local employers.
- A Task and Finish Group was formed in June 2011 to understand in more depth successful interventions and to investigate further good practice.
- Research was undertaken by the NEET Activity Co-ordinator who was appointed to research and audit provision available for Washington's NEET young people. That work has now completed and has established contact with agencies who currently provide services to young people aged 16-18 living in the Washington area, mapped the extent of current provision for young people in Washington, mapped the engagement patterns for this provision to identify areas and/or groups where participation is low, and carried out primary level research with young people, to seek their views on quality/appropriateness of 16-18 provision, possible gaps in the provision, issues of concern, etc.
- The project has identified that demand for training/apprenticeships/employment far outstrips the provision, young people on the unemployment register are active in their search for employment but lack of opportunities is hampering their progress, many young people are participating in training opportunities without access to employers and the labour market, so are ill prepared for the working environment, transport remains an issue for young people accessing training provision in Sunderland, changes to EMA and the introduction of a new bursary scheme will influence take up of training opportunities, recent cut backs and loss of programmes and new Government proposals will impact on support and opportunities available to young people, there is limited access to employers and there is a real need for more employment involvement.
- That research has also provided links to strategic and city wide approaches and plans to drive the NEET agenda, consider participation and learner support and to establish links to align activities relating to employer engagement with NEET Strategy and Planning. This has been through co-ordinating the Washington activity with the work of the City's NEET Improvement Group.
- This priority directly links to Aim 4 of the City's Economic Masterplan, which aims to put in place a strategic approach to raising skills, particularly in children and young people, in order to support the growth and development of current and prospective industries. Aim 4 also supports the target of 'Attracting and retaining young people' which has outcome of 'All children and young people in the city being suitably prepared for working life'.

- Current figures show NEET for 16-18 year olds in Washington currently stands at 7.4% which is the lowest across the city.
- In July 2011, Area Committee agreed to commission activity and seek applications from suitable groups/organisations that can create, develop and establish a collaborative project to support NEET young people, boost engagement, and increase opportunities for employment for Washington NEET young people.

2. Project Outcomes

- The project outcomes will be to promote available opportunities and provide targeted support for NEET young people.
- It will boost engagement and reduce NEET figures in Washington through improved partnership working and collaboration.
- It will evidence an approach to develop employment opportunities across a wide range of occupational areas, with a particular focus on skills development and learning opportunities for NEET young people aged 16-18.
- It will clearly identify mechanisms to work in partnership with local employers to encourage positive relationships and to develop support for local employers to encourage training and employment opportunities.
- The project will identify clear progression routes for young people.
- It will complement and add value to the current initiatives being delivered in the Washington area.
- The project submission should include details about the types and levels of support that will be provided in order to achieve the outcomes above.
- The project should be no longer than two years from the time it is approved.
- All beneficiaries of the project will reside across the Washington area.

3. Context and Key Strategies to Consider

- Sunderland City Council: Washington Local Area Plan
- Sunderland City Council: Economic Master Plan for Sunderland
- Sunderland City Council: Draft Employment Strategy for Sunderland
- Sunderland City Council: Child and Family Poverty Strategy
- Sunderland City Council: Employer's Demand Survey
- Sunderland City Council: NEET Action Plan (NEET Improvement Group)

4. Budget

- There will be a maximum overall budget of £1000,000

5. Timescale

Deadline date for return	Thursday 25th August, 2011, 12noon.
Appraisal and consultation on application	Friday 26 th August, 2011 – Tuesday 6 th September, 2011.
Results analysed and report written, including recommendations	Thursday 8 th September
Report published (online)	w/c 19 th September 2011
Area Committee (decision made)	29th September 2011

6. Quote Return

SIB Full Applications, guidance notes and scoring matrix are available from 0191 561 1162 or by emailing areacoordination@sunderland.gov.uk.

The deadline date to return the completed application (in two formats), along with necessary documents is **Thursday, 25th August 2011, 12 noon**. **Two** formats will need to be submitted.

Format One: (Hard Copy)

A signed hard copy of the application form, along with all relevant paperwork should be posted into Sunderland City Council, Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Room 3.61, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Version Two: (Electronic Copy)

An electronic copy of the application should be emailed to areacoordination@sunderland.gov.uk.

- Only Statutory or Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups can apply, see guidance notes for further information.
- After the deadline date, all received applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix and consulted upon, with recommendations being presented to Washington Area Committee to agree and endorse the recommendations outlined.

7. Queries

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate in contacting karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk or telephone 0191 561 2449.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday, 25th August 2011, 12 noon.

Project Brief for Call for Projects Washington Area Committee**Activities for Young People****CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Washington Area Committee would like to invite all local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and statutory providers to submit a full application to develop and deliver an activity programme for young people across all age groups and increase the number of children and young people participating in positive activities. Applications will be considered from VCS groups who have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories. VCS groups must adhere to accounting requirements in accordance with the Companies Act.

1. Introduction and Background

- There is an opportunity for local VCS groups and statutory providers with a track record of working with children and young people in Washington, across all age groups, to deliver a project on behalf of Washington Area Committee.
- Washington Area Committee has identified a need to carry out proactive preventative work with the younger age group of 8 – 12 year olds as well as engaging all young people and supporting them.
- In recognition of the priority given to youth activities at a city wide level, and to mitigate the impact of the ending of specific grants, the City Council has agreed to the allocation of funding for each regeneration area through Children's Services. That funding is to be allocated to fund activities in consultation with the Area Committees. That process has commenced and whilst holiday activity programmes have been identified, some of this funding still remains to be allocated
- A Task and Finish Group was formed in June 2011 to understand in more depth successful interventions and to investigate further good practice.
- That group has allocated some funding to a contracted youth provider to deliver a summer holiday activity programme and Friday Night Drop In Sessions which have proven instrumental in addressing anti social behaviour in Washington.

2. Project Outcomes

- The project outcomes will be to increase the number of children and young people accessing positive activities.
- There will be some targeting of 8 – 12 year olds whilst still addressing youth disorder and anti social behaviour across all age groups and delivering a programme of proactive preventative work.
- It will complement and add value to existing children and young people provision, for example, Sunderland City Council's commissioned youth contracts, XL mobile bus provision, local 'youth' sports clubs and uniformed youth groups.
- The Area Committee is keen to support a partnership approach which evidences collaborative working.
- The project submission should include details on how the Lead Agent will provide a programme of works that will be provided in order to achieve the outcomes above.
- All beneficiaries of the project will reside across the Washington area.

3. Context and key strategies to consider

- Sunderland City Council: Washington Area Committee Workplan & Papers
- Sunderland City Council: Children and Young People Plan
- Sunderland City Council: Let's Go website <http://www.letsgosunderland.com/>

- Sunderland City Council: Sunderland Children's Trust
<http://www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk/default.asp>

4. Budget

- There will be a maximum overall budget of £22,000

5. Timescale

Deadline date for return	Thursday 25th August, 2011, 12noon.
Appraisal and consultation on application	Friday 26 th August, 2011 – Tuesday 6 th September, 2011.
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- Only Statutory or Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups can apply, see guidance notes for further information.
- After the deadline date, all received applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix and consulted upon, with recommendations being presented to Washington Area Committee to agree and endorse the recommendations outlined.

7. Queries

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate in contacting karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk or telephone 0191 561 2449.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday, 25th August 2011, 12 noon

28 July 2011

Update on Employment and Enterprise Initiatives, including Job Linkage

1. Purpose of Report

To give an update on performance of the Job Linkage service and Enterprise activities being delivered in Washington, which have continued to be supported by the Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF).

2. Performance - Job Linkage - Engagement of out-of-work residents

The Job Linkage service continues to operate in the Washington area, from 2 centres which are located in the Galleries and in the Millennium Centre in Concorde. The service is delivered by Sunderland North Community Business Centre and is being funded by two sources of external funding – WNF and funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

There are currently **672** unemployed clients registered with Job Linkage in Washington, receiving advice and guidance on how to move closer to and into sustainable work. Looking backwards over the period of time the service has been funded by WNF (from April 2009 to June 2011), a total of **1,386** Washington residents have registered with and received support from Job Linkage.

The make-up of this group was as follows: 57% of these were male and 43% female. Predominantly they were adults aged 26-49 (47%), with 22% aged over 50, 31% were young people aged 19-25 and 7% from the NEET group, aged 16-18. 5% were from an ethnic minority background, which is higher than the city average.

1,222 clients indicated that they had dependent children. By engaging these people and supporting them off benefits and into employment, the Job Linkage service is directly impacting on the Child Poverty agenda, by potentially improving the levels of income into households with children. Of the total clients, 610 were actively seeking employment and are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance. This represents 44% of the active caseload

The balance is made up of people who are on a range of other benefits, for which there is no compulsion for them to seek employment (for example Incapacity Benefit, Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Income Support, or who are not in receipt of any employment-related benefits (supported by their family, or chosen not to claim).

The Hanlon Management Information system used within the Job Linkage Service holds a range of relevant and important data relating to the clients supported. The following data may be of interest to the Washington Area Committee members, giving a breakdown of the diversity of client groups that use the Job Linkage service in Washington.

- 301 have been jobless for over 3 years
- 162 have recently been made redundant
- 100 have never worked
- 37 have declared themselves to be ex-offenders (the true figure is likely to be higher)
- 134 are lone parents
- 111 have basic skills needs
- 158 have no qualifications
- 268 declare that they have health problems
- 75 have a physical disability
- 30 have a learning disability

- 52 have caring responsibilities

3. Performance - Job Linkage - Clients into Employment

In terms of job entries, over the same period since April 2009, **329** people have moved into employment, of which 57% were male and 43% were female. This percentage split reflects the overall engagement levels of male/female clients within Job Linkage in the Washington Area. A ward breakdown of these job entries is as follows:

Central	47 (14%)
East	56 (17%)
North	133 (41%)
South	44 (13%)
West	49 (15%)

Higher numbers in the Washington North ward reflects the additional funding from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, which has provided enhanced delivery targeted specifically at workless families living in that ward.

Looking at those successful clients in more detail, the following client profile facts may be of interest.

- 56 had been jobless for over 3 years
- 73 had recently been made redundant
- 33 were lone parents
- 5 were ex offenders
- 22 had basic skills needs
- 38 had no qualifications
- 67 had a health problem
- 10 had physical disabilities
- 8 had caring responsibilities

The above demonstrates that, whilst those clients who are closest to the labour market, in terms of recent work experience and fewer barriers move into work more easily than other, the Job Linkage service is still able to provide a valuable and effective service for the 'hardest to help' residents of Sunderland.

When considering sustainability of employment, the following statistics are available:

- Of those clients who were supported into employment by Job Linkage in Washington, 57% of jobs are currently being sustained for 13 weeks.
- When extending this period of tracking for 26 weeks, our statistics show a fall to 37% sustained. The true statistic is likely to be higher, however, as it has proven difficult to maintain contact with clients and their employers over this length of time, therefore our ability to maintain accurate data is hampered.

At a ward level, this information can be broken down as follows:

	Job sustained for 13 weeks	Job sustained for 26 weeks
Central	29 (or 62% of job entries)	22 (or 47 % of job entries)
East	29 (or 52% of job entries)	15 (or 27% of job entries)
North	74 (or 56% of job entries)	51 (or 38% of job entries)
South	26 (or 59% of job entries)	15 (or 34% of job entries)
West	31 (or 63% of job entries)	18 (or 37% of job entries)

4. Job Linkage and the Work Programme

The Job Linkage service has been successful in securing a sub-contract with one of the two Prime Contractors to deliver the Work Programme in Sunderland. This contract is with the private sector organisation, Avanta and it is expected that it will be used to support approximately 1,000 per year across the City of Sunderland. These will be people in receipt of out-of-work benefits who are actively seeking employment. As a condition of continuing to receive benefits, the clients will be referred into the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus at a set point in their claimant history. The funding model for this programme is 'payment by results' and the majority of the funding will not be paid until a client has successfully entered work and then sustained that job for a period of between 3 to 6 months. The delivery of this contract commenced nationally in June 2011 and the first clients have been referred into Job Linkage in the past few weeks.

5.0 Performance - Enterprise

Performance against the Enterprise Programme within the Washington Area Committee area for the period April 2009 to June 2011 is as follows:

- 235 residents have been registered as receiving support from business advisers.
- 81 residents have been supported to start their own business during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2011. Of these, 29 were female and 52 were male, which is slightly better than the national ratio of 2:1 for males/females setting up in business.
- In the main the businesses supported to set up are sole enterprises, and within service based areas for example, retail, hairdressers, beauty therapists, cleaners, handyman, construction, and it is clear that many are converting hobbies or interests and current skills into self employment opportunities. The majority of residents supported through the programme were unemployed before receiving support.
- 522 residents from the area have received grant support through the programme.

Karen Alexander 13 July 2011