

CONFÉRENCE DE COMPARAISONS INTERNATIONALES

LUTTE CONTRE LE DÉCROCHAGE SCOLAIRE

#CCI_Décrochage

**Understanding and analysing policy to
reduce the number of young people who are
defined as NEET**

Professor Sue Maguire
University of Bath

9 & 10 NOVEMBRE 2017

Overview of presentation

- Who is defined as NEET?
- How many young people are in the NEET group?
- Who manages NEET policy across the UK?
- Examples of interventions across the UK (past and present)
- Conclusions and recommendations

Who is included in the NEET population?

- Originally 16-18-year olds in the UK
- 16-24-year olds across the UK

Internationally:

- (15)16-24-year olds
 - (15)16-29-year olds
 - (15)16-35-year-olds
-
- Should we also include young people in marginal employment?



NEET Definition

- **Economically active (EA):**
 - (Young) People who are unemployed and actively seeking work)
- **Economically inactive (EI):**
 - (Young) People who are not in employment but are not seeking work. Reasons for inactivity include sickness (temporary and long-term), looking after family or home, student, retired and believes there are no jobs available (ONS, 2016)
- **HOWEVER** - not all countries include the EA group and some EI sub-groups in their NEET category e.g. Japan

UK NEET Figures

NEET Figures for April to June 2017:

- 790,000 young people (aged 16 to 24) in the UK
- 11.1 % of 16 to 24 year olds (down from 16.5% five years ago)
- **41%** of all NEET young people in the UK were looking for work and available for work and therefore classified as unemployed:
 - 201,000 men
 - 124,000 women
- The remainder (**59%**) were economically inactive (EI):
 - 190,000 men
 - 275,000 women aged

Source: ONS (2017) Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: Aug 2017

Who owns the NEET agenda in UK ?

■ UK wide

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) manages welfare/benefits and new Youth Obligation

■ England

- Department for Education

■ Wales

- Welsh Government

■ Scotland

- Scottish Government/Skills Development Scotland

■ Northern Ireland

- Department for the Economy

Government level - Policy

■ England

- No specific policy apart from the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA), traineeships and apprenticeships

■ Wales

- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework

■ Scotland

- Youth Employment Strategy

■ Northern Ireland

- Pathways to Success

■ Local authorities (LAs)

- Responsible for mapping and tracking under 18s and supporting NEET group to the age of 18 (apart from young people with SEND)

Youth Engagement and Progression Framework

- **Welsh government**
- NEET prevention and re-engagement (16-24 year olds)
- 6 components
 - identify young people most at risk of disengagement
 - provide better brokerage and co-ordination of support
 - provide stronger tracking and transition of young people through the system
 - ensure provision meets the needs of young people
 - strengthen employability skills and opportunities for employment
 - provide greater accountability for better outcomes for young people
- Local authorities have the key leadership role

Activity Agreements: Pilot phase (2006-11)

- Trialled in **England**, eventually became policy in **Scotland**
- Tested the importance of 3 components in re-engaging the long-term NEET population:
 - **Financial incentives**
£20 per week payment to young person, £30 per week to young person, £20 per week to parents/carers
 - **Intensive support**
Low caseloads important as well as the development of one-to-one individual contact
 - **Individualised learning**
 - Commissioning tailored/ 'learner led' provision
 - demand for interpersonal skills and motivation to explore options within the local learning/training market

Activity Agreements: Evaluation methodology

The evaluation had three strands:

■ Quantitative Evaluation

- Survey data and differences analysis between pilot and control areas

■ Process Evaluation

- Case studies in all initial pilot areas

■ Programme Theory Evaluation

- In-depth individual studies to explore different aspects of policy delivery

- The evaluation extensions of **2008-2010** were subject to smaller evaluations than the **2006-2008** period and were based on survey and case-study methods

Activity Agreements: Evaluation results

- 3 months after participation, 49% of participants were engaged in education and employment related activities (36% in the control group)
- 28% of participants were studying towards a qualification, compared to 20% in the comparison group
- The three sides of the Activity Agreement triangle were equally important
 - The Allowance
 - The Activities
 - the Personal Adviser
- Programme deadweight was estimated around **72%**

Role of charities and philanthropic organisations

- National, regional and local initiatives, e.g.
 - The Prince's Trust
 - National Lottery
 - Foundations, such as:
 - Berkeley Foundation (London), EY Foundation (London), and Robertson Foundation (Scotland)
 - Local charities, such as:
 - TwentyTwenty (Midlands), funded by Private Equity Foundation (PEF) Impetus
- Use of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) in NEET interventions

'Unknown' Destinations

- Unknown or unrecorded destinations are associated with under 18s group
- For the over 18s group, registration is linked to benefit/welfare receipt
- **57%** of NEETs aged 15–24 years were not registered with the Public Employment Service (PES)
 - Analysis of EU Labour Force Survey 2013 (Eurofound, 2015)
- Nearly **70 per cent** of the NEET and EI population (both males and females) in the UK are claiming benefits, compared to approximately **50 per cent** of the NEET and EA/unemployed population (54% of men and 42% of women)
 - (Maguire and McKay, 2016)

Conclusions

- Extension of the term 'NEET' has not coincided with significant policy expansion
- Increasing numbers of young people in England have unrecorded destinations and/or fail to register for welfare support
- There is no coherent NEET strategy across the UK.
- There are many good examples of effective practice across the UK
- Interventions are 'localised' and in England they are increasingly reliant on charities and philanthropy
- Questions remain about the future of interventions which are currently supported by EU funding
- Does the term NEET measure or disguise the scale of youth disengagement and disaffection?

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How the NEET group is defined, quantified and supported in the UK

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