From ‘NEET’ to ‘Ready to Work’:
Removing Barriers and Raising Aspirations for Young People

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Tuesday 22nd November 2011
10:15am – 4:30pm
Central London

Public Policy Exchange, in association with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
From ‘NEET’ to ‘Ready for Work’:
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Overview

Whilst damaging long-term employment prospects, being young and not in education, employment or training (NEET) is also associated with negative outcomes later in life, including reduced earnings, poor health and depression. Although the proportion of 16-18 years olds in the UK who are NEET has fallen to 7.3 per cent, the number of 19-24 year olds classed as NEET has risen to 18.8 per cent bringing the total number of NEETS aged 16-24 to nearly 1 million and above the OECD international average (Education at a Glance 2011: OECD Indicators; OECD 2011).

Underlining its commitment to significantly reduce the number of NEETS in the UK, the Government has created a record number of places in education and training for 2011-12 and an additional 75,000 apprenticeships at a national level. Stressing the importance of providing tailored support services for the NEET population at a local level, the Government has pledged funding for the new Early Intervention Grant. Its core aim is to strengthen local efforts to encourage, enable and assist young people at risk of disengagement to participate in education and training, alongside the new Work Programme, which will provide personalised support and training to help unemployed young people into work.

Recognising the need to also improve young people’s skills and strengthen the vocational education system in the UK, the Government has accepted the recommendations set out in Professor Wolf’s Review of Vocational Education (April 2011), including ensuring that every young person leaves school or college with a good grasp of English and Maths and to raise the participation age to 18 by 2015. The Government will also work closely with schools, colleges, universities and businesses to ensure that vocational courses and apprenticeships are worthwhile and will lead on to good jobs with career progression or higher education.

This special symposium offers an invaluable opportunity for practitioners and other key stakeholders to examine the next steps in reducing the UK’s NEET population through supporting young people at risk of disengagement, improving the skills and qualifications of young people and re-engaging those not in education, employment or training.

Why Attend?

✓ Explore the next steps to reduce the NEET population, removing barriers to education and raising young people’s aspirations
✓ Consider how to better identify young people at risk of disengagement and provide tailored support
✓ Examine how to boost young people’s basic skills and ensure training and education is effective
✓ Discuss how to work in partnership to increase efficiency, cost-effectiveness and standards
✓ Share best practice in local work to re-engage NEETs

Who Should Attend?

• Schools, Colleges and Further Education Providers
• NEET Strategy Teams
• Learning Providers and Councils
• Connexions and Jobcentre Plus
• Employment and Training Services
• Education Business Partnerships
• Apprenticeship and Skills Teams
• Careers Teams
• Central and Local Government
• Employer Engagement Teams
• Employment and Enterprise Teams
• Work-Based Learning Teams
• Vocational Learning
• Youth Participation and Engagement Teams
• HR and Workforce Development Teams
• Organisational Development Teams
• Children and Youth Services
• Adult and Community Services
• Local Strategic Partnerships
• Education Development Teams
• Education Welfare Teams
• EOTAS Teams
• Economic Development Teams
• Social and Rural Enterprise Teams
• Alternative Provision Teams
• 14-19 Partnership Teams
• LEA Teams
• Teenage Pregnancy Teams
• YOTs and DAATs
• Children in Care and Leaving Care Teams
• SEN Teams
• Behaviour and Attendance Teams
• Inclusion Teams
• Social Services Teams
• Housing Service Providers
• Homelessness Teams
• Third Sector, Voluntary and Community Organisations
• DfE, BIS, DWP, DH

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit [www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/](http://www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/).

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call Daniel Spinner at HotelMap, on 020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code MSNUZ.

Studying at college, sixth form or in work-based training helps young people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to access higher education or secure good jobs. So it is good news that the highest ever proportion of young people were in education or training at the end of last year. Despite today’s figures, much still needs to be done to ensure that we continue to reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training – and to ensure the courses they take are of a high quality. We recently accepted all of the recommendations made in Professor Wolf’s review to transform vocational education for young people and will publish a cross-government strategy later in the year to set out how we will improve post-16 participation further. We have also made clear our commitment to raising the participation age, so that all young people are in education or training by 2015.”

- Children’s Minister, June 2011

Enquiries: 0845 606 1535
www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk
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Programme

09:30  Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15  Chair’s Welcome and Introduction
10:30  Panel Session One:
        Removing Barriers and Raising Aspirations: The Next Steps Towards Reducing the NEET Population
        • The National Picture – Exploring Latest Policy and Funding Packages
        • Early Intervention – Identifying and Targeting Young People at Risk of Disengagement
        • Community Action – Engaging, Supporting and Encouraging Young People through Community-Led Projects
        • Removing Barriers to Education, Training and Volunteering, Improving Transitional Arrangements and Providing Financial Support and Career Advice
        • Shaping Education and Training Provision to Better Meet the Needs of Young People

11:15  Morning Refreshments
11:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30  Networking Lunch
13:30  Panel Session Two:
        Education, Training and Apprenticeships: Working in Partnership to Improve Outcomes for Young People
        • Ensuring Every Young Person Leaves School With the Basic Standard GCSEs and Skills Necessary to Succeed
        • Improving Access to Worthwhile Vocational Education – Guaranteeing Every Young Person Secures Suitable Training or Education
        • Expanding Apprenticeships and Strengthening the Content and Structure to Deliver the Right Skills for the Workplace
        • Improving Joined-Up Working between LA’s, Providers and Business at a Local Level to Increase Efficiency, Cost-Effectiveness and Standards
        • Re-Engaging NEETS - Sharing Best Practice and Learning from the Pilots

14:15  Afternoon Refreshments
14:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40  Networking Reception
16:30  Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

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Time:  10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue:  Central London

Forthcoming Events

Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace: Supporting Mental Health and Combating Sickness Absenteeism
11th October 2011

The 2nd Annual Looked-After Children Symposium: Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Young People
12th October 2011

Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Tackling Childhood Obesity
13th October 2011

Broken Britain? Working in Partnership to Tackle Serious Youth Violence
18th October 2011

International Student Recruitment: Understanding and Working with the Points Based Immigration System
19th October 2011

19th October 2011

Tackling Hate Crime in Every Local Community: Working in Partnership to Confront Disability-Related Harassment
2nd November 2011

Working in Partnership to Transform Child Protection: Delivering a Child-Centred System
3rd November 2011

Recruiting Non-UK Nationals: Understanding and Working with the Points Based Immigration System
9th November 2011

Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Confronting Parental Alcohol Misuse and its Effect on Children
10th November 2011

Patient Safety in the NHS: Achieving World-Class Healthcare Outcomes For All
16th November 2011

Child Health and Well-being: Strengthening the Role of Health Visitors
29th November 2011

Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact Parvin Madahar on 020 3137 8633 or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

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**Conference materials**

If you are unable to attend the conference but would like to receive the supporting documentation, then please send back this form with payment details and indicate the number of copies you would like to receive. (PDF = £95 & VAT, Hard Copy = £95 (VAT not applicable).)

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**Signed**

**Date**

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