

Torbay Council Overview and Scrutiny

Review of Youth Unemployment

Careers South West

- **What is the role of your agency? What are its aims and targets? Are these being achieved?**

Careers South West aims to help people engage in learning and work through providing careers information, advice and guidance. We have a number of contracts – the 2 main contracts of relevance to youth unemployment are:

- Contract with Torbay Local Authority, mostly around helping young people who are vulnerable make a successful transition to learning and work
- We are also the prime contractor for the National Careers Service which works primarily with people aged 19 plus to provide careers information and advice.

The targets for both main contracts were met in the 2011 / 12 delivery year. The targets for the Local Authority contract were both volume targets (ie how many interviews, group sessions, employer visits etc) and outcome targets – reducing the percentage of young people aged 16-18 who are not engaged in education, employment and training (NEET) and whose status is Not Known.

The targets of the National Careers Service were around the number of advice sessions delivered to clients and the number of clients who progressed into a positive destination. In both cases targets were exceeded.

- **What is your relationship with employers?**

Careers South West works directly with employers through the Devon Education Business Partnership Contract which also covers the Torbay area. This Contract offers support to schools and colleges in finding work experience placements for pupils and other curriculum support. Careers South West also works directly with employers in finding candidates for vacancies, including apprenticeships.

- **What services do you provide to young people?**

Careers information, advice and guidance services and personal support to help with the transition from education to work and learning.

- **What initiatives are provided / funded through your organisation?**

Careers South West has a wide range of contracts including the Local Authority and NCS contracts mentioned above. We also work with the Local Authority to deliver some research projects (eg into why young people

disengage from learning) and run initiatives such as the Torbay Employers' Apprenticeship Reward Scheme which offered incentive payments to employers who took on an apprentice for the first time.

- **Have you undertaken any mapping exercise of initiatives in Torbay? Or the funding for initiatives?**

To ensure that our information, advice and guidance is current we make sure our advisers have full, in depth knowledge of the learning provision and other options that are available to young people in Torbay.

- **How sustainable are the initiatives that you provide?**

Our contract with the Local Authority is for a 2 year period with a re-contracting process after the first year. The National Careers Service Contract is for 2 years. Other initiatives and projects are short term, often one off pieces of research.

- **How well do you think your organisation integrates with others in Torbay that are providing similar services?**

Careers South West has a strong history of partnership working. Prior to the current contracts we operated the Connexions Service which required strong, in depth partnerships working with a range of agencies, supported by partnership agreements and information sharing protocols. We work very closely with the Local Authority and have individual partnership agreements with all secondary schools and colleges in the Bay.

- **How well do you work with the wider community partnership?**

See above – Careers South West also contributes to the Safeguarding Children's Board, The Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and a range of other community forums.

- **What is your role with the local economic partnership? How well do you think this is working?**

Careers South West is a member of the Torbay and South Devon Employment and Skills Board which feeds into the LEP. It is perhaps a little early to say how well the LEP is working but we would welcome further involvement in its development.

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