

Pre-NEET and Re-engagement Education Work

Undertaken by the 14-19 Team within Children's Services, Torbay Council

Below is a flavour of some of the pre-NEET's work that the local authority (14-19 Team) undertake with schools, South Devon College, external training providers, employers and other agencies:-

Accredited Vocational Education at KS4 and KS5 (*funded by schools and DSG – practical learning*) In 2011/2012 there are 21 different Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQ's) covering 9 different employment sectors offered to KS4 (14-16 year olds) across Torbay.

- Qualifications range from Entry Level to Level 2 (A*-C equivalent)
- Each qualification offers progression to the next level
- Some consideration given to local employment needs
- From 2008 -2011 there was expansion of training provider base, prompting the 14-19 Team to support them with high quality training in professional development and safeguarding

Impact –

- Between 700- 800 learners (mainly level1) access VRQ's annually (some reduction since Sept 2011)
- Average annual pass rate – 96% (97.2% in 2011)
- Average annual retention rate – 91% (94.5% in 2011) – strongly suggests that young people are enjoying and valuing these courses
- VRQ's added 26489 performance points to Torbay school's attainment tables in 2011 (it is likely that those learners who gained these would not have done so in more academic related subjects)
- Some schools invested heavily in a range of resources to deliver VRQ's (Combe Pafford, TCC, PCSC and Westlands). In some cases it involves modern resource and courses taught by well qualified vocationally trained tutors. SDC provide 14-16 year olds with access to their industry standard facilities and staff that were originally developed for post-16 training.
- Recognised as contributory factor in raising attendance and reducing exclusion

KS4 Foundation Learning (FL) programme (*funded by schools and DSG – practical learning and Early Intervention Grant*):

This requires a degree of personalised learning that matches the need of the learner. These programmes have been successful with the most disaffected and challenging young people in Torbay.

Personalised learning is founded on a concentrated diet of –

- Core and functional skills including Literacy, Numeracy and IT
- Work related Learning – including work experience and VRQ's as above
- Personal, Social education – focussing on ambition, motivation, accountability, employability and personal responsibility
- Other interests including GCSE's as appropriate

Impact –

- over 240 of the most challenging and vulnerable learners on flexible FL courses throughout the year ;
- 205 predicted to pass Skills for Progression qualifications in 2012
- FL programmes recognised as a contributory factor in Torbay's low NEET's
- Greater numbers of young people are more confident (and ready) to access further education at 16

KS3 and KS2 Intervention through a new learning support programme (PULSE) based at Parkfield (*funded by schools and Behaviour and attendance funding and Early Intervention funding*)

Still in its first year, the project has received plaudits both locally and regionally for it's approach to tackling poor attitudes to learning. It's an early intervention strategy with the focus on positive attitudes to learning and the future including employment

Impact –

- Early data shows that a significant majority of pupils are returning to schools with refreshed attitudes
- LA looking to increase capacity of programme to include harder to reach pupils
- **Effective innovation that directly tackles youth unemployment** - LA secured funding to employ 5 x 17/18 year old NEET's as f/t trainee learning support assistants whilst working towards a level 2 pre-Apprenticeship qualification.

Raising of the Participation Age roll out in 2013. Torbay has been successful in its application for 1 year's grant funding from the DfE for locally led delivery projects to trial a number of initiatives around RPA (*successful bid for DfE direct funding*)

Impact (intended) –

- To increase levels of supported post-16 transition for level 1 learners in attempt to increase post-16 retention in learning and therefore reduce NEET levels.
- To plug the gap in 'Employment with Training' opportunities locally by trialling an 'Earn as you Learn' programme (similar to that at PULSE)

Increased Local Employer Engagement with disaffected young people

Still in its first year after the recruitment of suitable and caring employers to form the Torbay Employers Group Foundation Learning Work Experience scheme. It targets those KS4 young people most in danger of exclusion. The scheme offers learners an extended work experience placement of one day per week (throughout the school year), integral to 5 day individual personalised timetables created by the school.. Young people get real working experience with supportive employers and a Level 1 qualification in employability skills.

Impact –

- 15 learners gained skills for employment qualification in the first year
- 2 participants offered jobs with training through their placement 'employer'
- scheme gaining local recognition eg one employer and one learner were both category winners at the South Devon Skills Awards event in March 2012
- Demand is there to expand the scheme from Sept 2012

- During his self- assessment procedure one learner stated - *“If it wasn’t for my work experience day with Jason at the zoo I wouldn’t still be in school. I’m not sure that I’d even be living at home. Jason has given me confidence and belief that I have a future.....I’m applying to college now for a place on animal care”*.

Foundation Learning and PETROC (NEETS Engagement Programme) *ESF funded*

In addition to mainstream further education courses, South Devon College offer a range of bespoke courses for young people delivered away from the main campus. Careers South West identify and refer young people to this provision through caseload management. PETROC provision is ESF funded, subcontracted to South Devon College, with small numbers also at Prince’s Trust and Westward Pathfinder.

Transition Support for young people to education, employment and training

Torbay Council has commissioned work under this contract (*funded from Early Intervention Grant*) in respect of learner tracking, IAG and support for vulnerable groups, including S139as – (see above). At age 19 NEETs move to JCP support

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