

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION -  
LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 5th November, 2009**

**10.00 am**

Darent Room,  
Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone Kent







## AGENDA

# CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, 5 November 2009 at 10.00 am**  
**Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall,**  
**Maidstone Kent**

Ask for: **Christine Singh**  
Telephone: **01622 694334**

*Tea/coffee will be available before the meeting*

### **Membership**

- Conservative (11): Mr K Smith (Chairman), Mr R B Burgess, Mr N J Collor, Mr J Cubitt, Mr P J Homewood, Mr M J Jarvis, Mr J Ozog, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr W Richardson, Mr J Wedgbury and Mr A Wickham
- Liberal Democrat (1): Mr M J Vye (Vice-Chairman)
- Church Representatives (3): The Reverend N Genders, The Reverend Canon J L Smith and Dr D Wadman
- Parent Governor (2): Mr O Poole and Mr P Myers
- Teacher Advisers (6): Mr T Desmoyers-Davies, Mrs J Huckstep, Miss S Kemsley, Mr R Straker, Mr S Thompson and Mr J Walder

### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

*(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)*

**Item  
No**

**Timings\***

#### **A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- |    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| A1 | Substitutes   | 10.00 am |
| A2 | Declaration of interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting   |          |
| A3 | Future Meeting Dates 2010<br>Members are asked to note the revised meeting dates for this Committee for 2010 as set out below:<br>Friday, 15 January ( <i>Joint meeting of all 3 POCs</i> )<br>Tuesday, 23 February<br>Thursday, 20 May<br>Thursday, 16 September 2.00 pm |          |

*(All meetings will commence at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated)*

- |    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| A4 | Minutes - 18 September 2009 (Pages 1 - 4) | 10.10 am |
|----|---|----------|

## **B. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- |    |   |                |
|----|---|----------------|
| B1 | Deputy Lead Member's and Learning Director's Update                                   | 10.10-10.30 am |
| B2 | Gifted and Talented Education (Pages 5 - 10)  | 10.30-11.15 am |
| B3 | Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) in Kent (Pages 11 - 20) | 11.15-12.00 pm |
| B4 | Future Agenda Items - Verbal  | 12.00-12:15 pm |

## **C. SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

- |    |   |                |
|----|---|----------------|
| C1 | Select Committee - Update (Pages 21 - 22) | 12.15-12.20 pm |
|----|---|----------------|

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

*(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)*

*\*All timings are approximate*

Peter Sass  
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership  
(01622) 694002

**Wednesday, 28 October 2009**

*Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.*

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

---

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - LEARNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children, Families & Education - Learning and Development Policy Overview Committee held at Sessions House on Friday, 18th September, 2009.

PRESENT: Mr R B Burgess, Mr N Collor, Mr J Cubitt, Mr P J Homewood, Mr M J Jarvis, Mr J Ozog, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr W Richardson, Mr K Smith, Mr J Wedgbury, Mr A Wickham and Mr M J Vye

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES: Dr D Wadman

TEACHER ADVISERS: Mr T Desmoyers-Davies, Mrs J Huckstep and Mr J Walder

PRESENT: Mrs J Whittle

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms S Dunn (Head of 14-24 Innovation Unit), Ms D Fitch (Assistant Democratic Service Manager (Policy Overview)), Mrs A Gamby (Head of Early Years & Childcare), Ms P Harris (Head of Service) and Mrs M White (Head of Extended Services)

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

**3. Election of Chairman**  
*(Item. A2)*

Mr N Collor moved, seconded by Mr R Pascoe, that Mr Kit Smith be elected Chairman of the Committee.

*Agreed without a vote*

Mr Smith thereupon took the Chair.

**4. Election of Vice Chairman**  
*(Item. A3)*

Mr J Ozog moved, seconded by Mr J Wedgbury, that Mr M Vye be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

*Agreed without a vote*

**5. Dates of Future Meetings 2009/10**  
*(Item. A5)*

The Committee noted the dates of its future meetings, as follows:

Thursday, 5 November 2009  
Friday, 15 January 2010 - *all 3 CFE POCs*  
Thursday, 1 July 2010

Friday, 17 September 2010 - 2.00 pm

Tuesday, 23 November 2010

It was requested that a term time date be found for the proposed April meeting.

All meetings will start at 10.00 am.

## **6. Areas of Focus for Future Meetings**

*(Item. B1)*

(1) Mr Smith introduced Mrs Whittle, Deputy Cabinet Member (Learning) and invited her to set out any areas that she would like the POC to include in their work programme.

(2) Members were then invited to identify any areas of work where they thought that the POC could have an impact on the work of the County Council.

(3) The following were identified as issues for consideration at future meetings:-

- Transition from Primary to Secondary School
- 14 -24 provision
- Universal coverage of children's centres.
- Performance at Key Stage 2 and reasons for low attainment.
- Support from KCC staff for early years settings.
- The creative curriculum.
- Safe and Secure learning environment
- Leadership in Schools
- Extended schools

(4) The teacher representatives requested that they, and the other co-opted members of the Committee, be invited to attend any school visits with Committee Members.

(5) There was agreement that some meetings of this Committee should be held at appropriate venues such as an Academy, a Skills Centre or a further education college.

(6) RESOLVED that the items suggested for future meetings be considered further at the agenda discussion meeting.

## **7. Children's Centres and Extended Schools Progress Update**

*(Item. B2)*

(1) Ms Gamby and Mrs White introduced a report which updated Members on progress to date and future plans for Children's Centres and Extended Schools in Kent. Members were invited to ask questions and make comments, which included the following:-

- The importance of there being an awareness of the impact that Children Centres can have on the private and voluntary sector in their area was highlighted. It was important that they were encouraged to co-operate with each other for mutual benefit.
- It was important to ensure that providing cover for the Extended School did not distract teaching staff from their core duties.
- Mrs White assured Members that although a number of schools delivered their extended services by signposting this was done in a proactive way.
- The issue of the community use of school facilities during school holidays was mentioned.
- Clarification was sought as to whether the Temple Hill Children's Centre was in the Dover West Local Children Services Partnership as stated in Appendix 1.

(2) The Chairman requested that any information requested by a Member at a Meeting should be circulated to all POC Members and that there should be a flow of information to POC Members between Members.

(3) RESOLVED that (a) the report and the comments made by Members as set out in the Minutes be noted; (b) the outcomes from the information provided to the DCSF by each Children's Centre against set targets be provided to the POC at the appropriate time.

## **8. Education Performance 2009 - Key Stage and GCSE Headline Results** (Item. B3)

(1) Ms Harris introduced a paper which set out the GCSE and Key Stage provisional performance in 2009. The validated figures would be available later in the year. Ms Harris reminded Members that there was a new framework of inspection which was tough on achievement. There were a number of Kent schools, especially those in disadvantaged areas who would not be able to achieve more than a "satisfactory" as an outcome. In order to mitigate the negative impact that this could have on school moral it was important that there was an understanding of the reasons behind this.

(2) It was requested that consideration be given to benchmarking the current effect of the recession on learning and skills.

(3) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and a more detailed report be submitted in Spring 2010 when all the validated results were available. It was requested that this report should set out the Kent context and provide information on the gap in performance of specific groups such as LAC and SEN.

## **9. Update on the Transition process for the transfer of funding to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and information on the sub regional strategic decision making process for 16+ provision in Kent & Medway.** (Item. B4)

(1) Ms Dunn introduced a report which provided an update on the current developments relating to 16+ transition. The report outlined progress made to date

on the transfer of functions from the LSC to the local authority and gave information about the proposed sub regional decision making process.

(2) Member made comments and asked questions which included the following:-

- A view was expressed that the freedom pass should be extending to include all young people in further education at least, and to include rail travel as well.
- Vocational training should be relevant to local employment needs.
- All areas should ensure that there are meaningful pathways to further education.

(3) Members requested that an induction into 14 – 24 provision be arranged for them.

(4) RESOLVED that the report and the comments made by Members be noted.

By: Gifted and Talented Adviser, Advisory Service Kent

To: CFE: Learning and Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 5 November 2009

Subject: Gifted and Talented Education

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Kent is an active partner in both national and regional initiatives for gifted and talented education. 2009 has been a very busy year in the training and development necessary to raise children's attainment. 2010 promises both challenge and appropriate change for all schools as they continue to strive for improvement in opportunity and achievement.

## **1. National Initiatives:**

### **a) National Challenge Gifted and Talented (G&T) Pilot Programme**

All schools in Kent have a commitment to support Gifted and Talented young people, and establish their own criteria for identifying their top 10% of students. Funding to support Gifted and Talented is delegated to schools as part of the Standards Fund Grant, falling within the 'personalisation' element of the grant. Allocation of this funding is a decision for individual Headteachers and their governing bodies.

Five National Challenge schools in Kent (Towers, North, Sittingbourne Community, Canterbury High and Chaucer) have been selected by their National Challenge Advisors to take part in a nationally funded pilot for Gifted and Talented pupils. (*National Challenge schools are ones who, prior to 2008, had not reached 30% of students achieving at 5 A\*-C grades including English and mathematics.*) These five schools were identified against the following criteria:

- Capable leadership with capable leading teacher for Gifted and Talented provision
- At least 25% of pupils achieving 5 or more A\* - C GCSEs including English and Maths with an improving trend of results
- Average or higher than average number of children eligible for Free School Meals
- A mixed intake in terms of ethnicity and socio-economic background
- Identified under-achievement of gifted and talented learners in terms of progression across Key Stages
- Potential to improve provision, strengthen and raise standards

The specific aim of the pilot is to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds during Key Stage 4, who would have fallen into the Gifted and Talented criteria if it were not for the circumstances that they face.

Each of the five schools involved in the pilot has created a focus group of sixteen current Year 10 students from the G&T Register who receive Free School Meals and/or have been identified as being from a disadvantaged background. They will receive additional support over the two years of Key Stage 4. Each school is currently working with their National Challenge Advisers on specific strategies, for example personalised provision which could include 1:1 mentoring, specialist support in English and/or Mathematics, or aspirational talks/activities linked to Higher Education. All students will be tracked and monitored in six-weekly cycles.

An additional group from a wider background will also be part of the programme, as part of strategies to raise attainment across the school. At the end of the programme, strategies will be disseminated across the county and country. Very successful schools from the programme may become eligible for specialist status.

### **b) Gifted and Talented Specialist Status**

Three Kent schools: Chatham House Grammar School for Boys, Dartford Grammar School and Invicta Grammar School have been accepted as Lead Schools for Gifted and Talented in cohort 2. These schools have been identified by the high attainment of their students. Their role is to work alongside the Local Authority in promoting Gifted and Talented initiatives and supporting colleagues by developing the role of the Leading Teachers, working collaboratively with staff and students from other schools and designing innovative ways to develop provision for gifted and talented students in all Key Stages. They are also expected to contribute to the national Schools Network, through sharing resources, case studies and ideas online and at conferences.

A Local Authority (LA) officer is currently meeting each school's Leading Teacher to discuss the role of the school in its new designation. All three schools will meet in early December to plan and develop a coordinated support programme.

### **c) National Strategies Local Authority Gifted and Talented Lead meetings**

A LA officer represents Kent three times a year at meetings held in London to receive information and training from the National Strategies Gifted and Talented team. Key priorities for Kent are established and action planning for the dissemination and development of those priorities is completed at the meeting.

Key priorities for all Local Authorities this year include: Identifying gaps and supporting achievement of G&T pupils from vulnerable and under-represented groups; using Classroom Quality Standards to improve classroom provision for underachieving G&T pupils; developing local capacity to support G&T improvement; improve G&T education in LAs and schools through effective use of online support, resources and Continuous Professional Development; make effective use of Assessment for Learning to improve provision and outcomes for G&T learners; mainstream gifted and talented education to improve provision and outcomes for G&T learners and raise attainment at the higher levels; develop and support self-evaluation and improvement for G&T provision at LA and school level; support schools in continuing to develop the role and impact of leading teachers for G&T education; development of effective strategies for raising attainment of G&T pupils as part of the National Challenge Programme; development of whole-school 'excellence for all' strategies designed to support raising attainment of all pupils.

The Regional Adviser has visited Kent on three occasions in the last year and is pleased with the work we are doing and our good progress against Quality Standards.

#### **d) Young Gifted and Talented**

Young Gifted and Talented (YGT), the 4-19 Student Academy that replaced National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) in September 2007, will not have its contract renewed from April 2010. Some of the work will be transferred to National Strategies until April 2011. Much of the responsibility for G&T developments will be delegated to the Regional Partnerships and Local Authorities to work with the schools to ensure that appropriate provision is made available in the classroom of each school. This will place the schools and Local Authority as the central point of all gifted and talented planning and development answering directly to the DCSF.

#### **e) White Paper**

Many schools currently have issues regarding disclosure to students and parents of the membership of the Gifted and Talented register and the subsequent provision for those students. The Register comprises the students who have been identified as the potentially most able in their school. There is a guideline of identifying approximately 10% of students, who should then have appropriate provision to challenge and support them towards high attainment. The White Paper's comments on disclosure will have many implications for those schools and support will need to be built into training sessions. The Regional Partnership has already begun discussing generic support for the whole region to enable a consistency of approach that satisfies the key points of the White Paper.

#### **f) New Ofsted Framework**

In the new Ofsted Inspection arrangements, the section on the quality of learning and progress mentions that they will look at significant groups – Gifted and Talented is a significant group - and the LA has been advising school coordinators on good practice to ensure that appropriate tracking and monitoring of identified children is in place.

#### **g) National Gifted and Talented E-Forum**

Several Kent school coordinators/Leading Teachers attended the October 2009 launch and training session in London with an officer from the LA. Eventually a wider group of schools will be invited to join this on-line discussion group. The aim of the forum is for professionals to discuss current issues on a time-limited basis to share expertise, good practice and understanding.

#### **h) John Stannard – National Champion for Gifted and Talented**

John has indicated that he would like to visit Kent and see first hand some of the excellent good practice in our schools. As National Champion, he will initially meet the Director for CFE and discuss how Kent schools are working to raise attainment prior to visiting some schools that are good examples of exemplary practice. He has already heard of our successful work in schools and it will be a superb boost for those schools to be part of his visit to Kent and will enhance the reputation of the whole Local Authority.

## **2. Regional Initiatives**

### **a) South East Regional Partnership**

Representatives from all Local Authorities in the South East meet four times a year as a “think tank” discussing policies and strategies based on national initiatives and local needs. Kent is represented at the meetings.

During the year, many Kent students have taken advantage of the weekend and holiday courses coordinated by the Regional Partnership across the South East. Parents and students have been very positive about the experience. The LA is encouraging schools to act as host venues for these enrichment courses to enable more localised provision for the young people.

Some Kent parents attended the Regional Partnership’s Parents Conference one Saturday earlier this year at Winchester University. Roger Silk presented a workshop on Provision in the Classroom. The Partnership organised a Professionals conference in Oxford in July and ten Kent teachers and Roger Silk attended. One Kent primary school teacher gave a presentation about some good practice at her school.

### **b) Professional Visits**

The Regional Partnership coordinates opportunities for Leading Teachers and school coordinators to identify their school’s areas of strength and for development. Participating schools act both as hosts for colleagues who would like to see examples of good practice but are also given the opportunity to visit other schools to enable them to improve their own areas for development.

## **3. County initiatives**

### **a) Leading Teacher training sessions**

There was one training session per seasonal term during the last academic year. The autumn session concentrated on moderating the Institutional Quality Standards, a whole-school self-evaluation tool, and the multi-cultural aspects of gifted and talented education. There was also a workshop for new to role colleagues. The spring session included training in the new Classroom Quality Standards and sharing of good practice in key areas: use of data, working with colleagues in schools, communicating with parents/carers, enrichment and lesson observations. The summer session had input from the Kent Children’s University and the S.E. Regional Partnership followed by colleagues reviewing the progress of G&T work during 2008-9 and then planning for 2009-10.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> 2009, there was a half-day training session for 78 new to role Leading Teachers and school coordinators; the programme included: Overview of the role of Leading Teacher and School Coordinator; Working with Others; Identification and the G&T Register; Provision and Resources; National Quality Standards: a) Institutional Quality Standards (IQS) and b) Classroom Quality Standards (CQS) and a Q&A session.

### **b) Partnership networking meetings for school co-ordinators**

During the year the Partnerships with primary school Leading Teachers have had networking meetings at least once per seasonal term led by the Leading Teacher(s) with

support as required by the LA. In partnerships without a primary school Leading Teacher at the start of the year, the LA organised the networking meetings, recruiting and training new Leading Teachers during the year. In many partnerships, there is close liaison between Roger Silk and the Primary Excellence Project Headteachers.

The secondary Leading Teachers meet in a number of partnerships and several cross-school events have taken place within partnerships. It is planned to ensure that not only do all secondary Leading Teachers meet in Partnership or Local Learning Network groups during this year but that cross-phase meetings are built into partnership planning.

### **c) Quality Standards**

All schools have had the opportunity to attend training in the use of the **Institutional Quality Standards**; this whole-school self-evaluation tool enables the collation of evidence to support analysis and action planning. The **Classroom Quality Standards** DVD-Rom was launched in Kent in February and is being developed in schools during this year. Training was initially offered to Leading Teachers and has been cascaded through local networking meetings to school coordinators. It gives teachers the opportunity to evaluate their classroom practice and take part in professional development using the interactivity of the tool.

### **d) Summer Schools**

Twenty seven Kent secondary schools applied for and received funding to organise gifted and talented summer schools this year. Most included primary pupils in the programme and this has acted as a good transition exercise. The range of subject content has been excellent as has the degree of challenge for the students, who have covered a very diverse range of work from examining how to make the school a more eco-friendly place to performing arts productions with live music and from forensic science to a sports week opened by an Olympic medallist. Application forms for 2010 funding were sent to schools in the final week of Term 1.

### **e) Kent G&T Conference – 17<sup>th</sup> June**

The conference was attended by 20% more delegates than in 2008. There were two keynote speakers and fifteen workshops, twelve of which were led by current practising classroom colleagues in Kent. Many positive comments were received about the workshops being led by actual classroom practitioners.

### **f) KAGGAT**

The Kent Advisory Group for Gifted and Talented meets once per seasonal term. Membership has been extended to include more Leading Teachers, school coordinators and classroom practitioners as well as members of ASK. This group has reviewed and discussed national, regional and local developments and assisted in the planning of training sessions and the conference.

### **g) Support for schools**

The LA nominated officer (Roger Silk) has been brokered to support schools on a range of issues. The support has included training new to role coordinators, whole-staff training sessions, discussions on strategies to raise attainment and support for specific exceptional

children. In addition, training for individual governing bodies or local groups of governors has been provided on many occasions.

#### **h) World Conference**

Kathryn Wright from Roseacre School and Roger Silk were both accepted to present papers at the World Conference for Gifted and Talented Education in Vancouver during August. Kathryn won the S.E. Partnership's gifted and talented competition writing a 4000 word paper; she spoke about Thinking Skills in Year 3 based on her action research project. Roger spoke about his role as an adviser in Kent and also co-delivered a paper about the work of the South East Regional Partnership with Sue Soan from Canterbury Christ Church University and Chair of the Partnership.

#### **i) New/Potential Activities**

- Collaborate with regional colleagues to consider inviting two of the American speakers from the World Conference to present to colleagues in the region
- Collaborate with the Early Years Team to discuss inviting Galina Doyla from the Vygotskian Developmental Educational Centre to work with Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Gifted and Talented colleagues. She is an expert on EYFS/KS1 work using Vygotsky's ideas about teaching and learning
- Development of Website materials
- Training for G&T Leading Teachers on key points from the World Conference
- Action Research in schools e.g. on the use of assessment material which will not disadvantage new arrivals and various SEN groups; strategies to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds – particularly at primary phase; working with parents groups
- Widen out offer of enrichment sessions in more venues in Kent in collaboration with the Regional Partnership

#### **Recommendation**

Members of the CFE: Learning and Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- Note the programme of activities which occur in Kent to support provision for Gifted and Talented pupils.

*Roger Silk*  
*Gifted and Talented Adviser*  
07827885096/ 01233 898693  
[roger.silk@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.silk@kent.gov.uk)

---

*Background Documents: None*

*Other Useful Information: None*

By: Martin Baker, Interim Director of Learning  
 Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for CFE Directorate

To: CFE: Learning & Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny  
 Committee - 5 November 2009

Subject: Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)  
 in Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

---

Summary: This report provides an update on the number of young people who are NEET in Kent, and details of strategies in place to address the issues for this cohort of young people.

---

## 1. Introduction

(1) Reducing the number of 16 to 18 year old young people who are NEET within Kent has been a high priority for a number of years, first encapsulated in Kent Agreement 1 and now one of the 35 targets within Kent's second Local Area Agreement. The Government places high priority upon tackling NEET issues, and published a national strategy in Autumn 2008 as part of the wider 14-19 reform that highlighted three key strands of Provision, Tracking and Support (Appendix A).

## 2. Current NEETs Results

(1) The table below illustrates the current numbers of NEET young people for September 2009 compared to the same time last year:

Area	September 2008		September 2009	
	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	144	4.95	115	3.73
Canterbury	193	4.14	224	4.42**
Dartford	194	5.94	225	5.97**
Dover	117	5.33	107	3.92*
Folkestone	191	7.30	137	5.33*
Gravesend	170	5.89	183	5.24
Maidstone	383	6.85	304	5.00*
Swale	264	7.72	276	6.63
Thanet	248	6.71	262	6.37
Tonbridge	243	4.33	272	4.19
<b>KENT</b>	<b>2147</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>2105</b>	<b>5.02</b>

\* The largest reduction in NEET % compared to last year for September

\*\* The largest (and only) increase in NEET % compared to last year for September

(2) This indicates that in spite of the challenging economic climate, Kent is still making good progress in reducing the number of NEETs at a highly vulnerable time when young people are making a transition from compulsory education to post-16 activity, with particularly strong performance from Dover, Folkestone and Maidstone.

### **3. The Strategic and Local Approach to Addressing NEETs Issues**

#### **(1) County Level:**

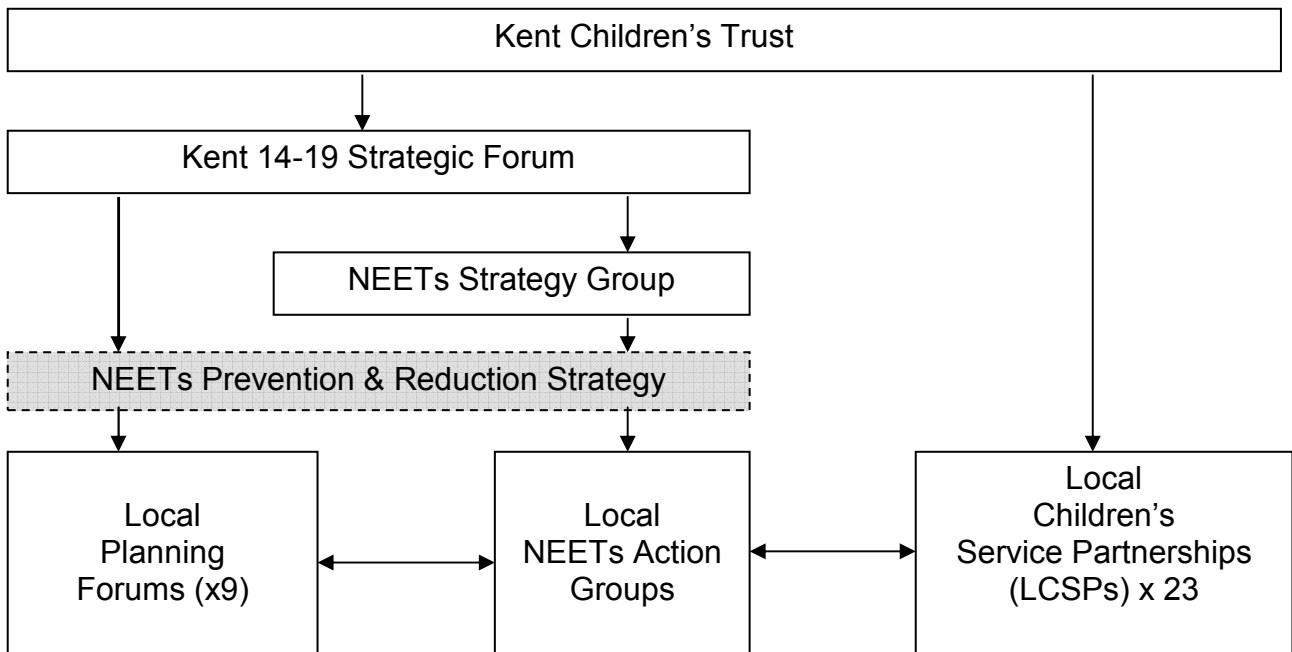
- (i) In line with the DCSF's national NEETs strategy, Kent has produced its own Prevention and Reduction Strategy that aims to address key issues through the three strands of Provision, Tracking and Support. This strategy is owned by Kent's county NEETs Strategy Group, which is led by CFE and has a broad representation of membership across CFE, Communities, Connexions and partner organisations and is a sub-group of the Kent 14-19 Strategic Forum. The strategy, group membership, terms of reference and previous meeting papers can be found on the NEETs Strategy Group's webpage (Appendix B).
- (ii) The NEETs Strategy Group was formed in June 2008 and meets bi-monthly to cover specific issues regarding NEETs. The group has a particular focus on the needs and challenges for vulnerable groups of young people, and devotes a substantial item to a particular group at each meeting. Examples of this include learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD), unaccompanied asylum seeking young people and looked after children (LAC).
- (iii) In April 2008, responsibility for the Connexions service was transferred to the Local Authority. Kent County Council has decided to maintain the service as an outsourced contract, but can now manage the performance of the provider more rigorously and ensure resources are targeted at need. A new Connexions contract was won by the current provider through a competitive process, as required by KCC. This new contract commences in April 2010 and has a rigorous outcomes-based specification. In addition, KCC is currently commissioning an external evaluation on the impact of Connexions on improving outcomes, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as young people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities.

#### **(2) Local Level:**

- (i) In addition to the strategy group, localised networks are also being established to address the reduction of NEET young people within Kent's 14-19 Local Planning Forum (LPF) areas. The county's LPFs have all set up local NEETs Action Groups as sub-groups of the Forums. This is a recent development that is highlighting increasing collaboration between Kent's education and training providers in partnership with KCC, the Learning and Skills Council and Connexions, and in many cases these groups are forming direct links with the Local Children's Service Partnerships (LCSPs). The key

contacts for each of these local action groups can be found in Appendix C.

The diagram below illustrates the county and local strategic structure:



#### 4. Current Activity

(1) **September Guarantee:** This is the entitlement to an offer of a place in post-16 education or training by the end of September to 16 and 17 year olds completing compulsory education, and it is a key driver in preventing young people from becoming NEET. Connexions Kent is currently working hard to track and support young people to ensure they receive an offer of learning. The final figures will be submitted to the DCSF by 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009, but interim results indicate that out of the total 16 year old cohort of 17,081 in Kent, 824 young people (4.6%) are currently without an offer of education or training, which puts Kent below the DCSF's maximum threshold of 5%. There are currently 1411 17 year olds (7.6%) without an offer out of a cohort of 18,702. These numbers will reduce further as Connexions continues to provide ongoing support for these young people to secure a suitable opportunity within education or training. Furthermore, for those young people who are going into employment without training (124 16 year olds at 1% and 767 17 year olds at 4%), Connexions will be approaching their employers to see if they will offer apprenticeships or accredited training for those young people.

(2) In addition to the September Guarantee, there is a great deal of activity taking place across the county to re-engage those young people who do become NEET, which includes the following:

- **Entry to Employment (E2E):** E2E engages young people who need additional support in learning and equips them for further learning, employment or both. E2E programmes are roll-on/roll-off, therefore recruitment and progression takes place throughout the year. 2009/10 will be the last year the E2E programme will operate as a discrete programme and will be absorbed into the Foundation Learning stream of the 14-19 curriculum. Learner numbers on E2E were 2285 in 2008/09, costing £5 million, which has risen to 2559 in 2009/10 at a cost of £5.4 million. The largest provider of

E2E provision is currently the Communities Directorate's Key Training, offering 705 places and 30% of total provision. The positive progression rate for young people from the programme is 50% which is slightly lower than previous years.

- Connexions Kent delivers a number of programmes for 16 to 18 year olds designed to engage hardest to reach NEET young people. These include:
  - **Activity Agreement:** this 20 week programme provides activities that develop personal and employability skills and the option of gaining qualifications, with 43% of young people participating since April 2009 progressing into EET and 63% have progressed since the programme's launch in April 2006.
  - **Back on Track:** this is a three-week activity course available to any NEET 16 to 18 year old to provide skills such as CV writing and first aid. This programme has achieved 66% progression rate for participants moving into EET with 98% attendance. An additional version, **Return of Back on Track** provides a concentrated focus on job-seeking skills and activities.
- **Kent Community Programme:** run by KCC's Supporting Independence Programme, this initiative engages hardest to reach NEET young people in activities that provide them with new skills and raises self-esteem whilst benefiting the local community. 26 young people have been referred onto the programme so far in 2009 with 17 completing the course and making positive progression into EET destinations, providing a 65% success rate. A further 88 young people are projected to participate in 11 projects across the county, including Canterbury, Maidstone and Ashford.
- **Flexible Starts:** Kent's seven FE Colleges are all offering 'flexible starts' for a number of their post-16 courses. The majority of these include courses that start in January, which is a crucial time when young people are most likely to drop out of post-16 education or training. A number of colleges have also started to offer October starts, providing more flexible options for young people who have been unsure of which path to take.
- **Kent NEETs Conference:** Kent recently held a multi-agency NEETs conference on the 12<sup>th</sup> October aimed at practitioners in education and training settings. This was jointly organised between KCC, the LSC, the Kent Association of FE Corporations (KAFEC), the Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO) and Connexions and was attended by over 100 professionals. The conference gave attendees very practical insights into what works around curriculum development so that they could take ideas back to their locality, and was an excellent opportunity to share good practice and promote partnership between schools, colleges and training providers.
- **Early Identification:** KCC is also currently undertaking work with key partners including schools and colleges to make better use of data to intervene at an earlier stage to prevent young people from becoming NEET.

## 5. Upcoming Activity

(1) In addition to the activity described above, there are a number of new initiatives and projects that are about to take place:

- **LSC Practical Learning and Collaboration Fund:** This £178,000 pot (formerly known as the NEETs Fighting Fund) is funding nine projects between August 2009 and March

2010 across areas such as Maidstone, Thanet and Shepway to specifically engage and address NEETs issues. The projects were selected by a panel consisting of LSC, KCC and Connexions representatives and evaluations of their outcomes will be presented to the NEETs Strategy Group and relevant Local NEETs Action Groups after the projects have been completed. A summary of the projects can be found in Appendix D.

- **Back on Track for LLDDs:** Connexions will deliver a number of BoT programmes specifically for LLDDs within Maidstone and Thanet between September and December 2009, in partnership with Mid Kent College and Thanet College.
- **Thanet Works:** A number of preventative and engagement projects will be implemented through the Neighbourhood Working Fund initiative to reduce the number of NEET young people in Thanet involving sport, vocational training and creative activities and will target vulnerable groups such as minority groups and refugees.
- **New Skills, New Lives:** A project designed to engage young offenders in EET upon leaving custody.
- **FE/WBL engagement project:** KAFEC and KATO have received funding to deliver short courses for 16-19 year olds to address their skills gaps and enable progression into EET.
- **Foundation Learning pilot:** This is part of the reforms to the 14-19 curriculum and is designed to provide learning pathways for learners at Level 1 or below, to help keep them engaged and improve their transition into post-16 EET activity.
- **Kent Success social enterprise pilot:** KATO and KCC have won a bid to develop an Apprenticeships Training Association (ATA) which is designed to ease the process of setting up apprenticeships for employers and improve supply to current demand.

## 6. Future Challenges and Priorities for Kent

(1) There are a number of challenges and priorities that KCC and its partners will need to focus on to ensure we are continuing to prevent and reduce the number of young people who become NEET:

- Raising the Participation Age to 17 from 2013 and 18 from 2015.
- Transfer of commissioning and funding responsibilities for 16-19 education and training to Local Authorities from April 2010.
- Focus on preventative services and early identification.
- Breaking the unemployment and NEETs cycles in areas of deprivation.
- Focusing specifically on 17 year olds who become NEET.
- Extending the focus to young people remaining NEET beyond 18.
- Connecting with Primary Schools for earlier intervention regarding literacy and numeracy.

## **Recommendations**

Members of the CFE Learning & Development Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

- Note the progress made in reducing the number of Kent's young people who are NEET.

*Karla Phillips*  
*Policy Officer*  
*01622 696785*  
[karla.phillips@kent.gov.uk](mailto:karla.phillips@kent.gov.uk)

---

### *Background Documents:*

Appendix A: DCSF NEETs Strategy weblink  
[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/neet\\_strategy\\_0803.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/neet_strategy_0803.pdf)

Appendix B : Kent Strategy Group weblink  
[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_subgroups\\_neets\\_strategy.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_subgroups_neets_strategy.cfm)

Appendix C: Contact List for Local NEETs Action Groups

Appendix D: Summary of 2009/10 Projects funded by the LSC 'Practical Learning and Collaboration Fund'

*Other Useful Information:* None

### Local NEETs Action Groups: Contact Details

NAME	AREA	ORGANISATION	EMAIL
Anne Furminger	CANTERBURY & SWALE	Connexions Kent and Medway	<a href="mailto:annefurminger@connexionskentandmedway.co.uk">annefurminger@connexionskentandmedway.co.uk</a>
Jan Fenning	GRAVESHAM & DARTFORD	Connexions Kent and Medway	<a href="mailto:janfenning@connexionskentandmedway.co.uk">janfenning@connexionskentandmedway.co.uk</a>
Sara Woodward	THANET	Hartsdown Technology College	<a href="mailto:woodwardS@HARTSDOWN.KENT.SCH.UK">woodwardS@HARTSDOWN.KENT.SCH.UK</a>
Katie Smith-Palomeneque	WEST KENT	14-19 Co-ordinator (based at Hillview School)	<a href="mailto:smith-palomeneque@hillview.kent.sch.uk">smith-palomeneque@hillview.kent.sch.uk</a>
Christine Chapman	DOVER	Castle Community School	<a href="mailto:admin@castle.kent.sch.uk">admin@castle.kent.sch.uk</a>
Guy Hewett	MAIDSTONE	Newline Learning	<a href="mailto:guy.hewett@newlinelearning.com">guy.hewett@newlinelearning.com</a>
Justin Davey	ASHFORD	Tower School	<a href="mailto:davey@tower.kent.sch.uk">davey@tower.kent.sch.uk</a>
Sue Huzzey	SHEPWAY	Learning & Skills Council Kent & Medway	<a href="mailto:sue.huzzey@lsc.gov.uk">sue.huzzey@lsc.gov.uk</a>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Practical Learning and Collaboration Fund Contracts

Provider/ Project	Contracting Organisation (if different)	Allocation	Brief Summary	No. of Learners targeted	Area of focus	LSC Contract Manager
NACRO		£18,000	A series of short programmes to motivate and engage YOT/YOS clients within the NEET cohort. The project will focus on 17-18 year olds at Levels 1-2.	To be agreed with Jane Barber	Maidstone, Ashford and Shepway.	Stephen Harvey
North West Kent College		£25,000	An employability programme for 16 to 18 year old NEETs, particularly LLDDs, persistent or potential young offenders and hard to reach non-statemented learners. Intensive job search training to those on the employability programme, E2E or EET seeking betterment, but primarily to level 2 completers unable to progress to level 3 without employment. Targeted intervention and extra literacy support for College learners with LLDD who are not necessarily statemented.	74	Kent Thameside	Stacey Wells
Canterbury Campus (Canterbury High School)	KCC	£12,000	To identify Year 10 and 11 students in danger of becoming NEET and deliver programmes in the school holidays (Summer 09, October 09 and February 10) linked to attainment, raising self esteem and identification of and support through the next step in life.	40	Canterbury	Lesley Burch/Michele Williams
Wilmington, Hextable & Swanley Partnership	KCC	£10,000	TVOC EXTRA is a re-engagement programme of practical vocational opportunities for 16-19 year olds leading to a suite of accredited qualifications at Entry and level 1. Provision will either be at twilight or on Saturday mornings. Learners will also have access up to 20 hours of functional skills training embedded in the programme.	48	Wilmington, Hextable, Swanley	Stacey Wells
Romney Resource 2000 Ltd (Shepway Inclusion & Participation Group)		£12,000	10 hours of ASPIRE flexible curriculum based taster sessions and/or job skills with mentoring support delivered by RR2K in New Romney, South Kent College and schools in the Shepway area in small group settings to 14-19 year old NEETs or those at risk of becoming NEET.	40	Shepway	Teresa Kinvig
Connexions Kent and Medway		£30,000	Back on Track project to engage NEET 16-18 year olds in a short 11 day programme over 3 weeks, of confidence building, personal development and motivational activities. The project will concentrate on engaging those with learning difficulties and disabilities who may not have attended specialist provision pre-16 but face additional barriers to progressing positively post-16.	48	Maidstone, Thanet	Sandra Brown
EBP Kent		£15,000	The Special Choices event is dedicated to identifying the progression routes available to young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in a practical, innovative way. LLDD can take part in hands on practical activities with employers and be able to speak to professionals in the field about their career paths and opportunities for work or higher education.	400+ (across Kent and Medway)	Countywide	Sue Huzzey
KEITS Ltd (on behalf of KAFEC & KATO)		£26,000	The Stepping Forward project aims to motivate and engage the following NEET groups identified by Connexions: unmotivated and long term disengaged; teenage parents, pregnant teenagers. A menu of programmes will be offered to learners to enable them choose an appropriate course.	26	Maidstone	Tony Edmunds
Canterbury College		£30,000	Re-engagement of learners in NEET group via IAG, tasters, mentoring, enrichment incentives and flexible programmes.	60	At least 40 participants from Sheppey, the remainder from Canterbury area.	Michele Williams
TOTAL		£178,000				

This page is intentionally left blank

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: CFE: Learning and Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 5 November 2009

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Report Type: Monitoring

---

Summary: This report updates Members on the progress with establishing a Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme 2009/2010.

---

### **Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme**

1. (1) At its meeting on 16 October the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) considered all the suggestions put forward by Members and Officers for possible Select Committee Topic Reviews. The Proposers of the review, Officers and the Cabinet Member or their Deputy's were given the opportunity to put forward their views on the proposals.

(2) The POCC agreed that the following topics would form part of the work programme for 2009/10:-

- Extended Schools
- Renewable Energy – What should Kent's role be?
- Dementia
- Educational Attainment of Pupils and Schools in Areas of High Deprivation

(3) If resources allow, there may be a short piece of work on Intergenerational Interaction, if this is the case then the CFE POSCs will be kept informed of progress.

(4) The only Select Committee Topic Review agreed, which is partly within the remit of this POSC is a topic review on Extended Schools (which would be a joint review lead by Communities POSC). It is anticipated that this Select Committee will start its work in February/March 2010 and submit its report to County Council on 22 July 2010.

(5) Regular update reports will be submitted to the CFE POSCs to keep Members informed of the progress of the Select Committee.

**Recommendation**

2. Members are asked to note the topics to be included in the new Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme 2009/2010.

Christine Singh Tel No: 01622 694334

Background Information: *Nil*

e-mail: [christine.singh@kent.gov.uk](mailto:christine.singh@kent.gov.uk)