

From: Shellina Prendergast  
To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee  
Subject: **ANNEX to GEDCC report re Youth Unemployment**  
Classification:

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The CYPE directorate provides ongoing support to young people (16-19) Not in Education Training and Employment (NEET) and to Young unemployed adults in a variety of ways.

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### **Operational Delivery**

- NEET tracking and support. The local Authority has a responsibility to track all young people aged 16 to 18 (until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday). KCC Commissions this work to *The Education People (TEP)* which produces monthly data on 'participation' in education and training, NEETs and Not Knowns.
- TEP also runs the NEET support service on behalf of KCC. This provides mentoring and support for NEET young people and refers them on to a range of education providers once they are ready. In August 2021 184 young people were referred to the service for support and the overall caseload was 516. Since last August 1334 young people have received support.
- When the Service's support for young people ends at 19, young people are referred to the *National Careers Service (NCS)* for support. In Kent, the contract for delivering the NCS is currently held by CXK. TEP and CXK have a working arrangement to ensure that NEET Unemployed young adults continue to receive support through transition.
- CYPE officers convene termly Adult Skills Forums in East, West, Mid and North Kent (consistent with the geography of the FE colleges). The purpose of these forums is to consider and fill gaps in provision and to build pathways between training providers. The forums are attended by representatives from FE and HE, training providers, KCC Community Learning & Skills, Job Centre Plus, District/Borough Councils and Housing Associations. The forums have created a number of initiatives responding to youth (18-24) unemployment.
- In partnership with Mid Kent College and the University of Greenwich, CYPE officers are leading a pilot programme, funded by European (Interreg Two Seas) funding to rapidly train unemployed young people (in 12 weeks) to work in the Manufacturing /Engineering sector. The 'BHC21' programme uses

'Innovative Learning Technologies', (ILTs) such as VR headsets to teach welding and video instruction for machining. These methods have been shown to rapidly accelerate learning, and the training principals can be applied to other sectors.

- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/business/business-loans-and-funding/eu-funding/building-human-capital-in-the-21st-century>
- KCC's Community Learning and Skills Service makes a significant contribution to supporting employment in Kent. The Service's *Family Support* programme is often the first point of learning for many adults after leaving school and provides the first rung on the training ladder, leading to employment; the service provides support for literacy and numeracy with many adults progressing to GCSEs in Maths and English (c.600 adults p.a.); and, through the Service's links with other providers, many learners move onto access courses and further education, which supports employment and better careers.
- During the Covid Pandemic, CLS Adult Education Centres were closed for most of 2020, and a great deal of teaching was transferred to online delivery. Despite this, CLS had 10,868 enrolments to CPD and creative courses ; over 3000 enrolments on (accredited and non-accredited) skills training; 409 apprentice enrolments; and delivered the '*Work Ready*' study programme to over 163 16-18 year olds.
- TEP is applying to the DFE to become a 'Flexible Apprenticeship' provider. Under this model the provider employs the apprentice who is then placed with employers for a fee (previously known as the 'ATA' model). It is hoped that this will enable more young people to be employed in sectors that have difficulties employing young people full-time (including Horticulture, Construction and Creative Arts)

## **Preparing for transition to the workplace**

- CYPE and TEP officers are currently engaged in a comprehensive review of education and training provision for 16-19 year olds. The 16 19 Review has included over sixty interviews with school headteachers, college principals, independent training providers and key personnel in the County Council. An important part of the review has been to evaluate education and training regarding preparation for employment. Recommendations will be made with the intention of improving the link from education and training to employment.
- CYPE is delivering the Reconnect programme, which seeks to 'reconnect' children and young people to their communities. One of the four strands of the programme is 'economic wellbeing' and includes support for employment. This part of the programme is being delivered in partnership with *The Education People*
- TEP is working with The Careers Enterprise Company to create a 'Careers Hub' that will lead and co-ordinate careers advice throughout the County.

Currently, CEC co-ordinators, joint funded by KCC and CEC, recruit employer advisers (from industry) to work one or two days each month in schools. CEC is looking to grow this model and widen the scope of CEC co-ordinators to deliver the full 'Gatsby Benchmark', a list of requirements around careers advice and employer engagement. The partnership funding for this initiative is being provided from *Reconnect*. The aim is to bring 68 of Kent's schools into the Careers hub in the academic year 21/22.

## Strategic Developments

- CYPE is represented on the Employment Task Force (ETF) and its officers are active members of the ETF Reference (Officer) Group, co-chaired by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, the purpose of which is to action the recommendations of the Task force. Papers have been presented by CYPE officers to the ETF on the future of T-Levels, Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), the Adult Education Budget (AEB) and the Skills White Paper.
- In 2020, Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) commissioned the production of the *Kent & Medway Workforce Skills Evidence Base*, which was published in April 2021. The evidence base identifies some important employment and skills issues. CYPE officers are currently working with the Author of the Evidence Base, and the many stakeholders with an interest in employment and skills, to produce an Action Plan.
- A sub-group of the ETF, led by Mike Rayner from *The Education people*, has been created to co-ordinate CEIAG provision across schools, colleges and for adults. Part of the role of this network is to ensure that young people and young adults receive the information and guidance they require to gain and progress in employment.
- CYPE and TEP officers have engaged with Invicta Chamber of Commerce to inform the development of the *Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)*, a requirement of the recent Skills White Paper. This is a significant and comprehensive development plan for the delivery of skills (particularly higher skills) by the FE sector, in partnership with employers.
- CYPE has representation on the SELEP Skills Working Group that sets and monitors the contracts for Skills and Employment Funding (ESF). These include the contracts for *Skills Support for the Unemployed (SSU)*, *Skills Support for the Workforce (SSW)* and *Skills Support for Redundancy*. *Twin training* is currently delivering these contracts across the SELEP region. *Skills Training UK (STUK)* is delivering a smaller contract, for NEET support.
  - In the latest report (August 2021), Twin Training had engaged with 768 unemployed people in Kent. 175 have moved into employment, 97 have moved into full time education and 64 have moved onto apprenticeships or traineeships.

- Twin training has also engaged with 1066 employed people providing a variety of short courses. To date 261 have progressed within their employment (promotion).
  - In Kent, STUK has engaged with 298 NEET and young unemployed people at six locations.
- SELEP also monitors the local delivery of DWP's recently launched '*Restart*' programme for people that have been unemployed for more than six months. CYPE officers are engaged with SELEP, the main contractor, *Reed in Partnership*, and the local delivery partners *People Plus* and the *Shaw Trust*. The programme is targeted to support over 1000 people back to work in the next two years.
- Officers from *The Education People* are working closely with ESFA officers and training providers to improve and develop provision for NEETs and Vulnerable Learners in Kent.