

South Derbyshire Partnership

Report to the Board

Date of meeting: 30 April 2013

Agenda Item: 6

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Board Members consider the current youth unemployment challenge.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

2.1 To brief Members regarding the current youth unemployment situation in South Derbyshire and highlight concerns raised by the Sustainable Development Group regarding the future availability of careers advice.

2.2 Whilst youth unemployment is not a major issue in South Derbyshire, there have been national reports of growing worklessness amongst this age group and associated with this stories of fewer University students, declining employment opportunities for young people and a lack of job-readiness amongst some school leavers, funding cutbacks for careers advice, a need for 'soft entry points' to such services and concerns regarding the future availability of impartial, face-to-face advice.

3.0 Details

3.1 Rates of young people aged 16-18 who are NEET (**Not in Employment, Education or Training**) and youth unemployment for all age groups in South Derbyshire are below the England average. There are 125 NEET young people (aged 16-18) in the District, which represents 4.25% of the age group, compared with 5.35% for Derbyshire and 5.8% for England (Derbyshire County Council, NEET average snapshot for March 2013).

3.2 There are currently some 435 young people aged under 25 who are unemployed, of which 75 have been out of work for more than a year. The following wards currently have rates of **youth unemployment** (Aged <25) above the England average: Church Gresley; Hartshorne & Ticknall; Linton; Midway; Newhall & Stanton; and, Swadlincote.

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	Aged <20 No.	Aged <20 Rate	Aged 20-24 No.	Aged 20-24 Rate	Aged <25 No.	Aged <25 Rate	>1year Aged <25	>1 year Aged >25 % of <25 Unemployed
South Derbyshire	130	2.6%	305	6.8%	435	4.6%	75	17.2%
Derbyshire		3.9%		8.3%		6.1%		18.5%
England		3.7%		7.1%		5.7%		17.6%

Claimant Count Unemployment, February 2013 (ONS)

3.3 The Government is increasing the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training - requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015. **Raising the Participation Age** (RPA) does not mean young people must stay in school; they will be able to choose one of the following options post-16:

- full-time education, such as school, college or home education;
- an apprenticeship; or,
- part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week).

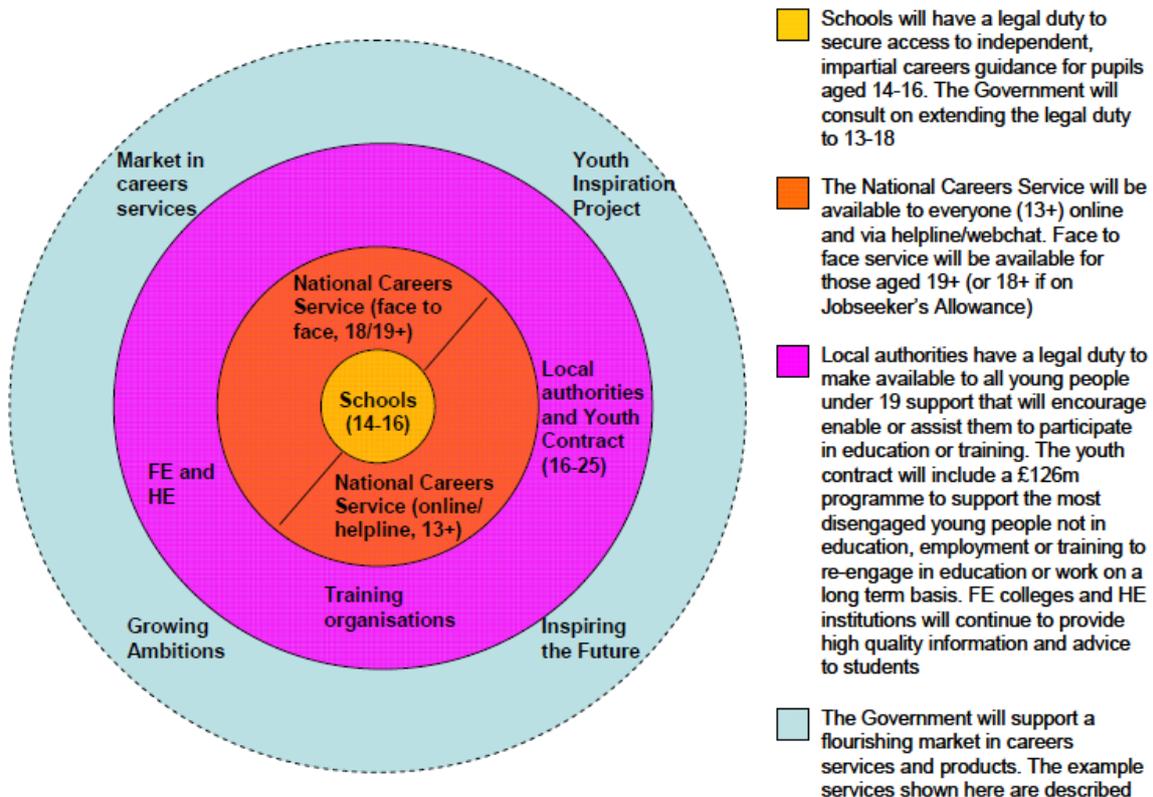
3.4 **Traineeships** are a proposed programme to help young people aged 16 to 24 to develop the skills they need to secure Apprenticeships and other sustainable employment. The Government plans to introduce Traineeships from September 2013 alongside 16 to 19 study programmes. Employers consistently say that they are concerned that young people often lack the right skills and attitudes when they apply for an Apprenticeship or other employment. Traineeships would offer young people the opportunity to undertake a substantial work placement and work skills training, alongside support to improve their English and maths.

Careers Advice

3.5 Nationally, the two-tier careers service with Next Step (adults) and Connexions (young people) has been replaced by a single all age provision - the National Careers Service - alongside a new careers guidance duty for schools. Schools now have a legal duty to secure independent, impartial careers guidance for their students. It is up to schools to decide how best to support young people to make good careers choices. The following diagram summarises the range of services offered to young people and adults.

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National Careers Service: The Right Advice at the Right Time (BIS, April 2012)

3.6 The National Careers Service aims to provide information, advice and guidance to help individuals make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities, including: Apprenticeships; Further and Higher Education; Funding for learning; Learning with private training providers; and, The job market. The service offers confidential and impartial advice, including:

- a website, helping people find out what jobs are growing and where the opportunities are, what skills and qualifications they need, and how to get them;
- a helpline and webchat service, so young people and adults can discuss their options at a time and place which suits them, and make an informed choice;
- a walk in service, directing people to the best source of help and advice whatever their needs; and,
- for adults aged 19 and over (or 18 and over if seeking work), one on one support from an adviser, face to face.

3.7 In Derbyshire from September 2013, Derbyshire County Council will continue to provide a Careers Guidance Information and Support Service. For schools there will be a "charged service" allowing schools

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to purchase the careers guidance service needed to meet the needs of their students and this will enable the schools to fulfill their statutory duties.

- 3.8 From September 2013 Derbyshire County Council will deliver careers advice to the majority of schools in Derbyshire as a charged service. For young people aged 16 – 19 in need of careers guidance, information and support, careers advisors will be available in each Multi Agency Team (MAT); providing one to one support or group work development programmes. For Adults there is a Careers Guidance Service being offered through the Next Steps programme.
- 3.9 For vulnerable children, young people and families facing a variety of challenges, which may create barriers to engaging in learning or work: MATs offer holistic packages of support. This support may include: Education Welfare, Parenting Support, Family Employment Coach, Mentoring, Counselling, Personal Development and Action Planning. Within South Derbyshire the Multi Agency Teams are based at Rink House, Rink Way, Swadlincote and at John Port School, Etwall.
- 3.10 A range of additional actions are being undertaken by the Partnership and its members in the coming year that will provide further assistance to young people in South Derbyshire, including the following:
- A Youth Training Fair to be held at Swadlincote Town Hall/The Delph on 28/6 offering advice and opportunities for those aged 16 to 24 seeking employment, an apprenticeship, or further training or education.
 - Promotion of Apprenticeships, particularly raising awareness of Government assistance amongst employers in order to create opportunities in sectors where demand exceeds supply.
 - 'Thinking of starting a business?' workshops providing training and advice to those considering self-employment as a career choice.
 - Intensive employability support, targeting individuals facing multiple challenges to entering the workforce.
 - 'Apprenticeship Next' which aims to equip 16 year olds with the skills to secure an apprenticeship if that is their preference, including developing a CV, making an application and preparing for interviews.
 - Employability events providing advice focused on specific growth sectors such as care, catering and warehousing.
 - 'Career Coach' which is a web-based solution enabling students to cross match their skills with the needs of employers based on real time local labour market information and future trends for each job sector.

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