

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Valerie Hitchman Head of Community Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	26 March 2013	
Title	YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the extent of youth unemployment in the Borough and the services and interventions in place which contribute to resolving the issue.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 It has been recognised nationally that youth unemployment is too high. Overall, the number of 16 – 24 year olds not engaged in work or learning remains well over a million. Beneath these headlines, around 260,000 young people have been out of work for over a year, doubling since 2008, and 100,000 for two years.
- 2.2 This report provides some details of the local picture and the approaches and interventions in place which are contributing to resolving a complex issue.
- 2.3 The local authority Chief Executives across the county have established a Training and Education Group with a small budget to look at how we can increase the numbers of young people in the county entering apprenticeships and how we can improve the employability of young people seeking their first job. One of three issues identified is that there seems to be a lack of preparedness of young people for the jobs market and a poor perception of the employability of young people by employers.

3. EXTENT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- 3.1 The numbers and percentage of young people aged 16 – 24 living in the borough has increased from 2001 to 2011. There are now well over 9,000 which is 10% of the population. The percentages of people living in the borough who have qualifications are above that for the rest of the East Midlands and Great Britain. However, the percentage of JSA claimants aged 18 – 24 is higher in comparison with the East Midlands and Great Britain. Appendix A contains the most recent figures from Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics.
- 3.2 Appendix B shows the number of Job Seekers Allowance claimants and the wards in which they are living. More interesting for this report are the details of the numbers of claimants aged 18 – 24 which at September 2012 was 750. Numbers can spike in this month because of school leavers. The table also

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gives numbers of people of all ages who have been claiming for more than a year. At September 2012 the number of young people aged 16 – 18 who were not in employment or training (NEET) was 135. It is also known that some young people are in effect outside the system as they are not claiming JSA.

4. APPROACHES AND INTERVENTIONS

4.1 As part of the growth agenda by 2021 13,100 new homes and 16,200 new jobs are proposed for the Borough. Members have made their priorities for infrastructure and jobs-led growth clear – these are the prerequisites of growth. Members have indicated they wish to use the growth agenda to leverage three key and interrelated ambitions for the borough; namely:-

- A better offer for our town centres
- A better education and training offer
- A better employment offer – high grade, higher density jobs

4.2 Against this context the rest of the report outlines some of the most significant approaches and interventions in place locally. Many of these need effective partnerships and the support of local businesses in providing opportunities to local young people so that they are more able to successfully compete for job vacancies. Some are looking for outcomes which will prevent young people being unemployed and others are there to develop young people so they have better employability skills.

Routes to work Pilot with Buccleuch Academy

This is one of the Preparedness for work pilots established by the Chief Executives Education and Training Group. It will provide an Online self assessment development tool and personal development plan for students aged 17 -18. Tools and Methodology will be free to all Schools once developed. It involves the completion of a self assessment tool developed to meet the 7 CBI criteria and the support of local businesses.

Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair 2013

This is part of a county wide road show being organised by Connexions. This year Kettering's fair is being hosted by Tresham College. The fair is aimed at 16-19year olds looking for work or training or interested in apprenticeships. There will be an opportunity to meet employers and local training providers plus take part in "speed networking" event .Last year Kettering event was the best attended in the county with 18 employers/ training providers and 99 young people attending.

Real Life work experience and projects

The Council offers work experience placements and volunteering opportunities. We also work with Tresham College and University of Northampton to give students real life work projects:-

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- Students at Tresham College had completed a number of design briefs for the council including branding for events and the market
- “Hot House” is a marketing communications and business service agency run almost entirely by students and graduates from University of Northampton. This new enterprise is co-ordinated from Chesham House
- Enterprise stalls are available on the weekly general market for students to try out their new business ideas

Apprenticeships

We currently have 13 apprentices in employment with the Borough Council across various service units who are gaining qualifications and training as well as on the job mentoring.

Kettering Borough Training (KBT)

KBT is committed to supporting the development of local businesses and young people in the community by providing the highest quality training, support and guidance. Its main aims are to promote Apprenticeships and Foundation Learning programmes as a valid alternative to full time education and to develop the skills of young people and encourage them to achieve their full potential to meet local employment opportunities. They offer:

Foundation Learning

KBT offers preparation for life and work through the Foundation Learning programme, delivering frameworks that cover Personal and Social Development, employability skills and functional skills.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship programmes in business administration, customer service and health and social care, and the Foundation Learning programme are delivered in-house while apprenticeship programmes for construction, engineering, print media, and hairdressing are sub-contracted to local colleges of further education

Working with YOT

KBT currently has a contract to work with Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service to work with young offenders to engage them in learning as part of their order and help improve their life chances

Working with KSA

KBT works with Kettering Science Academy to support pupils at risk of permanent exclusion to encourage the students to participate in the education system and gain suitable qualifications.

Tenancy Training Course

We recognise that some people do not have the necessary skills to enable

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them to maintain a successful tenancy and a stable home base can be a prerequisite for a job. In response to this, we offer our pre-tenancy training course Move On Move In to vulnerable young homeless people living in the Borough. The project aims to improve the life skills of young people so that they can develop their self-confidence, realise their potential and maintain successful tenancies.

Move on Move In runs two nights per week over two weeks and sessions are delivered on budgeting, managing a tenancy, first aid, fire safety in the home and home maintenance.

To date 132 young people have successfully completed the Move On Move In Course.

Practical Housing Units

For some people committing to attend a tenancy training course can be challenging, in response to this we offer Amber Practical Housing Units (PHUs) which are training workbooks that focus on the basic skills knowledge and understanding that underpin a person's ability to sustain a tenancy. Students are required to work through practical tasks and complete a module workbook. Upon completing the workbook to a satisfactory level students are awarded a certificate which is accredited by the awarding body AQA and is equivalent to a D-G at GCSE.

To date 79 PHU's have been completed and awarded.

Chesham House

Chesham House Business Centre offers affordable office accommodation for small businesses. The centre is run by the University of Northampton and offers a variety of clubs and services to support existing, new and potential businesses including :-

- New Business support package aimed at micro and small businesses across the borough
- Weekly Enterprise Club- an initiative that helps the unemployed in Kettering set up their own business. Delivered by Evolve Your Future

Talent Match

Kettering Borough is working with Wellingborough Council and voluntary sector partners to secure funding from the Big Lottery for a Talent Match programme. We have been successful at stage one and have been awarded the opportunity to progress to the next stage of the Talent Match process. Work is now being done to create a robust business plan for our planned activity. The Big Lottery a focus on 'hidden NEET', so those not accessing other provision such as the government Work Programme.

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8. RECOMMENDATION

To note the approaches and interventions in place in response to youth unemployment

Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports:

Ref:

Date: