

## WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT EXCEPTION REPORTING

NATIONAL INDICATOR (NI) 117 – NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET).

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report presents to the LSP Executive board the current performance for NI 117 - Not in education, employment or training (NEET), focussing on specific areas of follow up from the report at the January meeting.
- 1.2 Reducing the number of young people aged 16-18 that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is a key cross-departmental government priority and a Wirral PSA (6.9% by 2010) and Local Area Agreement target. NEET, as a partnership priority is also reflected in the Children and Young People's plan and Integrated Youth Support Strategy.

### 2. BACKGROUND

#### NEET levels in Wirral

#### 2.1 Our progress

The Wirral NEET percentage for April 2010 (latest baseline data) is 7.92%.

This represents really positive progress from 10.14% at the same time last year.

#### N.E.E.T. percentage by area at end of April 2010 (NCCIS data).

CONNEXIONS DATA FROM NCCIS	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral	Greater Merseyside
NEET 2010	11.04	10.62	8.71	6.41	7.41	7.92	8.22
NEET 2009	13.70	15.13	10.53	8.42	9.15	10.14	10.45

- This is a sizeable reduction in a year on year comparison, which in the current economic climate, is significant.
- The pace of reduction has also increased with a reduction to under 8% - this is 775 young people compared to 1031 the previous year, which is 256 more young people engaged this year than in 2009.



## 2.2 Wards with highest levels of NEET (this is based on March statistics)

### Ward Statistics (16-18 cohorts)

- Biggest Ward – **Seacombe: 594 clients**
- Smallest Ward – **Heswall: 330 clients**

### Analysis of data produced 16 -18 data

#### NEET

- Highest average 16-18 NEET % in Wirral – **Bidston & St James: 18.25%**
- Lowest average 16-18 NEET % in Wirral – **Heswall: 0.91%**
- **Average 16-18 NEET – 7.96%**

#### EET

- Highest average 16-18 EET % in Wirral – **Heswall: 99.09%**
- Lowest average 16-18 EET % in Wirral – **Bidston & St James: 82.00%**
- **Average 16-18 EET – 92.25%**

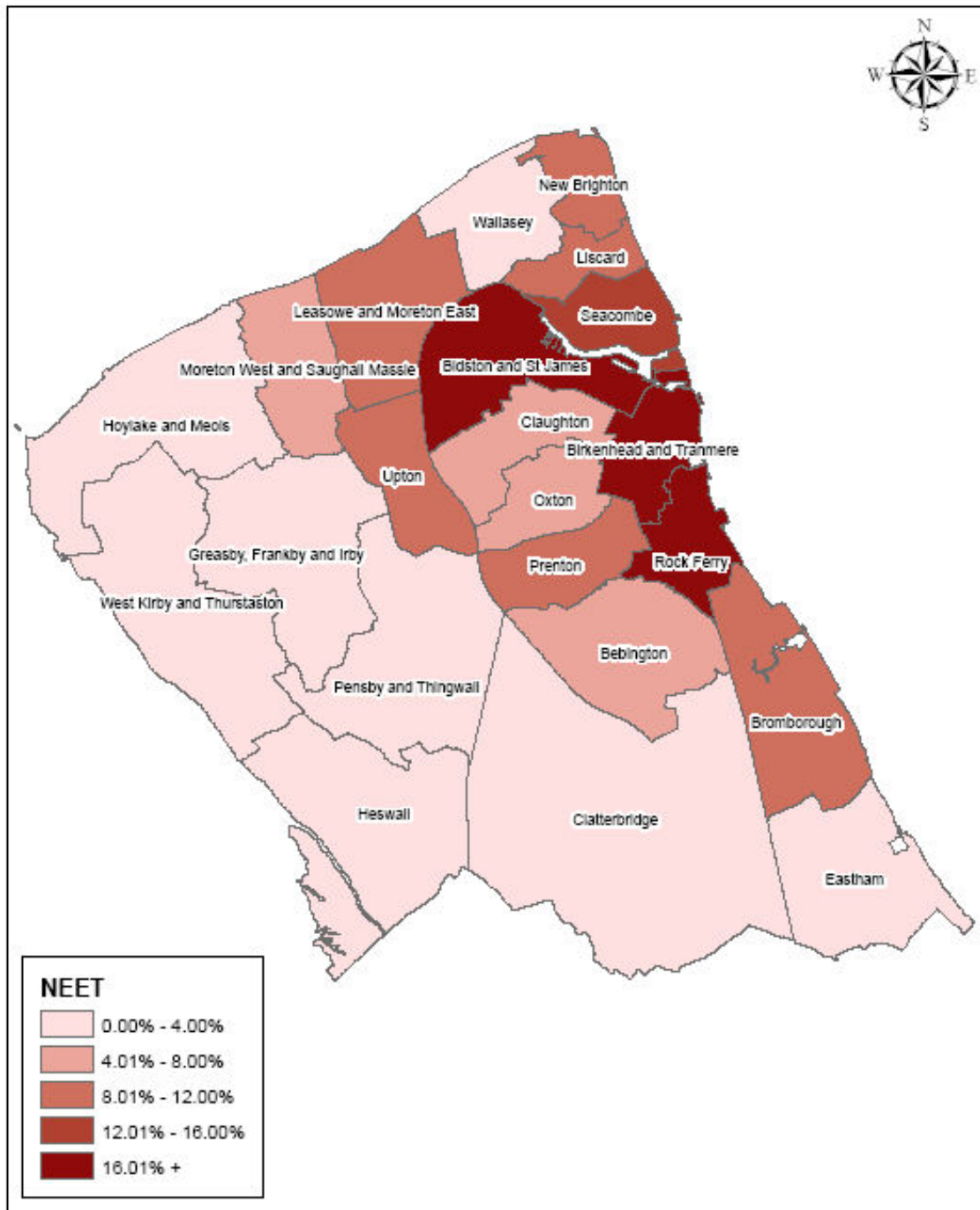
#### Learning

- Highest average 16-18 Learning % in Wirral – **Heswall: 98.17%**
- Lowest average 16-18 Learning % in Wirral – **Bidston & St James: 74.77%**
- **Average 16-18 Learning – 86.53%**

#### Not Known

- Highest average 16-18 NK % in Wirral - **Birkenhead and Tranmere: 5.17%**
- Lowest average 16-18 NK % in Wirral – **West Kirby & Thurstaston: 0.00%**
- **Average 16-18 Not Known – 2.50%**

### Wirral 16-18 NEET Percentage by ward - March 2010



Maps at scale of: 1:100,000

Note: The total cohort figure used in these calculations excludes those young people who have moved out of contact or did not have their ward listed.



### 2.3 Churn

Government statistics suggest that only 1% of the NEET cohort remains NEET for the period between ages 16 and 18. As the figures suggest the cohort is in constant flux and significant effort is afforded to tracking young people in the population to ensure the NEET register is:

- a) Accurate
- b) Used to enable targeted support at young people when they become NEET.

During March 197 young people were supported from NEET into Education, training or employment destinations.

However, there were 202 joiners to the NEET cohort during this time, breakdown as follows:

- E2E / Work Based Learning destinations – 74
- Employed destinations – 43
- Further / Higher Education destinations – 61
- Moved into area / Re-established contact – 24

This means that there was a net increase of 5 joiners to the NEET cohort.

Our tracking capacity continues to improve and is better than regional and national benchmarks so the evidence we have is more accurate and compelling than ever. Currently we have the lowest ever levels of 16-18 young people not known to the Connexions Service at 2.50%

### 2.4 Length of Stay on NEET

The numbers of young people NEET and their length of stay increases with age. Breakdowns for this highlight that there currently are:

- 109 clients who are 16 years with an average stay of 144 days
- 276 clients who are 17 years with an average stay of 160 days
- 397 clients who are 18 years with an average stay of 219 days

### 3. Specific Responses and Key Actions

- In partnership between Connexions and the 14-19 Team, targeted action research and intervention work is taking place in specific wards within the Birkenhead and West Wirral areas. This is focussed on establishing the views of NEET young people and their parents regarding available provision as part of follow up to the January Guarantee.
- It was clear that 17 year olds were becoming a significantly vulnerable group in terms of non engagement. Targeted activity has been undertaken with this group, including recruitment drives for the apprenticeships. Wirral now has

6.62% of our 17 year olds NEET which is the lowest in the Liverpool City Region

	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral	LCR
17 yr NEET April 2010	9.99	9.70	8.31	7.00	8.17	6.62	7.91
17 yr NEET April 09	12.96	11.78	9.24	8.07	10.28	9.23	9.65

- There is a full caseloading strategy in place across Wirral, ensuring that all NEET young people have a named Connexions Personal Adviser. This strategy is geographically configured and aligned with Childrens Services Area Teams enabling integrated networks to be established.
- The extension of Activity Agreement and its' focus on young people in vulnerable groups will allow for enhanced, bespoke provision to be provided in order to breakdown additional barriers faced in accessing Education, Employment and Training.
- A number of young people start a course find that it isn't right for them and drop out (peak period January) after one term. They still want to pursue a course but cannot start an alternative until September. Some of these remain NEET until then. Provision has now been established with WMC to extend roll on roll off provision throughout the year.
- A 'NEET TIGER Team' has been established, chaired by Mike Potter Principal of Wirral Metropolitan College as a task and finish group with key partnership representatives to ensure targeted activity is aligned across the Borough. This has already gathered some momentum and agreed a series of targeted activity which are bearing fruit including:
  - Case management conferences
  - Enhanced retention packages for young people at risk of leaving programmes early
  - Accelerated transition planning between programmes
  - Collaborative marketing events across Wirral's provider network
  - Robust regular analysis of joiners and leavers to the NEET cohort

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