

Position of Employability Priority Groups in Edinburgh –

School Leavers Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

October 2010

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(this research project was compiled by Robbie Pye an intern with Capital City Partnership during 2010; if you require more information on this work or the work of the Job Strategy Team, please contact Capital City Partnership on 0131 270 6030)



## School Leavers Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

### Outline

School leavers not going into employment, education or training are at a serious risk. Research has shown that the psychological scars of long term youth unemployment often remains with a person for the rest of their working life, affecting their employability, confidence and pay (Scottish Executive, 2006).

Research has also shown that living in a deprived area reduces school leavers' chances of going into employment, education or training to 77%, compared to a 93% chance from the least deprived areas. The probability of youth unemployment rises where there is a lack of local employment, poor health, inadequate housing, low parental qualifications and aspirations and a culture of worklessness. A survey found 43% of employers felt school leavers were poorly equipped for work in 2005, leading them to favour older applications with more work experience (Scottish Executive, 2006).

Those who fall into the NEET category tend to have low levels of qualifications. The Scottish Executive (2006) estimates that 83% of unemployed youths have not attained Higher level qualifications.

### Scope

Table 7: Destination of school leavers in Edinburgh 2008/2009

Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary	NEET, seeking	NEET, not seeking	Unknown
35.1% (1208)	25.2% (868)	3.6% (124)	17.9% (616)	0.5% (17)	15.5% (534)	1.7% (59)	0.4% (14)

(Scottish Government, 2009a)

The NEET not seeking category includes those who are sick, disabled, have a caring responsibility and those who have gone travelling for a 'gap year' (Scottish Executive, 2006). This leaves 534 school leavers in 2009 seeking employment, education or training. Taking into account school leavers from other years who are still NEET, there could be up to **1,500** young people aged 16-19 not in employment, education or training.

There were about 3,443 school leavers in Edinburgh in 2008/2009.

## **Benefits**

Young people claiming benefits:

In 2010 **1,030** under 19s were claiming Job Seekers Allowance. **10** 16-17s and **900** 18-24s were claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance, and **110** 16-17s and **1,640** 18-24s were claiming Income Support (DWP, 2010).

## **Overlaps**

- School leavers not in employment, education or training by ethnic origin:
    - White UK: 13.6%
    - White Other: 11.9%
    - Asian Pakistani: 9.6%
    - Asian Chinese 3.3%
    - Other 10.3%
    - Unknown: 17.6%
  - School leavers not in education training or employment by additional needs:
    - All Additional Needs: 21%
    - Social, Behavioural and Emotional Disorders: 35%
    - Learning Disabilities: 17%
  - 63% of young offenders are unemployed at the time of arrest
  - 11% of unemployed young people claim unemployment drove them to drugs or alcohol
  - 38.8% of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training in 2007/2008. Their higher education rate was also far lower than for those not in care, sitting at only 3.9%
- (Scottish Executive, 2006; Scottish Government, 2009a; Information Services Division Scotland, 2009; Briheim-Crookall, 2010)

## **Barriers to Employment**

- Little or no work experience
- Low qualification levels
- Lack of numeracy and literacy skills
- Lack of confidence in interviews and the workplace
- Possible record of truancy
- Lack of motivation or disincentive due to benefits cycle
- Lack of job searching skills

## Services

\* **Impact Arts** - Their project Fab Pad offers young people the opportunity to work with an interior designer in order to gain skills to help them settle in a new home and progress into employment, training or further education. It focuses on vulnerable young people, many of whom have been drug or alcohol abusers, homeless, have suffered from mental health issues or have left care. Another project, Gallery 37, focuses on getting young people involved in various arts. This often leads them into employment, education or training.

\* **Midlothian Training Services** – Helps run the Get Ready for Work programme for young people aged 16-18 who are having difficulty entering the job market. It also runs Lifeskills for those who need additional support. This project focuses more on care leavers, drug or alcohol abusers, ex-offenders and homeless.

\* **Pilton Equalities Project** – Provides a volunteering service to vulnerable people and aims to develop skills on literacy, IT, and job specific skills in decorating and garden maintenance. They work with young people, ex-offenders, and those with learning difficulties and mental health conditions.

**Academy @ St. James** – Employability Skills Training – Targeted towards young people and care leavers, but also open to anyone, this project aims to prepare people for work in retail and hospitality and caring. It provides training courses on skills specific to these areas and more general workshops on CV writing, interview skills and job searching.

**City Youth Café (6VT)** – Provides advice and support for young tenants (15+), including access to new opportunities and help with job searches.

**Fairbridge** – Provides support for young people aged 13-25 who are experiencing disadvantage or social exclusion. They provide courses and one on one support to aid clients towards further education, training or employment and support clients to other specific agencies, where necessary.

**Canongate Youth Project** – Get Ready for Work – Aimed at young people aged 16-18, this project helps develop the confidence and transferable skills necessary for young people to get into and sustain employment. Their courses cover IT, communication, problem solving, CV preparation, interview techniques and job searching.

**Capital Skills** – Provides training in construction and horticulture for young people between 16 and 24. They also provide help with CV writing and job hunting.

**Muirhouse Youth Development Group – Shop Drop** – Provides a centre for local young people to go to job hunt. They also provide work placements to help develop the skills necessary to enter employment.

**Out of the Blue – Café Training Programme** - Offers a 6 month training programme for young people not in employment, education or training, with a particular focus on the Leith area. Work skills and placements are based around working in a busy café.

**Pilton Youth and Children’s Project** – Provides an employability service and community based support for young people (up to age 25).

**Port of Leith Housing Association** – Training Opportunities in Leith is a 6 month Get Ready for Work programme that provides on-site training for young people in a variety of roles, and courses in areas such as first aid, health and safety and health and hygiene.

**Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce** – Runs the Young Enterprise Project aimed at helping young people not in education, training or employment to start up their own business. They offer counselling and advice, aid with financial planning and access to grants and low-cost loans.

### **Research Issues**

- Some of the age brackets used in the benefits figures are too wide to accurately assess how many school leavers are claiming benefits