

**Youth Employment and Training Initiatives meeting (YETI)**

**Minutes and Actions**

**Watford, Three Rivers, Borehamwood, Hemel and St Albans**

**23rd March 2016**

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| ***Present*** | Anna Sherriff, Becky Andrews, Beverley Greenfield, Bianca Astore, Concetta Kyriacou, Elizabeth King, Jessica Webb, Kerry Hobbs, Lucy Coddington, Lucy Davis, Matt Bailey, Sara McLeese, Thomas Gent, Tom Kempsford, Fay Bowman |
| ***Apologies*** | Bev Ankin Youth Connexions  Beverley Woodhouse First Rung  Charmaine Batt Youth Connexions |

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| **Item** | **Minutes and Actions** | **Who/when** |
| 1 | **Key Messages and Action Points from previous meeting:**  SC provided Work Programme Provider information with Youth Connexions. SC shared latest 18-24 figures.  AS mentioned she had heard of some sort of skills programme with West Herts College and Watford Borough Council. Mat from West Herts College was not aware of this. LC to investigate. | **SC** Completed  LC –Action point |
| 2 | **Review of local JCP and Youth Connexions NEET Data (16-24):** Latest JCP 18-24 data shared. Numbers by site provided and it was noted that numbers are falling significantly and those remaining are harder to help.  AS gave update of Neet figures from end of February:  Watford available 74 and Three Rivers 79 available.  Dacorum 99 available for work, St Albans 46 available, Borehamwood 111 available.  LC to investigate if numbers of LDD or statemented young persons can be included on next data provided. | LC – Action point. |
| 3 | **Newly formed YETI areas**   * Larger geographical area has highlighted some hardcore wards where there are high numbers of harder to help Neets. * Some areas are remote and rural and have no regular transport links so hard to engage customers. * LDD customers may not be able to travel independently so transport is an issue which may cause them not to engage. * Door knocking exercises for information gathering – should the questionnaire include questions such as “What service do you want from us?” “What kind of help do you need from us”. * Can existing facilities from previous youth projects be used for events and information gathering? * LC reported that staff from Youth Connexions have made visits to Denmark and Sweden to see what service and help is offered to Neets in these countries. A Task and Finish Group has been set up to process their findings and take them forward. |  |
| 4 | **Gaps in Provision:**   * AS pointed out that there was a need for provision such as the “Entry to Employment” programme that previously existed. The need is for Confidence boosting, personal development. Up to a year possibly, with a roll on roll off approach. * FB noted that funding seems to be moving away from needs, we seem to be trying to meet funding needs rather than the young person’s needs. * Mental Health/LDD - need something around anxiety support and confidence issues. Some young people cannot travel alone and would benefit from some travel support and training to help them get to appointments and interviews. Longer transition periods – possibly up to a year. * LC informed group of Care Leaver Project “Employment Guarantee” which is run by HCC and Youth Connexions. It was noted that there are some discrepancies between care leaver data bases held by HCC, YC and DWP. * Lucy will feed back numbers referred so far. | LC – Action Point |
| 5 | **National Apprenticeship Week 2016 / Provider Updates**  All events have now taken place but it was noted that decreasing numbers of 18-24 JCP claimants did have a noticeable impact on some events where attendee numbers were low. |  |
| 7 | **AOB** AS reported that Arc Academy were no longer working out of Watford as they stated they were not getting the right calibre of candidates. They have now moved to Stevenage. |  |

Plans for the next meeting:

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| Date | Wednesday 15th June |
| Time | 10am – 12.30 |
| Venue | To be confirmed |
| Chair | Youth Connexions |