

Young people at the margins: social inclusion and skills policies across the UK

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*Young people, skills and prospects in employment: policy,
practice and inclusiveness*

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Overview of Presentation

Should young people on the margins be defined as 'NEET'?

How many young people in the UK are NEET?

Differences between NEET, unemployed and economically inactive status

Ownership of the NEET agenda and its links to the skills/welfare agenda

Conclusions and policy implications

Who is included in the NEET population?

16-18-year olds?
(original category)

(15)16-24-year olds?

(15)16-29-year olds?

(15)16-35-year olds?

Should we also include young
people in marginal employment?



UK NEET Figures

NEET Figures for October to December 2018:

- 788,000 young people (aged 16 to 24) in the UK
- 11.3% of 16 to 24 year olds (down from 16.5% five years ago)
- **39.1%** of all young people in the UK who were NEET were looking for work and available for work and therefore classified as unemployed (economically active):
 - 191,000 men
 - 124,000 women

The remainder (**60.9%**) were economically inactive (EI):

- 184,000 men
- 290,000 women

ONS (2019) Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: February 2019

Measurement and engagement issues

We can say in (name of case study area), we have 5-8,000 young people who are NEET, but we do not know where they are. Their parents may not be claiming a benefit, so we cannot track them. They may not have claimed themselves. They may be on the books of an institution and not come off it, even though they are not attending. This is a huge problem for a city like ours (name of case study area).'

(Manager)

(Maguire and McKay, 2016)

Research Overview



- Funding from the Open Research Area (ORA) for the Social Sciences (2016-19)
- SKOPE, University of Oxford (UK), University of Maastricht, WZB – Berlin Social Science Center, Germany, University of Burgundy, Doshisha University, Japan
- Quantitative analysis – causes, patterns and consequences of being 'NEET'
- Case studies of policy interventions (UK only)

UK Case Studies



England

Department for Education, youth organisations and charities (10 participants)

Scotland

Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Government (19 participants)

Wales

Welsh Government, Careers Wales and charities (12 participants)

Northern Ireland

Department for the Economy, Department of Education and Department of Health, charities and young people (21 participants)

TOTAL INTERVIEWEES: 62

Field work period: December 2016-December 2017

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

- UK-wide, apart from NI and some devolved powers in Scotland. Estimating welfare receipt among young people is complex
- Cooke (2013) estimated that 43 per cent of young people were not claiming any type of out-of-work benefit
- Analysis of EU LFS from 2013 – 57% of NEETs aged 15-24 were not registered with PES (Eurofound, 2015)
- 16-24-year-olds in UK much more likely to be sanctioned (especially young men) (Eisenstadt 2017; de Vries, Reeves and Geiger 2017)

DWP NEET Policies



- Youth Obligation

- (not NI) from April 2017, young people (18-21) in Universal Credit full service areas will be required to participate in intensive support

'A total of 24,600 have joined the programme since its launch last year, but only 9,300 remain – which means 15,300 youngsters have left, with no information available about what they are doing now.' Independent – 16th June 2018

- Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) – England only

SIBs are contracts for social outcomes, in which a delivery organisation receives funding from a social investor to deliver services, and government pays for the outcomes which are achieved as a result

The Youth Engagement Fund (2014-17) - £16 million

Innovation Fund (IF) pilot (2012-2015) - £30 million programme delivered to support young people aged 14 or over

DWP (2018) *'Evaluation of the Innovation Fund pilot: Quantitative assessment of impact and social return on investment'*. September.

Scotland

- **Opportunities for All** (Scottish Government, 2012)
Activity Agreements, Apprenticeships, Traineeships
- **Developing the Young Workforce: Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy** (Scottish Government, 2014)
- Participation Measure (2015) 16+ Data hub
- EU funding (2015-20) under the European Social Fund (ESF) - lead partner (Big Lottery Fund) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- EU's Youth Employment Initiative (South West Scotland)
- Community Jobs Scotland (CJS)
- **Fair Start Scotland** (all age) – from April 2018

Wales

- In 2011, Wales became the first UK country to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the **Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** into its domestic law
- **Youth Engagement and Progression Framework**: Implementation plan (Welsh Government, 2013)
- Traineeships and Apprenticeships
- Jobs Growth Wales
- Communities for Work (EU and DWP)
- ESF/YEI funding paramount to NEET provision
- **Working Wales (2019/20)** - all age service

Northern Ireland

- Pathways to Success: Preventing Exclusion and Promoting Participation of Young People (2012)
- Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 (19 NEET projects)
- EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation PEACE IV (2014-2020) includes the **United Youth Programme** (targeted at NEET group)
- Steps 2 Success (all-age JSA claimants)
- **Training for Success** is designed for young people aged 16-17 (up to 24 years for those who qualify under extended eligibility)

England

- Earn or Learn Cabinet Committee- cross-governmental cooperation on ending long-term youth unemployment
- The September Guarantee
- Raising of the Participation age (2013/15)
- Post-16 Skills Plan (2016)
- Apprenticeships/traineeships
- Civil Society strategy (August 2018) – new, independent organisation which will target areas to increase employment among disadvantaged groups
- ESF/YEI delivered through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)
- Big Lottery – Talent Match (2013-18)

Charities and Philanthropy

- Pivotal role of charities and third sector organisations across UK
- UK wide charities e.g. Prince's Trust, Barnardo's and Big Lottery – own programmes and EU/government sponsored
- National charities
- Networks of local provision
- Integral to outreach work and partnership working

NEET policy/programmes

Some issues

- Overcrowding/inconsistency
- Replication
- Sustainability
- Silos
- Hoops
- Staff training and retention
- Quantifying success – lack of evidence

Current and future challenges



- Should policy/intervention now concentrate on economic inactivity?
- Does the current welfare system serve the interests of young people?
- How do we map, track and support the hardest to help/hardest to reach groups?
- What happens to youth programmes post-Brexit?
- Who should own the 'NEET' agenda?
- How should we capture and share good practice?
- Is the term 'NEET' any longer fit for purpose?

Thank you

Any questions

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