

**Education and Children's Services
Scrutiny Committee
1 December 2016**

Covering Report: MyGo (young person's employment service) and Young People Age 16 -18 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Summary and Objectives

1. The objective of this scrutiny is for the committee to understand, and make any recommendations in relation to, the issues impacting 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), and the associated employment enablers such as MyGo and Apprenticeships.

Scrutiny Focus

2. Key focus areas for this scrutiny include the following:
 - i) Brief overview description of how the Council and partner organisations operate in addressing youth employment / apprenticeships and young people age 16-18 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).
 - ii) Current issues / challenges and opportunities, and Plans / milestones for addressing these.
 - iii) Causal factors, and the plans to address these, of the 16-18 NEET numbers being higher than national average
 - iv) MyGo & Apprenticeship schemes
 - v) Appropriate supply (employment / training) for the vulnerable group; what could we do to encourage more?
 - vi) Proactive seeking out of young people who are 'off the radar'
 - vii) Age ranges covered & transition between different support functions

How this relates to County Council priorities

3. This scrutiny is linked to the County Council's corporate priorities as indicated below:

The County Council's Corporate Priorities	Link to this scrutiny
Raising educational attainment and skill levels	✓
Supporting the LEPs to increase economic growth	✓
Maintaining roads and developing Suffolk's infrastructure	
Supporting those most vulnerable in our communities	✓
Empowering local communities	✓

4. Having considered the evidence, the Committee may wish to:
 - i) make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, and/or the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services;

- ii) agree topics which could benefit from more detailed scrutiny at a future meeting, seek to influence partner organisations, or request further information.

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Background

5. At previous workshops on 10 Feb 2015 and 20 Jul 2015 the members wished to look into challenging low aspirations in Suffolk, local skills to support the growth programme being pursued through/by the LEP, more joined up approach to infrastructure and local needs/gaps eg transport, etc. At a workshop on 13 July 2016, following on from the 9 June Committee meeting, it was decided to broaden the focus to include the Age 16-18 NEET issue, and it was requested to include Apprenticeships within the scope.
6. The committee had looked at 'Provision of Careers Guidance to Young People' on [11 June 2014](#). The status of the recommendations from that meeting are available for reference in [Agenda Item 8 Appendix 1 of the Information Bulletin](#) for the Committee meeting held on [9 June 2016](#).
7. At the Committee [meeting on 9 Jun 2016](#), in considering the topic, 'Making Every Intervention Count (MEIC) Update', the Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member and Director CYP, to undertake further investigation, including geographical analysis, of the reasons why Age 16-18 NEET figures, whilst decreasing year-on-year, are higher than the national average, and what MEIC or other initiatives including 'MyGO' are focused on addressing this.
8. There was an Information Bulletin item on '*Young People Participating and those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)*' at the [6 September 2016 meeting](#) of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. This outlined a change in policy at the Department for Education (DfE), whereby the DfE will introduce a new headline measure in the scorecard which combines NEET and 'not known' figures for 16 and 17 year olds. This would give a more accurate picture of LA performance in tracking and support for young people.
9. There are now three MyGo Centres open in Suffolk (Ipswich, Stowmarket and Lowestoft www.its-mygo.co.uk/). Some members of the Committee took part in a site-visit to the Ipswich MyGo centre on 17 November 2016.

Main Body of Evidence (attached)

- (i) **Evidence Set 1** - (9 pg) – Report prepared by CYP officers, 'MyGo and Young People age 16-18 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)'.
- (ii) **Evidence Set 2** – (7 pg) - Raising Participation and NEET Prevention. Summary Document: Delivery Plan (Updated Sept. 2016).