



## **CABINET - 10TH DECEMBER 2014**

**SUBJECT: YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CORPORATE DIRECTOR  
EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Auditor General for Wales, as part of the programme of works for the year 2012-13 has issued (July 2014) the findings of his review of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS). The review sought to consider the strategic approach taken by councils across Wales to reducing young people who are NEET.
- 1.2 Members have a critical role to play in evaluating Regulator reviews and in particular understanding what difference such reviews make to improvement of services for our citizens. They also have a clear role in monitoring progress in achieving report recommendations from the wide range of reviews undertaken.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A total of eight councils were visited across Wales between May and July 2013.
- 2.2 The review made 6 recommendations:-
  - R1 Together with partners, map and review expenditure on NEETs services to better understand expenditure required to deliver the Framework.
  - R2 Clarify their strategic approach to reducing the proportion of 19 to 24 year olds who are NEET as well as their approach for 16 to 18 year olds.
  - R3 Focus on young people with significant or multiple barriers to engaging in education, employment or training rather than those who are more likely to re-engage without significant additional support.
  - R4 Develop their objectives and targets for reducing the proportion of young people NEET so that they can be held to account and their work aligns with the Welsh Government's targets and objectives.
  - R5 Ensure that elected members and partners fully understand that councils have clear responsibility for leading and co-ordinating youth services for 16 to 24 year olds.
  - R6 Improve the evaluation of the effectiveness and relative value for money of the services and interventions in their area that are intended to reduce the numbers of young people who are NEET.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017  
Caerphilly Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 A major internal review of service provision has taken place over the last two years. At the time of the National study the Directorate was in the early stages of implementing new processes and procedures in relation to those young people at risk of becoming and those who are classed as NEET.
- 4.2 These new processes have lead to improved links with all key stakeholders and a more focussed approach to tracking the progress and destinations of young people.
- 4.3 Our aim is early intervention and in undertaking our review we also in partnership with schools, fundamentally changed our programme for young people educated other than at school (EOTAS). This provision is currently being evaluated.
- 4.4 The current data, albeit unverified, is indicating a reduction on the 2013/14 figure of 4.4, however, it is fully recognised that there is still much work to be undertaken.
- 4.5 The Regulators proposals have been both acknowledged and incorporated into our plans to reduce the number of young people who are at risk of, or who are NEET and our next priority is to map and review expenditure on this group of vulnerable young people.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Government Measure defines fairness and access as one of the criteria that constitutes 'improvement' within the Wales programme for Improvement 2009.

### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 All comments have been incorporated into the body of the report.

### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the report.

### **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure Regulator reviews are appropriately managed and monitored across the Authority.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Measure 2009, Wales Programme for Improvement 2010.

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Appendix 1 - Young People not in Education, Employment or Training. Findings from a review of Councils in Wales - WAO, 10th July 2014.

Appendix 2 - Young People not in Education, Employment or Training - WAO, 10th July 2014.