

Sittingbourne and Sheppey – A Collaborative Approach to NEET Reduction



WHAT IS IT?

Swale has one of the highest percentages of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) young people in Years 12/13 in Kent. When the issue was investigated further it was discovered that most staff in schools were unaware of the full local offer for young people progressing into post-16. There were also no systematic or collaborative approaches to NEET reduction across the schools. The Sittingbourne and Sheppey schools came together to address this issue.

HOW DID IT WORK?

The Local Collaborative Partnership Area appointed a coordinator, a local Head of Sixth Form. They prepared for the work by doing the following:

- Organized a meeting structure
- Identified local offer and gaps
- Worked with partners to develop a preventative strategy
- Wrote a plan starting from end of Year 10 to end of post-16 focussed on preventing learners from becoming NEET

Building relationships with providers outside schools and colleges was important to begin examining how to deal with this issue.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?

There is now a regular series of meetings in place to check on progress and monitor activity across the area, making sure that staff are aware of the local offer and the support available to young people. There has been a focus on removing competition from relationships between local education providers. This has enabled people to come together from across the district and focus on those for whom there is not enough support and provision. One practical outcome from this will be collaborative information for all young people across the district showcasing the entire post-16 offer.

NEXT STEPS

An annual cycle of activities and interventions has been established that can be led by anyone across the area, to ensure that the work is sustainable even if there is not a permanent co-ordinator. The progress of this will be tracked by monitoring the local NEET figures and keeping an up-to-date map of provision.