

Youth Contract in the UK-England

- 1. Need/challenge addressed:** additional support for unemployed 18-24 year olds
- 2. Level of intervention:** For 18 -24 year olds, the measure encompasses work experience places, wage incentives and additional support from Jobcentre Plus advisers. There are subsidies for small businesses taking on an apprentice aged 16-24. There is also a programme of additional support aimed at 16 and 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). These will be young people, aged 16-17, who are NEET and who have no GCSEs at A*-C; or 1 GCSE at A* - C; or young offenders released from custody/serving a community sentence (with 1 or more GCSEs at A*-C); or, young people in care or who were in care (with 1 or more GCSEs A*-C)
- 3. Intensity of the intervention:** Ongoing, but due to end in 2016.
- 4. Conditions and different steps necessary for the implementation of the measure:** 12 different areas selected – South East, London, East of England, South West, East and West Midlands, Yorks and Humberside, Manchester and Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria and North East. The provider has to have evidence of the young person's eligibility, an action plan for the young person and evidence that the local authority has been told the young person is on the programme. This will trigger the initial payment to the provider. A Re-engagement payment is made after evidence is shown that the young person has started on an eligible between 3 months and 6 months after the initial payment. A sustainability payment is made Evidence after the young person has been engaged for 5 months in an eligible activity 6 months after the date of the re-engagement payment. Documentary evidence is to be provided by the young person, the educational provider or the employer. The provider also has to have and demonstrate a strong working relationship with local authorities, who have statutory responsibility for supporting young people aged 16-17 to engage in education or training. They will also need to demonstrate strong partnership working with other agencies and organisations that have a role in supporting young people, which could include, for example: Jobcentre Plus; Police services; Youth Offending Teams / local offender services, employers; local health services; voluntary and community sector and specialist organisations; LEPs, Academies/schools.

The measure is designed to enable the local partners delivering the measure can deliver in the most innovative and effective way possible to achieve the desired outcomes. The content of the programme is for the delivery organisations to design and implement. The programme should not replace or substitute education or training provision or other support that is already available within the system. It should fit alongside and complement the existing offer to help disengaged young people to make a successful and sustainable transition into a positive outcome.

- 5. Involvement in decisions about identifying the appropriate type of support, its level and intensity of support:** The provider identifies and provides the necessary support for the student. This would be ongoing throughout the student's attendance on the course.
- 6. Stakeholders involved in delivery of the measure:** The education and training provider.
- 7. Overall responsibility for implementation of the measure:** The education and training provider.

8. Obstacles in introducing the measure: Limited funds, limited and/or inaccurate information from the local authority.

9. Monitoring / assessing the measure: The Institute for Employment Studies (IES), in partnership with the Centre for Education and Industry, University of Warwick, and the Policy Research Institute Leeds Metropolitan University.

10. Results: September 2014, 25,735 young people on programme, 14,067 re-engaged with positive outcome and 4,670 sustained. There was a reduction of 1.8 % in the number of 16-17 year olds NEET in England: 12 % increase in overall engagement in learning and training among national participants; 2 % increase in engagement in Level 2 learning and training among national participants; and, a 1 % increase in the uptake of Entry Level learning among national participants, with no discernible impact in the core city areas.

11. Resources: GBP 1 billion for the whole 16-24 Scheme.

12. Continuation: The Scheme is still running. It is due to end in March 2016.