

Theme 1: Data Management, Policy and Provision

To further develop our infrastructure and knowledge base to enable us to plan appropriate provision so that all our young people are able to continue their learning journey

Key Priority 1

Identification of needs to inform provision planning and intervention

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All	4.1	Further development of Connexions Client Information System (CCIS) to continue to meet DCSF requirements	'Core' client database to continue	Connexions (P.I.M.)	Monthly	Robust data supplied regularly and on time to DCSF	Timescales met
			Implement direct links between Connexions and Youth Service data	Connexions Youth Service (P.I.T.M.)	March 2008 (M)	Improved information on range of activities in which individual YP are participating	Link has now been established to enable information sharing. Outcome of analysis to be reported October 2008
All	4.1	Connexions 'CORE' database to work effectively alongside LA systems such as Contactpoint and other databases to secure more robust and up to date data	Establish clear links with Joint Commissioning Unit Data Management Group	Connexions JCU (P.I.T.M.)	Dec 2008 (M)	As above Streamlining of data collection, underpinned by protocols, 'Collect once, use many times'	P.I.T.M. is a member of JCU Data Team
All	4.1	Forensic use of management information to inform local planning and strategies	Analysis carried out monthly at county and area level and shared with partners eg. Local Children's Boards and Area Advisory Groups to inform progress and planning	Connexions (P.I.T.M. and D.M.)	Monthly (S)	Data produced on: •Performance against September Guarantee •% 16-18 year olds in learning •% and numbers NEET •% and numbers Not Known	LCB KPI Local Champion's established AAG sub-groups to undertake ongoing analysis, collaborate in respect of current and planned activities and identify additional action. AAG sub-groups to report on progress by June 2008.
			Identify post 16 programmes with high drop out' and map trends to ensure: • Targeted intervention to improve retention • Feedback to inform IAG for other young people • Support is available to young people to support their retention on their current programme or relocation to other learning provision	LSC	<u>SSFs</u> (S) <u>WBL</u> (M) <u>FE</u> (M)	Improved retention rates across sector As above	October 2007 SSFs with low retention identified to inform LA/SIP improvement plan and pilot Underperforming provision identified through MLP process and annual review. Q.I. indicators to be agreed by PMs Attach drill down in terms of sector performance against national benchmarks
		Establish link to prospectus informing young people of opportunity to question providers as to their chances of success	Request agreement of post-16 providers to publish retention, achievement and success rate data annually	LSC	June 2008	As above	
All	4.1		Interrogation of data to inform planning, adjustments to provision and further areas for development	LSC / LA Connexions DATA Group	Quarterly, commencing Dec 2007 (S)	Reduction in NEETs; increased participation in learning post-16	Agreement reached on analysis to be presented to AAGs LSC/Connexions quarterly meetings to analyse data to

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
							inform Commissioning Local groups to be established to analyse data and direct action
All	4.3	Implement new arrangements to Future Needs Support Plans (explain)	At 16+ Transition/Future Needs Support Plans are shared to inform the nature of required support (School Action, School Action Plus and Statemented)	Connexions/ LA/Schools/ Post-16 Providers	Sept 2008 (M)	Increased participation: reduced 'drop out'	

Key Priority 2

High quality relevant 14-19 provision is in place which meets the needs of all young people and the economic requirements of the county/region

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All		Maximise opportunities through the development of a Work Related curriculum to promote progression opportunities post 16	Establish a County Wide Work Related Steering Group to support the development of a Work Related Curriculum Identify and align funding to support WRL Curriculum development	LA / Dave Ford	Sept 2008	Increased Achievement KS4 from XXX Increased Participation Post 16 EET From 86.7% - 2007	In excess of 500 yp in KS4 being supported in 18 schools to access a work related curriculum, with further funding secured for 08/09 Cohort 4 IFP complete - outcome reports TBA
		Maximise opportunities through the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme, 14-19 Intervention Funding and IF and YA	Evaluation of KS4 Engagement Programme and PIAP to inform priorities for 08/09 Funding allocated and programme outcomes clearly identified and communicated	LSC / LA	June 2008	Annual achievement and progression improved overall and greater rate of improvement for vulnerable groups • % YP with LDD • % YM in EET • % Young Offenders in EET • % Care leavers at 19 EET • % and broader	First quarterly report completed - 18 schools involved Funding identified and allocation processes to be discussed with providers and schools February 2008
		Secure future funding for IF activities	Analysis of number of young people accessing IF type activity in 2008/09		June 2008		KS4 Engagement Programme 2007 yr12 destinations; 87% participating in EET; 4 partnerships continuing to support a further cohort of IF Funding identified for Yr2 cohort 5 Planning underway for future delivery. Data received to date indicates reduced numbers requested
		LSC/LA to support and challenge SSFs; FE colleges; WBL providers, to	Principal Inspector to draw up implementation plan for support and challenge to SSFs	Dave Ford			Review undertaken of value-added data for SSF. Issues

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
		deliver and sustain high quality provision					identified and discussed with LA to inform improvement plan
		Develop innovative approaches to better engage young people eg. Short provision, partnership approaches	Ensure flexible start dates are available to enable young people to begin learning throughout the year	LSC	Apr 2008 (S) Apr 2008 (S) Dec 2007		All FE providers seeking to attract learners to commence programmes from January 2008 and at other points in the year.
			Ensure adequacy of provision at entry level / level 1 with clear progression pathways	LSC	Apr 2008 (S)		80 places commissioned to extend Pathways for Progression Project. Further 34 places commissioned all places taken Further funding secured.
		Implementation of 14-19 aspects of Joint Commissioning Framework leading to a Joint Commissioning Plan [14-19]	Development of 14-19 Education Plan	M. Bell	June 2008		First draft of plan submitted to Strategic group December 2007.
		Promote greater collaboration between 11-16, 11-18 schools and post 16 providers to deliver entitlement to Diplomas	Use diploma developments as a leverage to promote collaboration in order to deliver learner entitlement by 2013. Curriculum plan to identify timescales for staged developments Production and delivery of Diploma Implementation Plan (Link)	LA / 14-19 Strategic Group (MB) Dave Ford	 June 2008		Link to new results
LLDD	4.2	Develop a model of provision that supports young people with Autism	All partners to work together to prepare a vision for the future	Lynn Gregory	Sept 2008 (M)		Support for curriculum development activity within New College. Partnership with 4 FE colleges to implement curriculum Progress shared at IPEET launch event.
			Prepare an action plan with targets and milestones	Lynn Gregory	Sept 2008 (S)		
			Secure funding to support identified capacity building	LSC / LA	Aug 2008		
			Evaluate models and disseminate to region	LSC / BAC NCD/EDHCC	July 2008 (M)		Programmes currently being evaluated to inform future provision
YM	4.3	Utilise designated funding to commission a programme of learning for 16-19 expectant mothers / mothers	Evaluate proposals Commission programme of delivery Evaluate programme to inform future delivery	LSC LSC LSC	June 07 (S) June 07 (S) April 08 (M)	Increase in young mothers who are participating in EET Target 60%	Young Parents Programme currently being evaluated - meeting between all providers for dissemination to inform new programme

Key Priority 3

Partnerships are better able to identify and support the whole needs of young people and their families by providing appropriate:

•Universal, •Targeted, and •Specialist Services

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All		Review and rationalise all partnerships concerned with the outcomes for children and young people to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency, including the development of protocols which facilitate sharing of information between services	Convene Partnership Board to oversee development of integrated services for young people	LA (AJJ)		Clear framework of partnership and roles and responsibilities that are understood. Partners are able to identify their specific contributions Adequate, accessible, appropriate, smart provision	
		Schools to identify member of leadership team to co-ordinate internal and external partnership resources to ensure effective targeting; make best use of facilities and expertise to address students' needs		Schools	Sept 2008	Nominated individuals	
All	4.1		Hasten development of protocols which facilitate sharing of information between services	LA (ISA Board)	Autumn 2007 (S)	LSC / LA able to plan timely Adequate, accessible, appropriate, smart provision	

Theme 2: Preventative Work

To ensure that young people have high aspirations for their future, are able to make informed choices, select programmes that will best meet their learning needs to achieve their aspirations and continue in their programme of learning

Key Priority 4

Young people have access to high quality, impartial advice and guidance regarding the learning opportunities and support available to inform their choices at key decision points: • At 14, • At 16, • At 17, • At 18+

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All	4.2a	Raise quality of IAG Agree Strategy Prepare action plan for implementation Establish current position through programme of self assessment	Support establishments to implement IAG Quality Standards	Connexions 14-19 Team LA, SITM	Sept 2008 (M)	IAG Standards are met	Initial launch Nov 2007 Strategy Prospectus available Curriculum Steering Group established to secure support for implementation of IAG QS County-wide cross-sector launch of Quality Standards Nov 07 Feedback forms IAG strategy Further dissemination of QS information to cross sector clusters planned Spring 08
		High quality, accessible information about available provision (in on-line prospectus)	Ensure Help4Teens is updated and quality assured and new programmes added.	Connexions (P.M.) Connexions	Quarterly		
		Ensure all those working to support young people are able to provide appropriate support	Staff Development programme implemented and range of opportunities to share good practice, which supports teachers/lecturers and governing bodies to understand issues and enable young people to use IAG resources effectively	14-19 Team / EDS / Connexions	April 2008 - March 2009		IAG training programme under development based on national guidance
			Co-ordinated provision of training towards achievement of national standards eg. LDSS other NVQ qualifications at levels 3 and 4	LA / Connexions	Sept 2008 (M)		LA inspector for CEG to focus on pre-16 IAG approaches in school. LA protocols for best practice in IAG to be discussed with providers March 2008
			IAG training programme for support workers (eg. Youth workers) Tutoring for Transition training provided to schools, colleges, WBL providers	Connexions YEC	Sept 2008 March 2008 Sept 2008 March 2009		Training underway
			Ensure school staff have the appropriate level	CYPS	Dec 2008		LA inspector for CEG to focus

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	ESMT Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
			of knowledge and skills to fulfil their role and are able to refer to specialist interventions	ESMT			on pre 16 IAG approaches in schools
			CYPS to monitor and support improvements to IAG in schools	CYPS EDS / SIPS			
			IYSS to support development in non-school locations Develop partnership arrangements with key non-careers professionals to increase their awareness of the range of EET opportunities Celebrate success of all pathways/activities Success stories/appearances of former pupils in 11-16 schools [and prior] Provide accurate information to parents to challenge preconceptions eg. HE, finance, employment situation	LA/AimHigher Connexions Connexions Connexions LA	Sept 2009 (L) Sept 2008 (M) Sept 2008 (M) Dec 2007 (S)		LA protocols for best practice in IAG to be discussed with providers March 2008
		Raise aspirations of parents	Improve support and involvement of parents [ref DCSF 'Role of Schools in reducing NEETs' strategy] eg. Develop self assessment tool for schools and partnerships	Schools LA / 14-19 Team	Sept 2008 (M)		
		Ensure all young people have an individual learning/progression plan, prepared within KS3/4 and that is capable of assisting planning and progression into post-16 learning The plan should also ensure that young people are able to receive the appropriate support to benefit from their learning	Implementation of county approach to ILPs to underpin IAG / Personal Development				Audit complete and recommendations made on way forward
LLDD	4.2	Ensure that learners leaving Special Schools at 18 are able to access learning opportunities that suit their needs and aspirations	Raise awareness in schools of all post-16 options available to young people with SEN Raise awareness in schools of the expertise and support available in the post-16 sector Raise the awareness of parents of the expertise and support available in the post-16 sector	Local NEET groups	Sept 2008 (M) Sept 2008 (M) Sept 2008 (M)	More young people leaving special schools at 18 access suitable learning opportunities	

All	4.2a	Schools to ensure all young people have access to appropriate/ personalised 14-16 learning opportunities	Implement criteria to ensure 'right' young people are on the most appropriate programmes eg. KS4 Engagement; Diplomas; Young	Dave Ford	Sept 2007 - March 2008	% half days missed in secondary schools; improved attendance; improved progression into	Detailed analysis of programme outcomes ongoing by BETT team to inform advice to schools
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Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
			Apprentices and other work related programmes Evaluate programmes and share feedback on			post-16 learning; reduced % year 11 school leavers 'not settled' (Nov after leaving school)	on the appropriateness of alternative qualification pathways for groups and individuals
			impact on participation and progression				Tracking of Vulnerable groups planned to inform practice
	4.2a	Young people receive appropriate referrals recorded and actioned	Effective implementation of CAF to underpin referral arrangements Pilot CAF with 13-19 year olds through development of IYSS and LCBs	Service Development Director	Sept 2008	Level and nature of referrals monitored	
	4.2a	Schools are accountable for progression of their pupils	Implement post-16 progression measures Connexions to provide schools and DCSF with destinations information Ensure SIPS have adequate information to perform their role in monitoring, challenging and advising schools on ways of improving their progression rates for KS4	Schools Connexions (P.I.T.M.) LA (DGF)	Sept 2008	Monitoring of Participation and NEET data by individual schools leads to changes in delivery More young people attain levels 2 and 3 at 19 from baseline 2007/08	Integral part of local and national SIP professional development LA sharing outcomes of LA / LSC review of SSFs

Key Priority 5

Improve retention of young people in learning

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
			Identify and target resources to young people on programmes with high drop out in order to increase retention on programmes or to retain in learning	LSC / Providers	Monthly	Fewer young people leave post-16 learning before achieving Level 2 qualification as a minimum Awaiting updated figures	Targeted improvement for retention and achievement (TIRA) project commissioned to support young people in FE colleges. As at December 2007-328 young people identified for additional support, 122 have completed their learning aim, 114 achieved a positive outcome on leaving the TIRA project. In addition 12 support workers have undertaken additional learning and development 'Roundabout' support programme commissioned to support young people in WBL who may become disengaged or leave provision 222 referrals from 15 providers 70.1% retention of yp who would potentially become NEET

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
			Providers ensure processes are in place (eg. traffic light system) which will alert to the possibility of early leavers Identification by Providers of named support person for all young people at risk of not continuing in learning	Post -16 Providers Post -16 Providers	Dec 2007 Sept 2008 (M)		By October 2007, 182 referrals, 115 positive outcomes, 59 young people remain supported, 16 reported as NEET TIRA - link
		Use IAG quality standards to improve IAG at 17+		LSC / FE WBL / SSFs	March 2008 (S)		Draft IAG Strategy in place, September Guarantee extended to 17 year olds Links to IAG Strategy doc Links to Sept Guarantee act plan
		Embed early notification system of premature leavers to Connexions	Secure agreement to implement 1 week notification period Connexions to provide feedback on efficiency and effectiveness of process	LSC / LA Connexions	March 2008 March 2008	Has this been agreed?	Needs further work to implement To be taken forward through provider commissioning process commencing January 2008
LAC / CL	4.1	Carry out research to identify barriers to transition to and retention in post-16 EET	Project commissioned and underway Ensure findings from the project inform appropriate future needs support	LSC / C&YPS	July 2007 May 2008	Increase in the number of care leavers who are participating EET	Draft report produced Project completed Evaluation report in development

Theme 3: Supported Transition

To ensure that all young people are able to make effective transitions

Key Priority 6

Ensure young people are supported through transition at 16 and beyond

NB. For young people leaving public are in LDD this can extend to age 25 (in specific circumstances)

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All	4.3	Develop robust protocols and processes for the transfer of individual learner information	Promote the benefits to young people of sharing information that will support their retention and achievement post-16 and seek their consent Post-16 Providers develop common protocols on how they receive and use information County wide approach to transition planning and need to develop common document	C. Payne		Improvement in participation and retention in EET	Working group established to develop agreed approaches to transition planning and associated staff training Participation Task Group
			Develop a programme of staff training to ensure standard approach to transition planning Focussed work by partners to target and provide support to those schools who produce the mos NEETs	C&YPS	June 2008		As part of the SIP brief post-16 Dave Ford
All	4.3b	Young people maintain engagement between leaving school and starting post-16 education / training	Appropriate accessible activities capture interest and enthusiasm of young people Promote availability to young people and their parents Identify and share models of effective practice. Maximise funding opportunities to plan and deliver activities	All partners via Promoting Positive Activities	Sept 2008	Participation and retention increased Reduction in 'Not Knowns' in September / October particularly	NEED TO INCLUDE IN ESF AND LSC, funding. What do Connexions have planned What do FE have planned

Development of further targeted support for those who are, or are at risk of becoming NEET eg. Curriculum developments, alternative provision, motivational activities

YM	4.3a	Implement revised DOH strategy Promote learning to young mothers and those working with them as a pathway to reduce child poverty Raise awareness of national and local participation targets	Promote funding for learning with young mothers and those who work with them eg. • Care to learn • Educational Maintenance Allowance	PTPPB (Chair GH)		Increase in young mothers 16-19 participating in learning Target 60% by 2012	
LDD	4.3a	Early indication of individual's future support needs, that ensures appropriate transition support is put in place	Pilot a 'person centred' approach to the statutory 14+ review process Work with regional colleagues to develop protocols that ensure high quality Section 140 (post-16 support needs) assessment are undertaken and able to be acted upon development of a multi agency case forum approach to the Specialist College placement process	LA / Connexions LA / Connexions LA to lead			

Theme 4: NEET Re-engagement

Working with young people not in employment, education or training to enable them to identify and access suitable learning programmes in order to continue their learning journey, and to achieve a reduction in NEET percentage to 8.8% by January 2010

Key Priority 7

Ensure contact maintained with young people who are NEET

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All	4.4a	<p>Connexions staff to maintain contact with young people known to be NEET at a minimum within timescales specified by the DCSF</p> <p>Analyse sub-sets of NEET group so that interventions are targeted, and work with specific groups can be prioritised [ref. Connexions Increasing Participation internal plan]</p> <p>Examine ways to engage FE sector in targeting young people who are NEET</p>	<p>Review current practice and revise</p> <p>Implement revised follow up strategy</p> <p>Priorities to be agreed and communicated</p>	<p>Connexions (M.T.)</p> <p>Connexions</p> <p>Connexions / C&YPS</p> <p>Connexions / FE</p>	<p>Oct 2007 (S)</p> <p>Oct 2007 (S)</p> <p>Oct 2007 (S)</p> <p>Dec 2007 (S)</p>	Reduced number of young people, not known or who have not maintained contact	<p>October 10.8%</p> <p>November 10.6%</p>

Key Priority 8

Ensure young people are able to access employment and training opportunities

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
All	4.4b	<p>Effective referral mechanisms in place to match young people's needs with those of employers</p> <p>Re-examine Connexions / Jobcentre Plus Service Level Agreement</p>	<p>Improve feedback on recruitment from employers and use to inform / improve future activities</p>	<p>Connexions</p> <p>Connexions</p>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>Oct 2007 (S)</p>	<p>Monitor number of vacancies and outcomes</p>	<p>5 year national skills campaign and apprenticeship campaign underway</p> <p>Commended commissioning for National matching service</p> <p>Regional campaign with WBL network to promote uptake of apprenticeships</p> <p>Employer engagement workshops to be held in Durham spring 2008 to promote value of workforce development, including apprenticeships</p> <p>CDEP skills seminar to be held with Durham employers April 2008</p> <p>Secured Durham 2020 employers commitment to recruitment of</p>

Group / Theme	Strategy Objective	Action	Activity	Lead	By When	Outcome Measure	Progress
		Identify ways in which public sector employers may increase recruitment of young people to jobs with training		LSC / LA	March 2008 (M)		16-18 year olds, including apprenticeships Partnership Agreement confirmed Contact made with Service Direct and NHS
All	4.4	Development and implementation of a robust employer engagement strategy that secures increased employment opportunities with sustained appropriate training for all young people, and increases opportunities for specific groups of young people • LDD, • YO, • CL	Further develop and publish employer engagement strategy Celebrate contribution of employers' activity in providing vocational experiences and jobs Develop role models of good practice by supportive employers Strategic approach to employers by segmenting markets eg. Priority sectors, numbers, geographical areas Seek solutions to transport barriers Establish single, unified approach to employers involving Business Link and Jobcentre Plus	C&YPS / 14-19 Team LSC	March 2008 (M) March 2008 (M)	Increased entry to employment Increased number of jobs with planned training	Research commissioned - report due end April 08. Funding identified to support implementation
		Increasing apprenticeships and programme led apprenticeships	Economic Development Partnership to perform increased role in leading development of opportunities for young people	LSC	March 2008 (M)	Increase in young people undertaking apprenticeships	
		Explore opportunities to maximise impact of national / regional campaigns locally Secure effective links with the employer engagement activities of the regional 14-19 Commission	Increased number of opportunities created for young people as well as enabling workforce development for employers Ensure effective links between Connexions and regional LSC marketing team	LSC	(S)		As above