NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES - age, target group and additional information (current as at January 2015). Next update April 2015.

Programme	Age range	Target Group	Additional information
Education Funding Agency (EFA) - Youth Contract (YC): Cohort 1	16 and 17 year olds	YP who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and have no GCSEs at A* - C.	Programme targets YP who are not engaged in Education Employment & Training (EET) and are hard to engage and helps them progress into and remain in education, training and employment with training. It does not need to focus on educational support so can be delivered alongside mainstream and ESF programmes.
EFA Youth Contract: Cohort 2		YP who are NEET and have 1 GCSE at A*- C.	Young offenders once released from custody /serving community sentence, NEET and with one or more GCSEs at A* - C. YP in custody are not eligible for YC provision.
			YP who are NEET and are (or were) in care, with one or more GCSEs at A* - C.
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - 16 and 17 year old Jobcentre Plus (JCP) pilot	16 and 17 year olds	NEETs, who are not in receipt of an out of work benefit.	Programme extends Jobcentre Plus support to 16 and 17 year olds, not in education, employment, or training (NEETs), to help avoid the scarring effects associated with being NEET and the correlation with longer term worklessness.
Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/EFA - European Social Fund (ESF)	14 to 19 year olds and learners with learning difficulty and disability (LLDD) aged up to 25 years.	YP participating in education, employment training but are 'At risk' of becoming NEET.	14 to 19 year olds (and LLDD up to 25 years) who are 'not in education, employment or training (NEET) - in all regions in England, except London.
DWP- Innovation fund (IF) - round 1	14 to 18 years (or school years 10, 11, 12 and 13)	Disadvantaged young people (and those at risk of disadvantage), with particular focus on the most disadvantaged, long term NEET.	Improve employment prospects for young people aged 14 years and over.
DWP - Innovation fund (IF) - round 2	14 and 15 year olds only	Long term NEET, including YP in gangs.	IF provision will focus on innovative ways of addressing the issues and barriers that make young people more at risk of becoming long-term NEET.
Cabinet Office - Fund for Vulnerable and Disengaged Young People (VDYP)	Young people (YP) between the ages of 9 and 24	Young offenders, young people in care or leaving care, and other groups of disengaged and vulnerable young people such as those not in education, employment or training (NEETs) or with special educational needs or disabilities.	The focus of the VDYP fund is to improve outcomes, including academic performance, work outcomes, reducing reoffending and health outcomes for young people. There are two main types of projects funded: 1) volunteers support vulnerable and disengaged young people to achieve their potential 2) vulnerable and disengaged young people participate in social action to gain life skills. Each project has set referral criteria for the target client group (for example young offenders will be referred by
Cabinet Office - National Citizen Service (NCS)	15 to 17 year olds (year 11 and year 12)	All young people that meet the age criteria based on individual/self referral.	Youth Offending Teams - YOTs). The NCS programme brings together young people from diverse backgrounds and helps them to develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development for young people by working on skills such as leadership, teamwork, and communication. The young people participate in a range of challenging activities designed to help them develop crucial skills. They take part in residentials, build strong team relationships and then design and deliver a social action project to address issues they identify in their local communities.
The Big Lottery Fund - Talent Match (TM)	18 to 24 year olds	NEET - (out of work, education or training) for 12 months or more; including those not currently claiming any benefits.	The aim of Talent Match (TM) is to enable young people who are furthest away from being work-ready to secure employment or take up enterprising opportunities. Projects running in 21 youth unemployment hotspots across England, focused on particular areas
		Can support other engagement programmes in helping young people move into education, employment and training.	and/or groups of young people as determined by the need in the area. Projects have been designed to fill gaps in or complement existing provision in each area, and are working with a range of local partners to ensure this happens. As a result, each project is different, reflecting the needs of the particular group of young people they have chosen to work with, and the resources available in the local area.
Youth Justice Board (YJB) - Resettlement Consortia	10 to 17 year olds	Young people leaving custody.	Under Transforming Youth Custody four new resettlement consortia are being developed in England. The aim of the new consortia is to develop positive links between the secure estate providers, youth offending teams (YOTs) and local authority stakeholders who currently work outside the youth justice services, (in particular children's services and housing), by improving the provision and access to mainstream and specialist services. Young offenders coming out of custody within the consortia areas will receive enhanced resettlement support including mentoring, accommodation, and ETE (education, training and employment).
YJB - Employer Forums ("Turn around to work" Initiative)	16 to 18 year olds	Young people leaving custody (under youth offending team supervision).	Two new Employer Forums have been set up alongside the Resettlement Consortia, one in Greater Manchester (existing Consortia), and one in London. The initiative will join Employers and YOTs together to provide YP with work placements supported by the Youth Contract Caseworker for under 18s and by the DWP Work Programme for 18 year olds. The Initiative will consist of a 'Leadership' group to overcome strategic challenges and a 'taskforce' to coordinate the referrals and placements.
European Social Fund - Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)	15 to 24 year olds	Unemployed or inactive and residing in an area eligible for the Youth Employment Initiative funds.	LEPs have been given the flexibility to propose the most effective interventions that meet the needs of their areas and complement/enhance existing provision.