

## Guidance

# Youth Contract provision: 16- and 17-year-olds

Updated 26 November 2015

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# 1.

## Overview

The purpose of the Youth Contract programme for 16- and 17-year-olds is to engage young people who are hardest to reach and support them into education, training or a job with training. Delivery of the programme across England began in September 2012. This programme operates to the end of 31 March 2016, with recruitment to the programme ceasing on 31 March 2015.

# 2.

## Eligibility

The programme supports 16- and 17-year-olds who are not participating in education, employment or training (NEET) and who have:

- no GCSEs at A\*-C
- 1 GCSE at A\* - C
- young offenders released from custody/serving a community sentence (with 1 or more GCSEs at A\*-C)
- young people in care or who were in care (with 1 or more GCSEs A\*-C)

# 3.

## Information for institutions

Organisations delivering the programme are given complete freedom to design and tailor a programme of support to eligible young people move into full-time education, an apprenticeship or a job with training.

They receive payment by results, for which they receive a payment of up to a maximum of £2,200 per young person. This is dependent on how successful

they are at helping young people to make a sustainable move into a positive outcome.

# 4.

## Information for local authorities

Local authorities have a statutory duty to support young people to participate and have a key role in helping to deliver this programme, working with providers to target those young people who most need support and ensure that this provision fits closely with the wider local offer.

The Youth Contract programme for 16- and 17-year-olds is intended to be complementary to existing provision and support, and should help local authorities to meet their duties under the Education and Skills Act 2008. You can download the [detailed and updated role of local authorities](#) in supporting the Youth Contract.

Organisations delivering the Youth Contact programme for 16- and 17-year-olds will work closely with local authorities in their area to ensure eligible young people are referred to the programme. There should be no impediment to local authorities [sharing relevant data with Youth Contract providers](#) as long as a clear agreement is in place.

On this website, you can find the [list of organisations providing the Youth Contract](#) for 16- and 17-year-olds, their supply chain and the geographical area they cover.

In three areas of the country, Liverpool, Newcastle-Gateshead and Leeds-Bradford-Wakefield, a local approach to developing this programme is being tested as part of the government's city deals. For further information on delivery of the Youth Contract programme in these areas, please contact the respective local authorities.

# 5.

## Delivery data for the Youth Contract

We have updated and published data for the [delivery of the Youth Contract programme for 16- and 17-year-olds to the end of September 2015](#).

We will next publish delivery data for the Youth Contract programme for 16- and 17-year-olds in late 2016. This publication will provide the final delivery volumes for the programme.

# 6.

## Evaluation of Youth Contract for 16- to 17-year-olds

We commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), in partnership with Professor Sue Maguire, Centre for Education and Industry at the University of Warwick, and the Policy Research Institute at Leeds Metropolitan University, to undertake an independent evaluation of the Youth Contract element targeted at 16- to 17-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training.

The [independent evaluation on the Youth Contract for 16- and 17-year-olds](#) is now complete and available on GOV.UK.

# 7.

## Offender learning

The Education Funding Agency no longer holds the contracts for the delivery of education and training in under-18 public sector Young Offender

Institutions.

Further information about provision in the secure youth estate can be found on the [Youth Justice Board](#) pages on GOV.UK.

# 8.

## **European Social Fund (ESF) provision for young people aged 14 to 19**

The aim of the European Social Fund (ESF) programme for young people is to engage and support young people who are aged 14 to 19 and who are not in employment, education or training' (NEET) or, who are at risk of becoming NEET. These young people are likely to be those who face multiple barriers to their participation in education and training and need, therefore, a different type of provision to engage them in learning and keep them engaged.

Such groups include those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, care leavers, young people with mental health difficulties, young offenders and teenage parents. ESF providers meet the needs of such young people by delivering individually tailored provision that will help them to progress to education or employment with training.

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) works closely with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and local authorities to make sure the ESF monies for young people target the key areas of need. The SFA procures and manages ESF provision on behalf of the EFA.

The 2007 to 2013 ESF programme has been extended until the end of July 2015. A [list of providers delivering ESF provision](#) for young people for this period can be found on GOV.UK.

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