



Pre-NEET Intervention

It is believed that the biggest benefactors of the Learning Hubs programme will be those living in the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas by closing the opportunity gap and digital divide between rich and poor. Accordingly a prime focus of the project is the intervention of pre-NEET. NEET is the group of 16-19 year olds who are Not in Employment, Education, or Training.

Tackling NEET is a national priority. Since devolution, the Scottish Executive has maintained a strong focus on poverty and disadvantage¹, and the First Minister has underlined the Executive's commitment to the NEET challenge by bringing business and education leaders together.

The economic and social costs of NEET extend well into later life, with evidence that young people who are NEET for a prolonged period are most likely to encounter persistent problems of worklessness and social exclusion.⁴ NEET burdens the economy with astronomical costs resulting from unemployment, under employment, crime, poor health, substance abuse, premature death and early mother-hood.

Evidence suggests that the two main factors attributing to NEET are disadvantage and educational disaffection manifested by truancy², low attainment³ and exclusion. All research and evidence from similar projects indicate that Learning Hubs will significantly reduce truancy and improve attainment whilst re-engaging many of those currently disillusioned with education.

Low attainment is also often accompanied with a similar lack of generic skills for life and work.⁴ Recent research found that 43% of employers felt school leavers they had recently recruited were poorly prepared for the world of work.⁵

It is believed that the Learning Hubs programme will make a significant difference to the NEET category and indeed to all children, by making education more enjoyable and engaging, whilst providing school leavers with the 21st Century skills that they deserve and need to thrive in the work place.

Learning Hubs will address the NEET issue and it will close the digital divide between rich and poor, providing equal opportunities to all.

¹ The Scottish Executive, More Choices More Chances, a strategy to reduce the Proportion of Young People not in Education Employment or Training in Scotland, 2006

² Research from England's Social Exclusion Unit 1999 shows that a quarter of those who truanted persistently in year 11 (Scottish S4 equivalent) were not in education, employment or training the following year.

³ 28% of young people who are NEET have no qualifications.

⁴ The Scottish Executive, More Choices More Chances

⁵ Futureskills Scotland, Scottish School Leavers and their Understanding of the World of Work, April 2005.