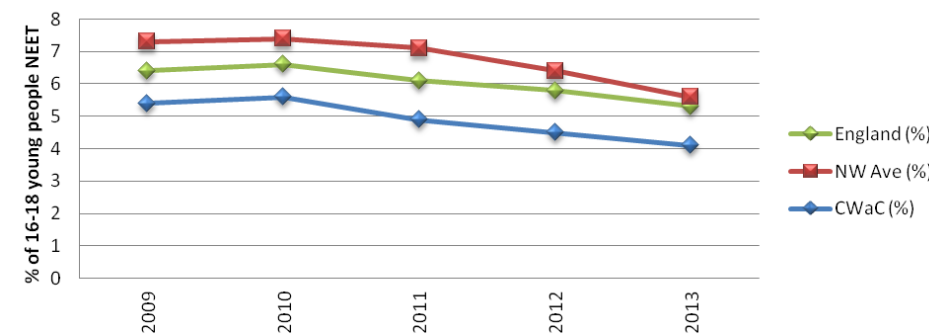




### Cheshire West and Chester, 16-18 year olds NEET 5 year trend



Source: Department for Education, 2013

In 2013, 4.1% of Cheshire West and Chester's 16 to 18 year old cohort were NEET equating to 450 young people. This is a decrease from 4.5% in 2012 and lower than the England average of 5.7% (percentages are based on the national measurement of NEET which is the average percent across the three months of November, December and January).

There are concentrations of NEETs in certain parts of Cheshire West and Chester, particularly in Ellesmere Port.

Of the 46 wards in Cheshire West and Chester, 33 are at, or lower than, the NEET percentage for the entire authority (4.1%). Grange and Rossmore wards in Ellesmere Port locality, Elton in Rural locality and Lache in Chester locality all currently have a NEET percentage more than double that of the Local Authority.

The use of a risk identification tool may have contributed to a reduction in the percentage of NEET year 11 leavers in 2013 to 2.1% from 2.4% in 2012.

#### Evidence of what works

Factors that contribute to a young person becoming NEET include disadvantage, poor educational attainment and educational disaffection. Evidence suggests the following approaches can have an impact:

- Development and use of a 'Risk of NEET' tool to identify young people in school year 11 to undertake preventative work to ensure they make a successful transition into post 16 participation.
- NEET case conferencing with opportunity providers helps match young people to activities and aims to prevent young people moving from one provision to another without a clear progression route.
- The Apprenticeship Hub across Cheshire and Warrington is able to promote apprenticeships across the borough and encourage local businesses to take on apprentices. Currently there are over 800 apprentices in Cheshire West and Warrington.
- The joining up and closer working with other services including Midwives, Youth Offending Team, Education Welfare, Family Advocates, Social Care and Family Support Workers. This has helped reduce the number of NEET young people and increased the support NEET young people receive.

#### Recommended Actions

The Children and Young People Critical Issue recommends:

- Continued development of the 'Risk of NEET' indicator tool and its roll out to schools.
- Identify gaps in provision taking into account available courses and locality areas. Ensure provision meets interests and aspirations of our learners and fills the skills gap.
- Identify the requirements of employers in response to trends in employment. Take into account projected skills gaps and employment shortage areas/localities using LMI data. All education providers need to be working closely with businesses to understand the qualities, skills and attitudes, besides qualifications, that young people need to be successful in the workplace.
- Develop clear and coherent progression routes for those age 14-19.
- Intensive, tailored support for the most vulnerable NEET young people who may not be ready for traditional further education or apprenticeship schemes. For example teenage parents often require up to date information and knowledge about benefits, housing advice and support.

Rationale: Young people who are disengaged at aged 16-17 and are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are more at risk as adults to be unemployed or on a low income, develop poor mental health such as depression and live in poverty. The individuals are also at greater risk of experiencing intergenerational poverty: suffering from low aspirations and poor life chances which they in turn can pass on to their own children. (Public Health England)