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## **ESF Youth Programme Support**

**Report of Programme Information Exchange event  
on 16 June 2017**

## Introduction

London Councils has been commissioned to support the London ESF Youth Programme.

This support aims to improve the impact of the Programme by providing opportunities for providers and partners, including local authorities, to:

- Identify and overcome barriers to successful delivery
- Exchange ideas, experiences and effective practice
- Manage transition between different strands of the Programme so that young people are better supported into positive destinations

The principal means of support is through a ***London ESF Youth Programme Information Exchange***, a termly event at which providers and partners can

- continually develop working relationships
- ensure that activities are appropriately targeted according to local need
- identify and share effective practice

and so increase the number of young people who are in education, training or employment.

The events bring together partner organisations (such as local authorities):

- (1) sub-regionally – where partners and all the London ESF Youth Programme providers operating in each of the sub-regional areas through which the programme has been contracted can work together to make the Programme work well locally
- (2) thematically – where partners and all the providers delivering each specialist strand of activity identify what works well.

The third Information Exchange event took place on 16 June 2017 from 0930 to 1400 at One America Square, 17 Crosswall, London EC3N 2LB.

This is the report of the event and has been prepared to:

- ensure that the key actions arising from the event are taken forward
- enable the project's Advisory Group and sponsors to plan future events.

If you have any questions about this report or this project, please contact:

Peter O'Brien  
Regional Commissioning Manager (Young People's Education and Skills)  
London Councils  
59½ Southwark Street  
London  
SE1 0AL  
Tel: 020 7934 9743  
Email: [peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

### Programme Information Exchange - June 2017

#### Attendees

Name	Title	Organisation	Email
Alison Arnell	16-19 Commissioning Officer, Achievement & Employability	London Borough of Newham	alison.arnell@newham.gov.uk
Deborah Bell	Service Manager	London Borough of Hillingdon	dbell1@hillingdon.gov.uk
Jonny Boux	Director	Inspire! Education Business Partnership	jonathan.boux@inspire-ebp.org.uk
Kat Brett	Progression Service Delivery Manager	City Gateway	katherine.brett@citygateway.org.uk
Gary Buckley	Operations Manager	Action West London	gary.buckley@actionwestlondon.org.uk
Alison Bunker	Post 16 High Needs Commissioning Manager	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	alison.bunker@lbbd.gov.uk
Yolande Burgess	Strategy Director	London Councils	yolande.burgess@londoncouncils.gov.uk
Rebecca Butterworth	Director of Youth Programmes	City Gateway	rebecca.butterworth@citygateway.org.uk
Danny Chapman	Choices Manager	St Giles Trust	Daniel.chapman@stgilestrust.org.uk
Louise Cheese	Customer Employment Support Coordinator	Royal Borough of Greenwich	louise.cheese@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
Rita Chircop	Senior Programme Manager - ESF	Greater London Authority	rita.chircop@london.gov.uk
Graham Clarke	Development Director	Skills Training UK	Grahamclarke@skillstraininguk.com
Nicholas Cole	Area Delivery Manager	Seetec	nicholas.cole@seetec.co.uk
Fatma Emin	Senior Careers Advisor	Bromley by Bow Centre	fatma.emin@bbbc.org.uk
Darren Fernandes	Skills Officer	Education and Skills Funding Agency	darren.fernandes@sfa.bis.gov.uk
Angela George	Programme Coordinator	Redwood Skills	angela.george@redwoodskills.com
Helen Georgiou	Director	EM Skills	helen.georgiou@emskills.org.uk
Andrew Grant	Supply Chain Manager	Reed in Partnership	andrew.grant@reed.co.uk
Raymond Gray	Executive Director	Prevista	raymondg@prevista.co.uk
Steve Grocott	Service Manager Careers	London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Steve.grocott@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Zubeidi Hani	Director	MIT Skills	Hani.zubeidi@mitskills.com
Priscilla Hansberry	Partnership Manager	London Borough of Hounslow	priscilla.hansberry@hounslow.gov.uk
Laura Harris	Contracts Manager	Action West London	laura.harris@actionwestlondon.org.uk
Derek Harvey	Group Partnership Manager	Department for Work and Pensions	derek.harvey@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
Nanette Higgins	External Programmes Manager	Prospects Services	nanette.higgins@prospects.co.uk
Rezaul Hussain	Programme Manager - Careers Cluster	Newham / 15billion-ebp	rezaul.hussain@15billionebp.org
Andy Johnson	Progression & Pathways Manager	London Borough of Enfield	soda43@hotmail.co.uk
Salman Khan	Director	KBM Group	salman.khan@kbmgroupp.co.uk
Mathijs Leenhouts	Senior Employment and Skills Officer	Tottenham Hotspur Foundation	mathijs.leenhouts@tottenhamhotspur.com
Linda Leigh	Careers Service Manager	London Borough of Waltham Forest	linda.leigh@walthamforest.gov.uk
Paul Lenaghan	ATM Targeted Youth Support	London Borough of Sutton	paul.lenaghan@sutton.gov.uk
Iain Lockhart	Senior Operations Manager	Skills Training UK	iainlockhart@skillstraininguk.com
Chris Ma	Head of Positive Activities	London Borough of Redbridge	chris.ma@redbridge.gov.uk
Jo Margrie	14-19 Programme Manager	Hackney Learning Trust	jo.margrie@learningtrust.co.uk
Ann Mason	14-19 Manager	Achieving for Children (Kingston and Richmond)	ann.mason1@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Yulieth Merchan	Project Manager	15billionebp	yulieth.merchan@15billionebp.org
Khalis Miah	ESF Project Officer (CALM)	London Borough of Southwark	khalis.miah@southwark.gov.uk
Julie Naldrett	Project Manager	South Thames College	julienaldrett@gmail.com
Peter O'Brien	Regional Commissioning Manager - YPES	London Councils	peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk
Tara Oliver	Delivery Manager	Education and Skills Funding Agency	tara.oliver@sfa.bis.gov.uk
Tawhid Qureshi	ESF Programme Manager	Greater London Authority	tawhid.qureshi@london.gov.uk
Julie Ralphs	Head of Service Education Commissioning & Post-16 Participation	London Borough of Croydon	julie.ralphs@croydon.gov.uk
Bryn Roberts	ESF Performance and Delivery Adviser	Education and Skills Funding Agency	bryn.roberts@sfa.bis.gov.uk
Dee Smith	Regional Director - London and South East	The Springboard Charity	dees@springboarduk.org.uk
Pravin Sodha	Partnership Manager	Department for Work & Pensions	Pravin.Sodha@DWP.gsi.gov.uk
Adam Stapleton	Employment and Skills Officer	Tottenham Hotspur Foundation	adam.stapleton@tottenhamhotspur.com
Erik Stein	Group Manager - Integrated Youth Services	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	erik.stein@lbbd.gov.uk
Gurmeet Taylor	Programme Manager	Springboard - Southwark	gurmeet@springboarduk.org.uk
Catherine Verrinder	Team Leader, Southwark Choices	London Borough of Southwark	catherine.verrinder@southwark.gov.uk
Anna-Maria Volpicelli	Administrator	London Councils	anna-maria.volpicelli@londoncouncils.gov.uk
Sarah Wilkins	Senior Programme Manager	Greater London Authority	sarah.wilkins@london.gov.uk
Andrew Williams	Transition Coordinator	London Borough of Barnet	andrew.williams@barnet.gov.uk



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# Supporting the London ESF Youth Programme – Programme Information Exchange

Friday 16 June 2017 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

**Location:** One America Square, 17 Crosswall, London EC3N 2LB

## Agenda

<b>0930 Welcome and introductions</b>	Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London Councils
<b>Session One: Summer Engagement Campaign in Croydon</b>	Julie Ralphs (London Borough of Croydon) Raymond Gray (Prevista)
<b>Session Two: Case studies of young people's successes</b>	Introduced by: Nanette Higgins (Prospects Ltd) Belinda White (SEETEC)
<b>Programme payments supporting inter-strand transfer</b>	Tawhid Qureshi (EPMU)
<b>1100 Refreshment break</b>	
<b>Session Three: Targeted Interventions and the use of careers guidance and Youth Talent strands to support sustained progressions</b>	Table discussions introduced by Yolande Burgess
<b>1300 Networking lunch</b>	

## Supporting the London ESF Youth Programme

16 June 2017

## Welcome

Yolande Burgess

## Programme

### Session One

- Summer Engagement Campaign in Croydon

### Session Two

- Case studies of young people's successes
- Programme payments supporting inter-strand transfer

### Session Three

- Targeted Interventions using Careers Guidance and Youth Talent

## Session One Summer Engagement Campaign in Croydon

Julie Ralphs, London Borough of Croydon

Raymond Gray, Prevista

## Croydon NEET Prevention Programme Summer 2017

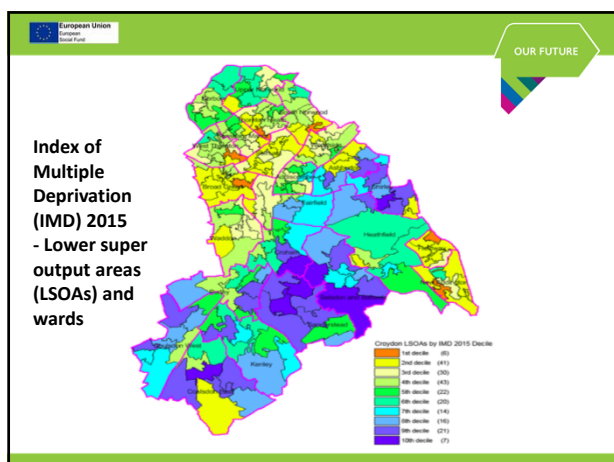
Julie Ralphs

Head of Service: Education Commissioning & Post-16 Participation



## CONTEXT: CROYDON

- Largest young population of any London borough and growing
  - 16 – 24 population in 2015: 38,289
  - 16 – 24 population (projected) 2025: 47,492
- Low levels of permanent secondary school exclusions (FAP)\*
- High levels of migration, in and out of borough
- Largest number of looked after children in London, with particularly high numbers of UASC
- Wide deprivation gaps across the borough, e.g. 37.5% of families in Fieldway ward are income deprived compared to 7.3% in Sanderstead



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### Participation and challenges:

- 16-18 year old NEET rates significantly improved, moving from amongst the highest in the country to below the national average and in line with the London average
- Currently 162 (year 12/13) young people recorded as NEET, compared to 204 for the same period last year
- High levels of not knowns and no engagement despite frequent and varied attempts**
- Disproportionately high NEET levels amongst CLA/care leavers/UASC and low income families
- Very limited LA capacity (one dedicated NEET caseworker) to provide support to NEET young people other than the very most vulnerable
- Reliance on partnership with 3<sup>rd</sup> party funded providers to target available resource where most needed

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### Summer 2017 Campaign

**Purpose:**

To engage targeted year 11 and 12 pupils before they leave school or college, providing advice and support over the summer period and for the first few weeks of the 2017/18 academic year to ensure sustainability of EET.

**Target groups:**

- No offer
- Alternative provision pupils
- Fair Access Panel
- Early leavers
- Top 5 NEET generating schools
- Current year 12 NEETs

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### How?

- Brought range of NEET/NEET prevention funded providers together to discuss what they could provide, funding implications and challenges
- Alternative provision providers collated information on pupil needs
- Providers allocated to specific AP and schools to engage young people in run up to and during exam period
- LA collated details of providers' summer programme offers
- Summer programme offer distributed to all schools IAG leads and in monthly 16-19 Opportunities Bulletin
- Letter being sent to all targeted young people offering place on Summer Programme
- LA will 'triage' responses and make referrals to appropriate providers

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### 16-19 Opportunities Bulletin

June Version

**16-19 Opportunities Bulletin**

This bulletin is regularly updated with current courses, jobs with training, personal development opportunities and event information available for young people who are aged 16-19 (up to 18-25 with a diagnosed physical or learning difficulty or disability). If you would like a copy of the most recent edition or you are still unsure about your next step ring us on 0209 726 7485 or email us on [16-19.Train@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:16-19.Train@croydon.gov.uk) and you will be added to our mailing list.

**"COURSE OF THE MONTH"**  
Construction Youth is offering an exciting 3 week course! For more details please see page 7

**"APPRENTICESHIP VACANCY OF THE MONTH"**  
Are you looking to get in to Finance? Warner Bros. Entertainment UK Limited are offering you a Finance Apprenticeship! For more details visit <https://www.thefinancialapprenticeshipservice.gov.uk/apprenticeships/127281>

**"TRAINEESHIP VACANCY OF THE MONTH"**  
Faculty of Occupational Medicine are recruiting for an Events Administrator Trainee! For more details visit <https://www.thefinancialapprenticeshipservice.gov.uk/apprenticeships/126831>

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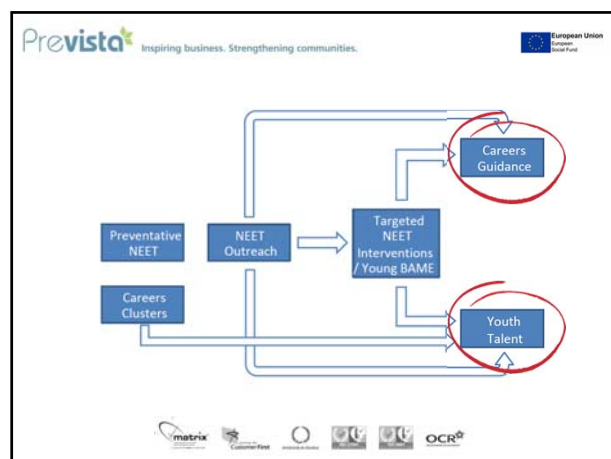
### Summer 2017 example activities:


- information, advice and guidance
- Showcases: events around employability, apprenticeships and traineeships in a range of sectors, including: construction, retail, health, care, hospitality, business and horticulture
- Encouragement and extra support in to sitting and succeeding in exams
- Ring rounds to students to aid enrolment and transition into post 16
- Summer programmes in sports, media, music and employability
- Onward referral to any projects that can support students for up to 26 weeks, including mentoring and personalised action plans to aid retention in post 16 education
- Referrals to appropriate Croydon Works opportunities

**CROYDON WORKS**

Prevista<sup>+</sup> Inspiring business. Strengthening communities. 

## How do we work together to positively impact on Young People this Summer???





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### The Complicated Bit – Careers Advice Eligibility Requirements

**This service is for young people who are not in schools (including academies), Sixth Form Colleges or FE Colleges and who are not categorised as vulnerable so have no direct access to face-to-face guidance.**

Young people aged 16-17 years (i.e. those who have had their 16th birthday but not yet reached their 18th birthday) who are NEET;  
 Young people aged 18 (i.e. those who have had their 18th birthday but not yet reached their 19th birthday) and who are not JCP customers and identified through the Part-London Leaver Notification process as being 'at risk' of leaving or (early) leavers from the institution.



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### The not so Complicated Bit – Youth Talent Eligibility Requirements

Young people aged 16-24 who are NEET particularly:

- those with low or no qualifications,
- those from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background,
- those who have a disability or health related issues.

This Service can engage with young people who are NEET and are receiving employability and training support through other NEET and/or ESF projects if they are deemed ready to move into one of the proposed outcomes of traineeship, apprenticeship or work;

Young people aged 18-24 leaving education or training who are not in work and are ready to enter into employment (maximum of 40% expected).




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### What's in it for the Young Person and Schools?

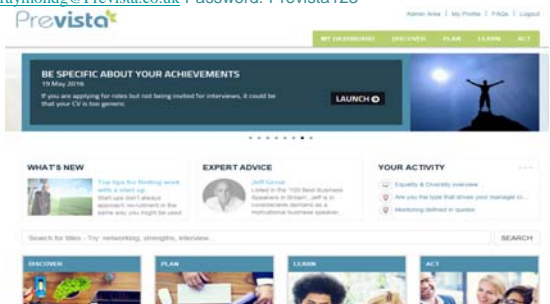
- Professional Careers Advice and Guidance;
- Sector Based Work Academies, Qualification in Preparation for Life and Work;
- Work Trials with guaranteed jobs in Care, Childcare, Retail, Hospitality;
- Apprenticeship Career Route and Work Based Learning qualifications;
- Lifetime free access to innovative e-learning and "app" platform providing Personal & Professional Development;
- Pastoral Care and Support back into Further Education, supporting those young people at risk of not starting their agreed progression;

**Significant reduction in the likelihood of NEET from the above support**



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Try it today login: <https://prevista.careercentre.me/signin/Prevista>  
[raymondg@Prevista.co.uk](mailto:raymondg@Prevista.co.uk) Password: Prevista123





## Session Two: Case studies of young people's successes

## Prospects Ltd

Nanette Higgins

## SEETEC

Nicholas Cole

[SEETEC Case Study Video](#)

## Programme payments supporting inter-strand transfer

Tawhid Qureshi  
European Programmes Management Unit

## Inter-strand referrals & programme payments

Tawhid Qureshi  
European Programmes Manager

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017





## Summary of Discussion

The event had three sessions. In the first, Julie Ralphs (Head of Education Commissioning, Post-16 Participation in Education and Youth Engagement, London Borough of Croydon) and Raymond Gray (Prevista Ltd) explained about a youth engagement campaign taking place in Croydon over the summer. They explained the origins of the campaign and its objectives. In the ensuing discussion other boroughs said they would be undertaking some similar activities and would send details to providers operating in their area.

The second session started with Prospects and SEETEC talking about case studies of young people's success. Unfortunately no young people could accompany their providers on this occasion, but SEETEC provided a clip on YouTube that featured their participant's story (a link to this clip is on the project webpage).

The second session concluded with a presentation by Tawhid Qureshi from the European Programmes Management Unit (EPMU), who demonstrated how the London ESF Youth Programme's payment structure supported young people's progression through different strands and into sustained outcomes. After lively debate among delegates, colleagues from the EPMU agreed to discuss the payment system with the ESFA and consider whether or not it supported the Programme's objectives in practice.

The third session was a series of table discussions based around each of the Targeted Interventions (note: discussions on Young Black And Minority Ethnic and the Mental Health strands were not held as the prime providers did not attend the event). Tables were asked to describe the offer available to participants and set out the ways in which the careers Guidance and Youth Talent strands could help young people achieve their goals.

In summary, the conclusions of each discussion were as follows:

### **16-24 Learning Difficulties and / or Disabilities**

Close working with Disability Employment Advisers, particularly in west London, had helped with direct recruitment onto the strand, though it was felt that the strand's sustained outcomes targets would prove to be challenging. It was acknowledged that there had not been much interaction with the Careers Guidance strand. Providers thought that developing relationships between their staff and staff in Youth Talent could result in better targeting of employers prepared to support people with learning difficulties and / or disabilities.

### **18-24 Specific NEET Groups**

Providers described a core offer that was available throughout London (for example: improving employability, drafting CVs, preparing for interviews, 'soft' skills). There were some differences in one-to-one and group activities delivered by specialist delivery partners (for example Sparks Academy deliver media and Tottenham Hotspurs FC deliver sports). Prime providers reported they were working very closely together to ensure that young people accessed the type of opportunity that best suited their long-term goals and not restricted to the specialist provision delivered in their locality. Both prime providers and delivery partners said that uncertainties about the quality of provision caused some hesitancy in transferring young people to other strands (or providers within the same strand) and young people needed considerable support when making these transfers. In particular, providers agreed that young people were discouraged when asked to provide information to several different providers as they progressed through the Programme and asked again if the

## Summary of Discussion

audit burden could be reviewed. Providers reported that they were in regular contact with Outreach providers and that they had good relationships with the Preventative NEET providers so that any young people who remained at risk of NEET from the standard / mainstream education / skills system could be placed in suitable ESF provision. Providers were keen to develop still further their links with the Careers Guidance strand and sought to use the ideas of delivery partners to create a Pan London roadshow / showcase for ESF provision.

### 16-18 Targeted Groups

Although providers confirmed they were using a standard 'inter-strand' referral form, they were disappointed that the funding / audit regime nonetheless required considerable duplication of effort to re-confirm eligibility. Providers reported that young people's continued participation in the Programme was threatened by unnecessary duplication and paperwork. Young people expected each phase in their time on the Programme to prepare them for the next phase – they do not want to engage in projects that are longer than they need to be. Providers had been expecting far more referrals from Outreach than had proved to be the case; though some providers were delivering alternative provision in their area and this had proved to be another source of recruits. The post code of the place of delivery had proved to be an issue in areas where gang culture was well established. Given the Programme's late start (and the requirement that the young person must be aged 16 at the time of their start), some 'summer babies' could not be recruited until the final quarter of 2016. Providers said they would be prepared to work-up a proposal to hold a Transitions Conference and that they were looking to organise some recruitment at summer festivals in each borough / area. There was strong support for co-location. Providers felt that there was unnecessary duplication of paperwork when they worked with the careers guidance strand and that Youth Talent would be better positioned as a recruitment service.

## Feedback

Attendees were sent a survey after the event that explored their reasons for attending, what they thought about it, how to improve future events and what other topics would be valuable to discuss. Unfortunately, the response rate was extremely low and the results did not provide a reliable basis to evaluate the event or plan future events.