

EET Report – Gregg Brown, January 2013

Having established within the Aftercare Team that a significant percentage of our care leavers were NEET, I was tasked with the role of EET Link Worker in March 2010. Soon afterwards, the role extended to include the NEET 16+ young people in the Throughcare teams.

Initially the role was fairly minimal: identifying employment, educational and training opportunities within the local area and passing the information on to professionals within the Aftercare and Throughcare teams. Generally these were published on-line newsletters and updates from Thurrock Careers, Connexions, Grays Jobcentre and organisations such as Aveley Community Forum.

After the commencement of the Diversity in Apprenticeships programme in summer 2011, I became more actively involved in direct work with NEET care leavers. Since that time I have assisted clients with constructing and producing CV's, helped them with job applications and to prepare for job interviews. On many occasions I have accompanied young people to appointments and assessments. This work with the young people has extended to a diverse range of support including the purchase of clothing for interviews, arranging counselling appointments and setting up a mentoring relationship between a young person studying to be a music journalist and a successful author of music biographies. Where there have been problems within an apprenticeship I have successfully liaised with the young person, their worker and the employer to seek a resolution and have helped to maintain the work placement since.

The role has also required me to refer to, liaise with and maintain professional relationships with employers, social workers, key workers, Virtual School for LAC, TBC's Employment & Engagement Co-ordinator, Connexions, Princes Trust, Jobcentre and training providers such as Seetec, Nova and Action Learning.

In addition to the above I have attended many LAC Reviews of NEET young people to discuss EET issues and promote opportunities available through the DIA programme and Princes Trust. This has been successful on a few occasions and one particular young person is now employed as TBC Admin Apprentice through this method. I am also an actively involved member of the local authorities Care2Work group.

In November 2012 I participated in a 'Train the Trainer' session, for staff working within the DIA programme. This helped us to hone our knowledge on how best to support young people in compiling CV's, completing job applications and preparing for job interviews.

Since April 2012 I have produced monthly statistics which I have disseminated to team managers, senior management, Connexions staff and other professionals involved in working with NEET young people. These statistics have outlined all NEET care leavers aged sixteen plus. The information that accompanies these statistics has helped to inform the recipients of the individual circumstances of this cohort, for example those who are young parents or pregnant and those who frequently offend and are in prison.

In June 2012 I attended a seminar at Hatfield University, aimed at supporting care leavers into Higher Education. This enabled me to increase my knowledge of what services and incentives are available to care leavers and enabled me to develop links with nominated staff at individual universities who assist care leavers.