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A significant minority of participants mentioned caring responsibilities. Thirteen per cent said they were looking after a child or children and over one in ten participants (11%) said they were looking after the home or family members. However while there was no significant difference between the NEET and EET groups in the proportion looking after family members, those who had been consistently NEET since the first interview were much more likely to mention looking after a child or children. Twenty-nine per cent of participants who had been consistently NEET the since first interview said they were currently looking after children, compared with 9% of those who had engaged in any education, employment or training since the first interview. This again highlights that having caring responsibilities for children is a key barrier for participants to engaging in EET activities.

Another major difference between the groups was that those who had been consistently NEET since the first interview were also more likely to have a long-term illness or disability, with 22% of the consistently NEET group compared to just 3% of those in the EET group.

Overall, 32% of participants said they did none of the activities listed. However amongst the consistently NEET group only 3% said they had done none of these activities, while 40% of those who had done any education, employment or training since the first interview had done none of these activities.

**Table 6.3 Current non-EET activities by NEET status since the first interview**

Base: AA participants

Survey

Non-EET activities	Consistently NEET since the first interview	In any education, employment or training since the first interview	Total
	%	%	%
Looking for a job, education or training place	53	42	44
Looking after child or children	29	9	13
Looking after the home or other family members	12	11	11
Being inactive because of an illness or disability	22	3	7
Waiting for new course or job to start	4	3	4
Inactive due to pregnancy	4	1	2
Taking a break from study or work (includes gap year)	1	-	-
None of these	3	40	32
Don't know	-	4	3
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>258</i>
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>258</i>



## Job-seeking

Respondents who had not engaged in paid work or work-based training since the first interview were asked about any job-seeking they had done during this period. Over half (54%) said they had applied for one or more jobs since the first interview (and by implication had been unsuccessful).

Many participants applied for a high volume of positions. While 15% said they had applied for between 1 and 10 jobs since the first interview, 22% had applied for between 11 and 25 jobs while 14% applied for between 26 and 50 jobs (Table 6.4).

**Table 6.4 Number of jobs applied for since the first interview**

*Base: AA participants not in paid work or WBT since the first interview*

	Survey
	Total
<b>Number of jobs</b>	%
No jobs applied for	46
Between 1 and 10	15
Between 11 and 25	22
Between 26 and 50	14
Don't know	3
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	95
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	90

The majority (76%) of those who had applied for jobs had not received any offers since the first interview. Twenty-four per cent (13 young people) of those applying for jobs had received one or more job offers, with a small number of young people receiving up to 10 offers.

**Table 6.5 Number of job offers received since the first interview**

*Base: AA participants not in paid work or WBT since the first interview who applied for jobs*

	Survey
	Total
<b>Number of jobs</b>	%
None	76
Between 1 and 5	13
Between 6 and 10	11
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	49
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	48

## Benefits

Fifty-two per cent of the AA participants were receiving at least one type of benefit at the time of interview. Amongst participants who had been consistently NEET since the first interview this was 91%. As might be expected, the most common benefit received by this group was Jobseekers Allowance (46%), although many also received Income Support (27%), Council Tax Benefit (27%) and Housing Benefit (28%).

Twenty-eight per cent received Child Benefit, while 26% received Child Tax Credit. This was a notably higher proportion than for participants who had been in a positive activity since the first interview (10% and 9% respectively). Incapacity Benefit was also higher among the consistently NEET group, with 18% receiving this compared with 5% of those who had been in an activity (Table 6.6). This reflects the higher proportion of young people in the consistently NEET group who were inactive because of an illness or disability (Table 6.3).

**Table 6.6 Benefit receipt of those who were currently NEET**

Base: AA participants

Survey

Benefits receive	Consistently NEET since the first interview	In any education, employment or training since the first interview	Total
	%	%	%
Jobseekers Allowance or JSA	46	23	29
Income Support	27	10	14
Council Tax Benefit	27	13	16
Housing Benefit or Local Housing Allowance	28	15	18
Child Benefit	28	10	14
Child Tax Credit	26	9	13
Incapacity benefit or Employment and Support Allowance	18	5	8
Disability Living Allowance	6	2	3
Working Tax Credit	0	3	2
Receives any benefits	91	40	52
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	58	200	258
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	60	198	258

## 6.5 Perceived barriers to engaging in positive activities

Three groups of participants were asked about the barriers they had experienced in engaging with positive activities. The first group was young people who had not engaged in any positive activities since the first interview; that is those who were consistently NEET since the first interview. The second group was participants who were not in employment or training since the first interview, but who did participate in some form of study or education. The third group was participants who had studied or been in education since the first interview, but who had not done any form of work-based training or paid work. The barriers mentioned by these three groups are discussed separately below.

### Barriers experienced by participants not in education, employment or training since the first interview

Sixty-one per cent of participants who had been consistently NEET since the first interview mentioned that there were not many jobs where they lived, this was the most commonly mentioned barrier amongst the consistently NEET group. A lack of available courses in the local area was mentioned by

fewer people, with 34% saying this was a reason they had found it difficult to engage in a positive activity. Another barrier related to resources in the local area was the availability of transport, which was mentioned by over a fifth (21%).

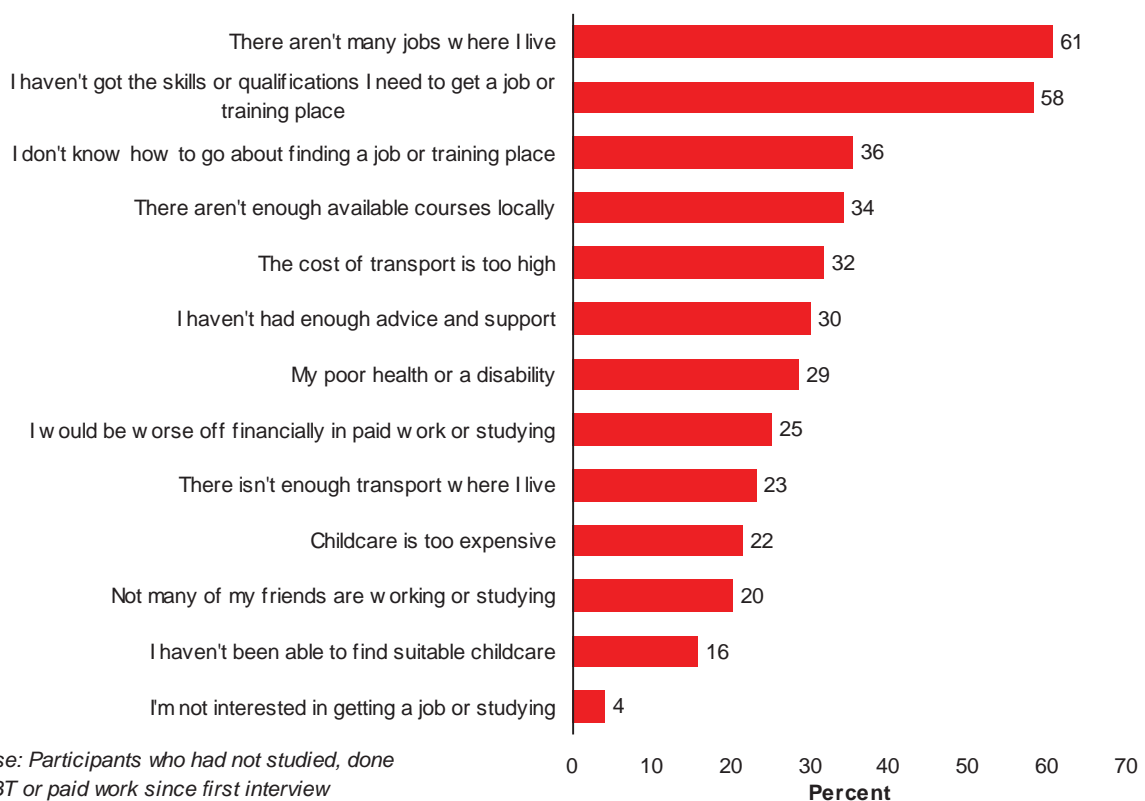
Job-related barriers tended to be important for the consistently NEET group. As well as a high proportion mentioning the number of jobs where they lived, 58% said that they did not have the skills or qualifications they needed to get a job or training place, and 36% said that they did not know how to go about finding a job or training place.

Some participants mentioned financial barriers to becoming engaged in a positive activity, with 32% saying the cost of transport was too high, a quarter (25%) saying that they would be worse off financially in paid work or study, and 22% saying the cost of childcare acted as barrier.

Other barriers mentioned were that they had not received enough advice and support (30%), their poor health or a disability had made it difficult (29%), that not many of their friends were working or studying (20%), and that they had not been able to find childcare (16%).

Notably, only a very small proportion mentioned a lack of motivation to get a job or to study (4%).

**Figure 6.1 Barriers to EET for participants not in education, employment or training since the first interview**

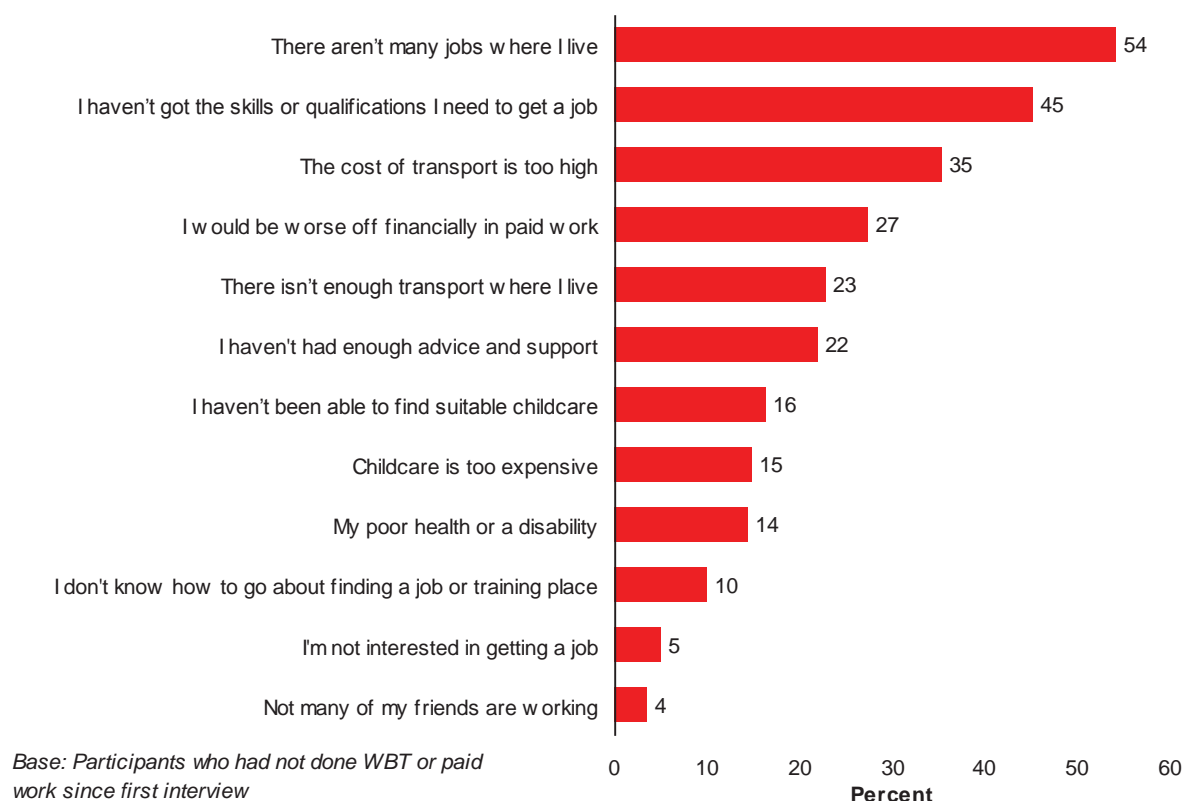


## Barriers experienced by participants not in employment or training since the first interview

Those who had not been in employment or training since the first interview (but had been in education) were asked about the barriers they had experienced to getting a job or training place. Overall, the barriers mentioned by this group were similar to that of the NEET group described above. As with the NEET group, the most commonly mentioned barriers were that there were not many jobs in the area (54%), and that they did not feel they had enough skills or qualifications to get a job (45%).

One main difference between the two groups was that fewer participants in this group mentioned not knowing how to go about finding a job or training place than participants in the NEET group, with just 10% mentioning this (compared with 36% in the NEET group).

**Figure 6.2** Barriers to work for participants not in employment or training since the first interview



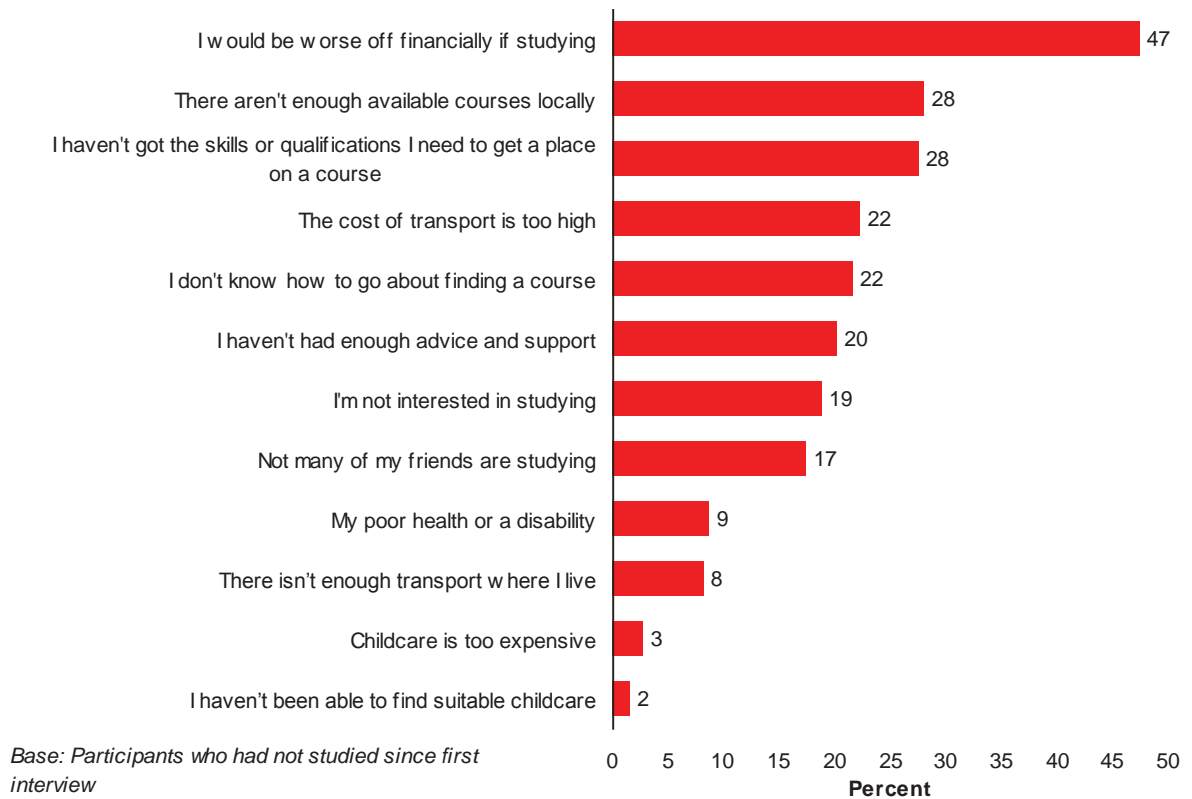
## Barriers experienced by participants not in education since the first interview

Barriers mentioned by those who had not engaged in education (but had been in paid work or work based training) since the first interview were, on the whole, quite different to those mentioned by the first two groups. In contrast to the other two groups the most common barrier to engaging in education was a financial one. Nearly half (47%) said that they would be worse off financially if they were studying. A lower proportion mentioned that there were not enough courses locally (28%), and that they did not have the skills or qualifications to get a place on a course (28%).

Another important difference is that while 4% of the NEET group mentioned being not interested in getting a job or studying, and 5% of those who had not been in work or training mentioned being not

interested in getting a job, nearly a fifth (19%) of this group said that they were not interested in studying.

**Figure 6.3 Barriers to study for those not in education since the first interview**



## 6.6 Conclusions

This chapter focused on participants who had remained NEET since the first interview and by consequence, were not successfully supported by AA. The chapter explored the activities that they were engaged in, prior experience associated with remaining NEET and the participants' perceptions of the barriers they faced.

While experience and qualification level were important in predicting whether a participant was consistently NEET since the first interview, two key personal barriers to engagement in EET activities were having children (particularly for women), and having an illness or disability. When participants were asked about the factors that had made it difficult for them to engage in employment, education or training since the first interview, they mostly referred to labour market issues and financial difficulties as barriers. Very few cited their own motivation as holding them back from engagement.

# 7 Conclusions

This section sets out the main conclusions from the follow-up survey in the quantitative evaluation of the Activity Agreement (Pilot 1). The evaluation used a robust comparison design, whereby the experiences of participants in AA areas were compared with the experiences of similar young people in areas where standard support arrangements applied. This allowed estimation of the impact or 'added value' of AA on outcomes for young people. The report of the findings from the first interviews, which focused on the short-term impact of AA during the 12 months after the young people became NEET, was published in April 2009 (Tanner et al, 2009). The follow-up survey investigated the longer-term impact of AA on participants approximately two years after their involvement with AA had ended. The follow-up survey was carried out with a sub-set of young people who had taken part in the first interview. The sample for this follow-up report is 258 participants and 247 young people in the comparison sample compared to 1018 participants and 2291 young people in the comparison sample in the first report.

**AA had a sustained impact on involvement in studying or work-based training.** 48% of participants reported doing some studying or work-based training at the time of the follow-up interview, which is about 8% higher than would have happened without AA. By comparing activity status at the first and follow-up interviews, it was possible to identify an impact of AA (of about 9%) on moving young people who would have been in work with no training/studying into education, work-based training or a job involving training.

**Participants were more likely to have completed a qualification since the first interview than those in the comparison group.** During this period the proportion of participants with no achieved qualifications dropped by 6 percentage points.

**AA had a sustained impact on interest in learning.** This is reflected in the difference between participants and the comparison sample in their aspirations for the future. Participants were more likely to expect to be involved in studying or training in a year's time compared to the comparison sample. These findings suggest that AA may have set some participants on a trajectory towards more learning and higher quality jobs in the future.

**Participants perceived a number of positive benefits from AA.** The most positive finding related to awareness of training opportunities with 74% agreeing that their awareness had increased since AA. The majority of participants also demonstrated positive attitudes in relation to confidence, ideas about the sort of job they wanted to do, awareness of qualifications and skills acquisition.

**The lower rate of employment among AA participants may have a positive interpretation.** AA participants were found to be less likely to be employed between the first and follow-up interviews. Among the young people who were employed, participants reported jobs that were fewer and of shorter duration. However, the fact that participants had jobs at a higher occupational level with more training, and were more interested in learning, suggests that they may have been on a path to higher quality jobs in the future. This would need to be confirmed with further research.

**Being consistently NEET during this period was associated with less work experience and lower qualification levels at the first interview and with higher parenting responsibilities.** Other key factors identified as barriers to participation in EET activities included perceived lack of jobs,

financial insecurity and illness or disability. Lack of motivation was not a key factor in explaining why people were NEET. The main activity among those who were currently NEET was looking for a job or training place and more than half of those who had *not* been in paid work since the first interview had applied for jobs (and been unsuccessful).

This report has highlighted some ways in which AA has been shown to have a positive sustained impact in the longer-term. With an impact on involvement in studying and work-based training and interest in learning, AA is likely to lead to higher quality jobs in the future. However, alongside the impact on involvement in studying and training, participants were less likely to be employed and were no less likely to be NEET than the comparison sample. The lower rate of involvement in employment may partly be explained by local labour market factors since AA areas appeared to have higher rates of unemployment and proportion of young people who were NEET than non-AA areas (and young people themselves identified lack of jobs as a key barrier to being employed).

An explanation for the mixed findings is likely to lie in the diversity of the NEET young people who took part in AA. The findings from this report suggest that while AA helped some young people to move from being NEET into education and study and gave others aspirations for the future, there was another group of young people who were unable to overcome the personal and contextual barriers they faced despite the experience of AA.

# Appendix A Key impact findings from the first interview

In this section, the key impact findings from the first interview are reproduced from the published report (Tanner et al, 2009). The first table shows the impact on participation in activities during the 12 months since becoming NEET (which included the time spent involved in AA). During this period, AA had an impact on participation in personal development activities, studying for a qualification and participation in work-based training, and led to lower participation rates in jobs without training. AA participants were less likely to remain NEET during this period.

## Participation in education and employment related activities within 12 months of becoming NEET

*Base Description: All respondents*

	Participants	Comparison group	Difference
	%	%	%
Personal development activities	30.0	4.4	25.6*
Work-based training	14.3	11.0	3.3*
Other work – with in-house training	7.0	7.9	-0.9
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>non-elementary occupation</i>	5.1	4.9	0.2
<i>elementary occupation</i>	1.9	3.0	-1.0
Other work – without in-house training	16.9	26.5	-9.6*
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>non-elementary occupation</i>	8.7	13.3	-4.6*
<i>elementary occupation</i>	8.2	13.2	-5.0*
Voluntary work	7.2	5.5	1.7
Studying for NQF qualification	23.6	18.3	5.3*
Studying for other qualification	4.0	1.8	2.2*
None of the above in the 12 months	28.8	41.8	-13.1*
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	1013	1013	
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	1013	2291	



Among the young people who had completed their Activity Agreement within 9 months of becoming NEET, it was possible to investigate the short-term impact three months after completing their agreement. AA continued to have a significant impact on increasing participation in personal development activities and work-based training, and reducing participation in work without training.

### Participation in education and employment related activities for the 3 months post-participation

*Base Description: Participants completing AA within 9 months of first becoming NEET*

	Participants	Comparison	Difference
	%	%	%
Personal development activities	11.2	3.0	8.2*
Work-based training	16.3	10.3	6.0*
Other work – with in-house training	6.9	7.8	-0.9
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>non-elementary occupation</i>	5.3	5.3	0.0
<i>elementary occupation</i>	1.6	2.5	-1.0
Other work – without in-house training	15.8	24.1	-8.3*
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>non-elementary occupation</i>	9.6	14.4	-4.8
<i>elementary occupation</i>	6.2	9.7	-3.5
Voluntary work	5.2	4.7	0.5
Studying for NQF qualification	25.2	20.1	5.1
Studying for other qualification	6.4	4.7	1.7
None of the above in the 12 months	34.9	39.6	-4.7
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	321	321	
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	321	1082	

The following table shows the impact of AA on attitudes to learning and work at the first interview.

### Attitudes to learning and work at the first interview

*Base Description: Young people taking part in the first interview*

	Participants	Comparison group	Difference
	% agree	% agree	%
I'm not interested in doing any learning	14	19.6	-4.6*
Learning is only worth doing if there is a qualification at the end of it	57.5	59.4	-1.9
You need to have qualifications in order to have a job worth having	56.3	55.2	1.1
The skills you need at work can't be learned in a classroom situation	38.7	44.8	-6.1*
Earning money is more important to me than staying on in education	46.5	44.9	1.6
In looking for a job, I am more concerned to find one with training than one that pays the best	56.3	56.3	0
I am prepared to take any job I can do	69.2	69.7	-0.5
Once you've got a job, it's very important to hang on to it, even if you don't really like it	67	68.3	-1.3
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	<i>1013</i>	<i>1013</i>	
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>1013</i>	<i>2291</i>	

# Appendix B Context for Activity Agreement follow-up study

## Introduction

This note provides contextual data to assist the analysis and interpretation of findings derived from the follow-up survey of young people participating in Activity Agreements (AA). The three areas identified as requiring further background information, relating to both AA pilot areas and comparison areas, were:

- Changes in the local labour markets;
- Differences in local authority provision and support; and
- Changes in the rate of NEET.

Within the limited time available to complete this task, it was apparent that identifying and analysing evidence to produce meaningful information on the second of these (local authority provision and support) was not feasible. Therefore, the note concentrates on changes in local labour markets and rates of NEET.

The main source of data for the consideration of local labour market changes was the ONS report *The Labour Market across the UK in the current recession*, which was published in November 2009. Where possible, this was supplemented by information from local and regional reports. The NEET data was based on the DCSF statistics.<sup>14</sup>

## Distribution of sample across Connexions areas

The following table shows the distribution of the sample who responded to the follow-up survey across the AA and non-AA Connexions areas. It shows that particular consideration should be given to labour market statistics in Merseyside, Cheshire & Warrington and North London in explaining the impact findings from the survey.

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<sup>14</sup> DCSF 14-19 Reform: NEET Data. NEET Figures for Local Authority Areas, 2006, 2007, 2008.

**Table 0**                      **Distribution of responding sample across Connexions areas**

<b>AA areas</b>	<b>% of respondents</b>
Merseyside	14
Central London	6
Kent & Medway	3
Tyne & Wear	8
Greater Manchester	5
West Yorkshire	6
London East	5
Cornwall & Devon	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>51</i>
<b>Non AA areas</b>	
Cheshire & Warrington	
	10
South Central	5
South London	5
Somerset	2
Hereford & Worcestershire	3
North London	15
County Durham	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>49</i>

## Change in NEET rates

### *Key Points*

- Overall figures for an area can mask significant differences between constituent LAs. For example, the figures for Kent and Medway show that, in 2006, the NEET rates for the two authorities were similar (6.4% for Kent, 6.1% for Medway). However, by 2008, the figure for Kent had declined to 4.7%, whereas that for Medway had jumped to 9.5%. Similarly, within Merseyside there were considerable differences in 2008 between Sefton (7.6%) and Knowsley (14.4%). With the follow-up sample spread thinly between local authority areas, it is not possible to assess fully the implications of these local area differences on the activity status of the young people.
- Some areas (e.g. Merseyside and Greater Manchester) exhibit significant differences between LAs, while others (eg West Yorkshire) show consistency across them.
- The fact that NEET rates in AA areas tended to fall to a greater degree than was the case in non-AA areas may indicate an AA effect.
- **However, despite the fall in NEET rate, the average NEET rate per AA area in 2008 continued to be higher than in non-AA areas (7.8% compared to 6.3%<sup>15</sup>) resulting in a more challenging environment in which to find jobs.**

In terms of the overall trends in NEET rates, the NEET Statistics Quarterly Brief for November 2009 stated that “following two years of falling NEET rates, the rate has increased in each of the last four quarters”. This was attributed to a decline in the number of job opportunities available:

<sup>15</sup> Note that this was calculated as a simple mean of the rate per area and does not take account of different population sizes within areas.

*“Despite the increase in participation in education and training, the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) also increased; from 9.7 per cent at end 2007 to 10.3 per cent at end 2008. This is due to reduced employment amongst young people not in education or training. In 2007, 56 per cent of those young people not in education or training were in work. In 2008, this had fallen to 49 per cent.”<sup>16</sup>*

Table 1 shows the proportions of 16-18 year olds categorised as NEET according to destination data collected by Connexions, for the years 2006 to 2008. The figures are based on the April to March period – therefore, that for 2008 represents the period April 2008 to March 2009.

**Table 1 AA areas: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08**

<b>Area</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>change in</b>
		<b>size 06/07</b>		<b>size 07/08</b>		<b>rate 2006-08</b>
Merseyside	10.9	-1.1	10.1	-1.6	9.8	-1.1
Central London	8.4	+2.3	7.3	+0.5	6.5	-1.9
Kent & Medway	6.4	+3.6	5.3	+0.4	5.5	-0.9
Tyne & Wear	11.4	-1.4	10.5	+1.4	10.2	-1.2
Gt Manchester	10.0	+6.6	8.4	+2.1	8.4	-1.6
West Yorks	9.7	+1.2	9.4	0.0	9.4	-0.3
London East	8.8	-3.2	7.3	-0.5	6.7	-2.1
Cornwall & Devon	6.0	-4.1	5.8	+2.2	6.2	+0.2
<b>Mean % per AA area</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

What is striking about the figures is that, with the single exception of Cornwall and Devon, all areas show a reduction in the rate between 2006 and 2008. It may have been anticipated that the onset of the recession would have had some effect, although the Quarterly Brief statement quoted above suggests that a subsequent trend for a rise in NEET rates will be apparent in next year’s figures.

The largest reductions were in Central and East London and Greater Manchester, while West Yorkshire exhibited the smallest decrease (notwithstanding the slight rise in Cornwall and Devon).

The pattern for the non-AA areas is less positive (Table 2), with two areas (Cheshire and Warrington and South Central) showing a rise in the rates. It is also interesting that the decreases in South London (-0.5%) and North London (-0.8%) are smaller than those found in Central London (-1.9%) and London East (-2.1%). The higher rate of decrease for the AA areas may indicate an AA effect in contributing to the reduction of the numbers who are NEET.

<sup>16</sup> It should be noted that the figures on which the Quarterly Brief are based are derived from the Labour Force Survey, rather than from the Connexions destinations data, which is used for the local authority figures.

**Table 2 Non-AA areas: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08**

<b>Area</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>in cohort</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>change in</b>
		<b>size 06/07</b>		<b>size 07/08</b>		<b>rate 2006-08</b>
Cheshire & W'ton	5.7	-0.1	4.9	-0.4	5.8	+0.1
South Central	6.1	+0.5	6.2	+0.4	6.9	+0.8
South London	5.6	-2.5	5.1	-0.8	5.1	-0.5
Somerset	4.8	-13.3	4.3	+17.3	3.8	-1.0
Hereford & Worcs	5.5	+1.1	4.8	-0.4	5.4	-0.1
North London	6.9	-4.6	6.4	+1.2	6.1	-0.8
County Durham	12.9	+1.0	10.4	+1.2	10.8	-2.1
<b>Mean % per non-AA area</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>+2.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

**AA areas**

This section considers the NEET rates within each of the AA areas.

*Merseyside*

Table 3 shows the rates for each local authority in Merseyside. Sefton clearly has a significantly lower rate than all other LAs throughout the period. In 2006, Knowsley had the highest rate (13.7%), ahead of Liverpool (13.2%). However, by 2008, Knowsley (14.4%) was still the highest, but Halton (13.2%) was second. The interesting point here is the difference in the patterns exhibited by LAs. The rate in Halton rose by 1.4 percentage points between 2006 and 2008, while that for Liverpool decreased by 2.8 percentage points.

Although it was shown that, in comparison to the national average rate of overall unemployment, the extent to which Halton was above that average had declined in recent months, a Greater Merseyside Connexions note of April 2009 conceded that "there are pockets of high unemployment within Halton which coincide with high NEET suggesting that unemployment is embedded across generations".

**Table 3 Merseyside: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>change in</b>
				<b>rate 2006-08</b>
Halton	11.8	11.5	13.2	+1.4
Knowsley	13.7	15.0	14.4	+0.7
Liverpool	13.2	11.5	10.4	-2.8
Sefton	7.6	7.2	7.6	0.0
St Helens	10.0	8.5	8.1	-1.9
Wirral	10.0	9.5	9.1	-0.9

Unemployment in Merseyside, as measured by those claiming Jobseekers Allowance, rose markedly in the second half of 2008<sup>17</sup>. For young people in this period, those employed in the Construction and Retail sectors were most adversely affected, with these two sectors accounting for 26% of redundancies among young people. Knowsley was particularly affected by a decline of jobs in these sectors. A note on the local context produced by Greater Merseyside Connexions in May 2009 stated that in the three years up to February 2009 there had been “a decline in the employment of young people (16-19) in key sectors that have traditionally recruited young workers, eg admin/clerical and construction”. It was emphasised that this trend preceded the onset of the recession.

#### *Central London*

Unlike in Merseyside, the figures for Central London (Table 4) show a reasonable degree of consistency across LAs, with decreases ranging from 0.5 percentage points in Kensington and Chelsea to 2.6 percentage points in Lambeth.

**Table 4 Central London: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Camden	7.5	6.5	6.5	-1.0
Islington	8.6	9.5	7.7	-0.9
Ken & Chelsea	7.9	5.8	5.4	-0.5
Lambeth	10.5	9.8	7.9	-2.6
Southwark	11.7	10.0	8.8	-1.2
Wandsworth	6.0	4.5	4.4	-1.6
Westminster	6.5	5.3	5.0	-1.5

#### *Kent & Medway*

As indicated earlier, the Kent and Medway figures are notable for the divergence in the trajectories of the NEET rates between 2007 and 2008, with that for Kent declining from 6.4% to 4.7%, while that for Medway rose from 6.1% to 9.6%.

#### *Tyne & Wear*

In Tyne and Wear, three of the five LAs had significant reductions in NEET rates between 2006 and 2007, before smaller decreases in the following year (Table 5). For Newcastle upon Tyne, the reduction was less pronounced between 2006 and 2007, while in Sunderland a 0.5 percentage point decrease in that period was almost offset by a 0.4 percentage point increase in the following year.

<sup>17</sup> Greater Merseyside Connexions Labour Market Newsletter Issue 50, May/June 2009

**Table 5 Tyne & Wear: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	%	%	%	
Sunderland	13.3	12.8	13.2	-0.1
Gateshead	12.3	10.4	10.2	-2.1
Newcastle-u-Tyne	9.4	9.3	8.5	-0.9
North Tyneside	11.4	8.8	9.0	-2.4
South Tyneside	11.3	10.6	10.2	-1.1

*Greater Manchester*

At one level, the figures for Greater Manchester point to variability in the incidence of young people being NEET, with the rates ranging from 7.3% in Trafford to 12.75 in Bolton (2006). In comparison to other areas, the rates were relatively high. However, it is apparent that, without exception, all ten LAs experienced a percentage point reduction in NEET of 1.0 or more by 2008. This differentiates it from all other areas. However, rather than the continuing decline (or at least plateauing) in successive years which was evident in Central London, there were increases in the rate from 2007 to 2008 in five of the LAs (Bury, City of Manchester, Salford, Stockport and Wigan).

**Table 6 Greater Manchester: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	%	%	%	
Bolton	12.7	11.8	10.5	-2.2
Bury	8.0	6.5	6.6	-1.4
City of Manchester	11.4	9.5	10.2	-1.2
Oldham	8.8	7.7	7.2	-1.6
Rochdale	12.1	10.9	10.5	-1.6
Salford	10.2	7.6	8.1	-2.1
Stockport	8.8	6.9	7.1	-1.7
Trafford	7.3	6.6	6.3	-1.0
Tameside	9.1	8.1	8.1	-1.0
Wigan	9.9	8.2	8.5	-1.4



Although using different data and a slightly different time period, an LSC North West report<sup>18</sup> pointed out the success of some LAs in addressing the issue of young people who are NEET and stated that:

*“The NEET rate in the North West is higher than England at all ages; however, the gap has narrowed at all ages since January 2008. At Local Authority level, particular attention should be paid to the significant reduction in NEET amongst 16 year olds in Bolton (-3.7% points in a year). There has also been a positive reduction in 18 year old NEET in St Helens of -2.8% points, compared with a slight increase nationally.”*

#### West Yorkshire

The figures for West Yorkshire (Table 7) show very little variation between the five LAs in the NEET rate. There is also little difference in the level in successive years, so that, between 2006 and 2008, Bradford, Calderdale and Wakefield experienced slight reductions, there was a small increase in the level in Leeds, while Kirklees had returned to 9.7% after a 0.9 percentage point fall in 2007.

**Table 7 West Yorkshire: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Bradford	9.8	9.4	8.8	-1.0
Calderdale	9.7	8.2	8.3	-1.4
Kirklees	9.7	8.8	9.7	0.0
Leeds	9.1	10.0	9.5	+0.4
Wakefield	10.6	9.8	10.2	-0.4

#### London East

The figures for London East (Table 8) show a different pattern than other areas with a large number of LAs (ten in this case). Even when the entirely atypical City of London is discounted, the starting point in 2006 shows great variation between LAs, ranging from 4.8% in Redbridge to 13.1% in Hackney. This variability is again evident in subsequent years. What is striking, however, is the relatively high level of overall percentage point decrease from 2006 to 2008 in all LAs. The percentage point reductions in Barking and Dagenham (-3.5), Hackney (3.1) and Newham (3.1) are particularly notable. Moreover, decreases occurred across all LAs in both 2007 and 2008.

<sup>18</sup> LSC North West (2009) *Regional 14-19 Strategic Analysis 2009*.

**Table 8 London East: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Barking & Dag	11.4	9.7	8.9	-3.5
Bexley	6.9	6.5	5.3	-1.6
City of London	1.1	1.0	0.6	-0.5
Greenwich	12.0	9.6	9.5	-2.5
Hackney	13.1	11.7	10.0	-3.1
Havering	6.1	5.8	5.2	-0.9
Lewisham	6.7	6.1	5.5	-1.2
Newham	10.8	8.7	7.7	-3.1
Redbridge	4.8	4.3	4.2	-0.6
Tower Hamlets	10.9	8.2	6.7	-4.2

*Cornwall & Devon*

The two LAs of Cornwall and Devon have very similar rates of NEET in all three years. The rates for Cornwall for each successive year are: 6.1%, 5.8% and 6.1%, while those for Devon are: 6.0%, 5.9% and 6.4%.

**Non-AA areas***Cheshire & Warrington*

The rates for Warrington are higher than those for Cheshire across all three years, being 7.0%, 5.8% and 7.2%, with those for Cheshire being 5.4%, 4.7% and 5.4% respectively.

*South Central*

The pattern for South Central (Table 9) shows a clear distinction between the urban localities of Southampton and Portsmouth on the one hand and the more dispersed populations of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on the other. The former LAs have higher rates of NEET, with those for 2008 being the same as in 2006, while the Isle of Wight experienced a slight increase and Hampshire a more substantial one of 1.1 percentage points.

**Table 9 South Central: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Portsmouth	9.9	9.6	9.9	0.0
Southampton	9.4	10.4	9.4	0.0
Isle of Wight	5.9	6.0	6.0	+0.1
Hampshire	5.2	5.2	6.3	+1.1

*South London*

The pattern for South London is consistent across LAs, with each LA experiencing a small percentage point decrease in the rate of NEET over the three years. There is some variation in level, ranging from, in 2006, 3.4% in Bromley to 8.1% in Croydon.

**Table 10 South London: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Bromley	5.0	4.7	4.6	-0.4
Croydon	8.1	7.6	7.1	-1.0
Kingston	3.4	3.2	3.2	-0.2
Merton	6.7	6.1	5.8	-0.9
Richmond	4.0	2.6	3.4	-0.6
Sutton	4.8	4.6	4.4	-0.4

*Somerset*

Somerset's NEET rate remains relatively low across the three years, with a 0.5 percentage point decrease between 2006 and 2007. The figures for the three years are: 4.8%, 4.3% and 4.3%.

*Hereford & Worcestershire*

The NEET rates for Herefordshire and for Worcestershire are similar in level, although those for Herefordshire show a 0.3 percentage point increase between 2006 and 2008, whereas those for Worcestershire decrease by 0.3 percentage points. The figures for Herefordshire are: 5.5%, 5.4% and 5.8%, while those for Worcestershire are 5.5%, 4.6% and 5.3%.

### *North London*

The North London NEET rates (Table 9) are noteworthy for the significant decrease in the Haringey figures, from 12.5% in 2006 to 6.8% in 2008. Waltham Forest also exhibits notable decrease of 3.5 percentage points over the period, while much smaller decreases are evident in the other two boroughs: Barnet and Enfield.

**Table 9 North London: Proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET 2006-08 by LA**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% point change in rate 2006- 08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Barnet	4.8	4.6	4.1	-0.7
Enfield	7.0	7.2	6.4	-0.6
Haringey	12.5	10.3	6.8	-5.7
Waltham Forest	8.2	5.4	4.7	-3.5

### *County Durham*

County Durham's NEET rates for the three years are relatively high, at 12.9% in 2006, 10.4% in 2007 and 10.8% in 2008. They do, however, show a 2.1 percentage point reduction over the three years.

## Labour Market Change

### *Key Points*

Tables 10 and 11 show the changes in a) the employment rate and b) the unemployment rate in the AA areas and non-AA areas respectively for 2008 and 2009. Unsurprisingly, both sets of figures indicate an overall trend for reductions in the employment rate and increases in the unemployment rate. This reflects the overall trend for England as a whole. However, what is striking is the fact that, as far as the employment rate is concerned, only County Durham has a decrease as high as the 2.1 percentage point change for England<sup>19</sup>. Although the figure for Cornwall, at -2.4 percentage points, is higher, this is offset by the 1.6 percentage point increase in the neighbouring Devon local authority which combines with Cornwall to make up the AA area. As indicated in the footnote to the table, the figures have been given separately for the two LAs because of the stark contrast between them

Furthermore, several other areas (London East, South Central, Somerset, Hereford and Worcestershire) show an increase in employment. There are also examples of areas where, despite an overall 2.4 percentage point decrease in the unemployment rate for England, reductions in unemployment have occurred – Kent and Medway and London East. No change was recorded for Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

**Of importance for understanding the impact findings from the survey is the difference in unemployment rate between AA areas and non-AA areas. The average rate per AA area was 7.1% in 2009 compared to 5.9% in non-AA areas suggesting that jobs were more scarce in AA areas<sup>20</sup>.**

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<sup>19</sup> It should be noted that the England figure is based on LFS data rather than the Annual Population Survey, which is the basis for the LA figures

<sup>20</sup> Again, this is an average across the rates per area and does not take into account the different population sizes.

**Table 10 AA areas: Labour Market Indicators 2008-2009**

Area	Emp rate	Emp rate	% point	Unemp	Unemp	% point
	2008	2009	change	rate 2008	rate 2009	change
	%	%		%	%	
Merseyside	67.4	66.0	-1.4	7.1	8.0	+0.9
Central London	70.0	69.9	-0.1	6.2	6.9	+0.7
Kent & Medway	76.7	76.2	-0.5	5.6	5.5	-0.1
Tyne & Wear	70.2	69.7	-0.5	6.8	8.6	+1.8
Gt Manchester	71.3	70.0	-1.3	6.6	7.6	+1.0
West Yorks	73.3	72.3	-1.0	5.8	7.0	+1.2
London East	65.2	66.2	+1.0	9.6	9.2	-0.4
Cornwall*	75.3	72.9	-2.4	4.8	6.8	+2.0
Devon	76.6	78.2	+1.6	4.6	4.4	-0.2
<b>Mean across areas</b>	71.8	71.3	-0.5	6.4	7.1	0.7
<b>England</b>	74.9	72.8	-2.2	5.5	7.9	+2.4

Source: ONS (2009) *The Labour Market across the UK in the current recession. November.*

**Table 11 Non-AA areas: Labour Market Indicators 2008-2009**

Area	Emp rate	Emp rate	% point	Unemp	Unemp	% point
	2008	2009	change	rate 2008	rate 2009	change
	%	%		%	%	
Cheshire & W'ton	76.5	76.0	-0.5	3.9	5.8	+1.9
South Central	78.1	78.5	+0.4	4.0	4.9	+0.9
South London	77.5	75.7	-1.8	4.8	5.5	+0.7
Somerset	79.6	79.7	+0.1	4.0	4.9	+0.9
Hereford & Worcs	77.2	78.2	+1.0	4.3	4.4	+0.1
North London	70.3	69.0	-1.3	5.9	7.7	+1.8
County Durham	73.8	71.7	-2.1	5.1	8.0	+2.9
<b>Mean across areas</b>	76.2	75.6	-0.6	4.6	5.9	1.3
<b>England</b>	74.9	72.8	-2.1	5.5	7.9	+2.4

Source: ONS (2009) *The Labour Market across the UK in the current recession. November.*

\* Data for Cornwall and Devon have been given separately to highlight differences.

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