

Oxfordshire September Guarantee progress report as at 13th August 1010

Current progress.....

2010 cohort	Other	Abingdon	Banbury	Bicester	Didcot	Oxford	Witney	Aug 13	July 31	Aug 13 th %	2009 results %
Offer made	4	884	787	491	1299	1347	1164	5976	5862	89.05	91.8
Continuing a 2 year course	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	0.03	N/A
Found Employment	0	8	2	7	19	7	12	55	45	0.82	1.2
No offer-Personal development	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0.03	0
No offer-Personal Circs	17	4	6	3	4	9	6	49	50	0.73	1.4
No offer –Other reason	1	0	0	3	3	5	0	12	23	0.18	0.2
No offer – no appropriate prov	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	6	10	0.09	0.1
No offer - Not applied	3	31	9	22	24	65	33	187	192	2.79	1.9
No offer - Applied a/w outcome	2	49	5	27	114	105	62	364	465	5.42	1.6
Unable to contact	0	9	3	3	5	2	6	28	25	0.42	1.1
Unable to contact moved away	19	3	2	2	1	2	0	29	23	0.43	0.2
Not yet recorded	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0.01	0.6
TOTAL	46	990	816	558	1469	1545	1287	6711			

2009 cohort	Other	Abingdon	Banbury	Bicester	Didcot	Oxford	Witney	Aug 13	Jul 31	Aug 13 th %	2009 results %
Offer made	4	197	177	86	168	479	187	1298	1246	20.34	85
Continuing a 2 year course	2	598	371	259	901	842	869	3842	3789	60.19	N/A
Found Employment	3	39	17	39	60	66	49	273	232	4.28	3.2
No offer-Personal development	0	1	0	0	2	5	0	8	7	0.13	0.1
No offer-Personal Circs	50	10	12	10	8	25	10	125	113	1.96	2.1
No offer –Other reason	9	1	6	10	4	4	3	37	37	0.58	0.2
No offer – no appropriate prov	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	11	0.06	0.1
No offer - Not applied	3	56	19	18	27	136	38	297	370	4.65	1.9
No offer - Applied a/w outcome	1	46	8	23	60	180	41	359	392	5.62	1.6
Unable to contact	0	18	17	14	15	20	23	107	156	1.68	2.1
Unable to contact moved away	16	0	1	1	3	6	0	27	21	0.42	0.2
Not yet recorded	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	6	5	0.09	0.2
TOTAL	88	967	629	461	1251	1767	1220	6383	6379		

2010 cohort

Vulnerable groups

	YOS	%	In Care	%	LDD	%	TP	%
Offer made	11	42.31	53	61.63	549	75.72	5	29.41
Continuing 2 year	0	0.00	3	3.49	0	0.00	0	0.00
Found								
Employment	1	3.85	1	1.16	9	1.24	0	0.00
Personal development	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Personal Circs	2	7.69	2	2.33	14	1.93	6	35.29
Other	0	0.00	1	1.16	6	0.83	0	0.00
No appropriate prov	1	3.85	2	2.33	4	0.55	0	0.00
Not applied	3	11.54	7	8.14	42	5.79	3	17.65
App awaiting outcome	8	30.77	15	17.44	95	13.10	3	17.65
Unable to contact	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0.55	0	0.00
UTC moved away	0	0.00	1	1.16	2	0.28	0	0.00
Not yet recorded	0	0.00	1	1.16	0	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	26		86		725		17	

2009 cohort

Vulnerable groups

	YOS	%	In Care	%	LDD	%	TP	%
Offer made	11	25.00	25	30.49	240	38.77	10	18.18
Continuing 2 year	8	18.18	15	18.29	131	21.16	7	12.73
Found								
Employment	5	11.36	4	4.88	43	6.95	2	3.64
Personal development	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	0.81	0	0.00
Personal Circs	5	11.36	10	12.20	16	2.58	22	40.00
Other	2	4.55	2	2.44	9	1.45	0	0.00
No appropriate prov	1	2.27	0	0.00	2	0.32	0	0.00
Not applied	7	15.91	13	15.85	74	11.95	6	10.91
App awaiting outcome	4	9.09	12	14.63	80	12.92	8	14.55
Unable to contact	0	0.00	1	1.22	15	2.42	0	0.00
UTC moved away	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0.48	0	0.00
Not yet recorded	1	2.27	0	0.00	1	0.16	0	0.00
TOTAL	44		82		619		55	

Activity this reporting period

- Up to date applications and offers lists received from Abingdon and Witney College, Henley College and Oxford and Cherwell Valley College
- Evening phone tracking sessions – These sessions are proving effective, on average making contact with 10 young people who have been uncontactable during the day.
- Home visits E.g Didcot staff made contact with 4 out of 8 in one early evening session.
- Extended outreach in Faringdon, Henley and Sonning Common As a result of increased tracking from these venues 3 young people have moved into employment.
- Abingdon Job Club running every Wednesday.
- Witney contributing to Base 33 project (started 19th July). Young people take Health & Safety and first Aid courses and receive support on job seeking Referred 8 young people to the project with the aim of raising engagement and skill levels. Final outcome report awaited and will be included with the next guarantee report
- Vulnerable groups targeted for interventions (see vulnerable group breakdown and comment)
- Abingdon centre ran Girls Day “Glam Nails & Mocktails”. See details below.
- Banbury Team attended Community activity days on 6th and 12th August raising the profile of the Guarantee and Connexions support in the wards in Banbury with high NEET figures.
- Banbury “Ready for Work” programme ran 10th – 12th August. Attended by 9 young people 8 of whom progressed to take CSCS card training
- Oxford Team manned stalls in the Westgate centre 10th and 11th August. Small numbers of new young people were engaged, profile with the community and general contact with parents were other positives.
- Oxford Business Enterprise Programme commenced. 14 young people attended the first session. Of the 14 attendees 8 are from the September Guarantee cohorts. Attending this programme is a positive influence on their skills, behaviours and motivation towards learning outcomes.
- Daily communication to youth support provision and young people of work and apprenticeship opportunities (409 submissions made to job opportunities so far in August), weekly communication of currently available learning opportunities and national apprenticeship schemes.
- Zero to Hero flyer produced for use with Guarantee events, circulated to all Connexions and Young People’s Centres.
- Follow up with FE colleges on young people who are recorded as having applied but not yet received an offer. Reducing those in this category by 101.
- Individual cases followed up with colleges where young person’s learning application has been rejected by courses. Four individual applications followed up so far.
- Bicester young people (as a high ‘Not in Learning group’) are being targeted with a specific guarantee themed newsletter.

Planned activity for late August

We will continue to seek 1-1 interventions with all those without an offer, with an emphasis on those young people in identified vulnerable groups. Specific activity as follows

- Evening tracking session (all centres)
- Home visits (all centres) Focused on reducing the significant number in “unable to contact” categories where other contact options have been exhausted.
- Tracking focus for the coming period is on those without an offer, updating detail on learning applied for and progress with the application.
- Extension of outreach activity (Faringdon, Henley, Sonning Common) By extending this activity in more remote locations the aim is to increase access in locations where small but identifiable groups tend to remain out of learning.
- Continue to obtain updated application and offer information from schools and colleges
- A PA to attend each school on GCSE results day to check guarantee status of young people and engage those without an offer
- Each school to be provided with a listing of current guarantee status for their Year 11 and Year 12 pupils.
- Colleges all running Open events and results day activities.
- Press and radio activity around GCSE results day to highlight the offer of a guarantee and the availability of support to all young people.
- Facebook campaign over the results period to inform young people that have subscribed to the youth support facebook sites about the guarantee and learning availability.
- Abingdon Job Club started 21st July and runs every Wednesday during the guarantee period. The job club aims to better equip young people to be successful in applications for jobs or learning opportunities and gives scope for research into those opportunities
- Abingdon in partnership with the Net young people’s centre, The Abingdon Bridge and Be active are running a Summer Sports activity, targeting undecided/disengaged school leavers.
- Abingdon will run a provider event in the last week of August after results day. So far attendance of Intraining, Oxford Learning United, Include, Zenos and Trax is confirmed. This event aims to attract the attendance of young people still without offers of learning and match them with appropriate available learning opportunities
- Banbury team attending Job Club at the Mill Arts Centre. The job club aims to better equip young people to be successful in applications for jobs or learning opportunities and gives scope for research into those opportunities.
- Banbury supporting CSCS card training with EMBS on 17th August
- Didcot Job Club to commence 11th August.

- Bicester centre running “LEAP” project. This is a 4 day project on 23rd, 24th, 26th and 27th August aimed at year 11 leavers who are not yet settled. The project will include Job seeking skills, life skills, team building activities, information on opportunities, careers advice and talks from Fire and Rescue, the police and outh service
- Didcot to continue Chalgrove and Watlington outreach to catch young people who are not willing or unable to travel to a Connexions centre
- Oxford 4Ward project (job search preparation) continues to run weekly Continues? This is a job club aims to better equip young people to be successful in applications for jobs or learning opportunities and gives scope for research into those opportunities
- Oxford continue running Business Enterprise Programme (in partnership with Youth Service & EMBS) started 9th August, aimed at young people interested in running their own business
- Oxford team manning stalls in Templar Sq Cowley (16th, 17th & 18th August). Attendance will raise the profile of the guarantee and support services. It is hoped to make contact with young people, and/or their parents, who are not currently accessing our services in central Oxford
- Oxford running a new drop in at Union Street young people’s centre every Tuesday 3pm 0 5 p.m started 10th August. This drop in has a focus of sexual health and we hope to engage young people who are not accessing our Oxford centre
- Oxford centre opening in the evenings of GCSE and A level results days. By extending hours we hope to provide a more flexible service to young people who need to quick access to IAG following receipt of results. This gives us a better chance to help year 11s consider other appropriate learning opportunities
- Witney to attend Carterton Children’s Centre fun day on 19th August. Attendance is generally to raise the profile of Connexions support in the Carterton community and specifically to make contact with any Teenage Parents attending the event
- Witney to run series of themed engagement events for NEET
 - 16th August – Master chef
 - 18th August – Glam nails & Mocktails
 - 23rd August – Fairy JobMother
 - 2nd September – Give it a Go
- Weekly lists to FE colleges of young people currently without an offer.
- Update reports to OCC officers and partners to ensure that awareness of the Guarantee and issues for young people, remains high.

Barriers identified

- Poor attendance record from year 11 is reducing college options of some young people
- Some NEET from the year 12 have already been targeted by the January guarantee and remain resistant to meaningful engagement. This is reflected in the high number (297) in the year 12 “Not applied” category and in those in the “other” category which includes those who despite all IAG refuse to consider learning opportunities.

- Many young people have already done e2e and frequently are not interested in college but can't find employment. These young people are mainly recorded in the "other" category which includes those who despite IAG refuse to consider learning opportunities
- The Foundation learning provision offer is not currently clear and openly available from all providers and some young people who in the past would have been referred to E2E do not fit the FLT criteria.
- Processing of offers - most of those in the "applied awaiting outcome" category are recorded as awaiting decisions from F.E colleges as they go through their processes. Some young people still have to be interviewed.
- Apprenticeship placements – remainder of those in "applied awaiting outcome" are awaiting the outcome of Apprenticeship applications, having passed entry tests but not having secured/been allocated an employer.
- A range of issues including parenthood, pregnancy, illness (including mental health), housing and travelling abroad prevent those in the "personal circumstances" category from pursuing and taking up learning opportunities (see more detailed breakdown later in the report). Those young people in the "personal development" category are mainly doing voluntary activity to improve personal skills and behaviours to help them be better placed to take up learning opportunities or employment in the future. Those in "employment" have secured paid work and while provided information on options that they or their employer could take up, are not willing to consider learning.

Comment

During the first two weeks of August numbers with an in learning outcome have increased by 2% in the 2010 cohort and 1.5% in the 2009 cohort. Numbers of those who are awaiting the outcome of an application have decreased to 364 for 2010 (465 last report) and 359 for 2009 (392 last report). Our priority is to follow these up and convert as many as possible to offers and provide appropriate support to those who do not receive offers. We also have large numbers of "Not Applied" and are running a series of events & initiatives to try and engage this group.

We continue to target vulnerable groups and have seen the following improvements during this two week period

2010 cohort

YOS with offer increased by approximately 9%

LDD with offer increased by approximately 5%

2009 cohort

In Care with offer or continuing education increased by approximately 3%

LDD with offer or continuing education increased by approximately 3%

Analysis of those students in the 2010 cohort with high absence rates show (in relation to the whole cohort) approximately 30% fewer have received an offer of learning and a 5% higher number of those awaiting the outcome of an application. It is also notable that the proportion of this group who have not applied for learning (11.8%) is over twice that of the cohort as a whole (4.65%). These young people are identified for further follow up and are targetted for engagement activity

A further breakdown of the LDD group shows that those whose additional needs are BESD have poorer outcomes than the rest of the LDD group, e.g. 2010 cohort non BESD has 10% more offers than the BESD group (N.B offers for BESD group have increased by 4% this reporting period). Likewise 2009 cohort non BESD group has approximately 20% more offers/continuing learning than the BESD group. These young people are identified for further follow up and are targetted for engagement activity

Analysis of those with no offer for the reason - "No appropriate provision" is available.

2009 cohort

- 1 seeking e2e/foundation learning type provision delivered at, or near, home
- 1 seeking Course for Fire alarm engineer
- 1 seeking motor vehicle apprenticeship
- 1 rejected for Catering course and now seeking Catering apprenticeship

2010 cohort

- 2 seeking motor vehicle apprenticeships
- 1 seeking work placement to enable access to Veterinary Nurse course
- 1 seeking ICT course but applications so far rejected
- 1 seeking L1 Hairdressing in Witney area
- 1 had place on Technical Theatre course but course now cancelled (Cirencester Clollege)

Those with "No Provision" outcomes do not show a set pattern that evidences a specific lack in provision. We are looking to work with these young people to support consideration of other appropriate options

Analysis of "Personal Circumstances"

2009 cohort

- 20 illness (18%)
- 35 Teenage Parents or pregnant (29%)
- 6 housing issues
- 2 caring responsibilities

- 1 moving areas/countries
- 1 asylum seeker
- 47 in custody (44%)

2010 cohort

- 12 illness (25%)
- 10 Teenage Parents or pregnant (25%)
- 3 housing issue
- 2 moving area/countries
- 17 in custody (39%)

The significant part of the “Personal Circumstances” group that we can work with are those young people who are parents or pregnant. We are maintaining regular contact with this group and making them aware of relevant learning and developmental options e.g. Busymummies and Young Mums To Be and support e.g. EMA, Care2Learn.

Case study

Background

Fred moved from a behavioural school to Banbury School in year 8. He is statemented for behavioural issues and has struggled to cope in a school environment. He is one of nine children and has lived with his dad most of his life. At times his father has not worked to try and keep Fred in school and to support him. In year 11 he was put in after school school but never attended. His teacher said he was academically able but could not sustain formal education. He spends quite a lot of time with his mum, but she is not seen as a good influence on Fred. He would like to join the army in a combat role in the future.

Presenting issues

Fred has committed a number of offences and he is currently under an intensive YOS order. He has had issues with cannabis and anger management for which he is having treatment through YOS at the moment. He has had little formal education and did not sit any exams this summer and had a very negative experience of school. He was very reluctant to consider college and wanted to get a job straight away. Unfortunately for him he will not be accepted by the army straight away, until some of his offences are ‘spent’. His mum is regarded by YOS as being a negative influence. For example she pays him in cigarettes for babysitting and has taken him out drinking at age 16. His dad is a positive influence, but has just announced that he may move away from the area.

Action taken

I initially tried to get into contact through after school school at Banbury, but Fred did not attend. I also tried to meet up with Fred and his dad at annual reviews, but they were cancelled due to non attendance. Following this I decided to contact Fred's dad direct and arranged to meet Fred at the office. We met and he explained his intentions to join the army as soon as possible. We liaised with the army careers office, who said he couldn't join straight away due to the number of offences he had committed. This left him very disappointed and disillusioned so we discussed a plan B such as a level one public services course at OCVC. Initially he appeared keen, but in later appointments changed his mind and demanded I find him a job. At this point I started co-working with his YOS officer so we could both work together and have a joint influence. We realised it would be good practice and mutually beneficial as offending rates greatly reduce once a young person is in EET. Matters came to a head in July when Fred was facing a possible custodial sentence and YOS and I worked together on his pre-sentence report explaining that Fred was considering college. We met with him to discuss the pros and cons of an application, for example improvements in key skills and signs of progress to the court, and he agreed to apply. Previously I had sent the section 7 element of the S139 to learning support at OCVC, to inform them of Fred's background and needs.

Outcomes

Fred attended his first ever interview independently and sat the assessment, a huge achievement for someone who finds classroom environments challenging. He explained to staff about his situation and his past and was very upfront, according to staff who spoke to YOS. Despite having very little formal schooling he passed the assessment and was offered a place on the level one learning course at OCVC with public services. His reticence before applying seemed to have lessened and when we wrote a CV last week he said being offered a place at college 'was one of his best ever achievements.' He will now work over the summer to look for part-time work to go alongside his course. His YOS officer is going to work with social services and family to look into his housing situation.

Report

Engagement project – Glam Nails and Mocktails, Monday 9th August

The Abingdon Connexions centre in Partnership with The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) provided an afternoon of girly fun on Monday 9th August to encourage girls between the ages of 16-19 years to access our services in an informal and fun environment.

16 girls attended of which 9 are in the September guarantee group. They all engaged in making mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails) whilst TAB staff delivered a safe drinking training programme, this also included a make your own mocktail drink and name competition with a prize of £15 of Beauty treatments at Elaine Lake Beauty Salon.

Whilst half the group were doing this the other half were being taught how to manicure their nails by a young person who has just completed her level 2 in beauty therapy at Abingdon and Witney college (she also falls into the September Guarantee group and has received support from Connexions in deciding her future plans).

The groups then swapped over so they all had a chance to learn some new skills. They were all given the opportunity to chat to TAB and Connexions staff, which they did, and were given a goody bag of information including sexual health advice, September guarantee activities and how to access local services. Feedback from the young people involved was very positive and they felt confident to access our services again.

Many of the girls involved now have a better understanding of what Connexions do – and what TAB can provide. The response from the young people involved was encouraging. :

“I really liked coming and doing my nails, it was good to speak to all the staff who supported us”

“I really enjoyed making the cocktails – it was fun and I will defo give it a try again”

“I thought the workshop was very useful as I got to make some cocktails and spend time with my sister”

“I now no how to do my nails properly lol”

“ I really enjoyed the whole day and I feel I know more about the services here”