



**Baroness Barran**

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Dear Hillary,

I would like to congratulate you for securing the debate to discuss a report by the Commission of Young Lives on the 26 January 2023. I also extend my thanks to Anne Longfield and her team for their work on this report as well as my Noble Friends for their knowledgeable and insightful comments.

Baroness Valentine asked which Government Departments share responsibilities for those not in education, employment, or training (NEETs). The Department for Education is responsible for those aged between 16 to 18, or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). As a result, a number of core tasks are carried out:

- Publication of annual participation and NEET LA figures, including a NEET Scorecard that we use to support Local Authorities (LAs) to ensure they meet their duties effectively, and we can intervene where necessary.
- Regional meetings are held with LAs to provide updates on DfE policy and tackle issues.
- Support for LAs to implement the September Guarantee to ensure young people have an offer of a place in education or training at 16 and 17.
- Provide monthly reports to Ministers and No10 on NEET figures, to alert them to trends, risks or issues that would require further action or trigger interventions.

The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for those aged 18 onwards, or 'working age', however also supports those aged 16 to 24 through the DWP Youth Offer. This provides individually tailored work coach support to young people who are in the Universal Credit Intensive Work Search group. This Youth Offer includes:

- Intensive support during the first 13 weeks of a claim through the Youth Employment Programme. Work coaches help young people access the right opportunities for them including Sector-based Work Academy Programmes, work experience and apprenticeships, so they can move into work quickly.
- Youth Hubs across Great Britain which bring together employment support from a Jobcentre Plus work coach and place-based support from local partnerships to help young people into work. The support offered in a Youth Hub is dependent on local needs, but examples include skills, training, and employment provision, alongside a range of dedicated support services such as mental health, housing and debt management delivered by local partners.

- Youth Employability Coaches (YECs) who are helping young people overcome barriers to employment such as homelessness, addiction, and other complex needs, as well as offering 6 weeks of in-work support once they move into work. YECs work closely alongside Disability Employment Advisors to support those with disabilities and health conditions, and partner organisations who can provide specialist advice.

Furthermore, due to a typographical error in my speech, I stated that we had invested £300m in the Young Endowment Fund (YEF) to help prevent criminal exploitation of vulnerable children. The correct figure sits at £200m rather than £300m. This 10-year long investment seeks to fund early intervention and prevention initiatives to help children and young people at risk of exploitation and involvement in serious violence. Since its inception, the YEF has funded over 230 organisations across 9 grant rounds, conducted over 40 evaluations and reached more than 100,000 young people at risk of, or involved in, serious violence.

Lastly, I stated that there were 1,180,000 vacancies across the UK. The UK vacancy statistics were updated on the 26 January 2023, the day of this debate, and now stand at 1,160,000. The Government remains focussed on supporting people to find work and improve their earnings, as we believe that the best way of tackling child poverty is by supporting parents to move into work and progress in work wherever possible.

I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries. I have copied this letter to Baroness Valentine too.

Yours sincerely,



**BARONESS BARRAN**

**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE**