

Research Bulletin

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Welcome to the April 2017 edition of the
Elevation Networks Research Bulletin.

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

Unemployment

Between September to November 2016 and the three months to February 2017, the number of people in work increased. There were 31.84 million people in work, 39,000 more for September to November.

The employment rate was at 74.6%, the joint highest since comparable records began in 1971. However, there were 1.56 million unemployed people, 45,000 fewer than September to November.

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment for people aged 16-24 went up by 8,000 to 558,000 (which includes 193,000 full-time students looking for part-time jobs), an unemployment rate of 12.4%.

<http://tiny.cc/yqfqky>

NEETS

There were 826,000 young people (aged 16-24) in the UK who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), a decrease of 31,000 from July to September 2016 and down 36,000 from a year earlier.

For October to December 2016, 11.5% of all people aged 16 to 24 were NEET, down 0.4% down from a year earlier.

<http://tiny.cc/e09qky>

About 1,000 schools in England 'at risk of cuts'

The government's plans for school funding could leave many institutions facing cuts into the next decade, a think tank has highlighted.

According to research by the IFS, the proposed funding formula could leave 1,000 schools across England facing additional cuts of 7% beyond 2019-2020 in order to bring them in line with new funding levels.

The IFS stated that beyond 2020 there is 'incredible uncertainty', with the government providing no guidance on what will happen following. This undermines schools ability for future planning.

<http://tiny.cc/yqfqky>

Growth in unpaid full-time internships raises fears for social mobility

Last month, the sandwich chain Prêt à Manger offered 500 16-18 year olds a week of unpaid work experience – giving the company an equivalent of 9 people working free for a year.

The Sutton Trust's Ryan suggested that an unpaid role could cost someone who does not live in London about £1,000 a month.

He mentioned "If you're closing off internships by pricing young people out of them, you're seriously harming social mobility and reinforcing the nature of who get into the top job professions"

The social mobility commission has also called for a ban on unpaid internships on the grounds that they penalise young working-class people.

<http://tiny.cc/mikqky>

London's black male graduates less likely to get jobs

In 2016 there was an unemployment rate of 18% for black male university graduates between the ages 16-24, in comparison to their white counterparts who stood at 10%.

11 of London's top 500 graduate employers recruited a collective of 1,803 graduates in 2016, of which only 30 were black males.

Barclays was one of the organisations which employed the highest amount of black men, 9 out of 320 were black men.

Figures from the Annual Population Survey show that the gap is closing. The previous year the unemployment figure for black graduate males in London stood at 27%.

A spokesperson from the Department of Work and Pensions claimed "We've set a target to increase BAME employment by 20% by 2020, and remain firmly committed to that".

<http://tiny.cc/k0jqky>

Students urged to take time to find a job

Mary Curnock Cook, the head of Ucas, has suggested that students need to take some time out after sitting their final exams.

She explained "I do think it's unhelpful that universities' success in preparing people for graduate employment is measured by the number of people who are in graduate jobs after six months."

Figures released by Ucas showed that the number of would-be students applying for university had dropped for the third time in 15 years. Around 30,000 people fewer had applied to start degrees in autumn 2017 by January 15th.

Overall, 564,190 people applied to UK universities and colleges, down 5% (29,530 students) compared with the same point in 2016.

<http://tiny.cc/yi9qky>

YOUTH SERVICES

Young Londoners suffer as millions more cut from youth services

Updated figures from Sian Berry AM show at least £7.5 million will be cut from London youth services this year from council budgets.

- Total youth service cuts across London between 2011/12 and 2016/17 are now

more than £28 million – an average of 34 per cent

- Councils plan to remove at least another £7.5 million from youth services in their upcoming 2017/18 budgets
- At least 457 youth worker jobs have been lost since 2011 – a staffing cut of 48 per cent
- 36 youth centres have closed across the city

<http://tiny.cc/vfmqky>

MPs question government's grip on new school places

The government has pledged to open 500 more free schools, which are state-funded but independently ran, by 2020 and plans for 110 more.

The system is "increasingly incoherent and too often poor value for money" says the public Accounts Committee. They went on to state that the government are spending too much on free schools, whilst others are in bad shape.

MPs note that last year the DfE provided £4.5bn to maintain and improve school buildings but will face "significant challenges over the next few years" as buildings age.

In addition, 420,000 new places will be needed by 2021, many in secondary schools where provision is more expensive than primary schools.

<http://tiny.cc/jn5rky>

CAMPAIGNS

The House of Lords Charity Select Committee has expressed concerns over the lack of diversity among trustees.

The committee has called on the government to consult on plans to implement a statutory duty on employers to give employees time off work to undertake trustee roles.

<https://tinyurl.com/l9uwsdq>