

# Research Bulletin

Issue 26, May 2017

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

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## EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

### Unemployment

Overall, unemployment for people aged 16-64 fell by 53,000 to 1.54 million in January to March 2017 compared to the previous quarter. The unemployment rate now stands at 4.6%, representing the lowest rate of unemployment since August 1975.

There are now 31.95 million people in work, an increase of 122,000 on the previous quarter, whilst the overall employment rate increased to 74.8%, the highest level since comparable records began in 1971.

➤ <https://goo.gl/PIJbtU>

### Youth Unemployment

The unemployment rate for young people (aged 16-24) in Q1 2017 was 12.5%, lower than Q1 2016 (13.7%). Despite the annual decrease, the unemployment rate for young people (aged 16-24) was noticeably higher than that for other age groups.

➤ <https://goo.gl/VA0nlz>

### NEETS

There were 800,000 young people (aged 16-24) in the UK who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), a decrease of 26,000 or 0.4 percentage points from October to December 2016 and down 0.8 percentage points from a year earlier.

336,000 or 42% of all young people who were NEET were looking for work or available for work, while the remaining 58% or 464,000 were not looking for work or were not available for work.

➤ <https://goo.gl/X1JNpQ>

### 'Young People's Experiences of Moving out of Being NEET'

Research conducted by Jennet Gabriel from the University of Birmingham shows that identifying, understanding, and supporting NEETs largely falls on schools. Government policy pursuing to reduce the budget deficit and cut the bill for welfare provision may worsen the situations that disadvantaged young people are faced with. Furthermore, research conducted by Vanessa Beck from the University of Leicester suggests that:

- Service providers should understand young NEETs and know their real barriers;
- Develop appropriate emotional strategies to build up rapport with groups of learners;
- Balance between support and expectations;
- On the demand side to improve the quality of service provision to all young people.

➤ <https://goo.gl/M1k3sS>

➤ <https://goo.gl/l2HHbi>

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## YOUTH SERVICES

### 'NYA's Manifesto for Young People'

In the light of the General Election taking place in June, the National Youth Agency is calling on all political parties to focus on young people by:

- recognising the contribution of youth work and developing policies that acknowledge their work and invest in young people;
- enhancing youth-focused apprenticeships and ensuring young people get support during their first 6 weeks when drop-out rate is at its highest;
- helping young people develop financial skills to make use of them at work and in their personal lives;
- lowering the voting age to 16 years and acknowledging the contribution young people make to society at this age.

➤ <https://goo.gl/UPi2Fm>

### 'Disappearing Youth Groups Plea for Financial Support'

The Welsh Local Government stated that financial cuts negatively impact Youth Services in Wales undermining not only the quality of service provision, but also the quantity of the sector. Charities affected by these cuts, such as Bryncynon Strategy, have reduced their opening hours. As a result, more than 100 youth groups in Wales

have been closed over last four years; and nearly a third of the sector could not make it past the current financial year. Due to the importance of youth services, such as engaging with young people and coping with complex issues that young people have, it has been suggested to divert more financial resources from Council for Wales and develop multiple income streams in this sector.

➤ <https://goo.gl/wL58O5>

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## EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

### **‘Gender-Specific Jobs Myth Limits Apprenticeship Opportunities’**

A report by Prudential reveals that school leavers are missing out on apprenticeship opportunities as they are deterred by careers commonly viewed as gender-specific.

The report points out that their parents share their views as a third of them believe apprenticeships are more suitable for boys, while one in eight believe they are more suitable for girls.

➤ <https://goo.gl/GZHyxU>

### **‘Youth Unemployment Produces Multiple Scarring Effects’**

An LSE study found that youth unemployment threatens material and mental wellbeing leading to higher possibilities of low pay, higher unemployment rate, reduced life chance, and greater health problems in their later life. This study analyses several causes and reasons of scarring:

- employers may perceive the periods of unemployment as low productivity;
- unemployment may hardly help young people develop their cognitive and non-cognitive skills which affects the productivity and adaptability that enable them to obtain suitable and sustainable jobs in later life;
- unemployment in youth can undermine their positive attitudes and optimism which influence their future employment and wage;
- experiences of unemployment may have less impact on prospects of workers living in high unemployment areas due to the prevalence of unemployment in local labour market.

➤ <https://goo.gl/lmFCWb>

## **‘The Necessary Ingredients in Youth Employment Mix’**

A report by Youth Today shows that school attendance, earlier access to adult employment and shorter periods of adult unemployment can be key factors to reduce crime. Furthermore, evidence shows that keeping youth constructively occupied between 4pm and 7pm can reduce the chance of juvenile crime later in life.

With respect to youth training, soft skills of teamwork, responsibility, leadership and capability to response to challenge, and supports from parents and employers, who support youth employment programmes, are together necessary for young people to build up a fulfilling, harmonious and transformative youth employment experiences.

➤ <https://goo.gl/6AFGAz>

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## CAMPAIGNS

### **‘BAME Workers Disadvantaged in the Workplace’**

Research by the Trade Union Congress found that BAME employees are more likely to be in insecure jobs such as zero hour contracts, agency and casual work than their Caucasian colleagues.

The analysis highlighted that BAME groups are actively underprivileged in the labour market as the employment rate for BAME employees is 64.2% as opposed to 76.1% for Caucasian workers. Other key findings of the report include:

- 1 in 13 BAME employees are in insecure work, while the national average is 1 in 17;
- BAME employees are disadvantaged in terms of the quantity and quality of jobs they have access to;
- Black employees are twice as likely to be in temporary work than the national average
- 1 in 20 Black employees are on zero-hour contracts, compared to the national average of 1 in 36;
- 42% of Black employees are in temporary work because they cannot find a permanent job; the national average is 31%.

TUC suggests that racial discrimination coupled with the lack of access to employment opportunities for BAME employees play a crucial role in explaining these inequalities.

➤ <https://goo.gl/Ncl7Oq>