

narrowingthegaps news update

bulletin 1 - july 2009

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Focus area - 16 to 18 years olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Each bulletin will focus on a different Narrowing the Gaps' priority.

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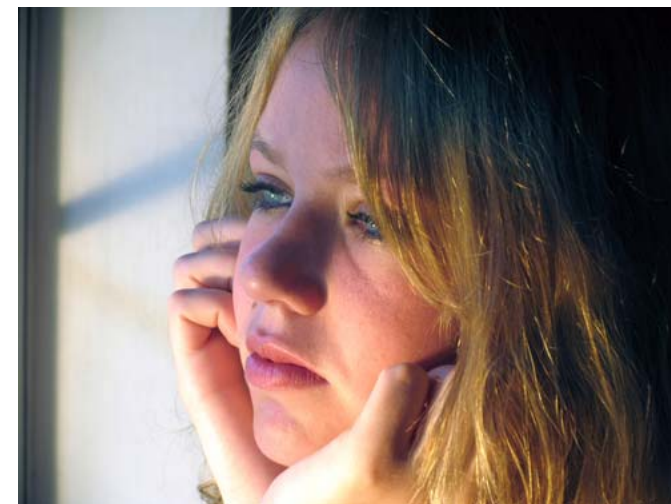
future developments

What do we mean by Narrowing the Gaps?

To reduce differences across the county in terms of achievement, opportunity and quality of life.

The focus is not just geographic, but also communities of interest, working to improve the quality of life of all across Warwickshire, but more quickly for those most disadvantaged in our more disadvantaged communities.

Narrowing the Gaps is identified as a corporate priority. Therefore, all directorates have a responsibility to contribute to Narrowing the Gaps.



Focus area - 16 - 18 year olds not in education, employment or training

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The county council's new Cabinet has appointed Cllr Peter Fowler as portfolio holder for Economic Development. As portfolio holder Cllr Fowler will also be Corporate 'Champion' for Narrowing the Gaps.



key contacts

Paul Galland, Strategic Director, EED
(Lead Officer on NtG)

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where are we at corporately with the NtG agenda?

Steering group in place

A corporate steering group has been established, with representatives from across the directorates. The group meets monthly to discuss progress. The Steering Group will be looking to add members from other directorates over the coming weeks/months. Representatives are: Paul Galland (Chair), John Scouller, Monica Fogarty, Nick Gower-Johnson, Colin Ball, Andy Davis, Spencer Payne, Kim Harlock and Liz Bruce.

Heads of service interviews

Heads of Service Interviews have taken place with 11 individual Heads of Service across the County to establish what their services are currently doing and identify further opportunities for Narrowing the Gaps. These interviews have proven to be very fruitful and we will give more details on the outcomes in future editions of this regular email update on NtG.

WCC Cabinet Report, July 2009

A report detailing the priorities and activities for 'Narrowing the Gaps' went to Cabinet on 9 July 2009. This followed a detailed review by SDLT on the long term approach needed to Narrow the Gaps.

Sustainable Community Plan

The Public Service Board has agreed that NtG will be an overarching theme of the Sustainable Community Plan (SCP), and has recently held a conference with all key stakeholders to identify priorities under NtG - "Narrowing the Gaps, Improvement for All - The Warwickshire we all want in 2026" (Warwickshire Public Service Board Advisory Forum)



Paul Galland speaking at recent conference

focus area: 16 to 18 years olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Why?

The gap has increased during 2008. Although there has been improvement across four of our five districts/boroughs, performance in Nuneaton & Bedworth has deteriorated slightly, meaning that the gap in overall terms has increased.

What we are aiming to achieve?

	2007 Baseline	Index (Warks. = 100)	2008 Update	Index (Warks. = 100)
Warwickshire	5.8%	-	5.0%	-
North Warwickshire	6.5%	112	6.1%	122
Nuneaton & Bedworth	6.8%	117	7.2%	144
Rugby	5.3%	91	5.0%	100
Stratford-on-Avon	2.7%	47	2.4%	48
Warwick	5.2%	89	4.3%	86
<i>'The Gap'</i>		<i>70</i>		<i>96</i>

To reduce the gap between best and worst performing areas to within 3.5% over the next 4 years.

Action taken so far:

- Through the delivery of extra support and targeted additional tuition to pupils, an improvement in GCSE attainment for looked after children should be achieved this year. The 'gap' in attainment for looked after children was highlighted in the Narrowing the Gaps analysis as being a significant issue.
- Support for carers during 09/10 will improve the outcomes for both carers and the people they care for.
- The NEET issue appeared in several discussions with Heads of Service and a project on this is already being developed to reduce the number of NEET clients.
- A 'Support for families/costs of schooling' project might be a potential NtG-type project, detailed in the Child Poverty Strategy.
- A bid for funding for a cashless school meals system could reduce the stigma around the take-up of free school meals amongst children from deprived families. The scheme is being implemented in Manor Park schools from this year, and has the potential for further roll-out to other schools.

Are you contributing to the agenda ?

First: Have we got our actions right so far?

Second: Anything else in 'the pipeline' that will have a positive effect on the NEET's situation that you are aware of?

Third: Any ideas / suggestions that you feel should be on the NEET's agenda?

- The Police Authority has agreed to focus their resources across the county on the High Harm Causers and Policing Priority Areas Rugby (Town, Brownsover, Benn, New Bilton) Leamington Spa (Town, Clarendon and some of Brunswick and Willes), Nuneaton and Bedworth (Town, Abbey, Camp Hill, Parts of Bar Pool and Kingswood).
- The PCT have agreed on a major new development in Camp Hill, Nuneaton – a new GP-led Health Centre, promoting positive action on health as well as treating health problems.
- External interviews are being planned with Senior Officers from other public and voluntary sector partner agencies including the local district/ borough councils, Police, Probation Services and CAVA amongst others.

Next issue

This will be a fortnightly publication, if you have any ideas to contribute to the next or future issues please contact: Julie Smith
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Focus issues in future bulletins will include:

- Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality (NI 4)
- Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime (NI 21)
- Achievement of 5 or more A* - c grades at GCSE or equivalent (NI 75)
- Working age people on out of work benefits (NI 152)