

Helping to identify children who are at risk of becoming NEET earlier



Case Study Warrington Borough Council

The government has raised the age to which young people must stay in education or training to 17 in 2013 and to 18 by 2015. As part of this, local authorities are increasing their focus on improving the prospects of those young people who are at high risk of being classed as not in education, employment or training (NEET) from aged 16 to improve their life chances.

Warrington Borough Council wanted to find an effective way to accurately identify those children who are deemed most likely to drop out of education or training from Year 11. This would make it easier for the council to deliver the right services sooner to keep them engaged.

"The tool provides the insight we need to ensure that as children's circumstances change, we can continue to provide the right help and support to those who need it."

Kate Guise, 11-19 Education, Training and Skills Manager, Warrington Borough Council

Issues

The council classified a list of factors that can impact a child's career prospects, such as whether they lived in a deprived area, qualified for free school meals, had English as an additional language or had issues with poor attendance and achievement in school. The 11-19 Learning & Achievement Division then allocated points to each of these factors to create a Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI).

Previously, staff had attempted to undertake manual analysis of the wealth of data in One to ascertain which children were likely to struggle to find meaningful employment or training in the future. However, the task proved insurmountable as Kate Guise, 11-19 Education, Training and Skills Manager at Warrington Borough Council, explains.

"Scrutinising the data was a never-ending job that would have been virtually impossible to sustain due to the considerable time and resources required. Also, many of the factors that we were looking at such as the attendance and achievement data gathered regularly from schools, could change on a daily basis so we needed a more accurate way to ensure that we were identifying the right children."

The council wanted to be able to categorise pupils so that they could clearly see which children were at highest risk of ending up NEET. Staff needed to be able to flag up those who would benefit

from additional support immediately as well as those who required close monitoring to ensure they were making good progress in their learning.

By making use of Capita's Child Profiling Tool, the team were able to speed up the data analysis task and simplify the whole process.

Raising the Participation Age in Warrington

"One of the key advantages is that we have been able to tailor the Child Profiling Tool to meet our specific needs. It helps us to plan future provision too as we have a much clearer idea of the number of children who are likely to need additional services to reach their full potential." adds Kate.

How has One helped?

Using the Child Profiling Tool, the 11-19 Learning & Achievement Division at Warrington is able to keep a constant watch on children's RONI scores to ensure that even if their circumstances change, no child falls through the net.

There are thousands of children and numerous pieces of data being analysed but the software runs automatically, allowing the team to keep a regular check over weeks and months to spot if a child's risk of becoming NEET changes because they have moved to a different area or their attendance in school has improved, for example.

"It is very important for us as a local authority to know which young people are at risk of ending up out of education, employment or training while they are still in school. The One Child Profiling Tool enables us to identify these vulnerable individuals quickly and easily so that we can make sure they get the help they need to take the first steps into valuable and fulfilling careers."

Kate Guise, 11-19 Education, Training and Skills Manager, Warrington Borough Council

"We took the reports created by the Child Profiling Tool to each individual school and staff agreed that in their view, the software had identified the correct children," says Kate.

"Each school has its own way of identifying pupils at risk so this is a really useful tool for us to ensure that everyone is concentrating on the same children."

What is the impact?

The Child Profiling Tool has been essential in enabling the team to complete the complex data analysis work required to respond to the government initiative to raise the age of participation.

The software has made it much easier for Warrington to better support schools in the work they are already doing to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable children.

"Schools certainly felt reassured that our information matched theirs. The tool provides the insight we need to ensure that as children's circumstances change, we can continue to provide the right help and support to those who need it." says Kate.

From September 2013, the council plans to use the Child Profiling Tool to identify children who are at risk of becoming NEET earlier so that they can intervene sooner to improve their prospects.

Kate continues, "The tool will help us to monitor the progress of children from Year 8 to ensure that their chances of remaining in education, training or employment from aged 16 increase as they move through each stage in their schooling."

"We are pleased that local authorities are recognising that the Data Protection Act should not be seen as a barrier to the sensible use of personal information. Organisations have statutory duties to help young people in their area, helping and supporting them in education, employment and training. Collecting and analysing the information available to deliver and plan these services makes clear sense, though where profiling is being carried out it's vital that care is taken to protect young people's information.

"The ICO expects that these projects take place in a sensible, safe and secure way, with the proper safeguards in place. This includes having a clearly-stated purpose to the processing taking place to show why it is necessary, with a clear link between the processing and its outcomes – in other words, that young people identified as a result of the analysis receive real benefits in terms of services and support to help them avoid becoming NEET. It also means being clear and upfront with how people's information will be used and making sure there are regular review processes built in to make sure the data remains accurate, and its analysis is achieving its intended aims and purposes."

Victoria Cetinkaya, Senior Policy Officer, (Public Services) Information Commissioner's Office

One Child Profiling Tool

- Saves time and costs
- Improves the quality of service to children
- Ensures a consistent approach
- Flexible configuration



To find out how Capita One can help your work with vulnerable families please contact us on 01234 832150 or email info@capita-one.co.uk

CAPITA

ONE5030 06/13
Capita One, Franklin Court, Priory Business Park, Cardington, Bedford MK44 3JZ
Tel: 01234 838080 | Fax: 01234 832036 | Email: info@capita-one.co.uk | www.capita-one.co.uk
Registered office: 71 Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1H 0XA | Registered in England No. 2299747. Part of Capita plc.