

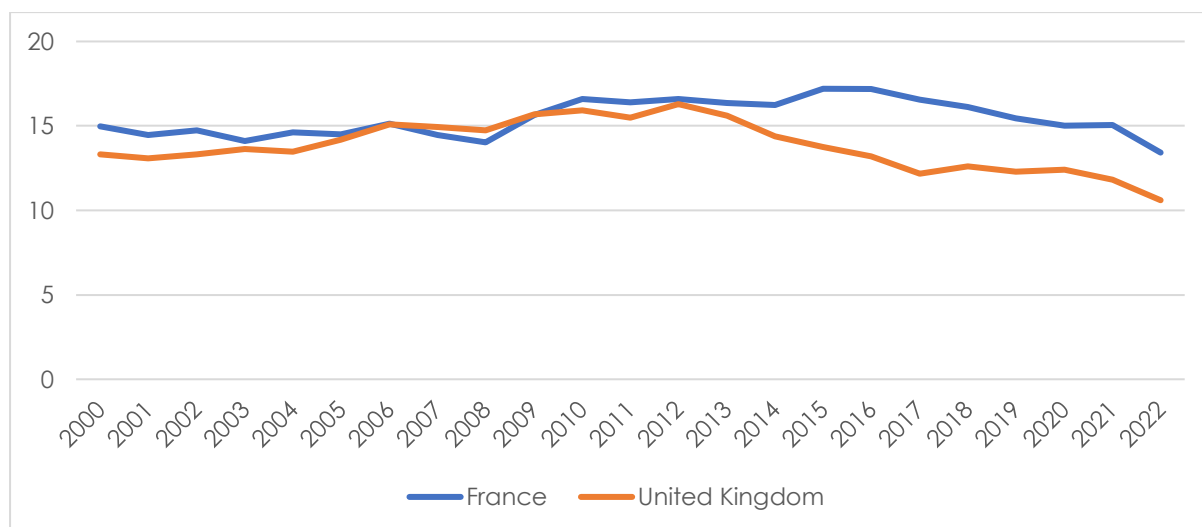
What works in reducing NEET rates: France

1. Contextual information

1.1. Data

In France, those aged 15-29 who are not in employment, education or training are referred to as NEET. In the third quarter of 2024, the NEET rate in France stood at 12% which was 0.4 percent below its level from a year ago and 0.2 percent above its level at the end of 2019.¹ **Figure 1** compares the NEET rates in France and the UK from 2000 to 2022. This case study will outline the key aims and features of two important interventions aimed at reducing the NEET rate: Youth Guarantee (Garantie jeunes) and Intensive Support for Young People (Accompagnement Intensive des Jeunes (AIJ)) and position them within wider national and European legislation and youth policy. It will group the outcomes of both interventions thematically before discussing lessons learnt.

Figure 1: NEET rate among 15–29-year-olds (2000-2022)



Source: [Youth not in employment, education or training \(NEET\) | OECD](#)

In France, the 2008-09 financial crisis had a significant impact on young people. Finding employment was a particularly difficult task for those with no or lower levels of qualifications.² The crisis catapulted youth unemployment to high priority within the political agenda as well as within society more broadly.³ Indeed, when François Hollande became president in 2012, young people were a focus of his victory speech.

¹ INSEE. (2024).

² Cahuc et al. (2013).

³ Vilches. (2023).

He pledged to make them his priority, committing to transforming longstanding prejudices against them.⁴ The new Minister for Sport, Youth, Non-Formal Education and Associative Life, Valérie Fourneyron, relaunched the defunct Cross-Ministerial Committee for Youth (Comité Interministériel de la Jeunesse (CIJ)) 'with the aim of developing an integrated, coherent public youth policy, involving young people themselves 'to guarantee social cohesion'.⁵ Youth policy built on earlier initiatives, aiming to improve young people's skills and educational attainment, including through certified training. In the long term, it hoped to support young people in gaining autonomy, entering the labour market and reducing social exclusion.

However, the level of youth unemployment in France remains much higher than the national unemployment rate, whereby in 2022, 16.3% of 15–24-year-olds were unemployed, compared to the 7.3% overall unemployment rate.⁶ In France, successful labour market entry often rests on following a traditional educational path and obtaining a diploma from a prestigious university (grand école) or university institute of technology. Young people who do not follow this trajectory, particularly those without a diploma or with an immigration background, face considerable difficulties in the school-to-work transition.⁷ This is compounded by the relative skills mismatch between employer requirements and the skills possessed by young people in France.⁸

1.2. Policy landscape

Reducing the number of young jobseekers has been a longstanding challenge for successive governments, regions, associations, and social partners. The recent direction of travel for policymakers has been to focus on reducing the disparities among more vulnerable young people. This includes early school leavers, those with few or no qualifications, those from deprived urban areas and young graduates.⁹ Both deprived suburban and rural areas face particular difficulties, with high levels of educational drop out and low employment density.¹⁰ Young people in these areas often struggle with remoteness from jobs, weak social networks, and geographical discrimination, all of which compound their challenges in accessing work.¹¹ Often, this has meant a more holistic and integrated approach, with NEET initiatives focusing not only on employability and skills but also on housing, financial support and peer solidarity.¹² The Youth Commitment Contract (Contrat d'engagement jeune)¹³, Work Integration Organisation (Établissement Pour l'Insertion dans l'Emploi)¹⁴, second chance schools (écoles de la deuxième chance)¹⁵, Adapted Military Service (Service Militaire Adapté)¹⁶, '1 young person, 1 solution' Plan ('1 Jeune, 1 Solution')¹⁷, personal training accounts (compte personnel de formation)¹⁸ and rental guarantee (Visale)¹⁹ are examples of initiatives or

⁴ Pickard. (2014).

⁵ Pickard. (2014).

⁶ European Commission. (2023a).

⁷ Danner et al. (2022).

⁸ Hadjivassiliou et al. (2016).

⁹ European Commission. (2023b).

¹⁰ Danner et al. (2022).

¹¹ Danner et al. (2022).

¹² European Commission. (2023b).

¹³ Ministère du Travail, de la Santé, des Solidarités et des Familles. (2025a).

¹⁴ Ministère du Travail, de la Santé, des Solidarités et des Familles. (2025b).

¹⁵ Service Public France. (2024a).

¹⁶ Service Militaire Adapté. (no date).

¹⁷ Ministère du Travail et de l'Emploi. (2024).

¹⁸ Mon Compte Formation. (no date).

¹⁹ Visale. (no date).

actors which often target particular groups of vulnerable young people who are NEET to provide personalised support and guidance, monthly allowances (towards living costs), free training, often combined with work placements (stages), integration programmes, housing support or childcare support.²⁰



The French labour market is quite notable due to the important role played by legislation. The Labour Code,

created in 1910, collates all legislative texts related to labour law. It is frequently updated to reflect changes in work trends. The Labour Code can be supportive in relation to NEET initiatives since 'differences in professional 'treatment' based on age 'do not constitute discrimination when they are objectively and reasonably justified by a legitimate goal, in particular by a concern to preserve workers' health or safety or foster their professional integration [...]'.²¹ The French Labour Code also offers strong employment protection to young people, including those who are NEET as, for example, the Youth Guarantee is enshrined in it.²²



In the UK, the policy supporting young people into work includes elements of conditionality and sanctions.

The UK's approach blends elements of activation policies, skills development, and support for disadvantaged groups, and puts a strong emphasis on conditionality in welfare benefits, particularly under Universal Credit (UC). Under UC, young people must meet work-search requirements unless exempt (e.g., due to health conditions).²³ Many people on UC aged 16 to 24 can get extra help to find work through the Youth Offer that combines different types of support: Youth Employment Programme, Youth Hubs and Youth Employability Coaches.²⁴ UK policies also incorporate skills-building elements, particularly through apprenticeships, and traineeships.

Looking closer at the NEET population in France, there are some key trends which support the French government's rationale to target the professional/ labour market integration of certain groups of vulnerable youth. In 2021, France had 1.4 million people who were NEET, which equates to over one in eight young people.²⁵ This ratio rises when considering youth living in priority neighbourhoods (Quartiers Prioritaires de la Politique de la Ville/QPV), some of the most low-income and deprived areas which have been targeted under urban policy where the NEET rate is one in every four young people.²⁶ The NEET rate varies with age in France. In 2023, the rate went from around 5.8% at 15-19 years old, increasing sharply to 15.5% at 20-24 years old, before reaching its highest at 16.3% for 25-29-year-olds.²⁷ Early school leavers and those who leave school without any qualifications remain a concerning figure – and long-standing challenge – for the French government. Each year, around '80,000 young people leave the initial training system without having obtained a qualification equivalent to the baccalaureate or a vocational diploma'.²⁸ In the UK, there is a similar situation with a slightly lower rate of

²⁰ European Commission. (2023b).

²¹ European Commission. (2023b).

²² Cedefop. (2017).

²³ Department for Work and Pensions. (2024a).

²⁴ Department for Work and Pensions. (2021).

²⁵ Chusseau. (2023).

²⁶ Chusseau. (2023).

²⁷ Eurostat. (2024).

²⁸ Chusseau. (2023).

NEETs. In July to September 2024, there were 946,000 people aged 16 to 24 with NEET status.²⁹ In 2024, the UK rate of unemployment for 15–24-year-olds was at 14%, compared to 18.6% in France.³⁰

2. Intervention: Youth Guarantee

Youth Guarantee was launched in 2013 as a pilot scheme in 72 of the 101 administrative areas (départements) in France³¹ under the framework of the long-term plan to reduce poverty and improve social inclusion (plan pluriannuel contre la pauvreté et pour l'inclusion sociale). **Table 1** provides a summary of the main features of the intervention.

Table 1: Summary table outlining Youth Guarantee's characteristics³²

Intervention characteristic	Description
Rationale	To intervene early, decisively, and comprehensively when a young person drops out of school or becomes unemployed.
Target population	16–25-year-olds at risk of labour market exclusion, the financially insecure, the socially vulnerable, those with little family support, those with little formal education/ training.
Providers	Missions locales, employers.
Modes and locations of delivery	In person, at Missions locales and employer's premises.
Duration	12–18 months.
Modifications	Initially a pilot scheme, it was rolled out across the whole of France in 2017.

Source: RAND Europe.

Target population: The Youth Guarantee targeted 16- to 25-year-olds at risk of being excluded from the labour market and aimed to support them into becoming more autonomous.³³ It specifically targeted young NEETs identified as financially insecure, not benefitting from familial support and in vulnerable and precarious socio-economic conditions. This included NEETs and early school leavers aged 18–25, including those with little or no education/formal training; and vulnerable young people aged 16–18 with high levels of financial/ family/ social vulnerability and poverty. The overall aim was to make them financially and professionally autonomous, i.e., to be able to provide for themselves in society.

Rationale: Youth Guarantee was the French response to the European Youth Guarantee initiative – introduced in April 2013 – which was informed by the success of similar schemes in Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden), some of which have

²⁹ Office for National Statistics. (2025).

³⁰ OECD. (2025).

³¹ OECD. (2014).

³² Structured using a condensed version of the TiDieR template.

³³ Ministère de l'Économie des Finances et de la Souveraineté industrielle et numérique. (2021).

been in operation since the mid-1980s.³⁴ Under the European Youth Guarantee, the aim is to ensure that 'all young people under the age of 30 receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education'.³⁵ In other words, the aim is for public employment services (PES) to intervene early, decisively and comprehensively when a young person drops out of school or becomes unemployed.³⁶

Such early/immediate action – in the form of offering a job or training placement or opportunities for further studying as part of individualised action plans and targeted/intensive support and guidance – is critical in effectively addressing youth unemployment, before disengagement sets in and, as a result, avoiding the long-term consequences or 'scarring' effects.³⁷ By 2017, the scheme had been rolled out across France and, as mentioned earlier, enshrined into the Labour Code. The Youth Guarantee programme came to an end in March 2022 when it was replaced by the Youth Commitment Contract (Contrat d'engagement jeune).³⁸

Delivery: Youth Guarantee was an intensive support programme lasting 12 months, 18 months in some circumstances, which included outreach activities to identify vulnerable youth, training, groupwork and work placements.³⁹ Operationally, the scheme was carried out by Missions locales which are state-ran employment and training hubs for young people. The group aspect of the scheme included a four-to-six-week intensive group support programme involving a cohort of about 15 young people; such a cohort was organised every month. Those enrolled on the scheme attended workshops aiming to improve their chances of securing employment through CV-writing or interview roleplay. This support programme was provided by Missions locales during the first months of participation to ensure active engagement and minimise the risk of dropping out. The group workshops were also intended to foster a sense of belonging and reduce social isolation among the young people.⁴⁰

The individual aspect of the scheme focused on tailored support, with young people receiving targeted guidance from personal mentors at Missions locales across a number of weeks including skills assessments and training plans. Young people enrolled on Youth Guarantee were required to complete a number of immersive taster work placements during the year.⁴¹ This 'work first' approach stands out in its focus on securing professional experience in the first instance before looking into obstacles to long-term employment, such as housing issues. Another key feature of Youth Guarantee was that young people on the scheme received a monthly stipend of up to €497.50 (rate from 2021 which – using current exchange rates and not accounting for inflation – translates to £416).⁴² This stipend was expected to help ease financial constraints among more vulnerable young people, allowing them to focus on their professional development and enabling longer-term career planning rather than moving from one temporary job to another.⁴³

³⁴ International Labour Organisation. (2024).

³⁵ International Labour Organisation. (2024).

³⁶ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions/Eurofound. (2012d).

³⁷ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions/Eurofound. (2012d).

³⁸ Service Public France. (2024b).

³⁹ Comité scientifique en charge de l'évaluation de la Garantie Jeunes. (2018).

⁴⁰ Comité scientifique en charge de l'évaluation de la Garantie Jeunes. (2018).

⁴¹ Vilches. (2023).

⁴² Ministère de l'Économie des Finances et de la Souveraineté industrielle et numérique. (2021).

⁴³ Gaini et al. (2020).

Cost: In 2020, the French government invested roughly nine billion euros into the ‘1 young person, 1 solution’ Plan, which the Youth Guarantee fell under.⁴⁴ However, the total associated costs of delivering Youth Guarantee specifically are unclear.

3. Intervention: Intensive Support for Young People (AIJ)

In France, the Intensive Support for Young People (AIJ), launched in 2014 and aimed at young unemployed people aged 16-30, provides targeted and intensive support within the framework of the Youth Guarantee Scheme. **Table 2** provides a summary of the main features of the intervention.

Table 2: Summary table outlining Intensive Support for Young People's characteristics⁴⁵

Intervention characteristic	Description
Rationale	To support young people with persistent difficulty entering the labour market into employment.
Target population	16–30-year-olds with persistent difficulty entering the labour market, those living in areas of social deprivation, those unfamiliar with the world of work.
Providers	French Public Employment Service (France Travail, formerly Pôle Emploi employers).
Modes and locations of delivery	Unknown mode. At France Travail and employer's premises.
Duration	6 months.
Modifications	N/A

Source: RAND Europe.

Target population: The AIJ provides intensive individual support which is aimed at young people with persistent difficulties in entering the labour market, and intensive collective support (clubs), which is targeted at young people who are unfamiliar with the world of work, do not know of effective job search strategies and lack personal and professional networks which can help them enter employment.⁴⁶

Rationale: Supported by the EU's European Social Fund (ESF)⁴⁷ and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)⁴⁸ as well as, more recently, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RFF)⁴⁹, AIJ is delivered through dedicated advisors/ counsellors of the French

⁴⁴ Ministère du Travail, de la Santé, des Solidarités et des Familles. (2021).

⁴⁵ Structured using a condensed version of the TiDieR template.

⁴⁶ Lorenzi. (2017).

⁴⁷ European Commission. (2015).

⁴⁸ European Commission. (no date a).

⁴⁹ European Commission. (no date b).

Public Employment Service (France Travail, formerly Pôle Emploi). The AIJ has been informed by successful elements of other programmes implemented by PES in areas of social deprivation (territoires sensibles)⁵⁰ such as young jobseekers' clubs in disadvantaged urban areas (Clubs Ambition⁵¹ and Clubs jeunes ZUS).⁵²

Crucially, the AIJ ensures a follow-up of young people into work or training well beyond their initial period of support. This support lasts until completion of probation or work trial period or two months after participants start their training. In case of persistent social integration difficulties, young people may be referred to social assistance services delivered in partnership with the Department Councils (Conseils départementaux).⁵³ This service called 'global support' is available to all jobseekers.

Delivery: The AIJ lasts approximately six months and comprises three phases.⁵⁴ Phase one consists of creating a professional profile, job search strategy and action plan. Phase two aims to implement the action plan. Finally, phase three combines a follow-up and support in employment, company-based training, or other long-term training. The AIJ combines group and individual meetings and support between the young participants and the dedicated advisor, face-to-face individual interviews and liaising with employers as regards work or training placements offered under the scheme.

Cost: The AIJ is co-funded by the French state and the ESF.⁵⁵ The overall costs of the scheme are not publicly disclosed. However, the number of AIJ beneficiaries doubled from 70,000 in 2020 to 140,000 in 2021, suggesting sustained investment in the scheme.⁵⁶

4. Outcomes and considerations for future initiatives

4.1. Reach of initiatives

Both initiatives were largely successful in securing programme enrolments among young participants. In the year 2019, 89,700 young people enrolled on the Youth Guarantee scheme which was a 6.7% increase compared to the previous year. Numbers dropped by 1.9% in 2020, largely due the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷ In 2021, they shot up 83% to reach 160,500 young people.⁵⁸ This increase can be attributed to Youth Guarantee's inclusion in the '1 young person, 1 solution' Plan which is a broader initiative by the French government to tackle youth unemployment following the pandemic.⁵⁹ A similar pattern can be observed with the AIJ scheme. From mid-2019 to mid-2020, 106,000

⁵⁰ Blache and Prokovas. (2019).

⁵¹ Apriles. (2014).

⁵² Blasco et al. (2015).

⁵³ European Commission. (2018).

⁵⁴ Lorenzi. (2017).

⁵⁵ Préfet de la Région d'Île-de-France. (2021).

⁵⁶ Ministère du Travail et de l'Emploi. (2024).

⁵⁷ DARES. (2021).

⁵⁸ DARES. (2023).

⁵⁹ Ministère des sports, de la jeunesse et de la vie associative. (no date).

young people enrolled on the AIJ. This almost doubled in the following year to reach 206,000.⁶⁰

The two initiatives were also successful in reaching young people from target groups. In 2021, 21% of those taking part in Youth Guarantee and 13% of those taking part in AIJ were from priority neighbourhoods (Quartiers Prioritaires de la Politique de la Ville (QPV)).⁶¹ This is an overrepresentation given that 9% of the general population aged 16-25 live in these areas.⁶² In 2022, 52% of young people's highest level of qualification was lower than baccalauréat level (baccalauréat is a Level 3 / A Level equivalent in the English system). The rate was 13% for those on AIJ.⁶³

However, not all of those enrolled on the schemes stayed on for the maximum number of months which support was offered. For the young people who entered Youth Guarantee in 2019, 20% left the scheme before the 12-month mark. Generally, those who left the scheme prematurely, left seven months after they started. The main reason for non-completion, at 42%, was exclusion due to not respecting the commitments of the scheme. Other reasons included simply abandoning the scheme (24%) and moving homes (16%).⁶⁴

4.2. Impact on NEET labour integration

Evaluations of both initiatives have shown that its approach has been effective in helping unemployed young people into employment.⁶⁵ For example, data gathered by the French Court of Audit (Cour des Comptes) found that for young people who took part in AIJ between January 2018 and March 2020, the employment rate one month after finishing the programme was at 46%. In 2017, those who took part in AIJ were ten percentage points more likely to be in employment eight months after the end of the programme, compared to a control group.⁶⁶

There were similar positive results in evaluations of the Youth Guarantee scheme. During the year following completion of the scheme, young people had an employment rate of 54% which is 21 percentage points more than a comparable group of young people supported by Missions locales.⁶⁷ Over 40% of entrants in the pilot regions found work 14 months after enrolling, and over 20% had found long-term employment.⁶⁸ An evaluation of the impact of collective support concluded that it has a positive impact on participants' access to employment. The long-term employment rate of young people engaging with the Youth Guarantee collective workshops rose by five percentage points within six months.⁶⁹

4.3. Impact on independence of beneficiaries

There is evidence that the initiatives not only positively impacted beneficiaries' employment prospects, but their independence and confidence too. A follow-up survey which looked into the impact of the Youth Guarantee pilot found evidence of

⁶⁰ DARES. (2022).

⁶¹ France Stratégie. (2024).

⁶² DARES. (2023).

⁶³ France Stratégie. (2024).

⁶⁴ DARES. (2021).

⁶⁵ Gaini et al. (2020).

⁶⁶ Cour des Comptes. (2024).

⁶⁷ DARES. (2023).

⁶⁸ Gaini et al. (2020).

⁶⁹ Gaini et al. (2020).

secondary benefits linked to improved autonomy. For example, the proportion of those enrolled in the programme who had a driver's license increased from 38% at the time of the first survey to 48% a year later. This is important as 22% of survey respondents believed that mobility difficulties (e.g., lack of transport, no having a driving licence) are barriers in securing employment.⁷⁰ The same survey found that a few months before young NEETs joined the programme, two-thirds of them lived with their parents. Two years later, this proportion was reduced to half, so increasing the number of young people who could live independently – a key aim of the programme.⁷¹ However, the evaluation stressed that this data is insufficient in itself to determine a causal relationship between the positive impact on young people and the Youth Guarantee scheme.

4.4. Inspiring future initiatives

The Youth Guarantee was an experimental pilot for its first four years, before it was rolled out nationally in 2017. Nevertheless, its success both as a pilot and mainstream programme help inform subsequent youth employment initiatives. As mentioned earlier, in 2022, the scheme was replaced by the Youth Commitment Contract (Contrat d'engagement jeune). This initiative was inspired by Youth Guarantee and built on the scheme's model; it continues to use intensive and personalised support but goes even further to work with NEETs who are furthest from employment.⁷² Between March 2022 and August 2024, 776,000 young people took part in this initiative.⁷³

5. Lessons relevant for the UK context

Target population: The discussed interventions target a larger, and slightly older group of NEETs, than those of interest in this study (i.e., 14-24 years old). □The unemployment rates for 25–29-year-olds in France are more concerning at 9.9% (December 2023)⁷⁴ compared to in the UK at 3% (2022)⁷⁵. These figures explain in part why AIJ targets those with persistent difficulty entering the labour market. part why AIJ targets those with persistent difficulty entering the labour market.

Implementation: Implementing a French-style Youth Guarantee and AIJ in the UK context would **require** sufficient funding, joined-up approaches, and labour market partnerships. The support provided at JobCentre Plus Youth Hubs is similar to the offer of Youth Guarantee and AIJ in terms of tailored guidance.⁷⁶ However, additional funding would need to be sourced for the stipend as part of Youth Guarantee or an adaptation to Universal Credit payment may need to be considered. Each Youth Hub operates slightly differently as it is hosted by an external organisation and adapts to local needs. Therefore, stakeholders would need to consider how group support can be offered consistently for Youth Hubs across the country. The now withdrawn Kickstart Scheme proves that the UK has the potential infrastructure to leverage labour market

⁷⁰ Gaini et al. (2020).

⁷¹ Gaini et al. (2020).

⁷² Blache and Prokvas. (2019).

⁷³ French Ministry of National Education and Youth. (2024).

⁷⁴ Eurostat. (2025).

⁷⁵ Social Mobility Commission. (2024).

⁷⁶ Gov.uk. (2021).

partnerships to provide work placements for young people as is the case in Youth Guarantee.

Environment: There are similarities in the policy context between the UK and France which could ease transferability. For example, both countries operate within a system of welfare conditionality which recognises the need for additional, targeted support for young jobseekers such as skills building and guidance. However, France has a long tradition of providing sustained support to young people (especially the most vulnerable) post-employment or work placement. This is not replicated in the UK to the same level, where support often ends upon entering employment or training.⁷⁷ Furthermore, France's school-to-work policy area has a stronger skills-building emphasis whereas the UKs tends to centre on employment.⁷⁸ Indeed, a key feature of Youth Guarantee and AIJ is their focus on building skills of autonomy. This is harder to measure compared to outcomes related to employment or training enrolment.

On a funding and infrastructural level, France has an advantageous position compared to the UK since it can access EU funding and technical support e.g., the ESF+ and the RFF.⁷⁹ For example, the AIJ has been supported by both these EU funding streams. Additionally, it has a nationwide system of holistic and integrated support specifically for young people in its Mission locales which not only advise on employment and training, but on housing, wellbeing, and finances too. While some of the UK's Youth Hubs also offer mental health support, they do not provide the same holistic service.⁸⁰

Outcomes: Both interventions in (re)engaging and helping NEETs back into education/training and/or employment demonstrated positive impact of combining individualised and collective support in enhancing youth employability. The intensity of the support from dedicated advisors tailored to the individual and their goals was seen as a particularly strong feature of both Youth Guarantee and AIJ.⁸¹ Furthermore, the group aspect of the interventions, gave young people the chance to engage with their peers, improve confidence and reduce their isolation. The dynamic created between the groups can have a positive impact on young people's self-esteem, confidence, motivation, engagement, and accountability.⁸² Group-based settings not only foster solidarity and reduce isolation but also generate positive ripple effects, such as improved social skills, re-engagement with family and community life, and increased motivation through peer support and shared success, which extend beyond the programme itself and are central to its effectiveness in supporting young people's integration.⁸³

Continuous support (after gaining employment) is a valuable feature of AIJ. There is a well-documented case for following up and providing ongoing support to young people on work and/or training placements. Such support should cover both work-related and non-work-related aspects of the placement and last until the young person is fully and successfully integrated into the workplace.⁸⁴ Indeed, as evidence shows that most disadvantaged NEETs require the provision of high quality and more intensive support

⁷⁷ European Network of PES. (2019).

⁷⁸ Eurofound. (2016).

⁷⁹ European Commission. (no date c)

⁸⁰ Department for Work and Pensions. (2024).

⁸¹ Comité scientifique en charge de l'évaluation de la Garantie Jeunes. (2018).

⁸² Comité scientifique en charge de l'évaluation de la Garantie Jeunes. (2018).

⁸³ Comité scientifique en charge de l'évaluation de la Garantie Jeunes. (2018).

⁸⁴ Franssen et al. (2014).

(compared to less vulnerable groups), including in the form of sustained post-placement support.⁸⁵ Such post-placement support provides vulnerable NEETs with the necessary help, advice and guidance not only to effectively take up their work (or training) placement, but also to hold it down and successfully complete it. This, in turn, increases the likelihood of them being kept on permanently by the host company, thus ensuring their sustainable labour market integration.

As for Youth Guarantee, the acknowledgement of financial insecurity being a considerable barrier to labour market inclusion for NEETs and the corresponding measures to address it can be said to be a key success factor of the intervention. Through the allocation of a stipend, young people became less reliant on their family and more likely to find good quality, longer term employment since they were not under the same pressure to secure their first job immediately.⁸⁶

While the holistic aspect of both interventions is positively assessed, there are opportunities for UK policymakers to push further with this approach to engage the most vulnerable groups of NEETs such as those with no qualifications and those who are not known to statutory and local services such as the unregistered NEETs.

Methods

Data analysis: We analysed available statistical data on the NEET rates.

Document review: We used forward and backward citation searches from the sources identified as part of the main REA. The full list of sources consulted is presented in Notes and References.

PIET-T model: A conceptual model, that assumes that a combination of three elements (population, intervention, and environment) determines the outcomes of an intervention, was used to aid considerations for transferring interventions into other contexts.⁸⁷

Template for Intervention Description and Replication (TIDieR):⁸⁸ This was used to record – where possible – (i) name of the intervention; (ii) rationale or theory essential to the intervention; (iii) materials, procedures and activities used; (iv) details on providers and expertise needed; (v) modes and locations of delivery; (vi) duration, intensity and dose; (vii) information on personalised elements; (viii) modifications introduced; and (ix) implementation fidelity.

For the methodology used to select the case studies, and a full description of the methods, please see the final report: [Hofman, J., Hutton, E. & Nightingale, M. \(2025\). What Works: Reducing NEET Rates. Youth Futures](#)

⁸⁵ European Commission. (2019 & 2020).

⁸⁶ Gaini et al. (2020).

⁸⁷ Schloemer and Schröder-Bäck. (2018).

⁸⁸ Hoffmann, et al. (2014).

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