



## Forum Voice Report & Claim Form

Name	Nick Wooldridge
Partnership group attended	NEET Task Group
Date of meeting attended	5 <sup>th</sup> July
Dates of next meeting/future meetings (where known)	

Please provide a brief report from your meeting using a bullet point format in the box below on issues that will, or could be, of interest to colleagues in the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. Examples could be information on the implementation of new regulatory/legislative change, how services are being provided in partnership, what opportunities might come forward for their involvement and issues which the representatives on the LSP need to know.

**Please indicate 'Confidential' where sensitive information shouldn't be shared widely with colleagues in the short term.**

Point 1	Reading's NEET figure has risen to 9% (from 6.5% in the period of November 2009 –January 2010). This is normal for the time of year though as many courses and programmes are ending. This figure is still down 1% on last year. Most of the young people Connexions have spoken to state that they will be staying with school/education in September rather than entering the labor market.
Point 2	The group discussed the incredible uncertainty that surrounds the sector at the moment with regards to funding. There are going to be cuts to services in the public sector but the Government believe there will be an increase in employment and that this will come mainly from the private sector. There is likely to be a great push towards apprenticeships again, mainly within the private sector but there has been little confirmation of how the budgetary cuts will effect Readings NEET agenda.
Point 3	A discussion took place around the option of local schools becoming Academy's and this may effect provision for vulnerable young people. When a school becomes an Academy it has to lease the land from the local authority, hire their own accountants and HR teams, and software licenses etc which could take away the advantages that schools have had by using economies of scale. These Academy's however would have greater control over the way they are run and the curriculum they deliver though they will still be OFSTED inspected, they will not be allowed to change their selection processes and would still have to recruit from within their catchment areas.

**Please tick the box if you wish to claim a session payment (£15) for attendance at the above Meeting.** Please note: only voluntary and community organisations are eligible to receive a payment

Date of Claim:	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Please complete the Name &amp; address of the organisation to whom the reimbursement is payable:</b> Debbie Dye BACYP 452 Basingstoke Road Reading Berkshire RG2 0QE	

**Please return the form (ideally by email) to:**

[anne@volaction.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@volaction.demon.co.uk) or [annaf@strongertogether.co.uk](mailto:annaf@strongertogether.co.uk)

post to:

Stronger Together, 35-39 London Street, Reading. RG1 4PS

If you have any questions, please contact Stronger Together on 0118 9584849