



## **Commission for Rural Communities review of employment, education and training for young people in rural areas**

### **Call for Evidence**

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) is currently carrying out a review of employment, education and training for young people in rural areas, with the aim of making recommendations to the government and other bodies.

According to latest figures from ONS, at the end of March 2011, of those young people aged between 16 and 24 in rural areas, 45%\* were either unemployed – 103,904 (11%), or economically inactive – 316,910 (34%).

The trend towards outward migration of young people in rural areas is an on-going concern, as highlighted in last year's [Rural Advocate](#) report. A recent report on [Young People's Aspirations in Rural areas](#), published by the National Foundation for Educational Research, also highlighted that the recent economic downturn and subsequent substantial reduction in public spending has had a negative impact on young people in the labour market.

As part of its review, the CRC is interested in hearing about examples of good practice, where organisations, both public, voluntary and private, are seeking to address some of the challenges concerning employment, education and training for young people in rural areas.

Ideally, these would be local projects or initiatives where new and innovative ways have been found to break down the barriers to work, training or education. The commission will look to highlight these as part of its final report to government in the new year.

As well as promoting good practice, the CRC's young people project will also seek to bring to the government's attention some of the key challenges and barriers to employment, education and training facing young people in rural areas. As part of this, the commission is currently conducting interviews with a range of national and local organisations, and is also making a number of visits to rural communities to gain a deeper understanding of the issues involved.

The commission is therefore also interested in hearing views on:

- The overall problems and challenges relating to employment, education and training for young people in rural areas, and how these might differ to urban areas;
- Changing policies of central government, their impact on rural areas, and what additional measures need to be taken; and
- Changing policies and modes of service delivery by local organisations, their impact on rural areas, and what additional measures need to be taken.

The commission is aiming to publish its report in early 2012 and so requests that evidence is submitted by the end of December – *please note that this timeframe has been extended, to allow for further evidence to be submitted.*

**Evidence should be emailed to Adam Lavis, Senior Policy Officer, Commission for Rural Communities [adam.lavis@ruralcommunities.gov.uk](mailto:adam.lavis@ruralcommunities.gov.uk)**

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\* Please note this is not the figure for the number of young people who are officially NEET in rural areas, as a rural cut of this data is not currently produced.

