

# *Youth Unemployment*

**What can we do locally?**



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

At 20%, the unemployment rate for 16- to 24-year-olds has been rising since 2004. It is more than three times the rate for older workers.

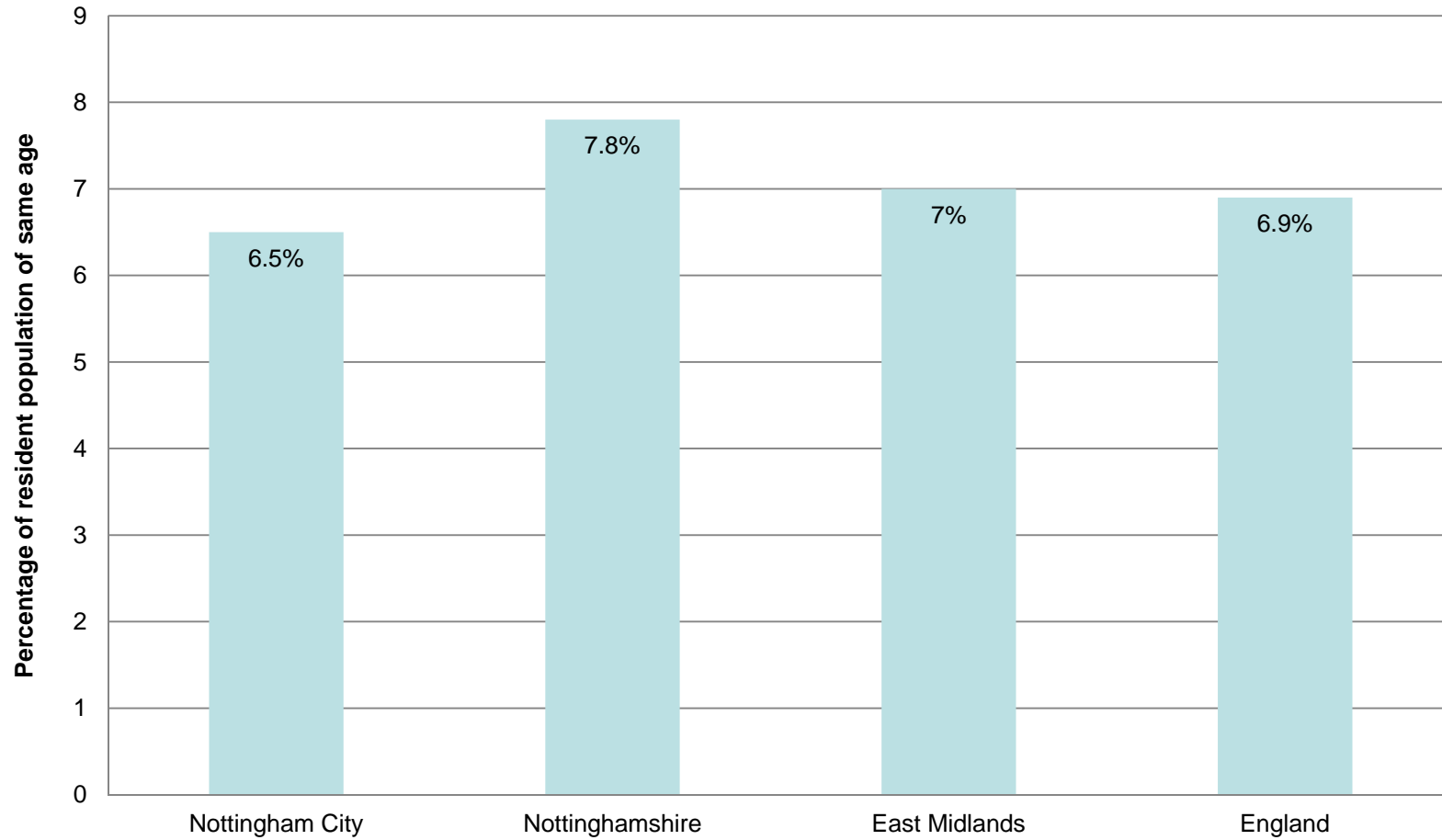


Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS; UK; updated Mar 2011

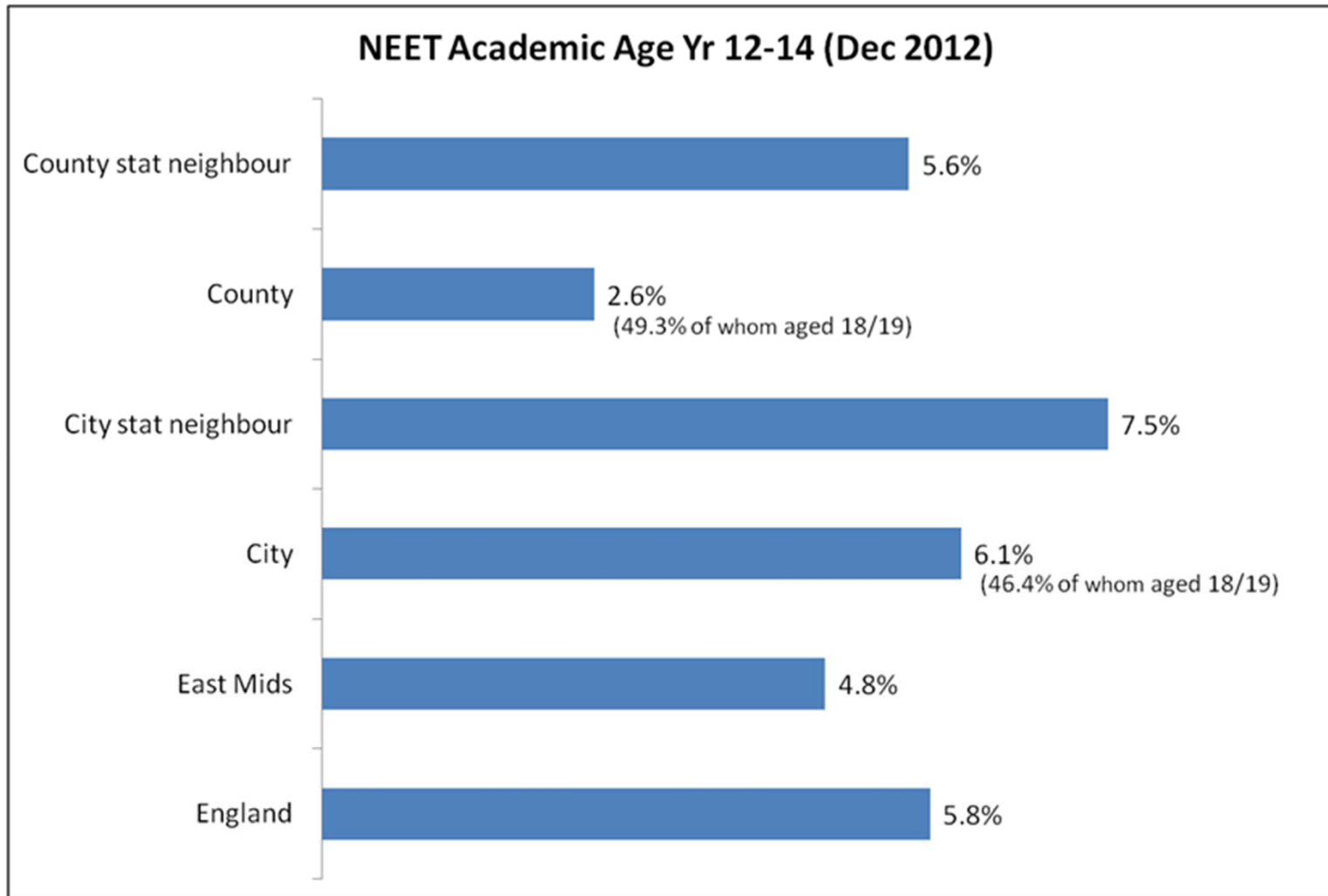


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## JSA claimant count for 18-24 year olds Feb 2013



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- Source
- DFE: Published Dec 2012 (CCIS)



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“Let a hundred flowers  
blossom and a hundred  
schools of thought  
contend”



Where are we now in  
Nottinghamshire?



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# *A strategy to tackle youth unemployment*

- **Led by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures**
  - Jointly owned by the County Council and Nottingham City Council – a county wide strategy
  - Futures delivers the National Careers Service in the East Midlands (18yrs+)
  - Futures delivers vocational advice, information and guidance to teenagers at risk of becoming NEET
  - Futures operates as Nottinghamshire's Apprentice Training Agency
  - Futures delivers work experience opportunities on behalf of Nottinghamshire schools
  - Futures works with schools and public/private sector employers
  - Futures is a key local provider of national youth employment initiatives (such as the Youth Contract and Talent Match)

# *A strategy to tackle youth unemployment*

- **Three themes:**
- **Create better opportunities**
  - Focus on where leverage is necessary to supplement the competitive labour market:- apprenticeships
  - unskilled and semi-skilled
  - short term with potential opportunity for progression; “intermediate labour markets”, seasonal working
- **Make sure our young people are able to take up the opportunities - Employability**
  - Employers continue to be concerned that many of our young people are unable to present themselves well and are ill-prepared for the working world. This can apply to young people of all abilities. These problems are likely to become increasingly acute as some schools step back from work related learning.
- **Simplify routes into work**
  - Bring coherence to the various activities (and funding sources) that can contribute to a ‘route into work’; open up more career opportunities for young people, especially those most disadvantaged; make it easier for young people to find work and easier for employers to recruit suitable young people.



# *What works? Why are our NEET figures low?*

- Target spending – focus!
- A Tracking Database maintained by Futures which is regularly updated by both Local Authorities (school enrolment data), all Colleges, YPLA (apprenticeship enrolments), Futures Personal Advisers. We know where they are and what they are doing.
- Early identification and intervention in schools with young people at risk of becoming NEET
- Rigorous personal follow up of young people who are NEET
- Conscious efforts by a wide spectrum of opportunity providers to offer opportunities which attract, engage and retain all young people
- Accountability – ensuring that schools know which of their pupils failed to progress into learning post-16 and that all providers are aware of and challenged about “drop out” from their programmes (we still could be better at this).



## *Next Steps*

- Draft employment strategy – consultation period with schools, businesses and stakeholders
- Strategy fits with Nottinghamshire Growth Plan
- Final strategy for approval by Committee – June 2013; will include proposals for investment of £500,000 funding set aside by the County Council