

# Overcoming unemployment among young people

Lessons from the evaluation of the Youth  
Contract for 16-17 year olds

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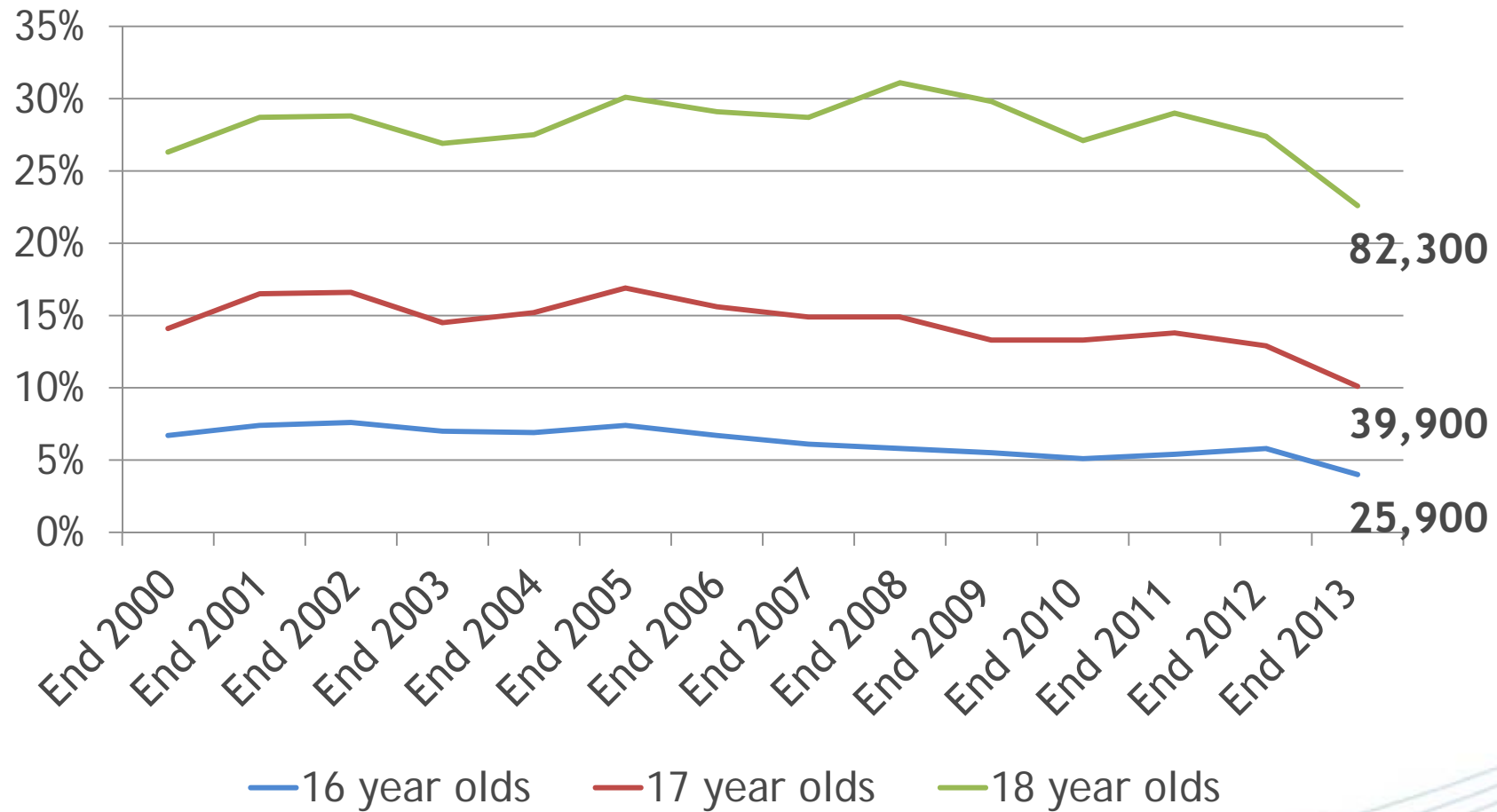
# Agenda: part one

- Causes and implications of being NEET at a young age
- Trends in rates of NEET for 16-18 year olds
- Policy responses over time including the Youth Contract
- The Youth Contract for 16-17 year olds
- Evaluation findings
- Lessons

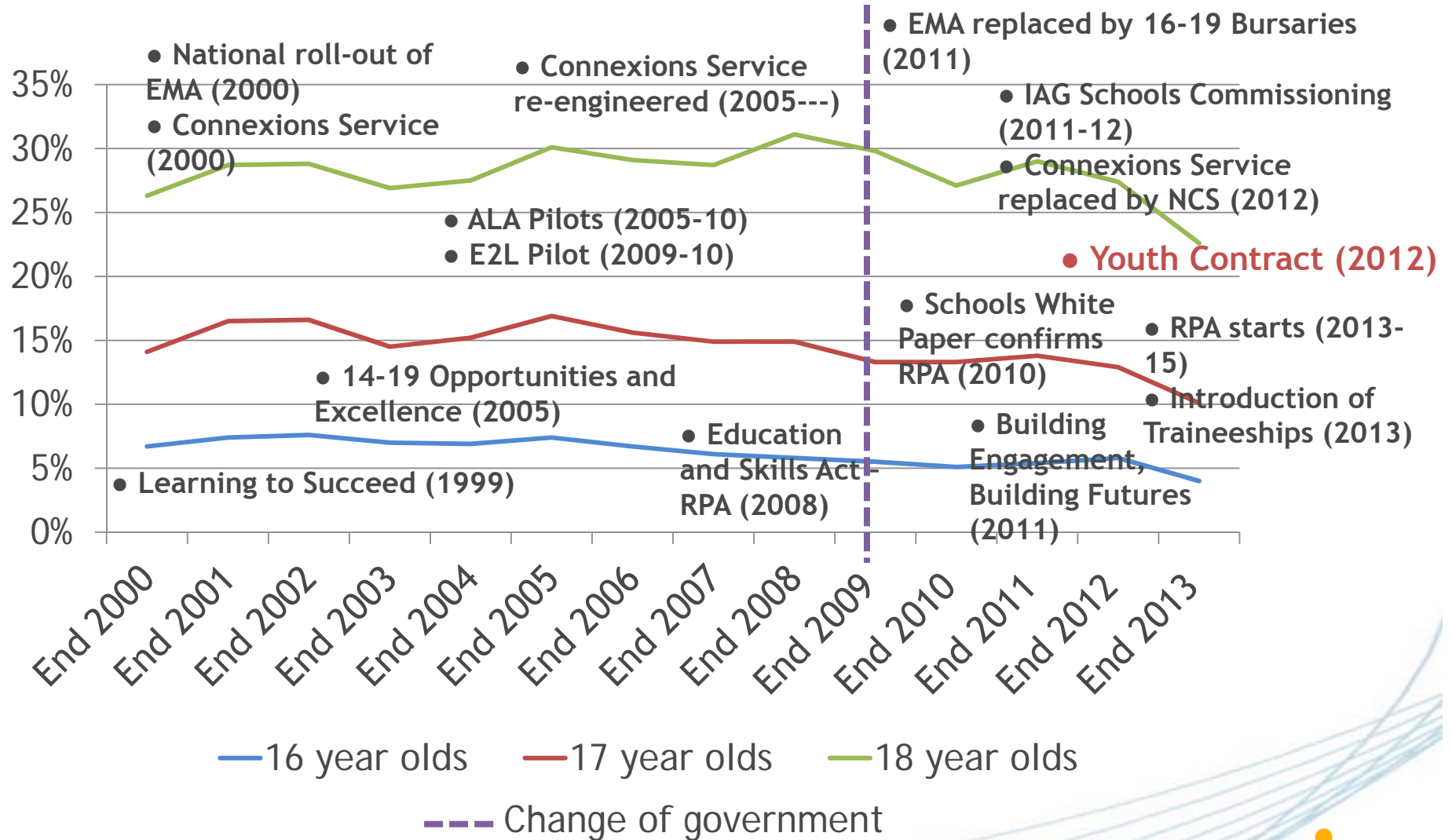
# Causes and implications of being NEET at a young age

- Social disadvantage and vulnerability make NEET more likely
- But young people attribute NEET to problematic authority structures and sense of failure
- Social disadvantages and vulnerabilities more likely as a result of being NEET
- NEET is a persistent status
- Being NEET scars – there are lifetime social and economic costs
- There are significant costs to the public purse stemming from NEET

# What are the trends?



# What have been the responses?



# The Youth Contract

- **DWP:** 18-24 year old claimants - early access to NCS & additional IAG, SBWA, work experience, wage subsidies (£2,200)
- **BIS:** 16-24 year olds - Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (£1,500)
- **DfE:** low skilled &/ disadvantaged 16-17 year olds NEET - intensive support to re-engage and participate

# Youth Contract 16-17 year olds

- Black box delivery via two models:
  - National via prime provides and supply chains using PbR weighted on sustained participation meeting RPA duties; tight eligibility
  - Local solutions devised by City Deal areas with less restrictive eligibility; some use of PbR
- National YC available to young people NEET aged 16-17 years who
  - Initially had no GCSE A\*-C then extended to
  - Up to 2 GCSEs A\*-C &/
  - Care leavers and young offenders (initially institution leavers later widened)

# Results

- Participants had long histories of under-performance and challenges in education
- Youth Contract assisted many to initially re-engage through bite-size provision (PDOs); for many this was a pre-cursor to formal learning
- Overall, 1.8 ppt reduction on national NEET rate
- 12 ppt increase in participation nationally
- 33% nationally in RPA-compliant learning
- Net benefit of £12,900 arising from each sustained re-engagement under national model



# Lessons (1)

- Lack of reliable data on eligibility
- Identifying eligible young people challenging, relied on LA engagement
- Inside the Black Box consistent picture of delivery centred on Key Worker support
- PbR did not recognise the work that went into achieving & sustaining participation

## Lessons (2)

- Key Worker model can support young people in different situations
  - **Risk of NEET:** mentoring; support to choose, apply and attend post-16 provision
  - **NEET after post-16 EET:** building trust and confidence, mapping opportunities
  - **Entrenched NEET:** small-step progression; intensive, holistic support; treated as an adult; trust and rapport
- Post-16 provision appears sufficient