CLIMATE VANGUARD

Capitalism is failing

ONE MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE (AGED 16 TO 24) IN BRITAIN AND THE NORTH OF IRELAND ARE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING.

an entire generation.

Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).*

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Last Thursday, the British government released a report on the crisis of young people who are



“NEET”

NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING



The report warns of a “lost generation.”

Here are some key takeaways →

Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).* ***Images:*** *Andrew Testa, NYT (2025); ITV.*

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The capitalist economy is shutting young people out.

Young people are highly-educated and skilled, but are struggling to access an increasingly narrow set of entry-level jobs. They apply for dozens, sometimes hundreds of jobs, only to be turned down by an AI chatbot.

Capitalist employers view young people as a "pastoral burden." They think young people are "less work-ready" because of their 'issues' with anxiety, low confidence, and complex health challenges.

Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).*

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Differences in race, class, and disability impact young people's economic security.



In 2024, Black youth had the highest NEET rate (15.2%). Although this is comparable to white youth (13.2%), racially minoritised people experience higher rates of unemployment as they grow older.

22% "LOWER WORKING-CLASS NEET"

9% "HIGHER PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS NEET"

Young people from "lower working-class backgrounds" have a NEET rate of 22%, compared to 9% from those that come from "higher professional backgrounds."

Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).*

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*NOTE: THIS INCLUDES YOUTH WHOSE STATUS IS "NOT KNOWN."

DUDLEY

21.5% OF 16-17 YEAR OLDS ARE NEET*

BARNET

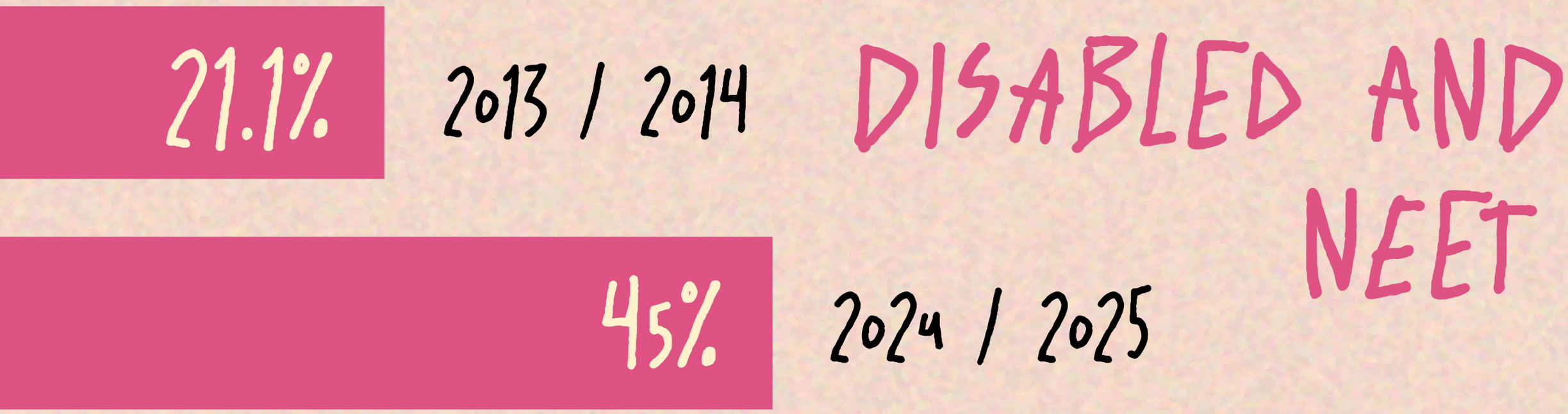
1% OF 16-17 YEAR OLDS ARE NEET

8 of the 10 English local authorities with the highest likelihood of a constituent being NEET are in the North of England and the Midlands.

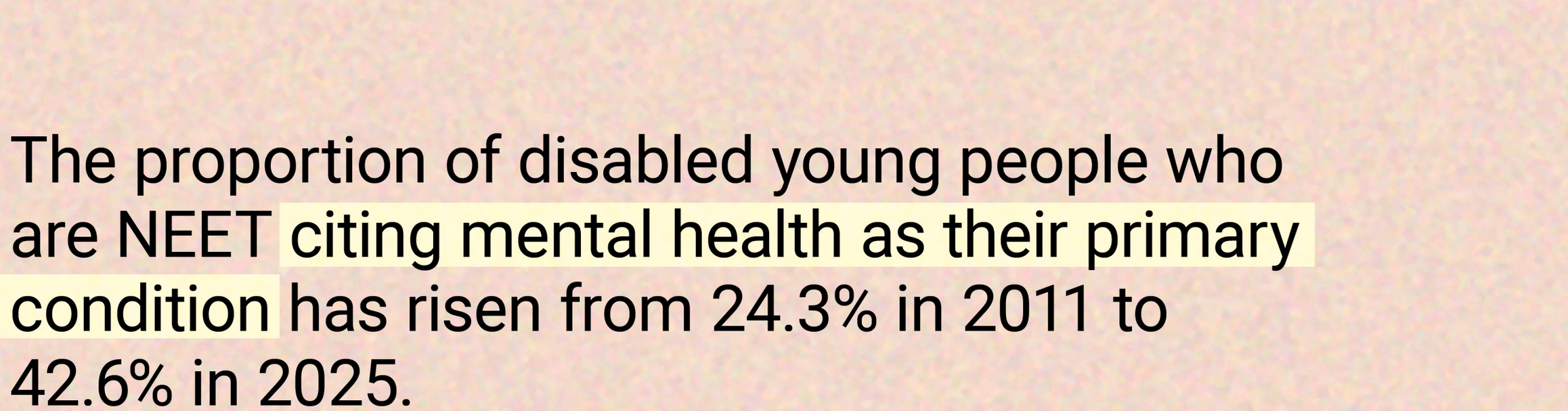
Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).*

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In 2024/2025, 45% of young people who are NEET in Britain and the north of Ireland have a disability, more than double the rate from 2013/2014 (21.1%).



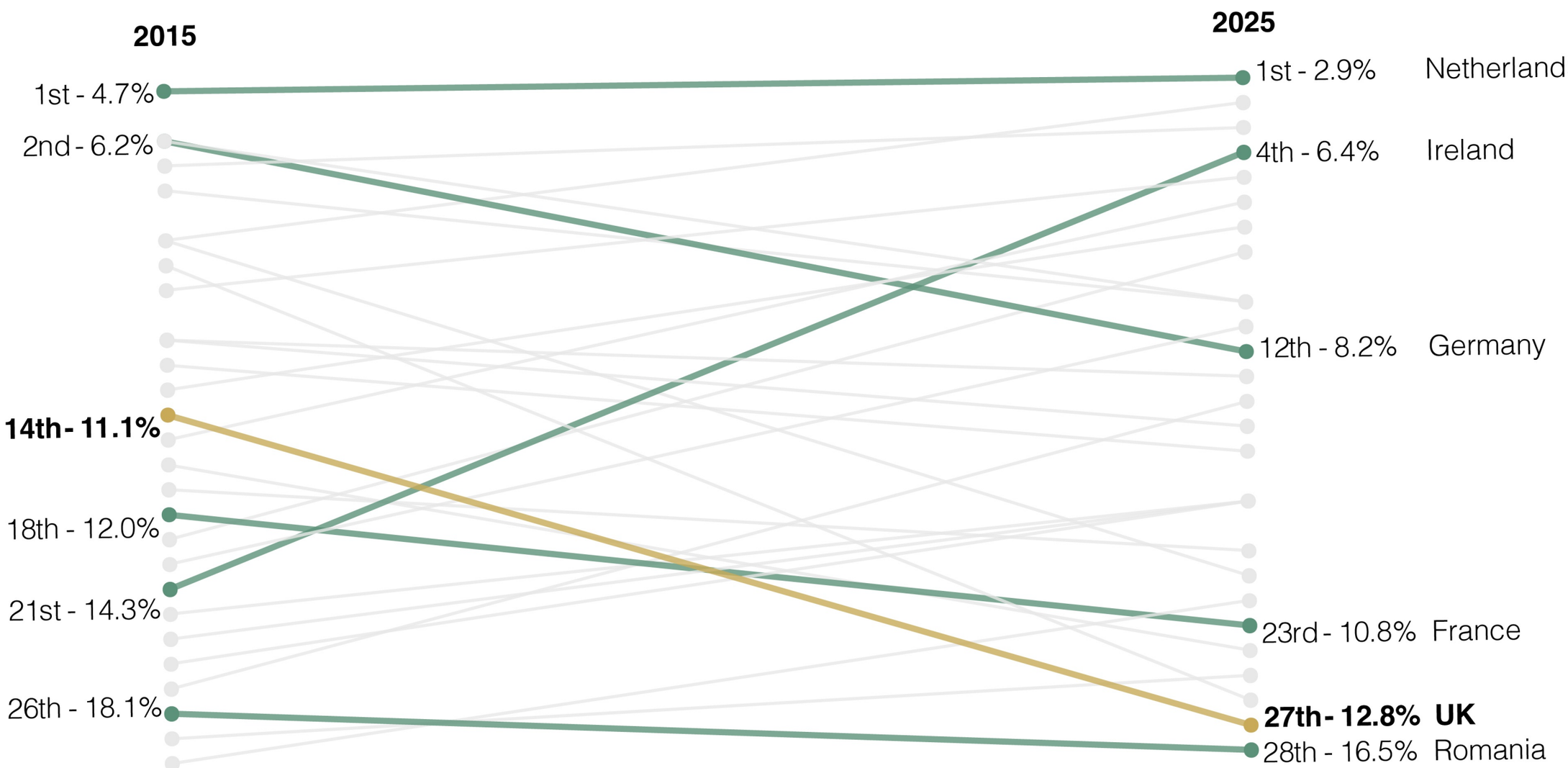
The proportion of disabled young people who are NEET citing mental health as their primary condition has risen from 24.3% in 2011 to 42.6% in 2025.



Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).*

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UK NEET rate performance for 16–24-year-olds relative to the European Union, 15–24-year-olds, 2015 – 2025



This generational crisis will only get worse.

In 2014, Britain and the north of Ireland's NEET rate was similar to the European average. In 2025, only Romania recorded a higher rate. Within five years, the NEET rate in Britain and the north of Ireland could increase to over 16% (1.25 million people).

Source: *DWP, Young People and Work (2026).*

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Young people can be organised for eco-socialism.

Young people are experiencing downward mobility due to the crisis of late-stage capitalism. Significant sections of youth also have political consciousness of their increasing precarity. This material and ideological basis makes them well-primed for eco-socialist struggle.