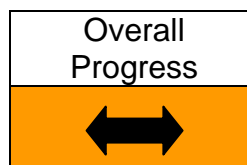


**Improvement Priority – LN-1a. Enhance the skills level of the workforce to fulfil individual and economic potential.**

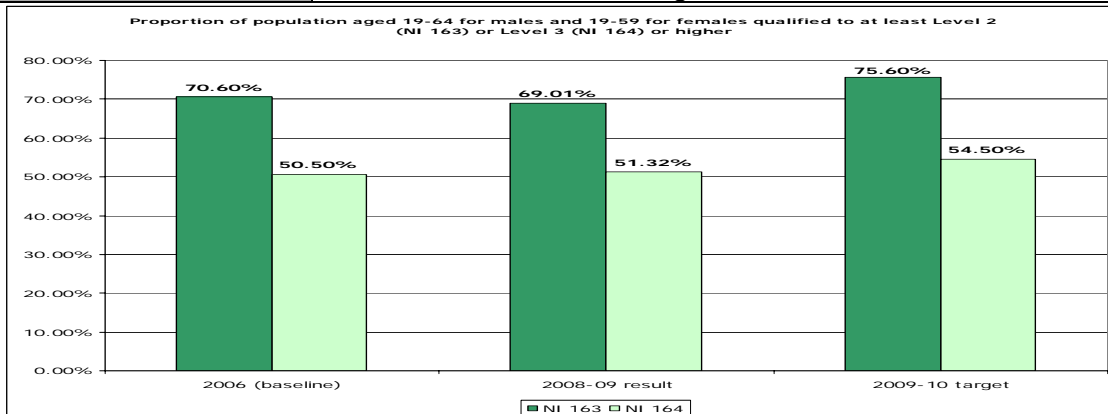
**Accountable Officer – Paul Stephens and Helen Stafford, Skills Funding Agency**

**Accountable Director – Jean Dent**



**Why is this a priority**

Skills are essential both for ensuring the competitiveness of Leeds Businesses and enabling Leeds Residents to maximise their employment potential. Skills are important to achieve all Leeds Strategic Outcomes



The data for NI 163 and NI 164 is collected Annually (calendar year) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey (APS), the results of which are available the following August. The 2009/10 data is not available until September 2010.

**Overall Progress to date and outcomes achieved October 2009 – March 2010**

**Overall Summary**

There have been changes to the skills infrastructure with the move from the Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency, Young Peoples Learning Agency and the National Apprenticeships service and partners are working together to ensure appropriate and timely data is produced. Unfortunately new data regarding the proportion of the population with level 2 and 3 skills will not be available until September. Against the backdrop of the global economic recession we are still making progress. Business Link is the main gateway for publicity training support for business through the Train to Gain Programme. The Leeds Economy and Skills Partnership has established a new skills sub-group, and this group will take responsibility in the future for considering progress against the skills of the workforce improvement priority, further information will be available for the Q2 2010-11 action tracker.

**Achievements since the last report**

- The employer led Leeds Skills Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis to consider skills issues and learn from best practice elsewhere.
- There were 254 apprentices within the Council/Education Leeds as of 31 March 2010.
- Business Link Advisors carried out 535 face to face meetings with organisations in Leeds 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, which resulted in 3,196 potential learner opportunities (referred to as indicative learners). Of these 2,239 (70.1%) were referred to bespoke and non accredited training, 681 (21.3%) referred to Level 2/3, 81 (2.5%) were referred to higher education and 195 (6.1%) referred to Skills for Life
- The total indicative learner investment within the Leeds region was £1,280,368 with £762,514 of this public funding and £517,854 employer funding
- In West Yorkshire demand for Train to Gain is dominated by the followings sectors: Engineering and Manufacturing (19%), Health and Social Care (13%), Construction (16%) and Retail (13%)
- At City Region level the Employment and Skills Board established and work is underway to further develop the strategic approach.

**Challenges/Risks**

- Following the closure of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) (31 March 2010), relationships with the new organisations will need to be established.
- LSC funding for the Leeds Skills Board ceased 31 March 2010. It is unclear whether there will be further seedcorn funding to facilitate/test new initiatives emanating from the business-led group.
- Pressures on public sector budgets may limit the ability to support apprenticeships.

**Council / Partnership Groups**

<b>Approved by (Accountable Officer)</b>	Paul Stephens	<b>Date</b>	07.05.10
<b>Approved by (Accountable Director)</b>	Jean Dent	<b>Date</b>	19.05.10

**Improvement Priority – LN-1a. Enhance the skills level of the workforce to fulfil individual and economic potential.**

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<b>Key actions for the next 6 months</b>				
	<b>Action (Desired Achievements)</b>	<b>Contributory Officer / Partner</b>	<b>Milestone / Actions</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1	Develop and maintain relationships between Leeds City Council, Skills Funding Agency, Business Link and Leeds Colleges to encourage closer working and timely reporting of data.	Paul Stephens, Leeds City Council/ Skills Funding Agency/ Business Link/Leeds Colleges	Processes developed and established	June 2010
2	LCC Apprenticeships to support Looked after Children and NEETs	Keri Evans, Regeneration, Jobs and Skills	Secure interview guarantee for Looked After Children	October 2010
3	Establish an Apprenticeship Steering Group	Keri Evans, Regeneration, Jobs and Skills	Develop an action plan to increase the number of apprentices within Leeds	October 2010
4	Ensure the places contracted through the adult responsive budget are delivered and monitored	Helen Stafford, Skills Funding Agency	LSC contract performance review (November 2009)* Monitoring of the LSC Annex B – mid year estimates (February 2010)*	July 2010
5	Ensure the places contracted through the employer responsive budget are delivered and monitored		Remedial action taken in response to under / over performance Targets agreed: Employer and Learner Starts published (December 2009)*	July 2010
6	Continue to develop effective progress routes including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre employment through skills for jobs</li> <li>• Sector Routeway Programmes</li> <li>• Work with offenders at Leeds building Colleges</li> </ul>		Leeds City College pilot up and running Achievement of level 1 and level 2 qualifications Progression of learners to further education or training	December 2010 October 2010 January 2010
* The Skills Funding Agency was set up in April 2010 and currently has been unable to obtain the data from the former Learning and Skills Council. Work is ongoing to resolve this and an update will be reported in the Q2 2010/11 action tracker.				

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<b>Performance Indicators</b>									
Performance indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority									
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Frequency &amp; Measure</b>	<b>Rise or Fall</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>2008/09 Result</b>	<b>2009/10 Target</b>	<b>Full Year Result</b>	<b>Data Quality</b>
NI 163	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher.	Planning and Economic Policy	Annually %	Rise	70.6% (2006)	69.01%	75.6%	Result expected September 2010	No concerns with data
NI 164	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 3 or higher	Planning and Economic Policy	Annually %	Rise	50.5% (2006)	51.32%	54.5%	Result expected September 2010	No concerns with data