

Report of: Sue Wynne, Chief Officer Employment and Skills

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee - Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby Wards

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Title: Employment and Skills Update

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Community Committee on Employment and Skills Service activity and note key unemployment data for the Area.

Main issues

2. Within the Community Committee area, there were 235 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in March 2017, which is a 18% (50 People) decrease compared to the same period last year. There were 1,350 people claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA), in August 2016, which is a 3% (40 people) decrease compared to the same period last year. The breakdown by ward is below:

	JSA Claimants (16-64)		IB / ESA Claimants (16-64)	
	Mar 16	Mar 17	Aug 15	Aug 16
Outer North East	285	235	1,390	1,350
Alwoodley	185	165	725	710
Harewood	55	25	280	270
Wetherby	45	45	385	370

3. Take up of services has increased across the area. In 2016/17, for Outer North East 480 people accessed our services, a 18% increase on the previous year's total of 406. There have been 127 people (26%) supported into work, a 78% increase compared to the

same period last year, and 236 people have improved their skills, which is a decrease of 6%.

People Accessing the Service 2016/17 (April 2016 – March 2017)	Accessing the Service		People Into Jobs		People with Improved Skills	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Alwoodley	280	360	55	92	156	159
Harewood	74	65	6	14	69	51
Wetherby	52	55	12	21	26	26
Total	406	480	73	127	251	236

4. **Jobshops:** The Personal Work Support Package (PWSP), requiring those unemployed residents in receipt of Council Tax Benefit to attend Jobshops for additional jobsearch support, is working well. Since it commenced in April 2015 (mandatory since October 2015), 2,052 people have started on the programme with 524 (26%) securing employment. From the Community Committee area, 48 have started the programme with 11 (23%) securing employment.
5. **European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Programmes:** There have been a number of ESIF programmes focused on employment, social inclusion and skills that have started delivery in Leeds, details provided in Appendix 1. The Council's Skills, Training and Employment Pathways (STEP) programme that started May 2017 supports the long term unemployed with health barriers back into work now has 79 participants and 8 have already moved into work.
6. **Adult Learning** There were 229 people who reside in the area who accessed adult learning provision within adjacent wards. There is a commitment to ensuring that the offer remains relevant, and responsive to the needs and interests of learners. The current offer includes:
 - Brush up English, Maths and language skills
 - Computing at a range of different levels from courses targeting older learners to specific programmes to support jobsearch
 - Creative arts
 - Employability programmes
 - English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)
 - Entry level provision linked to future developments in retail, business administration and customer services.
 - Family Learning and Wider Family Learning programmes

The Leeds Adult Learning course finder which is a web based application will be launched in September 2017. This will improve the accessibility of information about adult learning courses by subject and / or geographical area, also enabling professionals to provide information, advice and guidance to their customers.

Business Engagement: Churchill Retirement Living, Deighton Road, Wetherby. redevelopment of 56 retirement apartments including lodge managers accommodation, communal facilities, access, car parking and landscaping. Completed end of March

2017. To date 6 people have secured jobs. **Linton Bridge Strengthening**, repair work at strengthening to the bridge. Started on site January 2017 and 3 people secured jobs.

Seacroft Hospital Site. A partnerships with Keepmoat, Strate and the HCA to develop 800 homes on the former Seacroft Hospital site. This is a 5 year construction programme which is due to complete by September 2022. The first entrance is complete and further roadworks to the north of the hospital to commence in 2 years, awaiting the timetable for the house building programme. The employment & skills obligations were agreed at 45 job outcomes and 6 Apprenticeships.

Thorpe Park. The site preparation for the retail and leisure units started on site April 2017. The retail and leisure units are due to be open in autumn 2018 in time for Christmas trading. There will be 36 individual units on the retail/leisure park – Arcadia, Next, TK Max, M&S food hall, Boots and Outfit have now signed leases. There is likely to be some transfer of existing staff, however, aiming to coordinate a recruitment event for other end user opportunities. The cinema operator is Odeon and the cinema will open in Spring 2019.

Redrow are the homebuilders of the planned 300 new houses. Redrow were recently asked by LCC plans panel to resubmit their plans in early 2018. The housebuilding programme has therefore been slightly delayed. A marketing suite will be on site by the end of 2017 and it is anticipated first show homes will be built by June 2018. Houses will be built in phases over 3-5 years. Employment and Skills service will meet Redrow later in this calendar year to discuss any E&S opportunities.

East Leeds Link Road. Tenders have recently been returned for the construction of the East Leeds Link Road. It is anticipated that the successful contractor will be on site in August 2017 and the road should be completed by September 2018.

Victoria Gate, redevelopment of Eastgate. the new John Lewis store along with an additional 30 units (mix of fashion and a restaurant/catering outlets) in the new Victoria Gate. There was also a casino as part of the development. To date:

- During construction 534 people have secured jobs and 17 Apprenticeships.
- The Casino opened in January 2017 and to date 250 people have secured jobs.
- Whilst there were no obligations on the fit out 9 people have secured jobs.
- John Lewis opened in October 2016 and 499 people secured jobs.

7. East North East Employment & Skills Board Activities. Councillor Robinson is the Employment & Skills Community Champion and is an active member of this Board. There are five priorities set by the Board for the East North East area that partners are developing activities to support.

1. Improve digital capacity
2. Improve the engagement of residents to connect to local provision
3. Improve business engagement
4. Availability of ESOL programmes
5. Support Employment Support Allowance (ESA) benefit claimants

There are three Learning Markets that will promote and raise awareness of Adult Learning and other opportunities that are available within the local area to improve skills and support residents into work:

- Monday 11th September – Compton Centre 1pm to 5pm
- Tuesday 12th September – Deacon House 1pm to 5pm
- Wednesday 13th September – Reginald Centre 1pm to 5pm

Additional Activities: For the second time the annual Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair was held at the First Direct Arena and was scheduled to coincide with the start of National Apprenticeship Week (Monday 6 March). Following the success of the 2016 event and the recommendation that the opening hours be extended, the fair opened at 4pm, an hour earlier than 2016, and closed at 8pm.

The final number of exhibitors present on the night was 132, an increase of 16% from 2016, and c6000 visitors attended the event, an increase of 20% on 2016. Once again this made it the biggest apprenticeship event in the North of England.

Conclusion

8. The Service has continued to support a number of residents from all wards across its provision. The employability support available to residents has increased significantly over the past couple of months as the city benefits from a number of initiatives funded through the European Structural and Investment Fund, ESIF. In combination, these programmes will offer employability and skills support to unemployed residents with specific and tailored support for those furthest from the labour market with multiple and complex needs.
- 10 Unemployment rates within the two main benefit types generally mirror the city picture. There has been a significant reduction over time in JSA volumes but a smaller reduction for those in receipt of health related work benefits particularly. The new programmes detailed above and the proposed new national Work and Health Programme will seek to address these challenges.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that Members:
 - note the content of this report
 - receive a further update in 2018

Background information

12. Not applicable