

Universal Credit

The number of people who are claiming Universal Credit (UC) due to unemployment, as of June 2022, in the Inner West Community Committee area is 5,499.- Whilst the largest increase in claimants of UC was in June 2020 (70%), the number of claimants remains high and static. There is a small decrease of 16 claimants in June 2022 on the previous month.

The table below shows the number of people claiming Universal Credit (Not in Employment) in the Inner West Community Committee area and by ward.

	Universal Credit Claimants (Not in Employment) 16-64yrs							
	March 2020		June 2020		May 2022		June 2022	
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Leeds	23,631	4.5%	42,636	8.2%	41,509	8.0%	41,548	8.0%
Inner West	3,244	6.7%	5,511	11.4%	5,515	11.4%	5,499	11.4%
Armley	1,547	9.0%	2,493	14.5%	2,621	15.2%	2,625	15.3%
Bramley & Stanningley	952	6.5%	1,619	11.0%	1,581	10.8%	1,585	10.8%
Kirkstall	745	4.5%	1,399	8.5%	1,313	8.0%	1,289	7.8%

**Rate shows the number of claimants not in employment as a percentage of the working age population*

Employment and Skills Services

The table below shows the number of people supported by the Service from the Inner West Community Committee area and by ward.

	Accessing Services		Into Work		Improved Skills	
	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2021/22 (Apr – Mar)	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2021/22 (Apr – Mar)	2020/21 (Apr – Mar)	2021/22 (Apr – Mar)
Inner West	988	1,313	314	405	514	264
Armley	416	663	145	190	210	102
Bramley & Stanningley	240	272	94	98	137	53
Kirkstall	332	378	75	117	167	109

The Covid pandemic and restrictions have had an impact on both reporting years (2020/21 and 2021/22) making a comparison year on year very difficult. Even though there is some progress with re engagement and access to programmes and activities it is still significantly less than pre Covid.

During April 2021 – March 2022

- 11,818 people accessed the Service, 1,313 of whom were from the Inner West.
- Supported 3,473 people into work, 405 of whom were residents from the Inner West. Customers were supported into work across all sectors with the largest numbers in health and care, food retail, logistics, distribution, and transport.
- Supported 2,485 people to improve their skills, 264 of whom were from the Inner West.

Leeds Employment Hub is a single point of contact for all funded programmes and Jobshops that provides tailored and comprehensive support into employment or education to all Leeds residents. Employment Hub Advisors deliver the programme by providing one to one support, tailored preventative and remedial support to Leeds residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

The Employment Hub Advisors are co-located within 10 Jobcentres Plus across the City. All Jobshops are open, 5 days a week for face to face appointments which include Hawksworths, Armley and City Centre Community Hubs. There is also a pop up Jobshop Thursdays at Bramley Community Hub, 9:00 – 5:00.

The Service has several communication channels and social media accounts that promotes events, jobsfairs, job vacancies, Apprenticeships and courses. Please link to our accounts:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eandsleeds>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/eandsleeds>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/eandsleeds>

Opportunities in Leeds is a weekly email service and features live jobs, Apprenticeships and courses. To subscribe please visit: <https://bit.ly/opportunitiesinleeds>

For further information on Employment and Skills services and the support available please visit:

<https://employmentskillsleeds.co.uk>

Future Talent Leeds is launching on Thursday 8th September 2022. It is a website which brings businesses, education and skills providers and organisations together to strive for a city where everybody can thrive in a rapidly changing labour market. The website contains the Future Talent Plan, which sets out our ambitions for Leeds around supporting our people and businesses as well as aligning the city's education and training infrastructure. It displays the range of partners which have signed up to the plan, showing what organisations are doing to improve talent and skills in Leeds over the next few years. Organisations are encouraged to use the website to sign up to the plan and pledge their own actions which will be published alongside each other. Also available on the website is live news, case studies and resources for organisations to make use of. The website will be live from 8th September:

<https://inclusivegrowthleeds.com/future-talent-plan>

The Adult Learning programme continues to deliver an effective, broad, and inclusive curriculum to support the continuation of learning through an online platform in collaboration with subcontracted partners. Courses were delivered through a range of models to include online, face to face and through distance learning, opening new opportunities for adults to learn and develop their confidence.

Between September 2021 – July 2022, in the Inner West, 50 courses were delivered at 7 venues. 282 residents have completed a course. In addition, there were 149 courses delivered on-line, city wide. From September 2022, there will be a range of online and face to face courses available at community venues, for further information please use the course finder at: <https://leedsadultlearning.co.uk/>

Developing You Health and Wellbeing, a pre-employability programme which helps people to become happier, healthier and move closer towards employment. For residents living in Inner West the courses are being delivered at the Armley Community Hub.

Developing You Learning Disabilities, a pre-employability programme between Employment and Skills, Pyramid of Arts, People Matters and United Response includes work readiness and health and wellbeing. The course is delivered face to face at Thackray Medical Museum.

Between April 2021 – March 2022, 256 new businesses were supported to recruit new staff, provide support for staff facing redundancy and developing initiatives to address staff shortages and filling a high number of vacancies within key sectors.

- Health and Care Sector

The Healthier Working Futures project that was funded through the UK Community Renewal Fund that focused on unemployed / economically inactive young adults (aged 16-25) to raise awareness of the health and care pathway through engagement programmes and taster days delivered by 3rd sector organisations. This was a 6-month project that concluded at the end of June and engaged with 625 young people.

- Construction Sector
A new programme, Construction Ready aimed at getting people into opportunities in construction. The 10-day programme took place 4 - 15 July 2022 at Leeds City College Printworks campus. Planning is taking place for further programmes to be delivered.
- Hospitality Sector
The Restaurant Ready programme, a 5-day course, aims to upskill individuals to successfully enter the hospitality sector through providing practical experience within Leeds City College's café and restaurant facilities. The programme provides an opportunity for participants to be signposted to work trials and interviews with employers. Planning is taking place for a sixth cohort to be delivered 12 – 16 September 2022.
- Economies for Healthier Lives
The council was successful for applying for funding from the Health Foundation as part of their Economies for Healthier Lives programme, which has funded four places in the UK to undertake projects that can demonstrate how economic interventions can help to address health inequalities in disadvantaged communities. The Leeds project, Good Jobs, Better Health, Fairer Futures, aims to strengthen connections between the Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network of large civic institutions (including the council, NHS Trusts, universities and colleges, and utilities) and the city's most disadvantaged communities through economic measures such as quality jobs, skills development or the creation of new businesses.

Events

- **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Next Choices** event took place at Leeds First Direct Arena on 23rd June 2022. This was the first time a city-wide event aimed at supporting young people who have special educational needs and disabilities has taken place. A total of 66 exhibitors participated, offering jobs, Apprenticeships, volunteering, training opportunities and wider support and 1,800 young people attended.
- **Jobsfair** took place on Thursday 18th August 2022 in the City Centre Community Hub. A range of vacancies and opportunities were promoted with Leeds City Council, the Army, Plusnet, Aspire Healthcare, and First Direct. Jobshop staff were in attendance to support people with CVs and job applications. Information was also available from training providers, such as Prince's Trust, Scope, Get Technology Together, and Jobcentre Plus for those wanting to improve their skills.
- **Leeds Digital Careers Festival** a week-long festival and recruitment event will be held between 12 –16 September 2022 and will be aimed at those new to the digital sector, eager to find a job or training opportunities in the wide range of digital technology organisations which the city has to offer. Roadshows with a range of workshops and sessions hosted by local employers and providers will be taking place in several locations across the city including Armley Community Hub. An event will also be held at Leeds First Direct Arena on 15th September 2022, to book please visit: [https://leeds.digitalcareersfestival2022](https://leeds.digitalcareersfestival2022.com)

In the lead up to the festival in September, a number of Tech, Coffee and Chat sessions were held over the summer which included Getting Around Your Computer or Smartphone, Introduction to Coding and How to Keep Yourself and Your Family Safe Online at the Armley Community Hub.

- **Leeds Creative Skills Festival (LCSF)** will take place 14-18 November 2022 which will showcase opportunities within the creative and culture sector, with the main event at the First Direct Arena on the 17th November 2022. The LCSF is aimed at young people aged 16-24 to encourage take up from school leavers and graduates to retain talent in the city. There will be a range of activities and events from educational engagement activities, visits and site tours, work experience opportunities to support to the sector on how to recruit a diverse workforce and Apprentices, information about self-employment and freelancing and Q&A panel session(s). A booking link will be published and promoted nearer the time.