

Report of: Sue Wynne, Chief Officer Employment and Skills

**Report to: Inner North West Community Committee. Hyde Park and Woodhouse,
Headingley and Weetwood wards**

Report author: Jane Hopkins 07891 278708

Date: 16 June 2016 - To note

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. Take up of services has increased across the Area. In 2015/2016, 1549 people accessed services, an increase on the previous year's total of 1310. The ward analysis by service activity is below:

| People Accessing the Service 2015/16 (April 2015 – March 2016) | Jobshops | Emp. Leeds Recruitment events | LCC Apprenticeships | Community Learning | Apprenticeship HUB | RE-Making Leeds | Headstart | Work Experience | Devolved Youth Contract | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Headingley | 138 | 20 | 1 | 219 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 384 |
| Hyde Park & Woodhouse | 462 | 32 | 1 | 394 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 905 |
| Weetwood | 85 | 8 | 0 | 157 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 260 |
| TOTAL | 685 | 60 | 2 | 770 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 8 | 1,549 |

3. The total job outcomes, qualification and skills achievements, by ward, as a result of these interventions are detailed in the table below. Outcome volumes for jobs have

mirrored the previous year, for qualifications have shown a minimal decrease and for skills have shown an increase.

| | People Into Work 2015/16 | People Gaining Qualifications (Accredited Skills) 2015/16 | People with Improved Skills Non Accredited (Inc Work Experience) 2015/16 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Headingley | 85 (22%) | 14 (4%) | 201 (52%) |
| Hyde Park and Woodhouse | 179 (20%) | 41 (5%) | 351 (39%) |
| Weetwood | 47 (18%) | 8 (3%) | 148 (57%) |
| TOTAL | 311 (20%) | 63 (4%) | 700 (45%) |

- 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), 2571 people have attended with 31% securing employment. A review of the Package after its first full year of operation has just been completed and a number of actions relating to Jobcentre Plus status and eligibility checks, the induction sessions and referral to additional support will be implemented to further improve the customer experience and outcomes.

- Community Learning in the Area continues to thrive with over 170 course being delivered or planned. 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 those supporting jobsearch

Creative arts

Employability programmes

Entry level provision linked to future developments in retail

Family Learning and Wider Family Learning programmes

Healthy living

Childcare (Level 1)

- There are currently 14 live Development/Business contacts within West North West, the majority of which are in the adjoining Community Committee Areas. However, opportunities at the key city centre development – Victoria Gate – are currently being promoted at a series of Roadshows at Community Hubs. There are now just 2 remaining, one in South and at Armley Hub on 27 June. The roadshow which was likely to be most accessible for residents of these wards was at Great George Street on 15 June. Those who miss the roadshows can still apply on line for any of the vacancies. The 2 week Pre Employment course, to prepare those who had been invited as a result of attending the round of information sessions, has just ended and we are awaiting information on those selected to attend the Assessment Centre.
- Over 5,000 young people and their parents and carers attended the Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair at the First Direct Arena on the 14 March 2016. The 3 hour event hosted access to employers and training providers with live and planned

vacancies. Visitors were able to obtain information on a wide range of possible job roles and careers or to seek more detailed advice on specific job roles or employers. Over 1,100 expression of interest forms were completed by young people at the event in response to live vacancies and these have now been processed by Apprenticeship Hub staff and referred to the appropriate employers and training providers. These will be tracked over the next few months to record how many are offered and start an apprenticeship and to ensure that those that do not can continue to access help and support to access other opportunities.

Conclusion

10. The Service has continued to support a number of residents from all wards across its provision. The employability support available to residents is set to increase significantly over the coming 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.

11. 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
- feedback any emerging needs as a result of the themed event
- receive a further update in 2017 to include detail and progress on the ESIF programme

Background information

- The JSA and Working Age Client Group volumes by ward are included below:

| 16-64 Age Group JSA Claimants | | | Change | 16-64 Age group DWP Working Age Client Group Benefits | | Change |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|---|-------------|--------|
| | March 2016 | March 2015 | | August 2015 | August 2014 | |
| Headingley | 175 | 295 | -40% | 775 | 940 | -17% |
| Hyde Park and Woodhouse | 520 | 665 | -21% | 1915 | 2035 | -5% |
| Weetwood | 220 | 295 | -25% | 1120 | 1220 | -8% |
| TOTAL | 915 | 1255 | | 3810 | 4195 | |

