

Report of: Sue Wynne, Chief Officer Employment and Skills

Report to: Outer West Community Committee – Calverley & Farsley, Farnley and Wortley, Pudsey

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Date: 28 September 2016

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 decreased across the Area. In 2015/16, for Outer West 691 people accessed our services, a decrease on the previous year's total 883. Please see the ward analysis by service activity below

People Accessing the Service 2015/16 (April 2015 – March 2016)	Jobshops	Employment Leads	LCC Apprenticeships	Community Learning	Apprenticeship Hub	Re-Making Leads	Headstart	Work Experience	Devolved Youth Contract	Total
Calverley & Farsley	28	6	2	118	3	0	3	0	0	160
Farnley and Wortley	136	9	3	178	3	0	6	0	11	346
Pudsey	24	7	0	136	0	0	13	0	5	185
Total	188	22	5	432	6	0	22	0	16	691

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 decreased from the previous year by 19% and for skills have shown a minimal decrease by 8%. Also, 27% of people who have accessed employability support have gained employment and 89% of people who have accessed skills provision have successfully completed their programme / course.

	People Into Work 2015/16	People with Improved Skills 2015/16
Calverley & Farsley	37 (23%)	126 (95%)
Farnley and Wortley	120 (35%)	177 (84%)
Pudsey	33 (18%)	144 (89%)
Total	190 (27%)	447 (89%)

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), 743 people have attended with 18% securing employment. A review of the Package after its first full year of operation has just been completed. 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.

Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) services were once again successfully reaccredited against the MATRIX standard in April this year with highlights including the quality of IAG, effectiveness of partnerships and quality improvement.

Following the decision to provide the previously contracted young people's IAG Services delivered by Aspire – Igen in house, the new proposal will provide an integrated service to young people by co locating and aligning services for the city's most vulnerable adolescents. This will comprise a core team, known as the Pathways Team and a network of appropriately qualified professionals.

5. **Adult Learning** in the Area continues to thrive with over 170 courses 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
- Childcare (Level 1)
- 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

6. **Business Engagement:**

Aldi – Tong Road Wortley work is proposed to commence July - Sept 2017 – a plan will be prepared nearer the time to confirm recruitment arrangements.

Armely Road Retail Park (former Denso Marston site) demolition work is complete. Timelines for building work to be undertaken and completed by early 2017. Contact with retailers to be arranged.

Victoria Gate, the re-development of Eastgate includes a John Lewis store, an additional 30 units (mix of fashion and restaurant / catering outlets) and a casino.

John Lewis have completed the majority of their recruitment for the 550 jobs, this includes 30 BHS staff facing redundancy. The store will be releasing their temporary Christmas vacancies in September on their website www.jlpjobs.com.

The other opportunities at the 30 smaller units and the food / beverage outlets were promoted at a series of Roadshows at the following Community Hubs in June.

- Reginald (250+ attendees)
- Great George Street (400+ attendees)
- Armley (90+ attendees)
- St Georges (50+ attendees)

The Job vacancies for these retailers are likely to be announced in August and will be advertised on the Victoria Gate Jobs portal www.victoriagate.co.uk/jobs.

The Casino will open in late November and will start their recruitment 12 weeks prior to opening, full details of the roles are on their website www.victoriagatecasino.co.uk/recruitment. Information sessions are being arranged for end of August / beginning of September. We are seeking to negotiate 4 information sessions across the city that will provide an overview of what it's like to work in a casino, training provided and an outline of potential career progression but awaiting confirmation from the business.

7. West North West Employment Skills and Welfare Board Activities. There are three main priorities set by the Board for the West North West area that partners are developing activities to support.

1. Reduce unemployment and improve health
2. Explore ways to support people into work and reduce NEET
3. Reduce/support impact of Welfare Reform

The 2016/17 Plan is appended.

8. Additional Activities: 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

9. 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.
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 2017 to include detail and progress on the ESIF programme

Background information

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

	16-64 Age Group JSA Claimants				16-64 Age Group DWP Working Age Client Group			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2015	2015-16 Change	% or pp	Aug 2015	Aug 2014	2015-16 Change	% or pp
Calverley & Farsley	175	210	-35	-16.67%	880	895	-15	-1.68%
Farnley and Wortley	420	540	-120	-22.22%	2,420	2,465	-45	-1.83%
Pudsey	240	330	-90	-27.27%	1,255	1,325	-70	-5.28%
Total	835	1,080	-245	-18.98%	4,555	4,685	-130	-2.77%