

Report of: Sue Wynne, Chief Officer Employment and Skills

Report to: Inner East Community Committee – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill,
Gipton & Harehills and Killingbeck & Seacroft Wards

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Date: 16th August 2018

Title: Employment and Skills Update

Purpose of report

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

Main issues

2. **Benefit Summary:** Universal Credit (UC) is one of the main elements of the Government's Welfare Reform Programme available for both in work and out of work claimants and a partial roll out went live in Leeds on the 1st February 2016. The first groups to whom it applied were new single, job seeking claimants without children or a mortgage.

In the Government's Autumn Budget in November 2017 a number of changes were announced that have had an impact on UC. The most significant impact for Leeds was the closing of the existing UC claiming process. Therefore, since January 2018 no further new claims for UC have been made in Leeds and instead new claimants had to revert back to claiming the legacy benefits that UC will eventually replace. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the benefits that it will eventually replace. Leeds moves to the full UC digital claiming platform on 10th October 2018 for all new claimants. UC briefings for Members are being organised for September.

3. **Claimant data:** Within the Community Committee area, there were 2,060 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in March 2018. This is a 1% (15 people) decrease compared to the same period last year. There were 5,700 people claiming

Employment Support Allowance (ESA), in August 2017, which is a 3% (195 people) decrease compared to the same period last year. The first reported data on UC shows that 710 people are currently claiming the out of work element of UC. The breakdown by ward is below:

	JSA Claimants (16-64)		IB / ESA Claimants (16-64)		Universal Credit (16-64)
	Mar 18	Mar 17	Aug 17	Aug 16	Mar 18
Inner East	2,060	2,075	5,700	5,895	710
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	780	825	2,155	2,255	220
Gipton & Harehills	805	790	1,610	1,750	300
Killingbeck & Seacroft	475	460	1,935	1,890	190

4. **Service take up:** The number of people accessing support from Employment and Skills has increased across the area. In 2017/18, for Inner East 3,857 people accessed our services, a 3% (110 people) increase on the previous year's total of 3,747. 1,132 people (29%) have been supported into work, a similar number compared to the same period last year, and 1,633 people have improved their skills. This is an increase of 9% (130 people) compared to the same period last year. The table below gives a breakdown by ward.

People Accessing the Service 2017/18 (April 2017 – March 2018)	Accessing the Service		People Into Jobs		People with Improved Skills	
	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	1,317	1,301	404	408	528	510
Gipton & Harehills	1,734	1,905	536	613	707	744
Killingbeck & Seacroft	806	541	192	113	398	249
Total	3,857	3,747	1,132	1,134	1,633	1,503

5. **Jobshops:** The number of people from the Inner East Community Committee area accessing Jobshops is 2,062 and 718 (35%) people have been supported into work.
6. **PWSP.** 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), 2,998 people have started on the programme with 839 (28%) securing employment. From the Community Committee area, 681 have started the programme with 329 (48%) securing employment.
7. **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 and details are provided in Appendix 2. The Council's Skills, Training and Employment Pathways (STEP) programme that started in May 2017 supports long term unemployed people experiencing health barriers back into work. 607 people have started the programme and 198 (33%) have moved into work. From the

Community Committee area, 134 people have started the programme with 28 (21%) people supported into work.

8. **BME Apprenticeships.** The Service has commissioned an Apprenticeship support service in schools / colleges and community setting across the city to boost participation by BME young people aged 16-24 years. The offer includes 1:1 support to register and apply for Apprenticeships and interview preparation. The provider, Prospect Services are working with Bangladeshi Community Centre, Ark Café, the Compton Centre and Bilal Sports Centre and have delivered at Allerton Grange and the Cooperative Academy. 30 young people have been supported since January 2018, 6 from the Community Committee area.
9. **Better Working Futures.** The new DWP Work and Health Programme replaced the national Work Programme in January this year. Delivered by Reed in Partnership it is mainly focusing on participants with health conditions or disabilities. Participants can access the programme for support for up to 15 months, with an additional 6 months of support once they move into work.
10. **Adult Learning** in the Area continues to thrive with over 413 courses (147 Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, 112 Gipton & Harehills, 154 Killingbeck & Seacroft) 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 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 was launched September 2017. That has improved 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.



www.leedsadultlearning.co.uk

11. **Centre for Retail and Hospitality Excellence (CORHE):** This is an employer-led initiative that responds to business needs around recruitment, retention and progression. It brings together the Leeds BID, Leeds City Council, Land Securities, employers and a consortia of training providers. It will provide employers with a range of bespoke services to help attract, retain and develop staff. It will predominantly support Leeds City Centre as an attractive employment location and improve the operational effectiveness of participating businesses through skills development and training; improve staff retention rates; improve the skills and career opportunities for existing

staff; support employers in recruitment initiatives where possible, particularly Apprenticeships; create clear career opportunities and progression routes.

12. **Additional Activities:** For the third 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 5 March). To contribute to the cost of the Apprenticeship Fair this was the first year that a small charge had been levied for exhibitors.

The number of exhibitors present on the night was 129, and c6,500 visitors attended the event, an increase of 8% on 2017. Once again this made it the biggest Apprenticeship event in the North of England.

Conclusion

13. 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 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 reduction over time in JSA volumes and small fluctuations for those in receipt of health related work benefits. Even though UC started roll out in 2016 the cessation of new claimants to this benefit in January 18 has seen increases in the legacy benefits, mainly JSA and ESA. The full roll out of Universal Credit in October 18 will bring many challenges to new claimants. The new programmes detailed above and the new national Work and Health Programme (Better Working Futures) will seek to address these challenges. Along with the continued support from the Community Hubs providing support with digital competencies to make a claim, budgeting skills and employment services

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that Members:
- note the content of this report
 - receive a further update in 2019

Background information

12. Not applicable