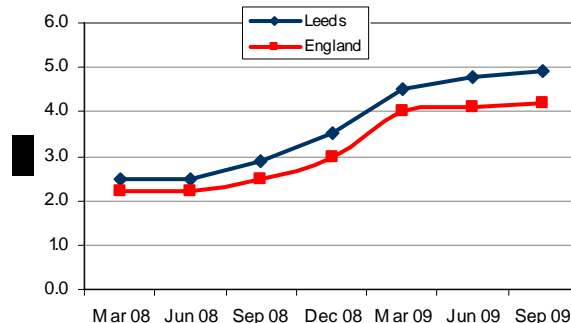
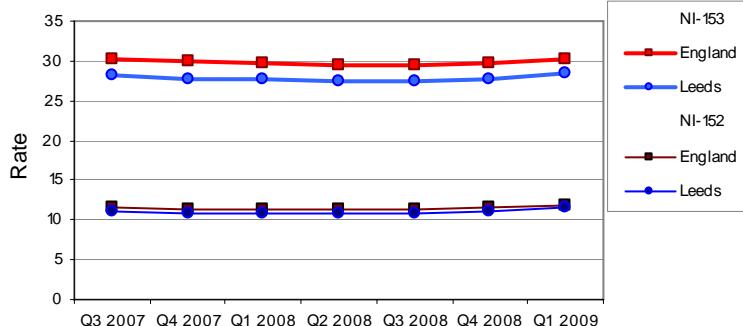




Why is this a priority

Reducing worklessness across the city with a focus on deprived areas is a key improvement priority within The Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011). This priority is set within the key strategic outcome of increasing economic activity through targeted support to reduce worklessness and poverty across the city under the ‘Thriving Places’ theme.



NI152 : Working age people on out of work benefits % of working age population

NI153 : Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods % of working age population

Source: DCLG Floor Targets Interactive

Job Seekers Allowance Claimants, 3 monthly intervals

Source: Nomis

Overall Progress to date and outcomes achieved

Overall Progress: In spite of considerable effort by the Council and its partners, worklessness has increased during the first half of the year. The improved partnership between LCC, Learning & Skills Council (LSC), Jobcentre Plus, VCSF, Yorkshire Forward and other key partners, is starting to have a positive impact on tackling worklessness and unemployment, most notably in the successful Future Jobs Fund application to the DWP. Yorkshire Forward are funding a wide range of products to support the business sector throughout the recession. The projects are delivered by a number of partners including Business Link West Yorkshire, and aim to help maintain job retention, through pre and post redundancy support, enhanced training opportunities and job matching. The most current Job Seekers Allowance data (September 2009) shows that there are now 24,282 JSA claimants in Leeds (27% of which are women and 73% are men), 4.9% of the working age population; the claimant count has **decreased for the first time since April 2008**, however overall it has increased by 66% from the previous August. In comparison with the other 7 Core Cities, Leeds has experienced the third highest increase in new JSA claimants over the last 12 months. In August and September 2009 the figures show that numbers in Leeds have fallen slightly, whilst they have continued to increase in all the other Core Cities. In September 2009 4775 people made a new claim to Jobseekers Allowance with 5003 people leaving the JSA register. This is a positive trend and shows that the gap between the two figures is beginning to narrow. As to be expected, the JSA claimant rate within Leeds NI 153 localities is higher than the city average (11.1% compared to 4.9%). As of February 2009 Leeds has the lowest IB claimant rate of all the core cities at this time, there were 9,670 Lone Parents in Leeds claiming Income Support, representing 1.9% of the working age population. This is a slight increase of just 310 claimants on the February 2008 figure; as with IB, Leeds has the lowest rate of Lone Parents claiming Income Support of all the core cities.

Achievements since the last report:

- 3 Area based Worklessness Groups have been established to support joined-up delivery, and Area Action Plans and targets have been agreed for NI 153 areas (most deprived neighbourhoods with Working Age Client Group (WACG) rates of over 25%)
- A workshop was held between employability providers and Children’s Centre staff to raise awareness of employability support for parents
- Jobcentre Plus (JCP) has introduced a range of enhanced services for employers and individuals in response to the recession, including a package of support for Jobseeker Allowance customers who are newly unemployed, those aged 25+; increased funding through the Rapid Response Service to support employers and their employees facing redundancies to help them find new jobs; and day one eligibility to Local Employment Partnership vacancy opportunities. JCP are also introducing a number of new measures aimed at tackling youth unemployment, such as The Young Persons Guarantee of which the Future Jobs Fund is a key element.

Achievements since the last report (Continued):

- JCP and Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust are currently working together to more effectively integrate the work of providers who deliver employability skills provision and/or specialist help to those experiencing mental ill health. JCP has commissioned activity with European Social Fund (ESF) grant to support JSA customers experiencing mental ill health. The new project is due to commence in December 2009. Additionally, JCP has commissioned a Flexible New Deal Support Contract which will also be introduced in December 2009.
- A bid was submitted to The Future Jobs Fund on behalf of the Council and partners in July 2009. The application aimed at creating jobs for long term unemployed young people was successful and negotiations with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are ongoing regarding the number of jobs to be created.
- The Easel and West Leeds Gateway programme has been developed and is being delivered in four target neighbourhoods with a focus on providing families with a holistic approach to support them to move towards employment.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to enable data sharing with DWP on Lone Parent benefit claimants to better target resources and improve services to this client group.
- A bid has been submitted to Yorkshire Forward for £4.5m to support the partnership working through Employment Leeds to work with both employers and those on out of work benefits A decision is anticipated by early 2010
- The LSC Skills for Success programme continues to provide skills and employment support for people residing in Leeds' most disadvantaged areas up to December 2010, and will engage over 700 people in formal and informal employability training
- In the first quarter of 2009/10, 649 people were supported towards employment across all LCC funded/managed provision, of which 121 are now in work

Challenges/Risks:

- Potential for a rising number of young people Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETs) in the city.
- A significant increase in the number of unemployed young people (16-24)
- Continuing rise in JSA Claimant Rate and increased competition for employment across all areas of the city
- Increases in the number and type of claimants resulting from the recession will require different interventions and stretch resources
- Significant reduction in funding in employment and skills initiatives, eg NRF/SSCF/Single Pot
- Downturn in the construction and development sector reducing the potential to link local people to employment opportunities
- Data security – ongoing challenge to access timely data on clients or beneficiaries due to data protection/data sharing protocols

<u>Council / Partnership Groups</u>	Worklessness Strategic Outcomes Group		
<u>Approved by (Accountable Officer)</u>	<u>Stephen Boyle</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>12 Nov 09</u>
<u>Approved by (Accountable Director)</u>	<u>Neil Evans</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>12 Nov 09</u>

Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
	Deliver Future Jobs Fund Programme	Stephen Boyle LCC / Ian Hunter, Jobcentre Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts for first 6 months delivery in place • 254 jobs delivered • Funding extended for remainder of programme 	<p>Q3</p> <p>End April 2010</p> <p>Q4</p>
	Employment Leeds – securing funding and commencing delivery	Stephen Boyle LCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Business Plan appraised • Contract in place with Yorkshire Forward • Further work with existing and new partners to ensure sign up to Employment Leeds model • Project development to enable commencement of programme 	<p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q1 2010/11</p>
	Delivery of the EASEL and West Leeds Gateway Worklessness Pilot	Stephen Boyle LCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worklessness Pilot: • 80 Families supported • 380 people supported towards employment • 50 people into employment • 5 new jobs created • 10 employers supported • 240 people completing a back to work development plan • 120 people assisted to access complementary support • 80 people assisted in their skills development 	<p>All by Q1 2010/11</p> <p>Q1 (2010/11)</p>

Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
	Complete Pilot Evaluation	Stephen Boyle LCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation: • Final Report Completed • and Presentation (of Key Findings and Recommendations and demonstration of model to highlight multi-agency working arrangements, outcomes and the benefits both financial and non financial) to WSOG 	Q1 (2010/11)
	Continue to work via WSOG to ensure a strategic partnership approach to tackling worklessness, with a focus on the most deprived areas	Stephen Boyle / Ian Hunter, Jobcentre Plus / Phillip Hunter, Learning and Skills Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold WSOG meetings at 6 weekly intervals (Q3 meetings set for 10 November and 15 December) • Deliver Area Action Plans and review performance • Further develop integrated performance reports across the Partnership to monitor progress and effectiveness • Review interventions, available resources and targets in light of prevailing economic conditions • Review the WSOG to align with the opportunities emerging from the government's response to the Houghton Review, including production of a Worklessness Assessment; a Work and Skills plans; data sharing and greater involvement in DWP commissioning. 	<p>Q3/4</p> <p>Q3</p> <p>Q3</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q3 onwards</p>

Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
	Continued delivery of Jobcentre Plus services to combat worklessness, particularly taking into account the current economic downturn	I Hunter JCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the ESF project for JSA customers with Mental health problems/learning difficulties. Implement the Flexible New Deal Support Contract. Introduce the Young Person's Guarantee including the Future Jobs Fund. 	Q3
	Linking job opportunities for local people with existing and planned major regeneration schemes across the city	S Boyle LCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy framework and secure support and ownership. Report to WSOG and CLT Review planned programmes/contracts to identify areas of focus and assess achievability and scope for roll out, eg, EASEL, Area, Holbeck Urban Village, Aire Valley, major PFI Schemes 	Q4 Q4
	Supporting people with mental health issues back into work	Ian Hunter, Jobcentre Plus / Jane Williams NHS Leeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress report on the Mindful Employer initiative to support exemplar employers recruiting/retaining staff from this client group Progress report on JCP ESF funded provision to support JSA customers with mental health problems/learning difficulties LPFT and Jobcentre Plus to establish a time-limited task and finish group to co-ordinate the implementation of a number of agreed actions to improve alignment of pathways and individuals journeys to support those with mental health issues to progress towards and into employment 	Q3 Q4 Q4

Performance Indicators

Performance indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority

Reference	Title	Owner	Frequency & Measure	Rise or Fall	Baseline	2008/09 Result	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Quarter 2	Current Predicted Full Year Result	Data Quality
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits	Regeneration	Quarterly %	Fall	11.2% (2007)	11.2% (As at Quarter 4)	10.6%	Q1 = 11.6% (Q2 data to be published by DWP in November 2009)	Continued increases in the number of JSA claimants indicates the target will not be met	6 month time lag on DWP data
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	Regeneration	Quarterly %	Fall	28.7% (2007)	27.8% (As at Quarter 4)*	27.7%	Q1 = 28.5% (Q2 data to be published by DWP in November 2009)	Continued increases in the number of JSA claimants indicates the target will not be met	6 month time lag on DWP data