

Improvement Priority – TP-3a. Reduce worklessness across the city with a focus on deprived areas.

CAA Focus - Unemployment and worklessness very high in inner city areas

Accountable Officer – Stephen Boyle

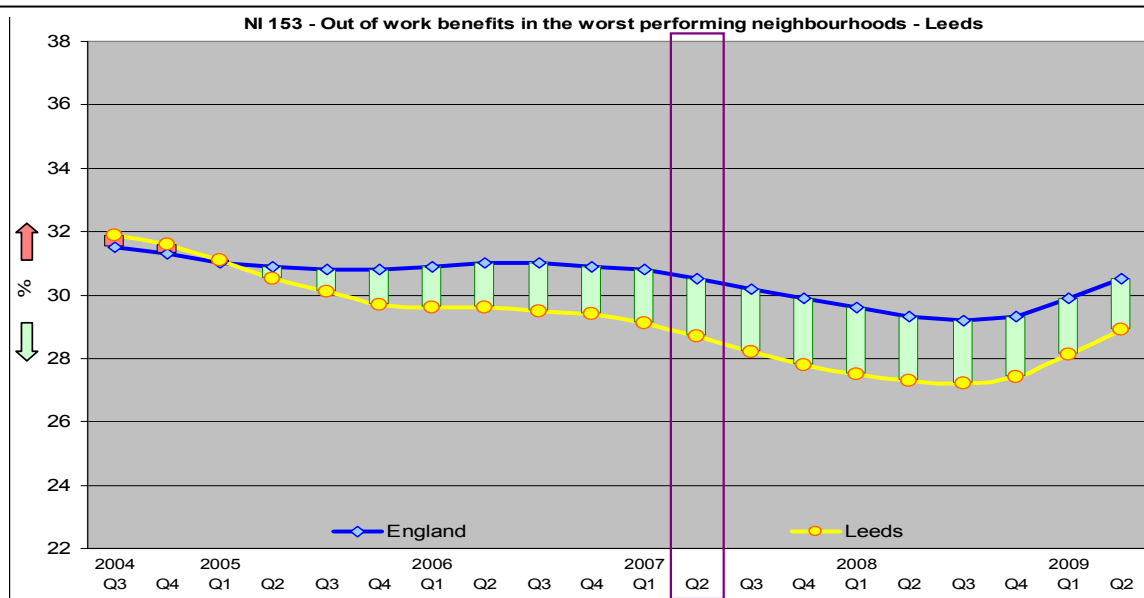
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Why is this a priority

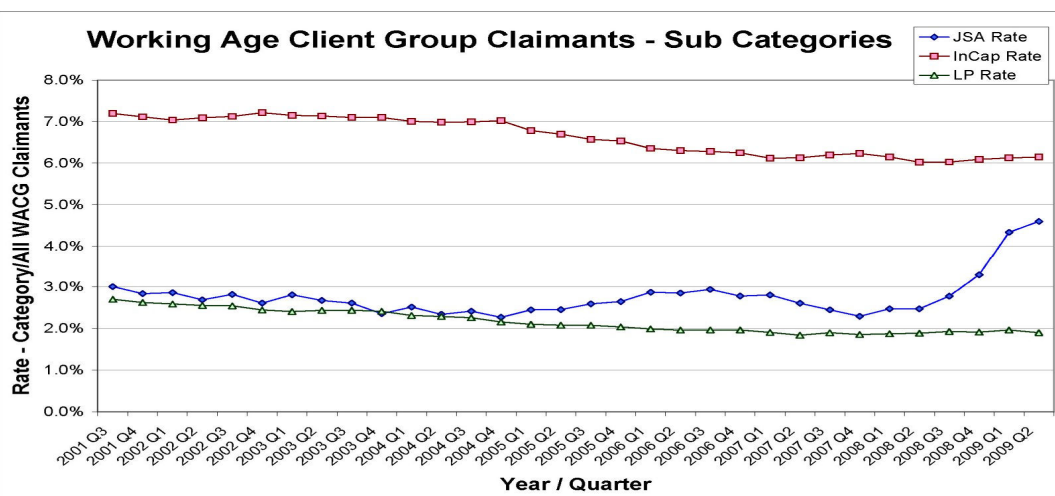
Reducing worklessness across the city with a focus on deprived areas is a key improvement priority within The Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011). This priority is set within the key strategic outcome of increasing economic activity through targeted support to reduce worklessness and poverty across the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

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



The impact of job losses across all sectors has been felt across the whole of the district but the highest claimant rates are concentrated in the inner city NI 153 areas. Evidence from the last recession and the current data indicates that increased unemployment has disproportionately impacted on those neighbourhoods with the highest levels of claimants and in particular young people, leaving those groups furthest removed from the labour market dependent on benefits for a longer period of time. This is the pattern nationally and the above graph shows the lower than average levels of worklessness in the NI 153 areas in Leeds tracked against this national measure. Progress within this area is largely dependent upon the state of the national economy. It is unlikely that a reduction in worklessness will take place in Leeds until there has been an upswing in employment on the national stage.

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



The latest available DWP data (Oct 2009) shows that there are approximately 64,670 WACG claimants in Leeds of which 24,000 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, 31,000 were claiming Employment Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit and 9,670 were lone parents in receipt of Income Support. The number of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training was 1,191 (8.1%) and a further 2,587 whose current status is not known. The WACG claimants are largely concentrated in the more deprived inner city communities.

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The latest DWP data available for May 2009 identifies 30,685 IB/EAS claimants, 6.1% of the working age population, the lowest rate amongst the core cities. There are 9,495 Lone Parents not in working claiming Income Support, 1.9% of the working age population, the lowest rate among the core cities. The highest concentrations of inactive claimants (IB/ESA and Lone Parents) are located in inner South and East Leeds.

As a result of the recession, the Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimant rate has increased significantly across the district by 60% over the last 12 months. The most current Job Seekers Allowance data (Dec 2009) shows that there are now 24,053 JSA claimants in Leeds, 4.7% of the working age population. The JSA rate within the NI 153 inner city localities is higher than the city average (10.9% compared to 4.7%). The highest JSA claimant rate is in Chapeltown (16.3%); followed by Burmantofts (13.7%); and South Seacroft (12.3%). In December 2009 Leeds had the second lowest Job Seekers Allowance claimant rate of all the Core Cities.

In Dec 2009, 4,412 people made a new claim to JSA, compared with 5590 in Nov 2009.

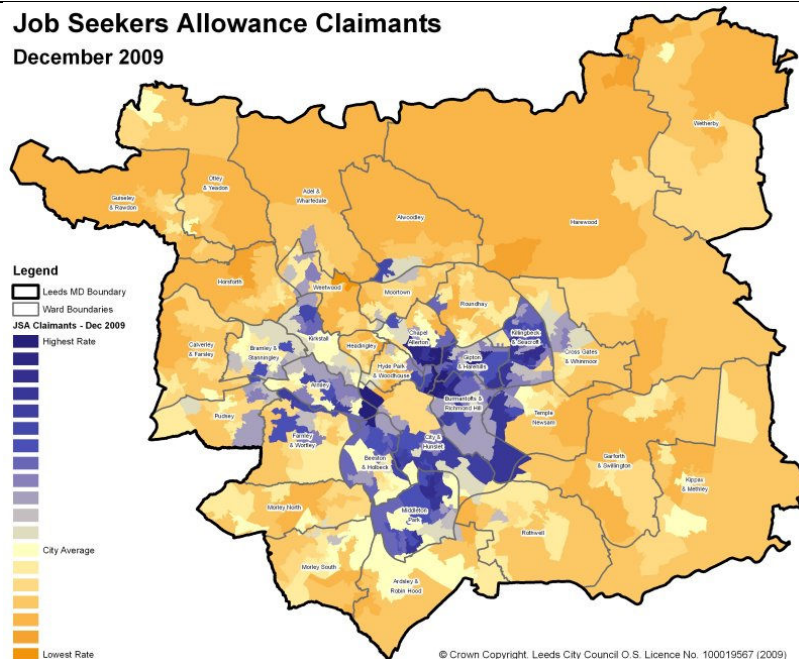
However, more people left the register in November (5730) than in December (4063)

The average weekly intake of new JSA claimants is running at 802, 4.2% lower than 12 months ago, and of the people who left the register in December 2009, 54.2% had been unemployed for less than three months.

In Nov 2009, 5,876 vacancies were notified in Leeds, an increase of 1,374 (30.5%) on October 2009. This was a decrease of 599 (9.3%) on November 2008. The top 3 notified vacancies in Leeds are currently for sales representatives; care assistants/home carers; and postal workers. The 3 most current sought after occupations by jobseekers are for goods handlers and storage operatives; sales and retail assistants; and general office assistants and clerks.

Job Seekers Allowance Claimants

December 2009



Overall Progress to date and outcomes achieved

Overall Progress:

Partnership working to secure new resources and align existing activity to reduce worklessness is managed through the Worklessness Strategic Outcome Group involving Jobcentre Plus, the Council, the Learning & Skills Council, the Third Sector, Yorkshire Forward and other key partners. There is now greater clarity about partner roles and responsibilities with the DWP national spine of employability provision delivered through Jobcentre Plus and DWP prime contractors and complementary targeted activity undertaken by partners to engage with those furthest from the labour market, to remove barriers and support them to access mainstream provision.

Achievements:

- Jobcentre Plus (JCP) has introduced a wide 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 plus; 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.
- An awareness raising / information workshop was held between employability providers and Children's Centre staff on support for parents claiming Income Support that will be required to attend a job focused interview with Jobcentre Plus when their youngest child reaches the age of 7yrs.
- JCP and Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust are working to more effectively integrate the work of employability skills providers and specialist health providers working with those experiencing mental ill health. Using European Social Fund grant, JCP has commissioned additional activity to support JSA customers

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experiencing mental ill health commencing in December 2009.

- DWP approval was granted in November to the Future Jobs Fund bid submitted by the Council on behalf of partners. The programme will create jobs for long term unemployed young people and the initial contract period of 6 months to end April 2010 will deliver 263 jobs. At the end of December there were 90 vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and 27 jobs were filled. A bid to extend the programme will be submitted shortly.
- A Council wide employer-led Apprenticeship Programme, Work4 Leeds, has been developed to enable young people and adults from key target groups to apply for entry level posts. 250 apprenticeships will be in place by the end of the 2009/10.
- A bid has been submitted to Yorkshire Forward for £4.5m to support partnership working through Employment Leeds to work with both employers and those on out of work benefits. A decision is anticipated before the end of April 2010. This will enable targeted outreach in communities with high level of worklessness, offer customised training and job brokerage with support to engage employers and developers through a single gateway.
- The Easel and West Leeds Gateway ('4 Families') programme has been developed and is being delivered in 4 inner city target neighbourhoods with a focus on providing families with a holistic approach to support them to move towards employment. The performance against contracted outputs following 5 months of operation is good with 163 clients engaged with the project team and 40 receiving intensive support. An evaluation of the programme commenced in October 2009 and a final report is due in May 2010.
- Leeds along with 2 other authorities has piloted a data sharing project with DWP on Lone Parent benefit claimants to test how we can better target resources and improve services to this client group. 2 tranches of data have now been received from DWP and have been used to improve targeting of clients via the '4 Families' project. Discussions are ongoing with DWP and DCLG to identify future data sharing opportunities using the local authority's well-being powers.
- The Council continues to provide Information, Advice and Guidance and referrals through its network of Jobshops located in areas with high claimant levels. The refurbishment of Tunstall Road Jobshop was completed in November with grant funding secured from Yorkshire Forward and the opportunity to further maximise outreach through Jobshops in conjunction with partners is being explored.
- The LSC Skills for Success programme continues to provide skills and employment support targeted to disadvantaged inner city areas up to December 2010, and will engage over 620 people in formal and informal employability training (at end Q3, 81 people had been supported, 43 of which have completed a non-accredited learning activity, and 42 have started an accredited training qualification)
- In the first 2 quarters of 2009/10, 3136 people were supported to gain skills and move towards employment through LCC funded/managed provision, of which 286 are now in work.
- 3 Area-based Worklessness Groups have been established, focussed on inner city areas, to support joined-up delivery, and Area Action Plans and targets have been agreed for NI 153 areas (most deprived neighbourhoods with WACG rates of over 25%). Forward plans are currently being developed to deliver more effectively targeted employability activity in the priority areas.
- The Council is represented on the National Worklessness Advisory Group supporting DWP and DCLG take forward the recommendations of the Houghton Review and is participating in the National Learning Forum on Worklessness.

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Challenges/Risks:

- Potential for a rising number of young people Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETs) in the city.
- 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 to provide employment and skills initiatives targeted to individuals, eg NRF/SSCF/Single Pot
- Downturn in the construction and development sector reducing the potential to link local people to employment opportunities
- Data availability and security – ongoing challenge to access timely data on clients or beneficiaries due to data protection /data sharing protocols and limited information available on DWP prime contractor provision within the local authority area
- Potential for further redundancies in the financial services sector and the public sector (the two largest employment sectors in Leeds)
- Targets were suspended last year due to the uncertain economic position. Negotiations have taken place with Government Office /DWP on the NI 152 measure. The outcome of the negotiation and the proposed revised 'partnership agreed' NI 153 measure will be considered by the March 2010 meeting of the Executive Board.

<u>Council / Partnership Groups</u>	Worklessness Strategic Outcomes Group		
<u>Approved by (Stephen Boyle)</u>	<u>Stephen Boyle</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>25 Feb 2010</u>
<u>Approved by (Neil Evans)</u>	<u>Neil Evans</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>25 Feb 2010</u>

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Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
	Deliver Future Jobs Fund Programme (eligibility and referrals determined by Jobcentre Plus but participants will largely reside in high claimant areas)	Stephen Boyle LCC / Ian Hunter, Jobcentre Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts for first 6 months delivery in place (completed) 263 jobs delivered Funding extended for remainder of programme (profile submitted, including 10% uplift) 	Q3 End April 2010 Q4
	Employment Leeds – securing funding and commencing delivery (enhance employer engagement through single gateway and provide customise training and job brokerage to individuals in communities with high claimant areas)	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 	Q4 Q4 Q4 Q1 2010/11
	Delivery of the EASEL and West Leeds Gateway - 4 Families Worklessness Pilot (targeted case worked provision in 4 inner city localities)	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 	All by Q1 2010/11 Q1 (2010/11)
	Complete '4 Families' Pilot Evaluation (targeted case worked provision in 4 inner city localities)	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)

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Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
	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 (<u>Q3 meetings held 10 November and 15 December</u>) • Deliver Area Action Plans and review performance (<u>ongoing</u>) • Further develop integrated performance reports at a lower spatial level across the partnership to monitor progress and effectiveness particularly in NI 153 areas (<u>ongoing – next performance report to WSOG on 10 February 2010</u>) • 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 (<u>ongoing</u>) • Building links to support the delivery of NEET activity 	<p>Q3/4</p> <p>Q3</p> <p>Q3/4</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q3 onwards</p> <p>Q3 onwards</p> <p>Q4 onwards</p>
	Continued delivery of expanded Jobcentre Plus services to address the rise in JSA claimants in 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 (commenced and ongoing) • Implement the Flexible New Deal Support Contract (commenced and ongoing) • Introduce the Young Person's Guarantee including the Future Jobs Fund (commenced and ongoing) • Joint Area Worklessness Groups Workshops, looking at improved working relationships with Connexions/Prospects to better support the NEET agenda • Employment White Paper – 'Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment' (published 16 December 2010) - introduce additional measures outlined in the paper, where appropriate. 	<p>Q3</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p>

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	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 	Q4 Q4 Q4

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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 3	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%	10.9% (as at Q1)	11.1%	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%	27.3% (as at Q1)	29.8%	6 month time lag on DWP data

Revised measures, baselines and targets to be reported to March meeting of the Executive Board following conclusion of negotiations with GOYH / DWP.