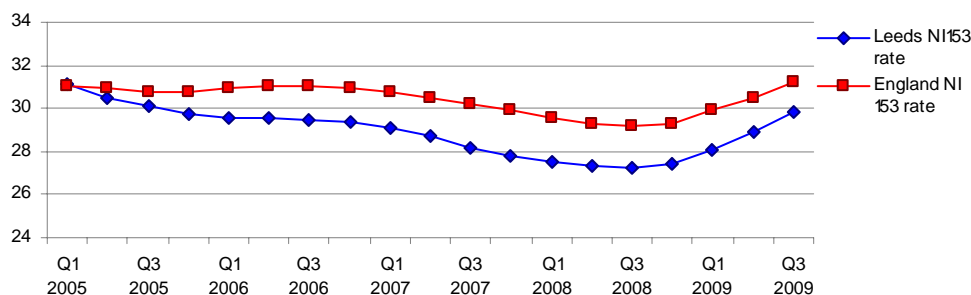




**Why is this a priority**

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**



**Overall Progress to date and outcomes achieved**

**Overall Progress:**

The Worklessness Strategic Outcome Group, involving Jobcentre Plus, the Council, the Skills Funding Agency, the Third Sector, Yorkshire Forward and other key partners, has developed its interim plan requested by DWP and set out its plans to develop the Worklessness Assessment and the Work and Skills Plan 2011-14. This will create a detailed picture of local needs, existing provision, duplication and gaps and where provision needs to be realigned to more effectively meet need. The plan will set out the targeted provision that partners will make locally to engage with those furthest from the labour market, to complement the DWP national spine of employability provision delivered through Jobcentre Plus and DWP prime contractors.

The latest available DWP data (Aug 2009) shows that there are approximately 66,695 Working Age Client Group (WACG) claimants claiming out-of-work benefits in Leeds of which 23,660 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, 31,115 (6.1%) were claiming Employment Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit and 9,515 (1.9%) were lone parents in receipt of Income Support. The highest concentrations of inactive claimants (IB/ESA and Lone Parents) are located in Inner South and East Leeds which is reflected in the targeting of interventions by partners. The number of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education, or training was 1,822 (8.3%) of which 1,591 (7.0%) whose current status is not known. Arrangements for referrals and fast tracking of young people to employability schemes has been agreed.

The impact of job losses has been felt across all sectors and impacted across the whole of the district but the highest claimant rates are now concentrated in the inner city's worst performing areas (NI 153 areas). This is the pattern nationally and the above graph shows the lower than average levels of worklessness in Leeds tracked against this national measure. Progress within this area is largely dependent upon the state of the national economy.

The average weekly intake of new JSA claimants is running at 1251, 6.2% lower than 12 months ago, and of the people who left the register in February 2010, 54.2% had been unemployed for less than three months. In February 2010, 4,358 vacancies were notified in Leeds, an increase of 1,285 (41.8%) on January 2010. This was a decrease of 983 (18.4%) on February 2009. The top 3 notified vacancies in Leeds are currently for care assistants/home carers; market research interviewers; and sales representatives. The 3 most current sought after occupations by jobseekers are for sales and retail assistants; goods handlers and storage operatives; and general office assistants and clerks. In March 2010, Leeds had the third lowest Job Seekers Allowance claimant rate of the Core Cities, with only Bristol and Sheffield having a lower rate.

**Achievements:**

- JCP and Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust have been successful in securing PSA16 funding of £50k to the work of employability skills providers and specialist health providers working with those experiencing mental ill health.
- The Future Jobs Fund programme is creating jobs for long term unemployed young people and 197 jobs of the target 263 jobs have been filled and 156 individuals have started work. Contracts for first 6 months delivery are now in place. An extension to the programme has now been approved by DWP for jobs starting 1 May 2010 to end March 2011. This brings the total numbers of jobs to be delivered to 807 across the Leeds Programme.

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- 254 apprenticeships have been created on the Council's Work4Leeds programme to enable young people and adults from key target groups to apply for entry level posts.
- The 4 Families programme 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 8 months of operation has been positive, with 203 clients engaged with the project team and 50 receiving intensive support. The interim evaluation will be reported in June 2010.
- Leeds 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. 3 tranches of data have now been received from DWP and have been used to improve targeting of clients via the '4 Families' project.
- The SFA Skills for Success programme provides 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 the beginning of March 2010, 257 people had been supported, 145 of which have completed a non-accredited learning activity, and 181 have started an accredited training qualification). 15 people have also progressed onto further training and 2 people have progressed into employment.
- At the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009/10, 1846 people were supported to gain skills and move towards employment through LCC funded/managed provision, of which 315 are now in work. Quarter 4 performance information will be available in June 2010.
- Local providers have worked jointly to rent a unit on Leeds Kirkgate Market as a Job Stop. It will be supported by staff from partner organisations and co-ordinated by a local provider, Learning Partnerships. Kirkgate market welcomes more than 10 million visitors each year. Due to its location, adjacent to many of the cities excluded communities and very high footfall, it is ideally positioned to support people seeking employment.

**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)

<b><u>Council / Partnership Groups</u></b>	Worklessness Strategic Outcomes Group		
<b><u>Approved by (Stephen Boyle)</u></b>	<u>Stephen Boyle</u>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	17 May 2010
<b><u>Approved by (Neil Evans)</u></b>	Neil Evans	<b><u>Date</u></b>	17 May 2010

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<b>Key actions for the next 6 months</b>				
	<b>Action (Desired Achievements)</b>	<b>Contributory Officer / Partner</b>	<b>Milestone / Actions</b>	<b>Timescale (2010/11)</b>
	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"> <li>• 263 jobs delivered under 1<sup>st</sup> Future Jobs Fund (FJF) contract</li> <li>• Target of 216 jobs to be delivered under 2<sup>nd</sup> FJF contract</li> </ul>	Q1 Q2
	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"> <li>• Establish project team and work programme (<b>ongoing</b>)</li> <li>• Work with existing /new partners to ensure sign up to Employment Leeds model (<b>meetings ongoing</b>)</li> <li>• Deliver employer engagement event</li> </ul>	Q1 Q1 Q3
	Delivery of the EASEL and West Leeds Gateway - 4 Families Worklessness Pilot (targeted case worked provision in 4 inner city localities) and pilot evaluation	Stephen Boyle LCC	<p>Worklessness Pilot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 Families supported</li> <li>• 380 people supported towards employment</li> <li>• 50 people into employment, 80 assisted with skills development</li> <li>• 240 people completing a back to work development plan</li> <li>• 120 people assisted to access complementary support</li> <li>• Evaluation report completed to be presented to WSOG to highlight multi-agency working arrangements, outcomes and the benefits both financial and non financial)</li> </ul>	Q1     Q2
	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, Skills Funding Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review WSOG Membership and operation (<b>commenced</b>)</li> <li>• Develop integrated performance reports at a lower spatial level across the partnership to monitor progress and effectiveness particularly in NI 153 areas</li> <li>• Produce interim Work and Skills Plan and submit to Government Office</li> <li>• Agree work programme to produce Work and Skills Plan 2011-14</li> </ul>	Q1 Q2  Q1 Q1
	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"> <li>• Implement the ESF project for JSA customers with Mental health problems/learning difficulties (<b>commenced and ongoing</b>)</li> <li>• Implement the Flexible New Deal Support Contract (<b>commenced and ongoing</b>)</li> <li>• Introduce the Young Person's Guarantee including the Future Jobs Fund (<b>commenced and ongoing</b>)</li> </ul>	Q3 09/10 onwards

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Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale (2010/11)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Area Worklessness Groups Workshops, looking at improved working relationships with Connexions/Prospects to better support the NEET agenda</li> <li>Employment White Paper – 'Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment' (published 16 December 2010) - introduce additional measures outlined in the paper, where appropriate <b>(commenced and ongoing)</b></li> </ul>	Q4 09/10 onwards
	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"> <li>Establish policy framework and secure support and ownership. Report to WSOG and CLT</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Q2 Q2
	Supporting people with mental health issues back into work	Ian Hunter, Jobcentre Plus / Jane Williams NHS Leeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress report on JCP ESF funded provision to support JSA customers with mental health problems/learning difficulties</li> <li>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. <b>(Task and Finish Group established and ongoing).</b></li> </ul>	Q2 Q1 onwards

**Improvement Priority – TP-3a. Reduce worklessness across the city with a focus on deprived areas. Accountable Officer – Stephen Boyle Apr 2009 – Mar 2010**

<b>Performance Indicators</b>										
Performance indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority										
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Frequency &amp; Measure</b>	<b>Rise or Fall</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>2008/09 Result</b>	<b>2009/10 Target</b>	<b>2009/10 Quarter 4</b>	<b>Full Year Result</b>	<b>Data Quality</b>
NI 152	Working age people on out-of-work benefits. (From April 2010 - Ensure a lead over the England average rate of at least 0.3 percentage points by Q2 May 2011)	Regeneration	Quarterly %	Fall	0.3% (Q1 2009)	NA	NA	NA (0.1%)	12.6% (Q3) (0.1%)	6 month time lag on DWP data
NI 153	Working age people claiming out-of-work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods. (From April 2010 -Narrow the gap between the Leeds out of work claimant rate and the overall rate for the combined NI 153 areas to 16.5% by Q2 May 2011)	Regeneration	Quarterly %	Fall	16.9% (Q1 2009)	NA	NA	NA (17.2%)	29.8% (Q3) (17.5%)	6 month time lag on DWP data

NB: Due to the change in economic conditions, DWP enabled local authorities to renegotiate their NI 152 and NI 153 targets. The new targets were proposed by the Worklessness Strategic Outcome Group and approved by the Council's Executive Board and DWP. The targets apply from 1 April 2010.