

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jayne Francis

Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture



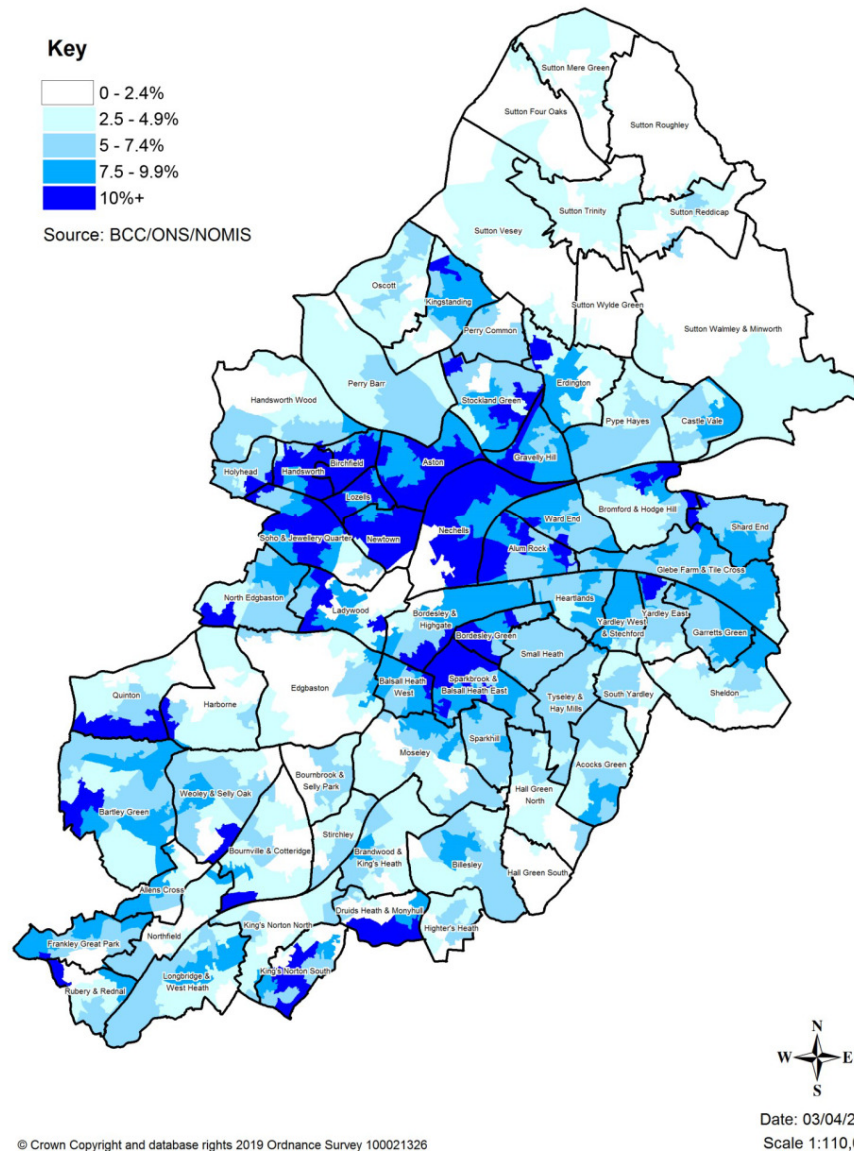
End of year update

- Skills and Employment now part of new Education and Skills Directorate.
- Director Education and Skills, Dr Tim O'Neill.
- Assistant Director for Skills and Employability, Anne Ainsworth.
- Birmingham Adult Education Service
- 14-19 Participation and Skills
- Birmingham Careers Service
- Employment team

Birmingham Labour Market

- Quarterly report, latest is April 2019
 - Birmingham has a comparatively high claimant unemployment rate (8.2%)
 - Core City average 5.2%
 - UK 3.2%
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- Youth claimant unemployment rate (18-24) is 10.8%
 - Core City average 6.4%
 - UK 5.2%

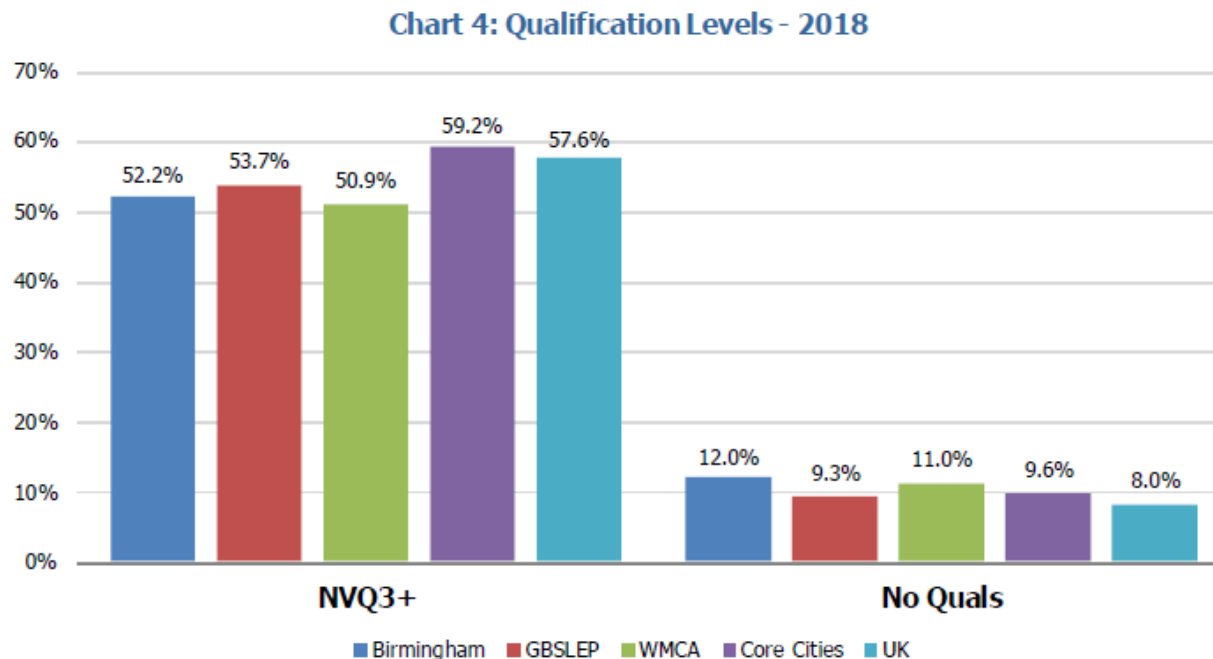
Map 1 Birmingham Claimant Count Unemployment Proportions February 2019



- Ward proportions vary widely
- All 69 wards have more claimant unemployed compared with the same point last year
- Highest levels of unemployment are largely concentrated in the inner city areas of Birmingham with some pockets in outer city areas

Skill levels

- Birmingham has a greater proportion of working age residents with no qualifications (12%) compared to the UK (8%) and core city average (9.6%)



Discrepancies between wards

- Claimant unemployment
 - Birchfield (12.1%)
 - Handsworth (11.8)
 - Sutton Roughley (1.3%)
 - Sutton Four Oaks (1.2%)

- 18-24 claimant unemployment
 - Handsworth (13.3%)
 - Frankley Great Park (11.6%)
 - Sutton Four Oaks (1.3%)
 - Edgbaston (0.7%)

NEET / Not Knowns

- Local authorities are required to track the participation of young people aged 16-18 (25) into education, employment or training.
- The DfE publishes performance data in the form of a 'NEET Scorecard' which shows comparative performance with other local authorities.
- This is an improving picture in Birmingham (17% Not Known and 8% NEET in 2015/16).
- Now consistently one of the top performing core cities for NEETs.

	2018/19	
	Bham	England
EET	90.8%	92.3%
NEET	2.6%	2.6%
Not Known	6%	2.9%
Combined NEET & NK	8.5%	5.5%

Skills and Employability Programmes

- Youth Promise Plus
- World of Work Project
- Major Projects and Employer Engagement
- Commonwealth Games
- 14-19 / NEETs
- Apprenticeships
- Birmingham Careers Service
- Birmingham Adult Education Service

Youth Promise Plus

- European funded programme.
- Personalised employment support to 15-29 year old young people who are not in education, employment or training.
- Supports our most disadvantaged young people.
- Delivered from many locations across Birmingham and Solihull (job centres, youth centres, libraries, community venues and partner premises).
- NEET support workers at key frontline sites to reach the young people most in need.
- Extension to December 2021 approved in January 2019.
- Project target of engaging and supporting 16,610 young people.
- Opportunity to further develop partnerships including The Prince's Trust, University Hospital Birmingham, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Transport for West Midlands and The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

World of Work Project

- Will provide progression pathways with vocational and employability skills training for unemployed residents over 25 years old from April 2019.
- Pathways linked directly to vacancies and key employers in target sectors and localities.
- Will engage with over 2,000 long term unemployed and inactive participants providing support.
- Target will be those with low/no basic skills, people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, women, lone parents, people with disabilities and health conditions and those living in areas of high unemployment.

Major Projects and Employer Engagement

- The Employment Access Team works with employers to promote opportunities to Birmingham residents, particularly those who are unemployed/workless.
- EAT has worked with key employers, major projects and development opportunities (Library of Birmingham, New Street Station redevelopment, Grand Central, Bullring).
- This model is now being applied to key opportunities (HS2, Commonwealth Games).

Commonwealth Games

- EAT have secured commitments from the lead contractor on the Athletes Village
 - Development of an on-site training and engagement facility
 - 1,000 pre-employment training places to be supported
 - 50 existing apprenticeships working on site
 - 400 jobs to be created, including 50 new apprenticeships and 30 paid summer intern (6 week) placements
- Dialogue underway with the contractor delivering on the refurbishment of the Alexander Stadium as well as Sandwell MBC regarding the Aquatics Centre.

NEETs and Not Knowns

- Post 16 Forum
 - Focus on mental health, careers and apprenticeships, T-Levels
- Hotspot identification and targeted approach
- Improved September Guarantee
- Improved participation tracking
- Sufficiency of places
- Important priority for the Directorate and the Council

Apprenticeships

- Internal
 - Make best use of the Apprenticeship Levy (conversion of existing posts and creation of new posts where appropriate).
 - Workforce Strategy.
 - Use of most appropriate providers to deliver and expand courses.
- External
 - Potential to 'gift' part of the Levy.
 - Apprenticeship figures for the city need to improve.
 - Use of partnerships and engagement with private sector and WMCA.

Careers

- Birmingham Careers Service
 - delivers partly on Youth Promise Plus.
- Enterprise Advisor Network project
- WMCA and Careers and Enterprise Company
- Elected member working group
- Strategic coordinated approach and earlier careers support.

Birmingham Adult Education Service

- Ofsted inspection in March 2019.
- Service now rated “Good” in all areas.
- *“An advisory board has strengthened governance arrangements. The board provides highly effective support, challenge and scrutiny for those in a governance role and for senior leaders and managers.”*
- *“Learners from areas of high deprivation and cultural diversity develop a good range of essential work-related skills that help them to improve their life chances.”*
- *“Teaching and learning for English for speakers of other languages learners are highly effective.”*
- *“Most learners benefit from highly effective careers advice and guidance. As a result, most learners move into other courses offered by the service or into volunteering and employment.”*

Questions



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