

## Youth Promise Dashboard – Supplementary Commentary

### April 2017

#### **Introduction**

The Youth Promise Dashboard was developed to provide the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills with an overview of youth unemployment in the city and the performance of activities supporting the delivery of the Youth Promise, including the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

Although a short commentary is included with each measure, it's not possible to explain much in the way of context without making the dashboard too unwieldy.

This report is written for those who may be less familiar with the datasets and projects to provide more context and explanation for some of the charts and graphs. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the Dashboard.

#### **Top Level Measures Page 1**

##### ***Young People in Birmingham in employment and education***

The unemployment claimant count is used widely to measure unemployment in the city. This data can be broken down by age and to neighbourhoods, so it allows detailed comparison between groups and areas. But it omits large numbers of the unemployed who are not eligible for benefits.

The Office for National Statistics produces figures covering all young people who are employed, unemployed and in education, irrespective of whether they can claim benefits. However, it is based on a very small survey of residents, so data below a city level is not very robust. We use this survey to measure the total percentage of young people who are employed or in education (i.e. are not NEET). The chart shows the percentage in Birmingham is 85% and the general trend is upwards, but the core city average (96%) is rising too, and the gap is not closing. Because of the small sample size quarter on quarter variations may not be statistically significant, it is advisable to look at the long term trends

##### ***Youth (18-29) Claimant Proportion***

This chart measures the proportion of all aged 18-29 who claim unemployment benefits, and has recently been amended from the 18-24 age group, to bring it in line with target groups for major programmes such as the Youth Employment Initiative.

It shows that all areas including Birmingham, its two worst performing constituencies and the core city average have shown the same overall trend, but at different levels. Youth unemployment fell rapidly during the post-recession economic recovery, but has levelled off since around mid-2015.

The seasonal variations are visible, with a rise in claimant numbers after the end of the academic year, when young people finish their education, and again after Christmas when temporary labour is laid off.

The impact of the YEI programme on the figures is not yet visible, as it has not yet reached full capacity. But it is important to note that YEI can only take on clients once they have become unemployed, so the peaks are likely to continue even when the project is working well.

### ***NEETs (not in education employment or training)***

The Government has changed the way it measures NEETs from Years 12-14 to Years 12-13. In March it was agreed with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills that the Youth Promise Dashboard measure would be brought in line with this revision. To avoid confusion, only the new measure is shown in the chart, although the table has retained historical data.

Tracking the destination of every young person is a very resource intensive process, hence the large peaks of 'not knowns'. To obtain good data on destinations BCC is reliant on other training providers passing on details of their students. But this only covers part of the cohort. There are no lists of businesses employing young people. Young people may work or be educated outside the city; they may move provider or employer; they may be doing nothing and not in the system at all. There are also issues of data sharing.

## **Council Plan KPIs Page 2**

### ***KPI: Closing the Gap between Birmingham and the UK***

This KPI uses claimant count unemployment data for those aged 18-29 to track the gap between Birmingham and the UK. The figures are not seasonally adjusted, so the Q2 increase in the proportion is not unexpected. However, when the target was set it was anticipated that the YEI programme would be up to speed and would be able to cause a decrease. Unfortunately the programme has experienced delays. But it is hoped that Q4 will see an improvement.

<b>KPI: Closing the youth unemployment gap between Birmingham and the UK – numbers required to meet target</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Actual</b>		<b>Target</b>		<b>Shortfall</b>
	<b>B'ham Number</b>	<b>B'ham Proportion</b>	<b>B'ham Number</b>	<b>B'ham Proportion</b>	
Baseline Mar-16	11,420	5.1%			
Q1 Jun-16	11,125	4.9%	10,841	4.8%	284
Q2 Sep-16	11,615	5.1%	10,390	4.6%	1,225
Q3 Dec-16	10,665	4.7%	9,260	4.1%	1,405
Q4 Mar-17			8,131	3.6%	

As of December 2016 (Quarter 3) there were 10,665 young people aged 18-29 claiming unemployment benefits in Birmingham. The Q3 target figure is 9,260. The gap, or shortfall, between the two is 1,405.

**KPI: Closing the Gap between the 7 worst performing Districts and Birmingham**

This is a similar measure to the KPI above, but looks at the gap between the Birmingham average and the worst performing districts. The same issues around seasonal effects and the impact of YEI apply to this measure.

<b>KPI: Closing the youth unemployment gap between the 7 worst performing Districts and Birmingham – numbers required to meet target</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Actual</b>		<b>Target</b>		<b>Shortfall</b>
	<b>7 Districts Number</b>	<b>7 Districts Proportion</b>	<b>7 Districts Number</b>	<b>7 Districts Proportion</b>	
Baseline Mar-16	9,500	5.9%			
Q1 Jun-16	9,255	5.7%	9,235	5.7%	20
Q2 Sep-16	9,645	6.0%	8,911	5.5%	734
Q3 Dec-16	8,780	5.4%	7,615	4.7%	1,165
Q4 Mar-17			6,319	3.9%	

As of December 2016 (Quarter 3) there were 8,780 young people aged 18-29 claiming unemployment benefits in the 7 worst performing Districts in the city. The Q3 target figure is 7,615. The gap, or shortfall, between the two is 1,165.

**Apprenticeships Page 2****Live Apprenticeship vacancies**

This dataset is not currently being updated, but we understand data may become available in the future, so for now it's been retained in the Dashboard.

The number of vacancies is a product both of how many apprenticeships are on offer and how many are being taken up. So a reduction in the number may not necessarily be a bad thing.

**Apprenticeship Starts**

The line chart has been replaced with a bar chart in the hope that this makes the data easier to interpret.

Data is shown quarterly from January 2016, with the solid bar giving numbers for those aged 16-18 and the hatched bar those aged 19-25. Numbers are cumulative through the year, and are reset to zero at the start of each academic year.

Due to possible timing differences in reporting starts to the SFA, comparisons to the same quarter the previous year may be misleading, except for the end of year (Q4) figure).

**Adult Education Page 2**

The table shows the number of young people engaged in Adult Education. It shows that of those studying English and Maths, few are studying at Level 2 or 3. Not all 2016/7 learners are yet recorded, so it is not significant that the figures are lower than the totals for 2015/16.