

Adult Learner Responsive Provision



Leading learning and skills

Greater Merseyside

Autumn 2008

Adult Learner Responsive Provision:

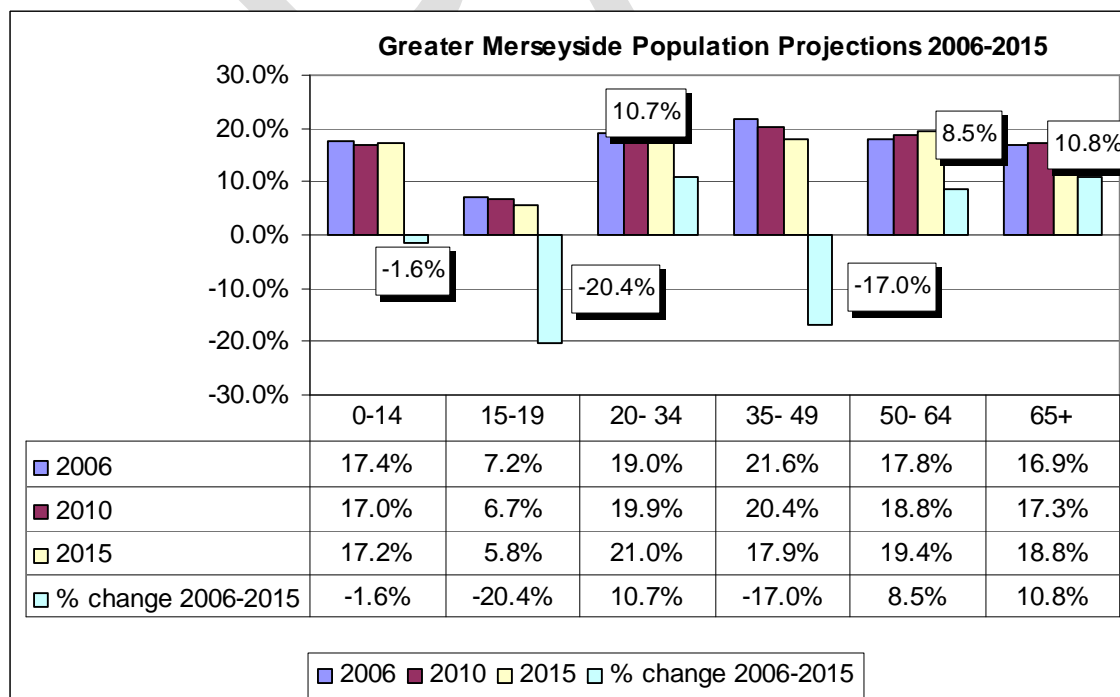
This is the sub-regional report focuses upon the five sub-regions of; Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Greater Merseyside. Each report will focus upon the particular spatial issues and implications of Adult Responsive Provision. **A summary of implications for education, training and skills is provided at the end of the report.**

Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council

Demographics Trends:

- The decrease in the 15-19 cohort in Greater Merseyside from 97,900 in 2006 to 77,900 in 2015 provides a 20.4 per cent decline in the cohort. This is the highest than the regional average of 14 per cent. This trend is reflected across the sub-region, with Greater Merseyside experiencing the sharpest fall (20.4%).**
- Equally the 35- 49 age group in Greater Merseyside falls from 252,200 in 2006 to 231,900 in 2015 which provides a 17.0 per cent point decline in the cohort. The shift in the ageing population continues.**

Figure 1: Greater Merseyside Demographic Trends 2006-2015



Source: Revised 2006-based SNPP Local Authorities and higher areas; population projections by sex and quinary age groups.

Grt Merseyside

In summary in the period 2006-15, there is expected to be:

- *A fall of 3,700 per cent in 0- 14 year olds (1.6%)*
- *A fall in the number of 15- 19 year olds of 20,000 (20.4%)*
- *An increase in the 20- 34 year olds 27,600 (10.7%)*
- *A fall in the number of 35- 49 year olds of 49,600 (17%),*
- *A large increase in the number of people 50-64 by 20,400 or (8.5%) and over 65 years old: 24,700 or 10.8%.*

Working Age Adult Population (19- 59/64)

- 3 Greater Merseyside adult working age population has increased by 10,000 from 821,000 to 831,000 from 2006 to 2007.
- 4 The greatest increase of 3,000 was in Halton from 67,000 to 70,000 (4.5% increase). Sefton declined by 1.3 per cent (decrease of 2,000).

Figure 2: Greater Merseyside Working Age Population 2006- 2007 (19- 59/64)

	2006 Population aged 19- 59/64 (000s)	2007 Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	Change 2006/ 2007
Halton	67	70	4.5%
Knowsley	83	85	2.4%
Liverpool	253	256	1.2%
Sefton	149	147	-1.3%
St Helens	100	102	2.0%
Wirral	169	171	1.2%
Grt Merseyside	821	831	1.2%

Source: Annual Population Survey 2006, 2007 (19- 59/64).

Qualification Profile

- 5 The qualifications of the region's workforce are a proxy for their skills. Although the North West has increased its qualification profile, in comparative terms it has not managed to close the gap with the England.
- 6 **Greater Merseyside has a lower qualification profile to the NW regional and England profile. However, if we look at the profile historically from 2001, significant improvements have been made across all levels.** (The analysis indicates a continued improvement in the qualification profile of Greater Merseyside.
- 7 Figure 4).

Figure 3: Greater Merseyside Qualification Profile

	Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	level 4 (%)	level 3 (%)	level 2 (%)	lower than level 2 (%)	without a qualification (%)
England	29,519	30.2%	49.0%	68.9%	18.6%	12.5%
North West	3,932	27.1%	46.8%	67.7%	17.8%	14.5%
Cheshire/Warrington	502	35.6%	52.7%	72.9%	17.6%	9.4%
Cumbria	276	26.9%	47.8%	72.7%	18.1%	9.7%
Greater Manchester	1,501	27.1%	46.9%	66.9%	17.8%	15.3%
Lancashire	822	26.0%	47.6%	68.4%	17.8%	13.7%

Merseyside/Halton	832	23.3%	42.0%	63.8%	17.7%	18.5%
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Source: APS07 Highest qualification held by population aged 19-59/64.

- 8 The analysis indicates a **continued improvement in the qualification profile of Greater Merseyside.**

Figure 4: Trends in Greater Merseyside Qualification Profile 2007- 2001

Grt Merseyside	level 4 (%)	level 3 (%)	level 2 (%)	lower than level 2 (%)	without a qualification (%)
2001	20.6	39	59.3	19.2	21.5
2002	20.5	39.7	59.8	18.2	22.0
2003	20.7	39.3	60.3	17.5	22.2
2005	22.6	40.9	61.5	17.8	20.7
2006	22.8	42.0	63.0	17.8	19.2
2007	23.3	42.0	63.8	17.7	18.5

Source: APS07 Highest qualification held by population aged 19-59/64.

- 9 Analysis of the qualification profile at district level provides a distinct contrast to the Greater Merseyside profile. St. Helens has a higher qualification profile than the local office average, particularly at Level 4, this is higher than the regional average.
- 10 Areas such as Halton and Knowsley have over 20 per cent of the working age population with a qualification lower than a level 2. Knowsley has 23.7 per cent of the working age population without any qualifications.

Figure 5: Greater Merseyside Local Authority District Qualification Profile

	Population aged 19-59/64 (000s)	level 4 (%)	level 3 (%)	level 2 (%)	lower than level 2 (%)	without a qualification (%)
Halton	70	17.4%	35.0%	60.4%	20.1%	19.5%
Knowsley	85	17.0%	34.9%	56.3%	20.0%	23.7%
Liverpool	256	21.9%	41.3%	60.2%	17.1%	22.7%
Sefton	147	23.8%	41.3%	64.7%	17.8%	17.5%
St Helens	102	28.1%	45.8%	67.8%	17.3%	14.8%
Wirral	171	26.6%	46.8%	70.3%	17.0%	12.8%
Grt Merseyside	831	23.3%	42.0%	63.8%	17.7%	18.5%

Source: Annual Population Survey 2006, 2007 (19- 59/64).

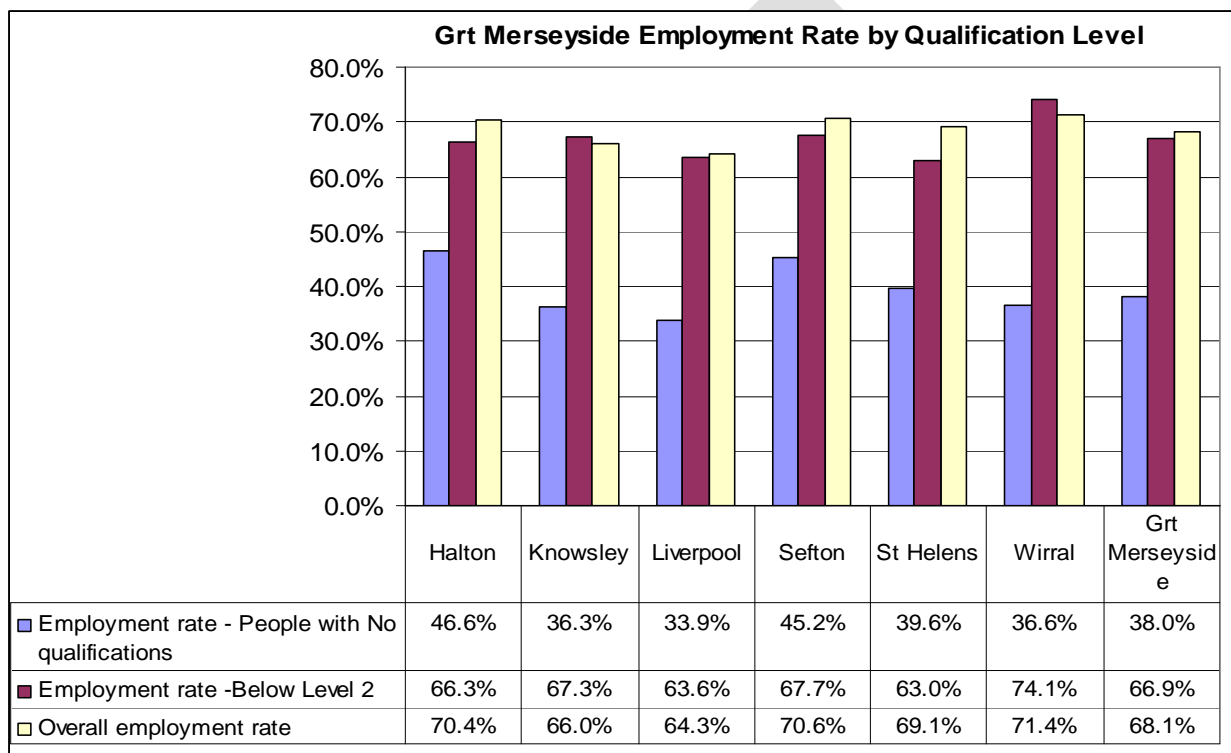
- 11 The **Employer Responsive report outlines the proportion of the working age population who are qualified to at least a Level 2 and Level 3 at district level.** This analysis also includes projections of Level 2 and 3 up to 2011, this has been based upon current performance and the anticipated gap with the national average.

Trends in Employment Rate

- 12 The Government has the target of **80 per cent working age population in employment** and this requires the strategic alignment of organisations and agencies on this agenda.
- 13 The employment rate in the North West sub-regions varies significantly and can be largely attributable to the industrial structure of the area.
- 14 **The employment rate of those with no qualifications in Greater Merseyside is 38.0 per cent is lower than the North West rate (43.1%). The employment rate of those with no qualifications varies significantly within Greater Merseyside.**

- 15 **The difference between the highest (Halton) and lowest (Liverpool) rate is 12.7 percentage points**, this may be dependant to a degree upon the industrial structure of the area and the extent of people who are workless within the district. **Five out of the six districts have lower rates** of employment (with no qualifications) than the North West (43.1%).
- 16 **The overall employment rate of Greater Merseyside (68.1%)** which is lower than the North West (72.4%). Knowsley (66%), Liverpool (64.3%) and St.Helens (69.1%) are all below the local LSC and regional average.
- 17 **Providing the opportunity for people to gain a qualification up to Level 2 is expected to improve their overall employability and provide a platform for progression into the workplace.** (See Employer Responsive section on the Train to Gain programme).

Figure 6: Employment Rate below Level 2



Source: Annual Population Survey 2007.

Employability & Worklessness

How to support workless people into sustainable jobs (focusing on priority groups)

National Strategy

- 18 The Government has made a clear commitment to integrate its employment and skills strategies into a truly seamless employment and skills system which **not only helps people into work but helps break the cycle of low skills, short-term jobs and low wages**. The joint DWP/DIUS publication **Work Skills** (June 08) and the subsequent **welfare reform green paper** (July 08) outline the plans to overhaul the welfare and training system and improve skills.

“Our vision is a welfare state where no one is written off and everyone is expected to contribute. We want to do more to prevent people from drifting into long-term unemployment or inactivity and becoming detached from the labour market.” (No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility, DWP July 2008).

- 19 The LSC with partners will support individuals through skills development from worklessness into sustainable employment, through the delivery of PSA targets of the LSC (Skills for Life & Level 2) and those of other agencies.

Overview Workless People

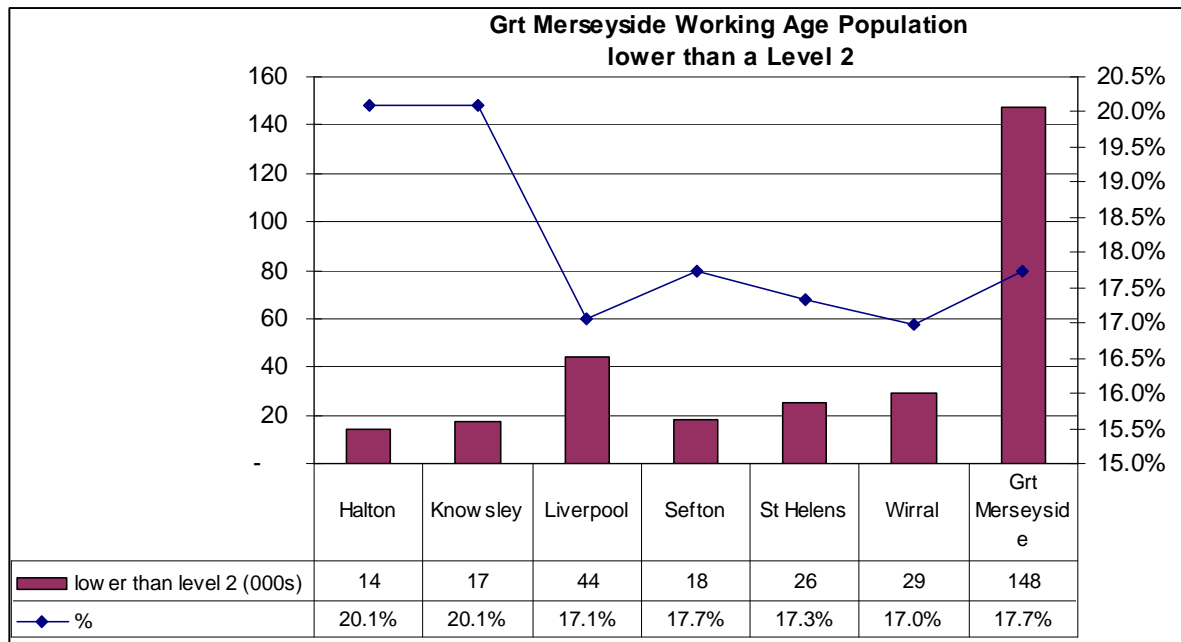
- 20 Sub-regions and districts which have in recent years experienced strong job creation have generally seen a stronger rise in resident employment rates and a fall in claimant worklessness.
- 21 **Manchester and Liverpool in particular have seen large absolute changes in jobs created and falling benefit claimant rates.** By comparison, an area like Blackpool with severe economic weaknesses, has seen little job growth and little reduction in the numbers claiming benefits. Some areas have seen a greater reduction in claimant worklessness than others with a similar level of job growth. Job creation in Barrow and Blackburn with Darwen has been at approximately the same modest level between 1999 and 2006, but Barrow has seen some fall in claimant count while the effect in Blackburn with Darwen has been neutral.
- 22 **There may be a number of factors at play in explaining these trends: for those districts where there are large numbers of in-commuters, jobs created may not feed through to increases in resident employment.**
- 23 In the urban districts with higher levels of in-migration of foreign workers, there may be less of a reduction in claimants; **in districts such as Liverpool and Knowsley where claimant counts were highest at the start of this period, new jobs are more likely to be filled by those formerly claiming benefits;** finally, the figures may demonstrate the impact of an additional policy focus and funding for worklessness in these areas.
- 24 **The true effect of the economic down turn is yet to be measured,** but will have significant implications for government policies and PSA agreements.

Working Age with a qualification lower than level 2

- 25 A significant proportion of those lacking a Level 2 are workless. In 2007, 17.8 per cent of the adult working age population¹ in the North West had a qualification **lower than a level 2**, this is equivalent to 699,000. This compares to 18.6 per cent for the England average.
- 26 Greater Merseyside has 17.7 per cent (148,000) of the working age population lower than a level 2, which is equal to the North West rate. This is only a 0.1 percentage point difference from the regional picture.

¹ Age19-59/64.

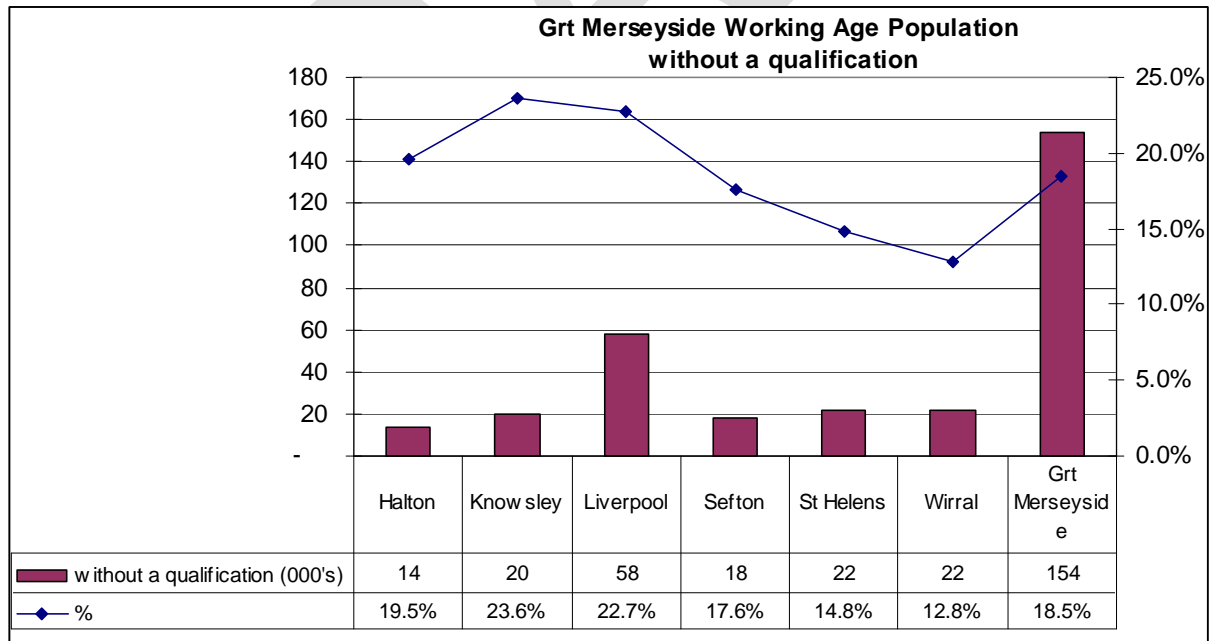
Figure 7: Adult Working Age Population without a Level 2 (19- 59/64)



Source: Annual Population Survey 2005-2007 (19-59/64).

27 In Greater Merseyside 18.5 cent of the working age population have no qualifications which is equivalent to (154,000). This is the highest rate of the local LSC areas with the region. Knowsley (23.6%) and Liverpool (22.7%) have the highest proportions in Merseyside with no qualifications.

Figure 8: Working Age Population with No qualifications (19- 59/64)

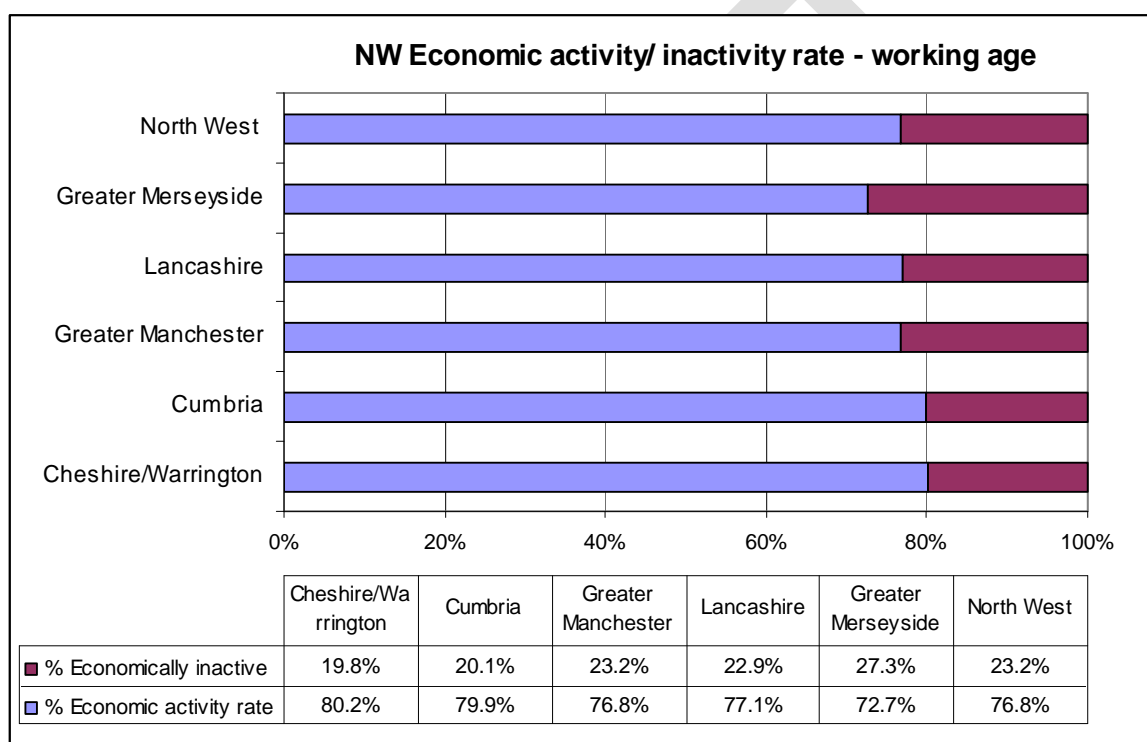


Source: Annual Population Survey 2005-2007 (19-59/64).

Economically Active and Inactive

- 28 **Rates of economic inactivity are typically higher amongst those with no qualifications. In Greater Merseyside 30.6 per cent of the economically active² population do not have a Level 2 (192,000), higher than the regional proportion of 27.8 per cent.**
- 29 **For the inactive population in Greater Merseyside, the corresponding figure is 56 per cent (142,000 people) higher than the North West rate of 49.0 per cent.³**
- 30 There are also significant differences between the local LSC areas. Manchester and Blackpool still has a gap to close with the national average in the proportion of the working age population without a level 2 qualification.
- 31 The North West working age population is split into those who declare themselves as either economically active or economically inactive which is a 76.8%: 23.2%.

Figure 9: Working Age Population: Economically Active/ Inactive



Source: Annual Population Survey 2007.

- 32 Greater Merseyside has a comparatively lower economically active population, however, district level analysis illustrates the variance of those who are economically active.

Figure 10: Grt Merseyside Economically Active and Inactive

	Economic activity	rate %	Economically inactive	rate %
Halton	57,500	76.2	17,900	23.8
Knowsley	66,800	71.8	26,300	28.2
Liverpool	196,700	70.3	83,100	29.7
Sefton	121,500	75.7	38,900	24.3

² A person is economically active if they are either employed or unemployed in a particular period - usually the survey reference week.

³ The data is taken from the APS 2006 as 2007 is not available in this format.

St Helens	80,200	73.8	28,400	26.2
Wirral	139,700	76.4	43,100	23.6
Grt Merseyside	655,100	72.7	246,600	27.3

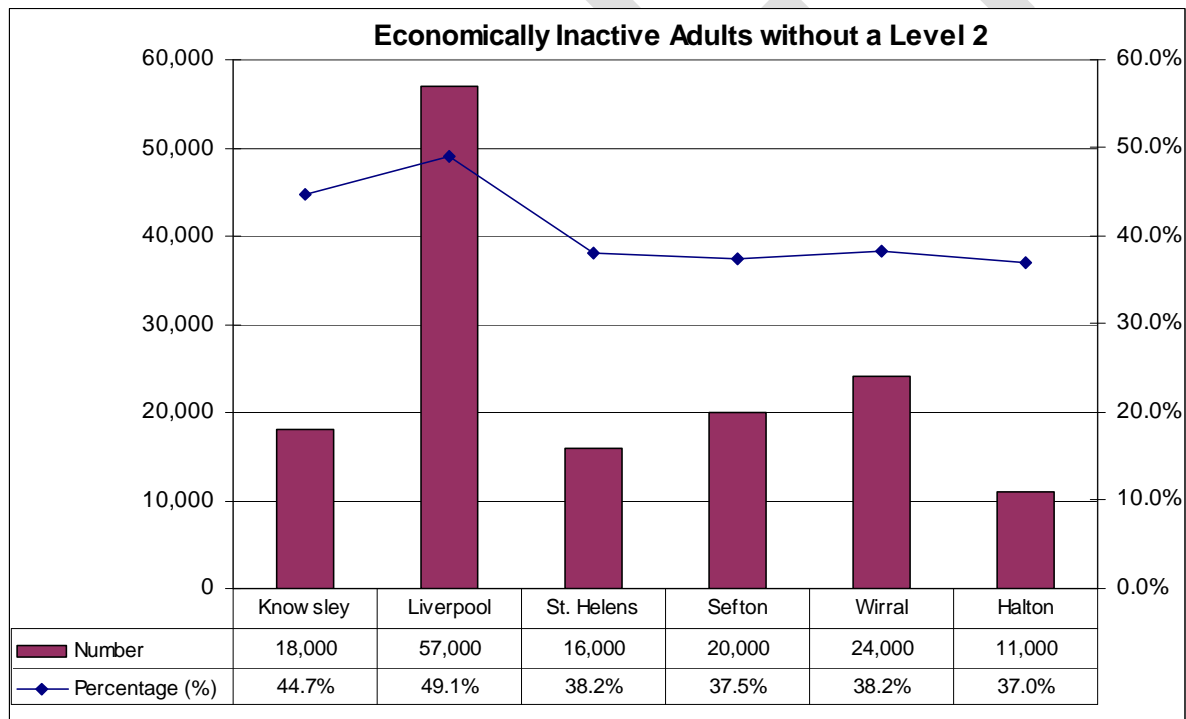
Source: Annual Population Survey 2007.

A significant proportion of those lacking a level 2 are workless

Workless People Without a Level 2

- 33 **There is also a strong spatial dimension to worklessness. As reflected earlier, for adults across the region the rate of inactivity is highest in Greater Merseyside at 27.3%, compared to the regional average of 23.3% and the England average of 21.4%. Cheshire and Warrington and Cumbria have inactivity rates below the England average.**
- 34 Those are 'worklessness' are defined as those either unemployed without a Level 2 and those economically inactive adults without a level 2. For the North West this equates to 600,000 individuals.
- 35 A breakdown by local authority district indicates that Liverpool and Knowsley have the highest proportions at 49.1 per cent and 44.7 per cent respectively.

Figure 11: Economically Inactive People without a Level 2



Source: Annual Population Survey 2005. (awaiting update from DCSF). Workless figures not available at this level, (Unemployment figures for those without a level 2 are suppressed at this level).

- 36 The North West has the second highest rate of Incapacity Benefit claims across English regions, double the lowest rate found in the South East.

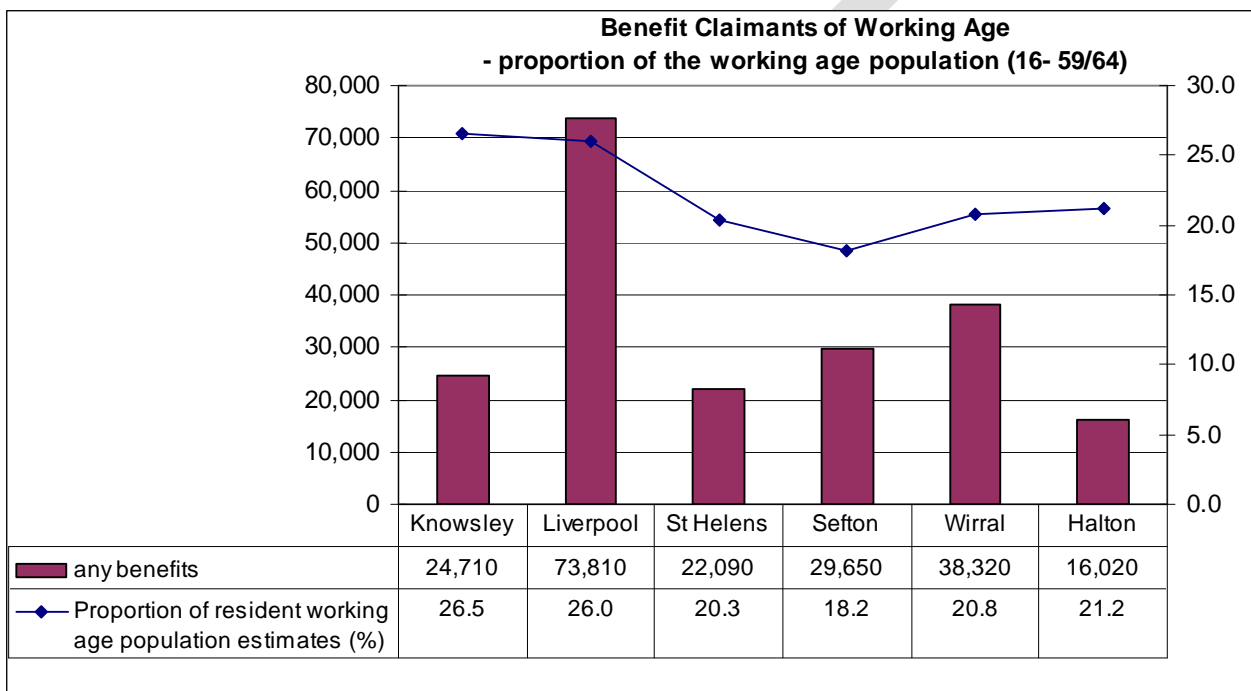
The region has much higher level of claimants, especially of Incapacity Benefit...

- 37 A significant proportion of the working age people within the region who are not in work will be claiming out of work benefits.

The number of people claiming out of work benefits remains very high in the region in general and continues to be highly concentrated amongst certain benefits...

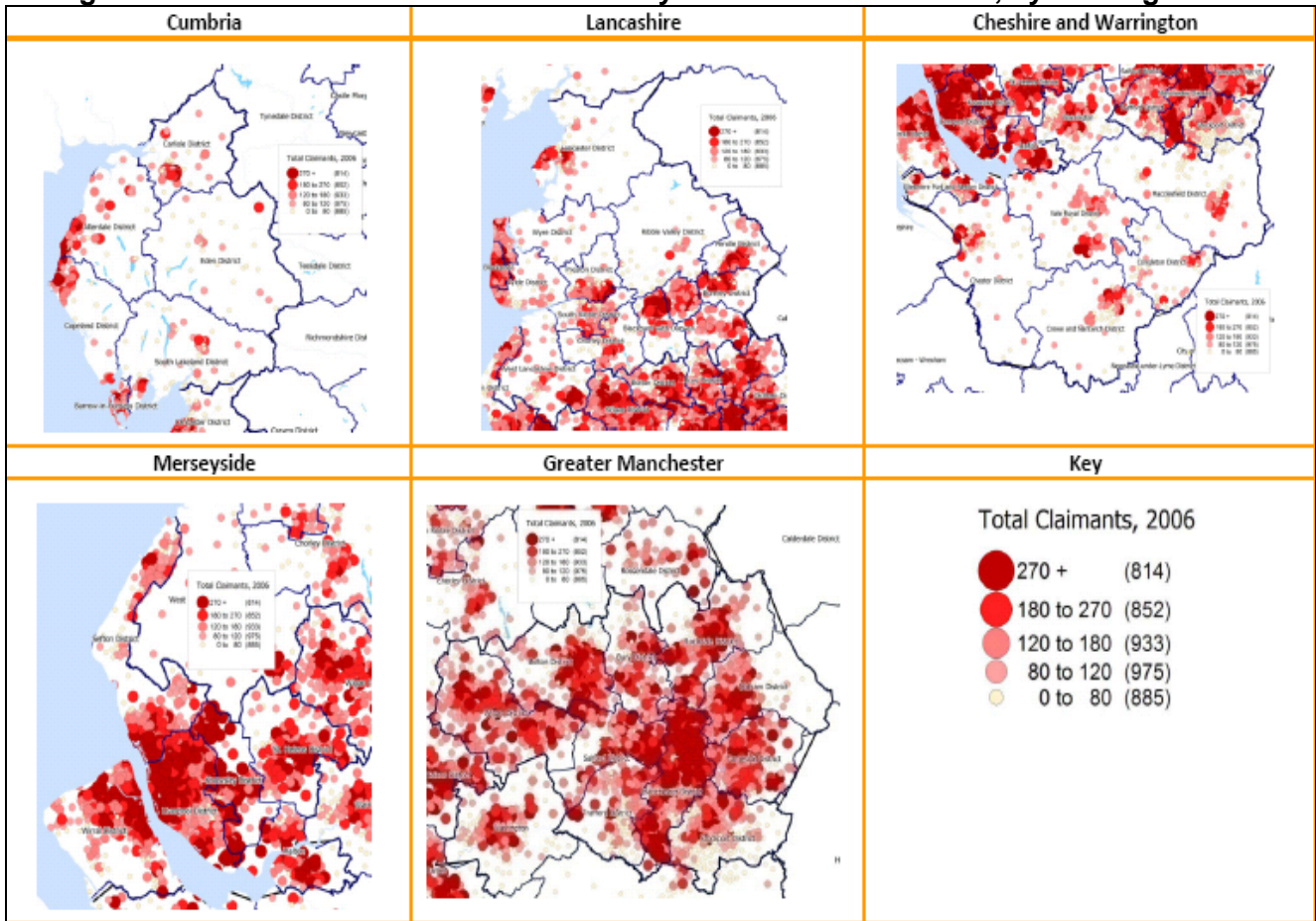
- 38 In 2008 there were around **736,700 people in the region claiming out of work benefits, which is 17.4% of the working age population**, (compared to 13.6% for the UK as a whole). This is around 110,000 more people claiming these benefits than if the region met the UK average. The majority of these were claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) (398,160 or 9.4% of the working age population).
- 39 **Greater Merseyside has a much lower proportion of working age people claiming some type of benefit, in comparison to the regional position (24% compared to 18%)**. This is equivalent to 204,600 were claiming some type of benefit.
- 40 Highest benefit claimants are in Knowsley, representing 26.5 per cent of the working age population, lowest claimants were in Sefton and Wirral.

Figure 12: Benefit Claimants as Proportion of the Working Age Population.



Source: Benefit claimant data - DWP via NOMIS, February 2008. Notes benefits include: carers allowance; disability living allowance; incapacity benefit; income support (IS)/pension credit (PC); job seekers allowance; severe disablement allowance; widows benefit and other combinations.

Figure 13: Distribution of Total Claimants by SOA in the North West, by sub-region



Workless People: how we engaged with our priority groups?

- 41 A key constraint upon the economic performance of the North West, and the key locations within it, is the extent of worklessness⁴ in the region.
- 42 Despite the steady increase in the region's overall employment rate (closing the gap with England as the rate has risen from 70.5% in 1997 to 72.5% in 2007), **the NWDA's most recent economic analysis suggests the region's lower employment rate accounts for £4bn of the region's current £17bn output gap with England.**
- 43 The numbers of young people and adults that are not engaged in any form of employment, or are unable to work for varying reasons creates significant gaps in the local and regional economy.
- 44 Overall there is a clear pattern of lower attainment of the economically inactive population compared to the active. **72.2 per cent of the working age active population are qualified to level 2 (2.2 million with L2) and only 19.5 per cent of the economically inactive population have the same qualification (202,000 with L2).**

In developing services to tackle worklessness⁵, account needs to be taken of the higher levels of economic activity amongst certain groups in society.

⁴ The Social Exclusion Unit (2004) describes worklessness as including "people who are unemployed or economically inactive, and who are in receipt of working age benefits."

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Characteristics of Key Client Groups

- 45 **Worklessness continues to be heavily concentrated amongst particular groups....**there are a range of socio-economic groups which are recognised as suffering labour market disadvantage in general and this is likely to be reflected in **lower employment rates and higher rates of benefit claiming.**
- 46 The circumstances and characteristics of key client groups: **Offenders; Lone Parents; People from Ethnic Minority Groups (BME); Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD); People from Deprived Areas and Older Jobseekers (aged 50+) are outline in the following section.**

Offenders

- 47 55 per cent of all ex-offenders are economically inactive in the region. This has huge implications, as often they have multiple barriers to overcome before being available to the labour market.
- 48 Offender Learning and Skills and Employability Skills Programmes will continue to contribute to overall performance of the skills for employability agenda.
- 49 LSC has approved **capital investment of £950,000** in the learning and skills departments of prisons and probation.
- 50 Coming on top of a recent ICT Refresh investment of £1.8 m in North West prisons this is a significant change which will improve delivery of learning and skill to offenders. A further investment of capital in prisons for young offenders and young adult offenders has just commenced.

Lone Parents

- 51 Analysis of the Lone Parents statistical group in the region indicates that 94,340 are claiming some type of benefit, over 80 per cent of which are claiming income support (IS)/pension credit (PC) (83,060), this is equivalent to 2.2 per cent of the working age population.
- 52 **Greater Merseyside has 28,250 lone parents claiming any type of benefit, which represents approximately 3.4 per cent of the working age population, this compares to a regional share of 2.4 per cent.**
- 53 The Greater Merseyside breakdown by local authority district indicates, that Knowsley and Liverpool have a higher proportion of lone parent claimants, this was reflected in overall benefits and the proportion of economically inactivity.

Figure 14: Grt Merseyside Lone Parent Benefit Claimants

	Lone Parents Claiming Any Benefit	% of Working Age Population
Knowsley	3,970	4.3
Liverpool	10,510	3.7
St Helens	2,820	2.6
Sefton	3,400	2.1
Wirral	5,290	2.9
Halton	2,260	3.0

Source: Benefit claimant data - DWP via NOMIS. Notes benefits include: carers allowance; disability living allowance; incapacity benefit; income support (IS)/pension credit (PC); job seekers allowance; severe disablement allowance; widows benefit and other combinations.

People from Ethnic Minority Groups

54 Seven per cent of the region are from a ethnic minority group, this proportion varies significantly by Local LSC area with Greater Merseyside having over 3 per cent.⁶

Figure 15: Population breakdown by Ethnicity

Ethnicity (%)	Cheshire & Warrington & Cumbria						
	England	NW Region	Gtr Manchester	Gtr Merseyside	Lancashire	Warrington	Cumbria
% of white - working age	88.5	93.0	89.3	96.6	91.7	97.8	97.4
% of mixed ethnic group	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.8
% of Indian	2.5	1.2	1.4	0.4	4.5	0.0	0.6
% of Pakistani/Bangladeshi	2.3	2.6	4.1	0.4	8.9	0.6	!
% of Black or Black British	2.7	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.1	0.1	!
% of other ethnic group	3.1	1.6	2.3	1.4	2.4	0.2	!

Source: Census 2001.

55 Available data indicates that 36,000 (4.0%) the working age population are from a Black or Ethnic Minority Group.

Figure 16: Grt Merseyside % of People from Ethnic Minority Groups

	% of BME - working age	% of Working Age Population	Proportion (%)
Knowsley	1,300	93,000	1.4
Liverpool	25,300	279,900	9.0
St Helens	2,900	160,400	1.8
Sefton	1,600	108,600	1.5
Wirral	4,000	182,800	2.2
Halton	900	75,400	1.2
Grt Merseyside	36,000	900,100	4.0%

Source: Annual Population Survey 2007. (Note ! Estimate and confidence interval not available since the group sample size is zero or not able to disclose (0-2)).

56 The employment rate of the Greater Merseyside working age BME communities is 54.2 per cent (19,500). Employment rates between sub-regions range from 84.1 per cent (2,500) in Sefton to 50.7 per cent (12,800) in Liverpool.

57 Economic inactive amongst BMEs of working age stands at 37.1 per cent in the region, which is equivalent to 110,400 people. Greater Merseyside has 30.3 per cent of economic inactivity amongst BMEs of working age (10,100).

Figure 17: Working Age Employment Rate - BMEs

	working age employment rate - BMEs	% BME of Working Age Population	Proportion (%)
Knowsley	1,000	1,300	77.7
Liverpool	12,800	25,300	50.7
St Helens	1,100	1,600	65.6

⁶ This may be more significant as the data is based upon Census 2001.

Sefton	2,500	2,900	84.1
Wirral	2,100	4,000	53.1
Halton	~	900	51.4
Grt Merseyside	19,500	36,000	54.2

Source: Annual Population Survey 2007. (Note ! Estimate and confidence interval not available since the group sample size is zero or not able to disclose (0-2)).

Adult Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (including those with Mental Health problems)

- 58 People with disabilities are twice as likely to have no qualifications.
- 59 Nationally, the rate of economic inactivity for people with a disability is significantly higher than for the population average. This is a particular issue in the North West, which has an inactivity rate for people with a disability of 51.9 per cent, 7.3 percentage points above the national average.
- 60 The North West has the second highest rate of people with LDD (23.6%). There are 19,624 adult learners (19+) in Further Education who have declared that they have a learning difficulty and/or disability in the region, this is a decline of 3,429 learners since F05 2006/07 (23,053).
- 61 Declaration of LDD has decreased across all partnership team areas between 2005/06 and 2006/07, which was reflected by the overall fall in the proportion of adult learners on programme.

Figure 18: Adult Learners Responsive (19+) with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

Partnership Team	Number of Enrolments	LLDD	YEAR		
			2005/06 F05	2006/07 F05	2007/08 F04
Halton	Learners with LDD		1,764	1,199	935
	Learners without LDD		8,809	4,928	4,223
	No Information Provided		35	6	3
Halton Total			10,608	6,133	5,161
Knowsley	Learners with LDD		973	672	611
	Learners without LDD		16,587	9,905	8,269
	No Information Provided		304	190	130
Knowsley Total			17,864	10,767	9,010
Liverpool	Learners with LDD		6,549	4,136	2,816
	Learners without LDD		28,121	19,871	13,147
	No Information Provided		637	508	480
Liverpool Total			35,307	24,515	16,443
Sefton	Learners with LDD		2,409	1,530	1,248
	Learners without LDD		19,266	10,932	7,867
	No Information Provided		3,655	1,324	245
Sefton Total			25,330	13,786	9,360
St. Helens	Learners with LDD		1,106	600	490
	Learners without LDD		13,280	6,407	5,164
	No Information Provided				1
St. Helens Total			14,386	7,007	5,655
Wirral	Learners with LDD		2,421	1,745	1,410
	Learners without LDD		10,674	10,314	8,573
	No Information Provided		10,237	3,935	3,932
Wirral Total			23,332	15,994	13,915
Grand Total			126,827	78,202	59,544

People from Deprived Areas (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007)

- 62 The Index of Deprivation 2007 is calculated by collecting data on seven main topic areas or domains, each measuring a different aspect of deprivation. Areas may be counted as deprived in one or more of the domains depending on the number of types of deprivation that they experience.
- 63 Results from the seven domains are combined to give an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation. The domains do not contribute equally to the overall IMD; the weightings used are Income Deprivation (22.5%), Employment Deprivation (22.5%) Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%), Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (9.3%), Barriers to Housing and services (9.3%), Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%), Crime (9.3%)
- 64 Northwest Local Authorities feature in the worse performing 50 authorities in England (according to rank). **Liverpool remains the worst performing district nationally, whilst both Manchester and Knowsley feature in the bottom 10 despite improving their position since the IMD 2004.**
- 65 **All districts in Greater Merseyside have either improved on there rank score or maintained their position from 2004/ 2007.**

Figure 19: IMD 2007 – Full North West District Ranking (change 2004/ 2007)

LA Name	2004 Score	2004 Rank	2007 Score	2007 Rank	Score Difference	Rank Difference
Liverpool	49.78	1	46.97	1	-2.81	0
Manchester	48.91	2	44.5	4	-4.41	2
Knowsley	46.57	3	43.2	5	-3.37	2
Blackpool	33.91	24	37.66	12	3.75	-12
Salford	38.19	12	36.51	15	-1.68	3
Blackburn with Darwin	32.28	34	35.83	17	3.55	-17
Burnley	31.83	37	34.61	21	2.78	-16
Rochdale	33.69	25	33.89	25	0.2	0
Barrow-in-Furness	32.98	29	32.69	29	-0.29	0
Halton	34.29	21	32.61	30	-1.68	9
Hynburn	28.53	58	30.91	40	2.38	-18
Oldham	30.73	43	30.82	42	0.09	-1
Pendle	27.59	71	30.24	44	2.65	-27
St.Helens	31.95	36	29.82	47	-2.13	11
Preston	28.47	59	29.78	48	1.31	-11
Bolton	29.41	50	29.67	51	0.26	1
Tameside	29.81	49	28.78	56	-1.03	7
Wirral	30.06	48	27.9	60	-2.16	12
Wigan	29.26	53	26.91	67	-2.35	14
Copeland	25.67	84	25.73	78	0.06	-6
Sefton	26.12	78	25.13	83	-0.99	5
Rossendale	24.05	92	24.23	92	0.18	0
Carlisle	22.2	108	22.7	110	0.5	2
Lancaster	22.25	107	21.94	117	-0.31	10
Allerdale	22.92	105	21.63	119	-1.29	14

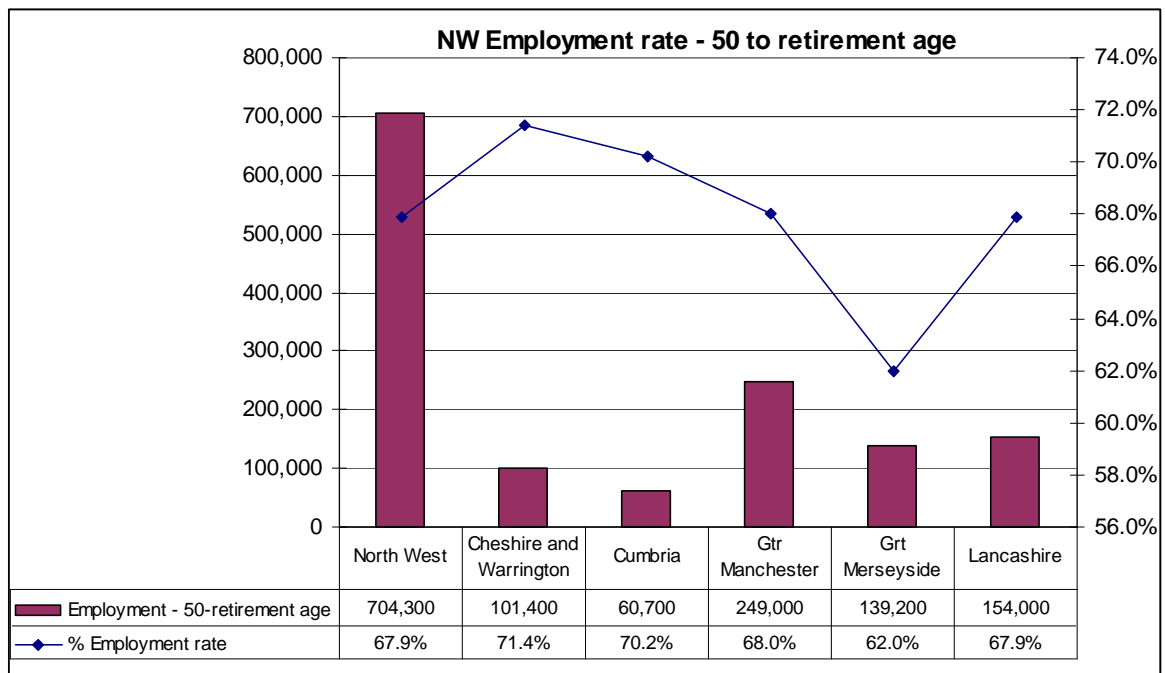
LA Name	2004 Score	2004 Rank	2007 Score	2007 Rank	Score Difference	Rank Difference
Bury	23.53	97	21.42	122	-2.11	25
West Lancashire	21.07	127	20.4	141	-0.67	14
Ellesmere Port & Neston	19.8	141	19.92	147	0.12	6
Stockport	18.06	159	18.06	161	0	2
Warrington	19.39	147	17.89	165	-1.5	18
Wyre	17.77	161	17.7	170	-0.07	9
Crewe & Nantwich	17.09	174	17.45	174	0.36	0
Trafford	20.15	136	17.33	178	-2.82	42
Chester	17.03	178	16.86	184	-0.17	6
Chorley	17.15	172	16.56	188	-0.59	16
Vale Royal	17.06	176	16.18	196	-0.88	20
Eden	15.7	200	14.64	221	-1.06	21
South Ribble	13.95	229	14.1	233	0.15	4
Fylde	13.06	240	12.86	251	-0.2	11
South Lakeland	12.01	258	11.67	267	-0.34	9
Macclesfield	11.13	276	10.67	290	-0.46	14
Ribble Valley	10.34	288	10.07	302	-0.27	14
Congleton	9.51	305	9.86	303	0.35	-2

Source: IMD 2004/ 2007.

Older Jobseekers (50-retirement)

- 66 The employment rate is 72.4 per cent for the region, which is lower than the national trend of 74.4 per cent.
- 67 **For adults in the 50 to retirement age, the North West rate is 67.9 per cent, well below the England average of 71.4 per cent.**
- 68 Overall Grt Merseyside has the lowest employment rate for 50+ at 62 per cent and Cheshire & Warrington the highest at 71.4 per cent. The employment rate varies in the sub-regions from Knowsley at 57.4 per cent to 74.7 per cent in Stockport.
- 69 The ability to retain these older workers in the labour force will depend on the strength of labour demand, but also on increasing awareness of the opportunities amongst workers and employers.

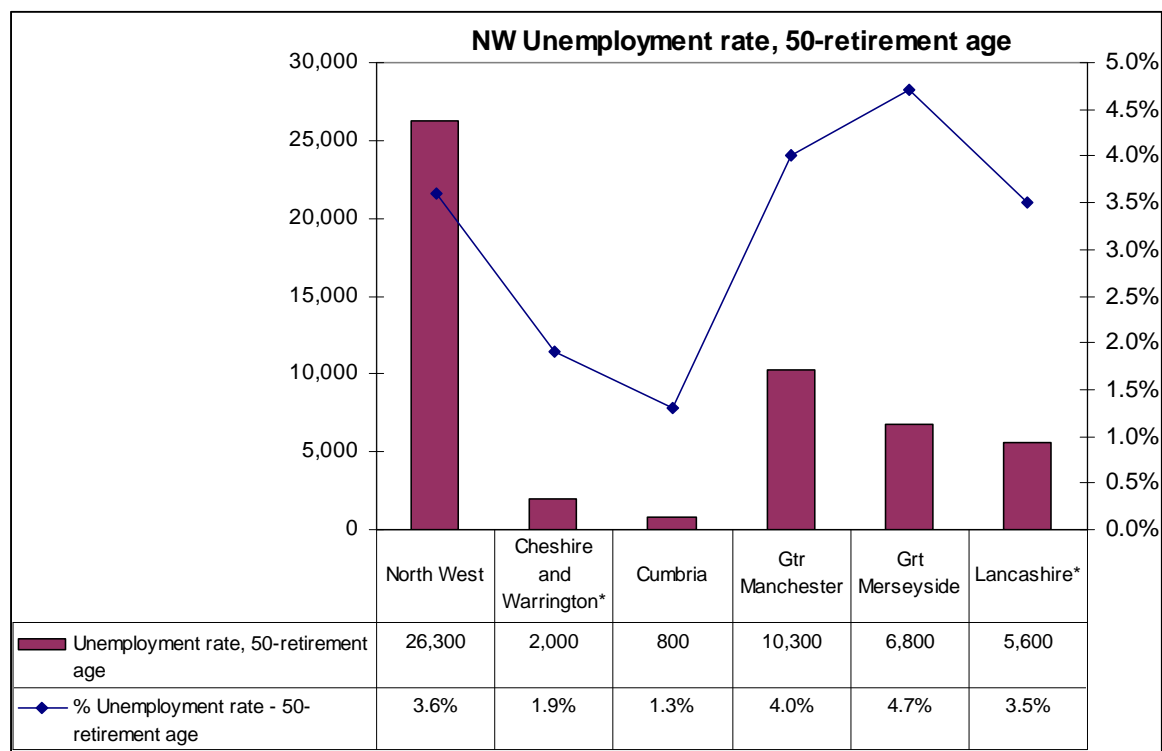
Figure 20: Regional Employment Rate: 50 to retirement age



Source: Annual Population Survey 2007.

- 70 The North West rate of economic inactivity for people ages 50 to retirement age is above the England average.
- 71 The number of people aged over 50 with no qualification is relatively high at 25% and make up around a third of the total (250,000).
- 72 The unemployment rate for 50-retirement stood at 3.6 per cent or 26,300 people, Figure 21 for more detail.
- 73 While the lack of skills will be a barrier to employment amongst this group, it overlaps with other issues which limit employment (e.g. including mental and behavioural difficulties, record of offending etc).
- 74 It is also likely that over time, an **increasing number of people will remain in employment post retirement age**. It is likely that some retraining of these older groups will be needed to meet skills needs and this has implications for the future pattern of training delivery, with lower demand for full time provision, and increased demand for flexible part-time or work based provision.

Figure 21: NW Unemployment rate - 50-retirement age



Source: Annual Population Survey 2007. (note* Estimate is less than 500; Blackpool, Warrington,).

Over 50 to retirement Age - Attitudes towards learning⁷

75 Of the differences noted among particular groups of customers, age was the factor that most clearly differentiated the views of Jobcentre Plus customers towards the Leitch recommendations. This is partly due to the variations in the type of programmes and the access to training that are currently available to younger customers, but attitudes to training also vary with age. **'As people move towards retirement, they see less value in investing in training than younger people'**.

Key messages: Tackling Worklessness focusing on priority groups

1. economically inactive population and those with no qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key challenge of enabling workless people back into sustained employment.
2. Lone parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lone parents significant variation in the sub-region
2. Offenders 3. Ex-offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of information available on this client group, making it difficult to quantify the multiple barriers faced by offenders.
4. BME Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple barrier; lower employment rates and economic inactivity rates
5. Older Job Seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * Adult Advancement & Careers Service – link to the challenges that this new services will face given different client groups (i.e. as above older worker least flexible and less open to change).
7. Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the North West, which has an inactivity rate for people with a disability of 51.9 per

⁷ NW Skills for Employability Study 2008.

Key messages: Tackling Worklessness focusing on priority groups

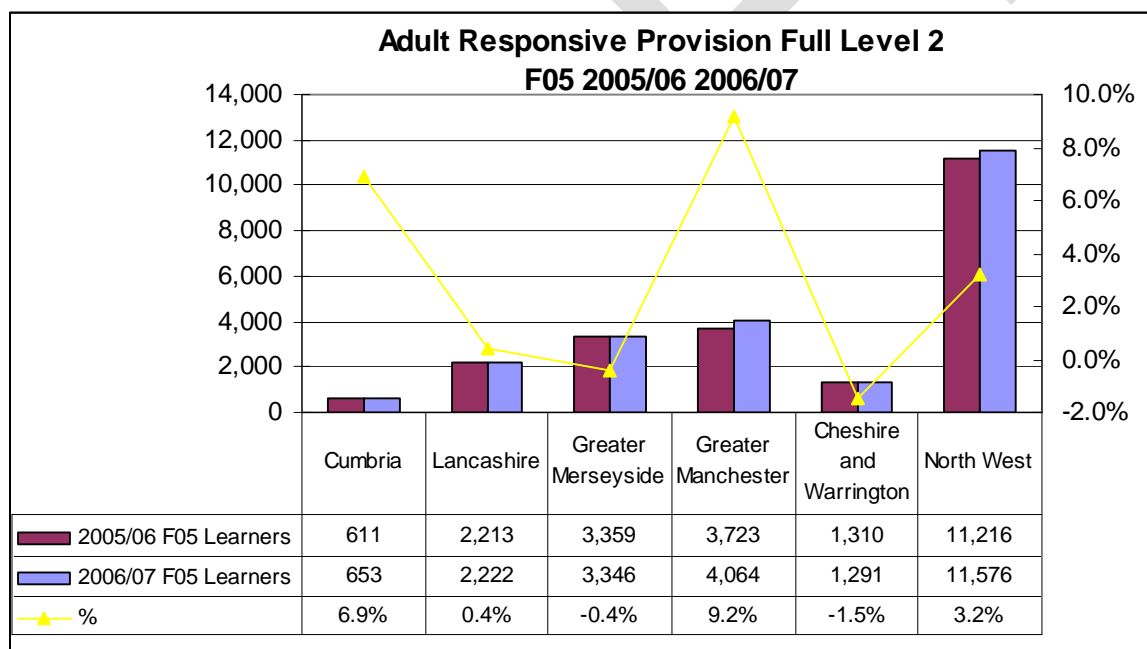
cent, 7.3 percentage points above the national average.

Adult Responsive Full Level 2

PSA Indicator 2: By 2011 we should be aiming for 79 per cent of adults qualified to at least Full Level 2

- 76 The latest figures from the Annual Population Survey indicates that 67.7 per cent of the region's working age population⁸ has a Level 2 qualification: similar to the national level of 68.9 per cent.
- 77 This analysis will review learner volumes with regard to Adult Learner Responsive Provision: **Adult Level 2, Adult Level 2, Skills for Life, OLASS, Adult Safeguarded Learning, Developmental Learning and IAG.**
- 78 Trends in adult responsive provision indicate that just over 26,082 learners continue to study a full level 2 qualification in 2007/08.
- 79 Adult responsive provision has continued to fall and this is reflected by the continued growth in employer responsive provision.

Figure 22: NW Adults Responsive Full Level 2 Provision



Source: 19+ Learner Responsive provision within FE, F05 2005/06, 2006/07.

- 80 The split for Grt Merseyside provides the latest position split by local authority district, which indicates approx 60 per cent of Full Level 2 provision is based in Liverpool, Sefton and St. Helens.

Figure 23: Grt Merseyside Adult Responsive Full Level 2

2007/08			Proportion of overall % of Full Level 2
	Number of Learners	Full level 2 learners	
Halton	2,872	128	3.6%
Knowsley	5,405	573	16.1%

⁸ qualification held by population aged 19-59/64.

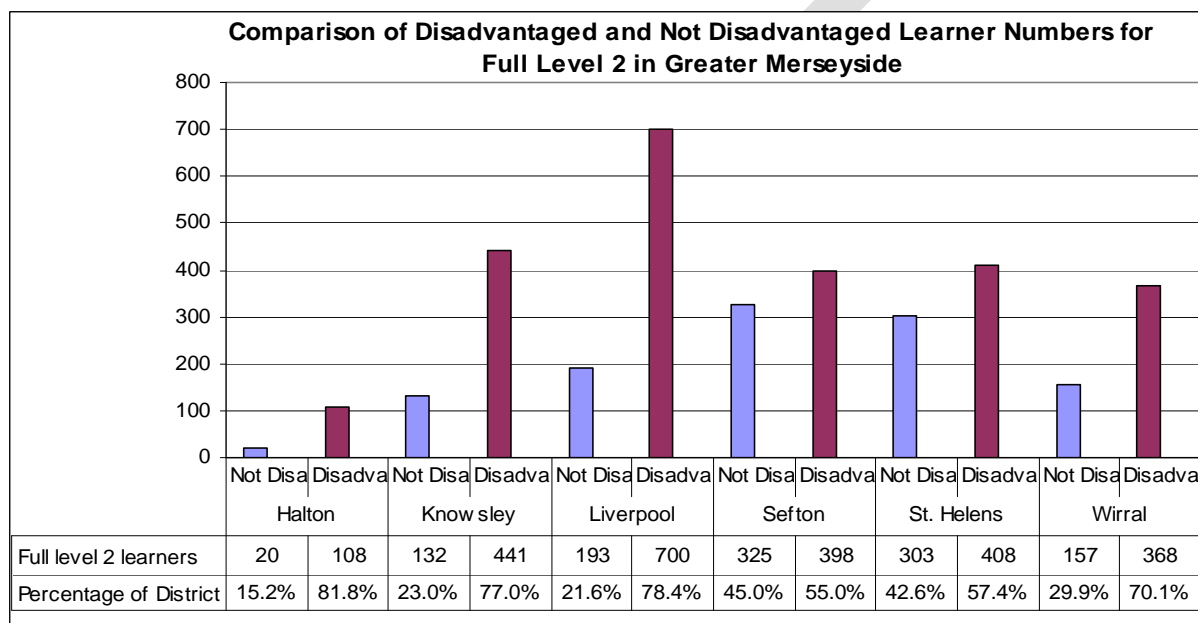
Liverpool	9,398	893	25.1%
Sefton	5,485	723	20.3%
St. Helens	4,025	711	20.0%
Wirral	8,162	525	14.8%
Grt Merseyside	35,347	3,553	100.0%

Source: 19+ Learner Responsive provision within FE, 2007/08 F04.

81 Of the 35,347 adult learner, there were 3,553 who were studying a Full Level 2, the breakdown by disadvantage is provided in

82 Figure 24, with the majority of learners resident in non-disadvantaged areas.

Figure 24: Adult Responsive Full Level 2 by Disadvantage



Source: 19+ Learner Responsive provision within FE, 2007/08 F04.

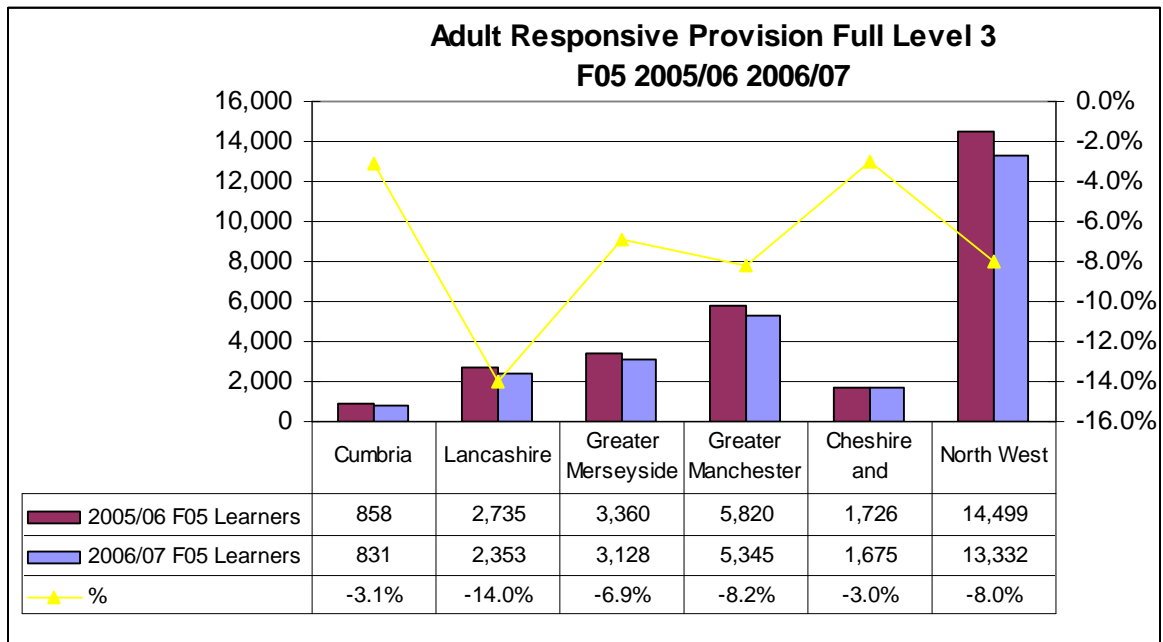
Adult Level 3

PSA Indicator 3: By 2011 we should be aiming for 56 per cent of adults qualified to at least Full Level 3

83 The latest figures from the Labour Force Survey indicates that 46.8 per cent of the region's working age population had a Level 3 qualification: slightly below the national position of 49.0 per cent.

84 Adult Learner Responsive provision at Full Level 3 indicates that over 13,332 learners continued to study for a Full Level 3 (a fall of 8 percentage points from 2005/06). In 2005/06 this stood at 14,449 learners.

Figure 25: NW Adults Responsive Full Level 3 Provision



Source: 19+ Learner Responsive provision within FE, F05 2005/06, 2006/07.

85 The split for Greater Merseyside provides the latest position (F04) split by Local Authority District.

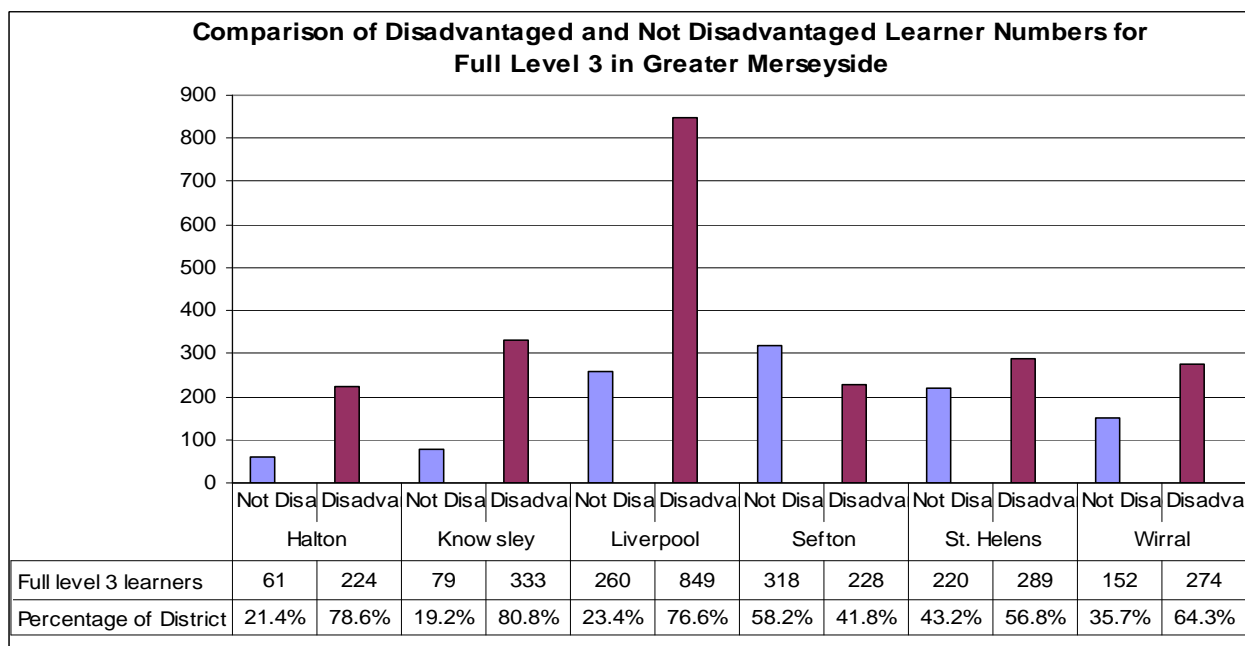
Figure 26: Grt Merseyside Adults Responsive Full Level 3 Provision

2007/08			
	Number of Learners	Full level 3 learners	Proportion of overall %
Halton	2,872	285	8.7%
Knowsley	5,405	412	12.5%
Liverpool	9,398	1,109	33.7%
Sefton	5,485	546	16.6%
St. Helens	4,025	509	15.5%
Wirral	8,162	426	13.0%
Grt Merseyside	35,347	3,287	100.0%

Source: 19+ Learner Responsive provision within FE, 2007/08 F04.

86 There are 3,287 learners studying for a Full Level 3 qualification with the split between disadvantage/ non-disadvantage provided in Figure 27.

Figure 27: Adult Responsive Full Level 3 by Disadvantage



Source: 19+ Learner Responsive provision within FE, 2007/08 F04.

How to achieve the PSA Skills for Life ambition?

Skills for Life

- 87 The national Skills Strategy in April 2001 outlined the challenge “to improve the basic skills levels of 2.25 million adults (aged 16 and over) between 2001 and 2010”.
- 88 The region has made significant progress on this target and achieved the 2007 milestone by 200 per cent (2,276,000 by July 2008), but there is no room for complacency, given the challenges of the new Skills for Life target.
- 89 From August 2008, the LSC adopted the Leitch PSA target for Skills for Life. This target is that by 2020: **95 per cent of adults should have basic functional literacy and numeracy skills**”. (Functional Skills are defined as entry 3 for numeracy and level 1 for literacy/ ESOL). Current baselines⁹ would suggest that in the North West the actual figure of **adults operating at these levels is 83% for literacy/ ESOL at level 1 and 75% for numeracy at entry level 3**.
- 90 To support this challenging target the LSC grant letter confirmed that the total funding for Skills for Life will increase from £946m currently to £1,018m by 2010/11 with most of this targeted at individual rather than employer based training. It also confirmed total potential numbers of adult learners in England for Skills for Life as rising from 1,147,000 in 2007/8 to 1,227,000 in 2010/11.

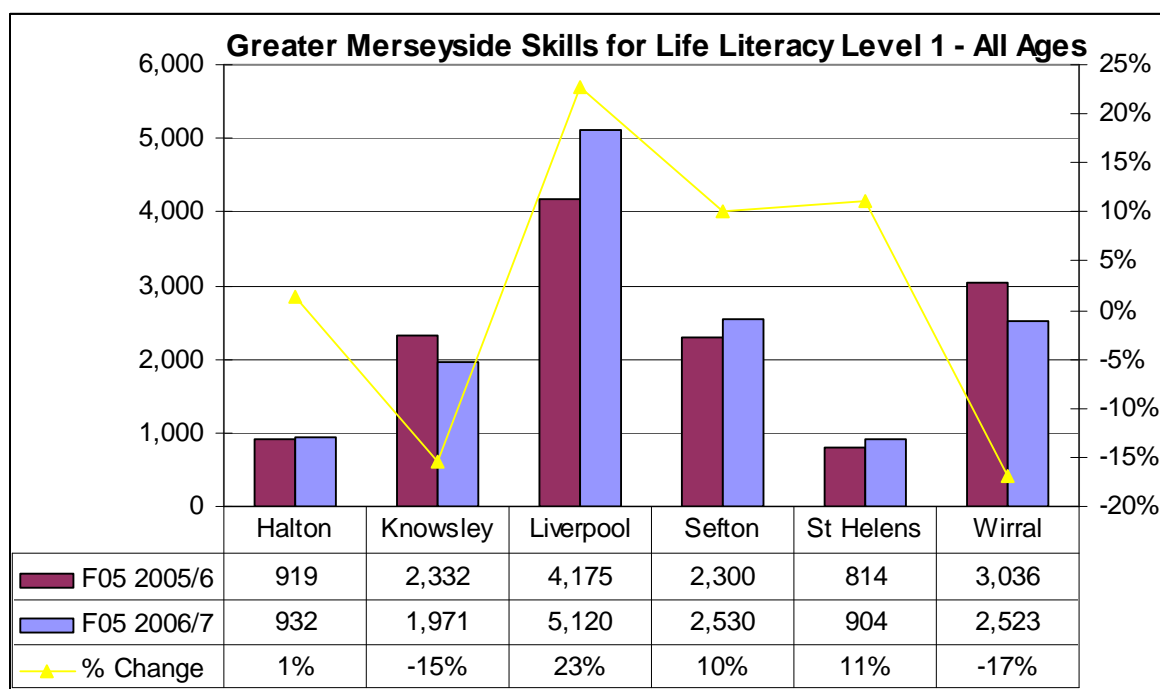
Regional Skills for Life Breakdown

The Skills for Life PSA target is based upon all ages (16-18 and 19+), the following charts also provide a position statement for the region as a whole for Literacy Level 1, ESOL, Level 1 and Numeracy Entry Level.

- 91 13,980 learners (all ages) were enrolled onto Skills for Life Literacy Level 1, which was a 3 per cent increase on the previous year. A further breakdown indicates that Liverpool contributed most significantly to SfL Literacy Level 1 from 4,175 to 5,120 (23% increase).

⁹ Only baseline data available (DfES 2003 Survey).

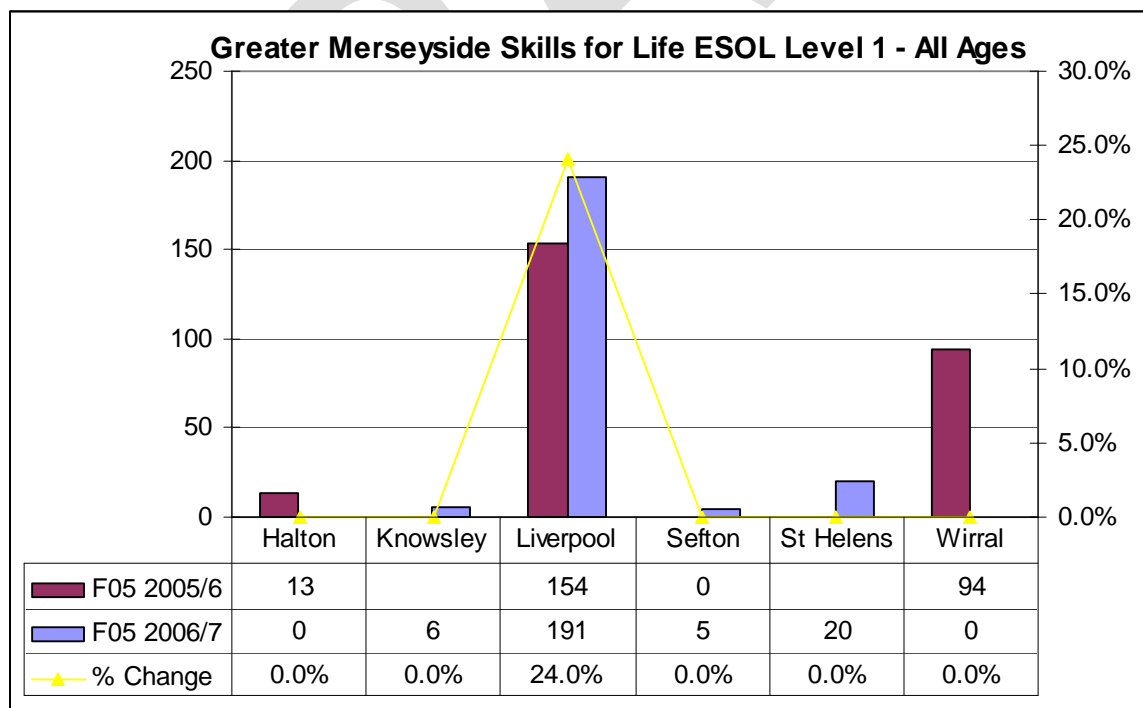
Figure 28: Grt Merseyside FE Skills for Life Literacy Level 1 (Skills for Life Target) all ages



Source: Residency, All Programmes, F05 2005/06, 2006/07.

92 In Grt Merseyside ESOL provision has declined from 263 to 226 (14% decline), a significant proportion of which is Liverpool (191).

Figure 29: Grt Merseyside FE Skills for Life ESOL Level 1 (subset of SfL Literacy L1 learners) all ages

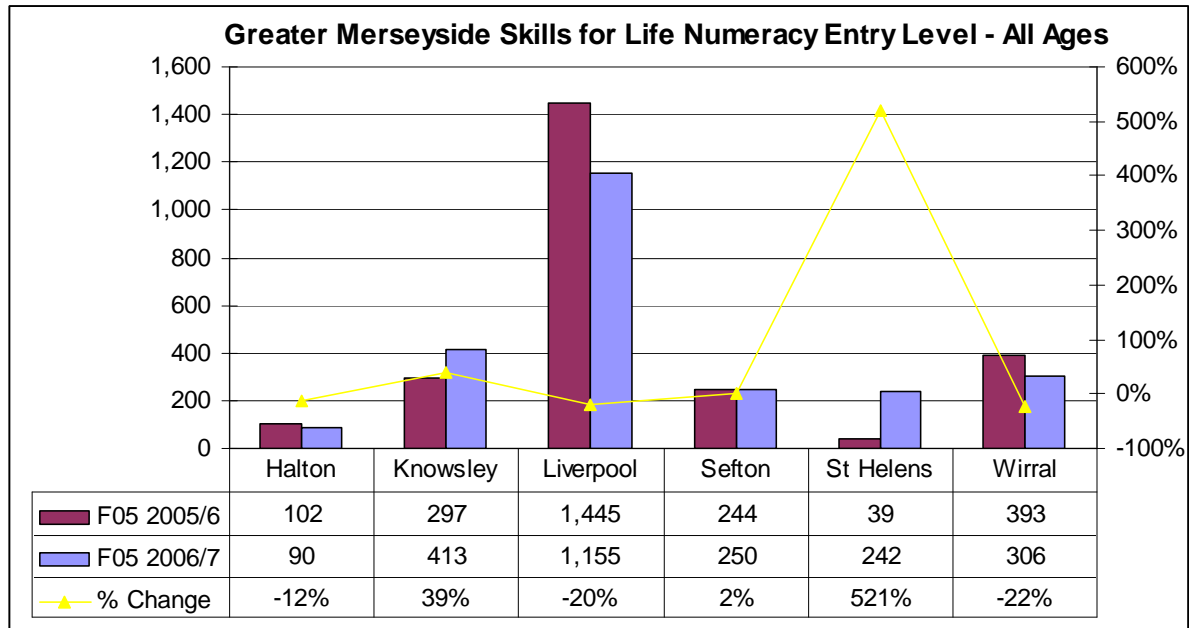


Source: Residency, All Programmes, F05 2005/06, 2006/07.

93 Numeracy volumes across Merseyside have fallen from 2,520 to 2,456 (3% decline). Knowsley and St. Helens have continued to grow provision, whereas Liverpool has experienced a slight decline from 1,445 to 1,115. Further review of provider

contribution to the PSA target would be welcomed if the PSA numeracy target is to be achieved.

Figure 30: Skills for Life FE Numeracy Entry Level (subset of S4L target) all ages



Source: Residency, All Programmes, F05 2005/06, 2006/07.

Skills for Life - Priorities for the Region

- 94 The National Audit Office (NAO) published; "Skills for Life: Progress in Improving Adult Literacy and Numeracy" on the 6th June 2008.
- 95 This document made a number of recommendations for the future focus for Skills for Life, the key areas of activity of which have been used as the framework for the **North West Skills for Life Implementation Plan**: (Full Plan [here](#)). The focus will be upon the following activity:
- 1. The need to deliver more numeracy provision.**
 - 2. Monitor the potential impact of other agendas including functional skills** (set to replace Skills for Life adult qualifications in 2013) and **the foundation learning tier,**
 - 3. Improve participation and achievement on Skills for Life programmes**
 - 4. Improve participation on Skills for Life programmes from priority groups,** including Jobcentre Plus clients and offenders,
 - 5. More support to encourage employers to invest in Skills for Life development** for their employees (including better use of Train to Gain)
 - 6. Increased engagement with the Third Sector** (voluntary and community organisations)
 - 7. Continue to invest in professional development of teaching staff.**
- 96 **Those with numeracy skills at Level 3 and above attract up to 13 per cent more earnings compared to those with lower skills levels.**
- 97 in response to this nationally, the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) has been commissioned by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), to work with key partners to develop a National Numeracy for Employability Strategy.

Why is there a need to focus on numeracy?

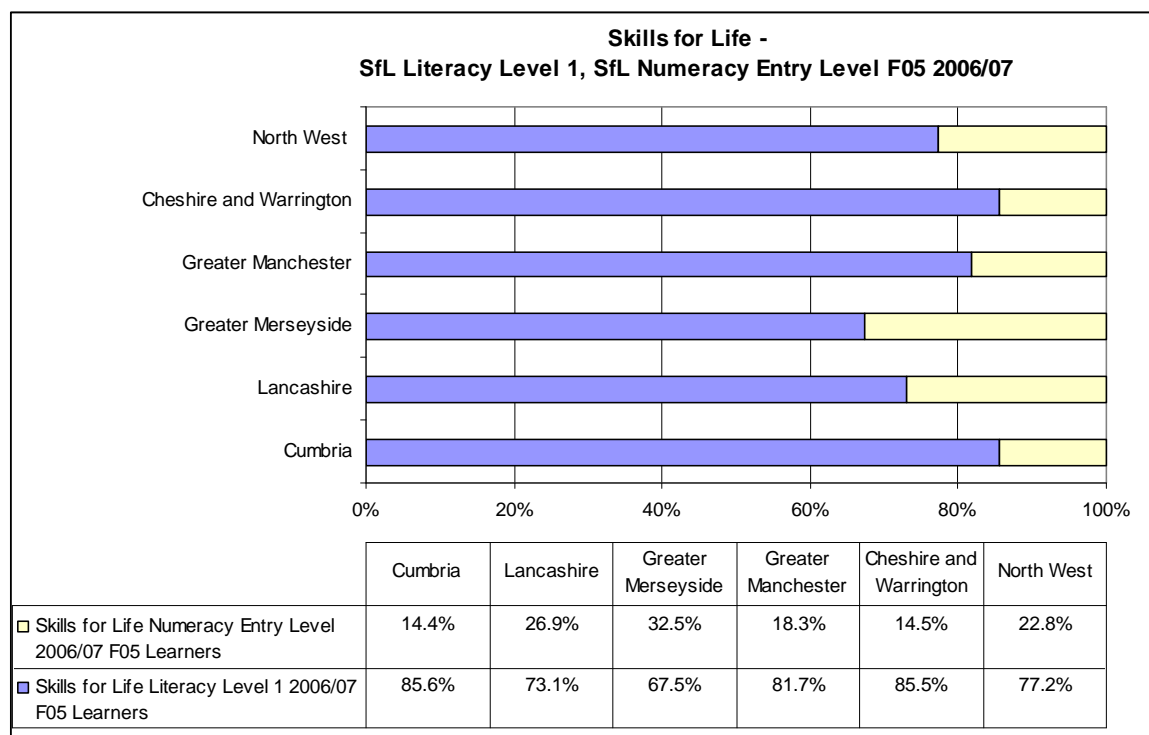
Evidence suggests:

- **Men aged 16- 37 with numeracy skills at Entry Level 3 are up to 8 per cent more likely to be economically active than men with lower skills. (Four Years On: Findings and messages for policy & practice, NRDC, 2006).**
- **For women the NRDC study showed that “while the impact of low level literacy and low numeracy is substantial, low numeracy has a greater negative effect.**
- **Employer surveys/ job requirements across a range of sectors and SSSA supported work on basic employability skills; all demonstrate the importance of good numeracy skills across a wide range of jobs and learning programmes.**
- **More than 6 in 10 of those in routine or semi-routine work had Entry Level 3 or lower numeracy skills.**

Skills for Life Regional Performance

- 98 North West providers have also achieved the aspirational benchmark of 80:20 – approved/target: non approved provision. In 2006-7 the balance and mix for the region was 82: 20. However this move may have affected the success rates for Skills for Life provision as approved qualifications are more difficult to achieve.
- 99 Success rates for the region indicate that all Skills for Life provision (all subjects, all levels, and all funding streams) **is 53%**. This is **below the national average of 57% and significantly below the DIUS aspiration of 70% to be achieved by 2010.**
- 100 Further support for providers will be needed to be put in place to ensure this position improves. In particular there needs to be an increased focus in *numeracy provision*, which historically has been in the shadow of literacy programmes.
- 101 In the North West there has been significant progress. The region achieved 108% of its 2001- 2004 Public Service Agreement (PSA) target.
- 102 The 2004-07 regional target for learner achievement was 109,670 and by August 2007 the North West had achieved 244, 329 (223%). The region has achieved a further 12,106 learner achievements in the first term of 2007-8.
- 103 A key issue is that the majority of this provision **was delivered at levels 1 and 2 and therefore more needs to be done to improve achievement of entry level provision**, especially as this is the functional level identified for numeracy.
- 104 It is estimated that a significant amount of achievements at levels higher than the functional levels identified by Leitch are “first” achievements and therefore will need to be captured when monitoring progress.
- 105 Current benchmarks suggest that 30% of level 2 achievements in literacy and ESOL are learners achieving for the first time and 50% of level 1 and level 2 achievements in numeracy are from learners achieving for the first time, and thus will be included as counting towards Leitch aspirations.
- 106 2006/07 the balance between learner volumes for literacy and numeracy is available below.

Figure 31: Skills for Life Balance 2006/07



Source: LSC FE ILR F05 2006/07.

Key messages: Progress in Improving Adult Literacy and Numeracy - the challenge of the PSA targets...

Issue:

Implication:

1. Numeracy is one of the biggest challenges. An estimated 6.8 million adults have numeracy skill levels below Entry Level (national).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is a large national interest in increasing the level of numeracy provision, the North West is developing a Numeracy Implementation Plan which will support the increase in numeracy achievements.
2. increase the volumes of adult functional skills – as the majority of provision is currently delivered at levels 1 and 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more needs to be done at entry level – as this is the functional level which has been identified for numeracy.
3. encourage employers to invest in Skills for Life development for their employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to continue to ensure that employers promote the importance of good numeracy skills across a wide range of jobs and learning programmes – by promoting the end benefits to their company.
4. continue to invest in professional development of teaching staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As demand for tutors increases more will need to be trained to achieve the delivery Target. We need to build the capacity required to support this learning.

Summary of Implications for education, training and skills:

1. The Policy Challenge: the contribution of the PSA target:

The qualifications of the region's workforce are a proxy for their skills. Although the region has increased its qualification profile, it has not managed to close the gap with England.

- **Level 2: In Greater Merseyside continued to improve in the qualification profile and has made good progress in terms of** young people and adults in obtaining this qualification (**61.5 per cent in 2005 to 63.8 per cent in 2007**), an increase of 2.3 per cent.
- **Level 3: In 2007 Greater Merseyside (42.0%)** is performing below the regional trend (46.8%). Despite this, **significant improve** has been made from 44.9 per cent in 2005 (2% increase). (Projections on Adult Level 2 and Level 3 see Employer Responsive report).

2. The Challenge of the PSA Skills for Life ambition

Regional analysis suggests that without any growth, the North West would achieve the Literacy/ ESOL Leitch PSA targets, however **the region would be 5,081¹⁰ achievements short for numeracy Leitch PSA targets.**

To encourage growth the learning and skills sector will need to encourage employers to invest in Skills for Life development for their employees.

- Skills for Life Literacy Level 1: Overall volumes in FE for the region were 64,387 in 2006/07, of which Greater Merseyside delivered 13,980. Modelled achievement counting towards First Level 1 or above in literacy in 2007/08 indicates that the region would have **to achieve 32,655 to maintain progress towards the projected 2011 PSA target for Skills for Life.**
- ESOL (sub-set of the Skills for Life) literacy level 1: **12 per cent of ESOL provision in the region is delivered by Greater Merseyside, over 80 per cent of which is from Liverpool.** Liverpool has increased by nearly a quarter from 154 in 2005/06 to 191 in 2006/07.
- Skills for Life First Entry Level 3 Numeracy: Overall volumes in FE for the region were 10,277 in 2006/07, of which Greater Merseyside delivered 2,456 (23% of the regional total). Modelled achievement counting towards First Entry Level 3 numeracy in 2007/08 indicates that the region would have **to achieve 12,629 to maintain progress towards the projected 2011 PSA target for Skills for Life.**

To support this PSA ambition an increase in the **volumes of adult functional skills is required, as the majority of provision is currently delivered at levels 1 and 2.**

3. How to support workless people and move them into sustainable jobs (specifically focusing on priority groups)

The LSC has a leading role to play in delivering the new integrated objective of sustainable employment and progression, working with the DWP and Jobcentre Plus.

Workless People: For the future prosperity of the region, there is a need to **get people who are currently economically inactive back into employment**, and particularly into jobs with **level 2 and above skills requirements.**

- In Greater Merseyside, 42.1 per cent (146,000) of the economically inactive are without a Level 2. For Liverpool this rises to 49.1 per cent.¹¹
- **Increased focus on reducing those who are workless will be a considerable challenge in Greater Merseyside given the high proportion of benefit claimants (204,600), which represents 24 per cent of the working age population.**

¹⁰ (Per year), modelling based upon Comprehensive Spending Review and a 14.5% share of the national target.

¹¹ Annual Population Survey 2005 (awaiting update from DCSF).

- For Greater Merseyside, the key groups that are likely to suffer disadvantages in the labour market **include: lone parents; offenders; older workers and some ethnic groups.**
- **The economic downturn and 'likely' recession will bring with it a number of challenges**, as inevitably there will be an increase in the number of JSA claimants, so partners will need to **shift focus on the short/ medium term jobless alongside the longer term unemployed.**

4. Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) contribution to the PSA agenda
The challenge is to continue to improve participation on Skills for Life programmes from priority groups (such as offenders and ex-offenders), given the challenging PSA targets. This becomes an even greater challenge as 'easier to reach' learners may be engaged and suggests that **more innovative and flexible ways of delivering programmes may be required to those 'hardest to reach'** but with the most need – especially offenders in the community.

- **Based on national data, 50 per cent of offenders are below level 1 and over half do not have any qualifications.**
- **800 offenders are released in the NW every quarter (approximately 75% will be workless on release).**

In response to this challenge, providers need to review current policies, recruitment practices and modes of delivery to provide opportunities for all- in partnership with the learning and skills sector.

5. Trends in Adult Learner Responsive Provision: Adult Level 2 & 3; Skills for Life and Adult Safeguarded Learning

Impact of Demographic Trends: The fall in 15- 19 year olds will impact on the supply of workers of this age, especially given that staying on rates in education have increased among these groups. This will have implications for those sectors and occupations which traditionally rely on young people for employment. **It may also increase the requirement for Level 2 qualified adults.**

As demand for level 2 increases from employers as the nature of the employment structure changes we need to continue to up skill the adult workforce.

Increase in the number of older people will be a key issue for the region and the ability of employers to meet their skill needs. The main implication of the ageing population in certain parts of the region is that **increased targeting** is needed on those aged 50+, both to **retain those already in work** and to **encourage and enable** those who are **currently not in the workforce to return to employment.**

Adult Full Level 2: The contribution of the learning and skills sector to the Adult Full Level 2 PSA target is crucial if we are to meet the expected future demand for skills. **Based upon modelling the target**, the growth required in Adult Full Level 2 provision is a real challenge. **In Greater Merseyside, the combined number of learners participating on employer responsive (3,468) and adult responsive (3,553) provision reached 7,021¹² Full Level 2 learners in 2007/08. Despite this growth in learners, modelling would suggest that 8,610 achievements are required in 2007/08 to maintain growth toward the PSA 2011 target.¹³**

Adult Full Level 3: The combined number of learners participating on employer responsive (1,921) and adult responsive (3,287) provision reached 5,20814 learners in 2007/08. Modelling for Greater Merseyside would suggest that 3,150 achievements

¹² ILRF04 return 2007/08.

¹³ Based on 21% share of regional target.

¹⁴ ILRF04 return 2007/08.

are required in 2007/08 to maintain growth toward the PSA 2011 target of the regional total of 15,000.¹⁵

DRAFT

¹⁵ Based on 21% share of regional target.