

North West Strategic Analysis

Lancashire Sub Regional Report

November 2007

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SECTION:1 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

1.1 Background and Purpose

- 1.1.1 In 2006 the NW Statement of Skills Priorities for the period 2007/08 to 2009/10 was published by the Regional Skills Partnership (RSP). The purpose of the Statement of Skills Priorities is to provide the region with a sound basis and rationale to guide the planning and purchasing of skills provision to meet the needs of employers and the economy in general. The Statement also articulates how the RSP will support the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy.
- 1.1.2 As part of the work, we have produced a Regional Strategic Analysis, which is the quantitative evidence base that underlies the NW Statement of Skills Priorities. It also acts as the evidence base for ESF prioritisation and supports the LSC planning cycle and the regional strategic commissioning document, which is due for completion in November 2007.
- 1.1.3 This report presents an updated version of the sub-regional Strategic Analysis or evidence base for Lancashire sub-region produced in 2006. It is primarily a quantitative report, with analysis conducted at the sub-regional and district level, where appropriate. Its purpose is to highlight the issues which are of particular importance for the area.

1.2 Policy Background

- 1.2.1 The Regional Strategic analysis sets out the national policy context and the recent focus on skills as being vitally important to improving productivity levels in the UK. This can be summarised as:
- Leitch;
 - Economic Development;
 - Worklessness
 - Economic development and skill priorities in the area.
- 1.2.2 The LSC's Statement of Priorities 2007 sets out our priorities and key actions 2008/09 to 2010/11. Our three national priorities are to:
- **Priority 1: Create Demand for Skills.** Collectively, we have to create a culture where young people, adults and employers demand skills and qualifications because they recognise the social and economic benefits that they bring.
 - **Priority 2: Transforming FE.** The last 18 months have seen some fundamental changes to the learning and skills landscape. Not only the publication of Lord Leitch's report on skills and the Government's response, but also the creation of two new departments – the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) – who share responsibility for learning and skills at all ages. One of the key developments arising from this is the intention to transfer 16–18 funding from the LSC to local authorities and the review of post-19 skills delivery. The Statement of Priorities sets out our duties up to that transfer coming into effect.
 - **Priority 3: Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives.** These changes represent a significant opportunity to put skills at the top of the political agenda and to

demonstrate how they contribute to wider government goals to reduce child poverty, promote social mobility, improve innovation and business productivity, and support higher levels of sustainable employment.

- The LSC has responded to this changing landscape in several ways and is set out in more detail in the Regional Strategic Analysis.

1.3 LSC Area Priorities

1.3.1 In addition to working towards national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) priorities, each Local LSC produces a Local Annual Plan that focuses on issues that are specific to their areas. For Lancashire, the Plan for 2007/08 highlights a number of local priorities and challenges to be addressed and these are set-out below:

Challenges for skills:

- Enhancing enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Skills in tourism and hospitality in Blackpool
- Construction related opportunities to support housing market renewal
- Retail and leisure developments
- Digital, information technology and science based industries
- Continuing to ensure necessary skills available for the aerospace sector
- Expansion in sectors that require higher rather than lower skills

Challenges for skills supply:

- Stimulating demand from workless and inactive residents
- Ensuring Skills for Life provision is accessible and contributes to the LSC target
- Making effective use of Train to Gain to ensure the workforce is upskilled and that it is integrated with employer facing provision in a responsive offer to meet employer needs
- Grow sub level 3 within Train to Gain and other Adult provision to meet the needs of individuals and employers
- Local infrastructure to increase the offer of full level 2 and 3 provision and increase its responsiveness to employers
- Ensure an increase in progression and take up of level 4 provision

Challenges for Young People:

- Working with Partners to segment our approach to tackling different client groups within the NEET cohort and addressing the high rates in 'hot spots'
- Taking action to ensure learners are retained and engaged in education and training at ages 17 and 18 and ensuring a range of vocational options are accessible for all young people
- Working to address the needs of those learners without a full Level 2 and using the Learning Agreement Pilot to target those in jobs without training
- Improve the participation of 16-18 year olds in Learning
- Develop Vocational Provision in particular Young Apprenticeships, Vocational Diplomas and Programme Led Pathways.

SECTION:2 ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

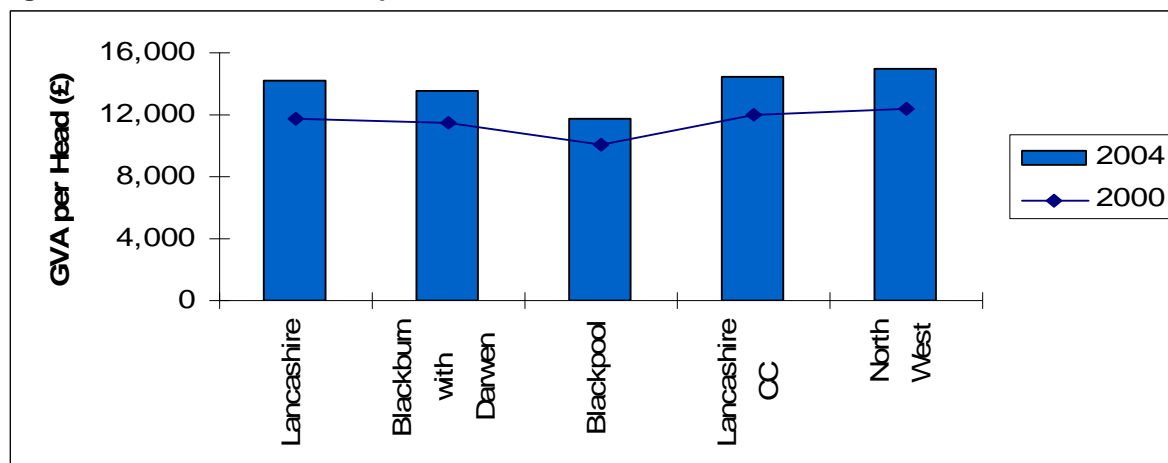
2.1.1 This section contains a brief description of the economic context in, focusing on productivity levels and two key drivers of productivity – enterprise and skills. Employment is covered in detail in chapter 3.

2.2 Productivity

2.2.1 Productivity in the economy is measured in terms of Gross Value Added – the value of the output produced. Gross Value Added per head gives an indication of the level of economic wealth of an area. Although GVA per head in the North West has increased substantially over the past six years, there remains a significant gap (14.3%) when compared to the England average. If levels of GVA per head could be raised to the England average, residents of the North West would be, on average, £2,593 better off than they are today.

2.2.2 In comparison to the North West and England the GVA per head in Lancashire is lower. It is below the regional level by 6% and 19% below the England average and the rate of growth has been slightly lower than the regional rate. The graph below shows GVA per head across the sub-region. Across the area, Lancashire County has the highest rate of GVA per head and has increased at a similar rate to the North West over the last four years. By comparison, Blackpool has the lowest rate of GVA per head and is 33% below the England average and has grown at a rate 1 percentage point below the regional average over the last four years.

Figure 1: Gross Value Added per Head 2000 and 2005



Source: NUTS3 ONS GVA

2.2.3 GVA per head is determined by a number of factors, including:

- The industrial base – much of the advantage that London possesses in terms of GVA per head is a result of its position as Europe's leading financial centre. GVA per head is particularly high in this sector, because of the high level of financial capital per employee;
- The relative size of the working age population compared to the dependent population;
- Activity levels within the working age population;
- The skills levels of those in employment; and

- The number of hours worked by those in employment.

2.3 Enterprise

2.3.1 An important determining factor in the economic success of an area is the level of enterprise, or the rate of new business start up. This is typically measured by the rate of new VAT registrations. The table below shows VAT registrations per 10,000 people in the North West. Lancashire as a whole continues to have a lower rate of new business start ups than the North West and England, and compared to the previous year there were a reduction in start-ups of 4%. Of the districts, Ribble Valley has by far the largest start up rate and well above the national rate. However, areas such as Blackpool, Burnley, Lancaster and Pendle have a rate roughly two thirds of the national rate.

Figure 2: Business Start Up Rate (New VAT Registrations) 2005

2005	New Starts		
	Total	Per 10,000 adult pop'	Per 10,000 working age pop'
England	155,635	39	51
North West	17,500	33	43
Lancashire	3,610	32	42
Blackburn with Darwen	360	35	43
Blackpool	290	26	35
Burnley	195	28	36
Chorley	295	37	47
Fylde	225	37	53
Hyndburn	190	30	39
Lancaster	260	24	31
Pendle	190	27	35
Preston	340	33	41
Ribble Valley	225	51	70
Rosendale	230	44	57
South Ribble	260	31	40
West Lancashire	290	34	44
Wyre	260	30	43

Source: NOMIS VAT Registrations, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

2.4 Summary Implications for the Learning Skills Sector.

2.4.1 Economic performance across the sub-region remains below the regional average. The gap in the productivity rate compared with the region and nationally persists. Despite increase in the rate annual of productivity growth this remains below the regional rate of growth. In addition, the rate of new firm formation remains low, and in absolute terms there were fewer start-ups compared to the previous year.

SECTION:3 THE DEMAND FOR SKILLS

3.1 Introduction

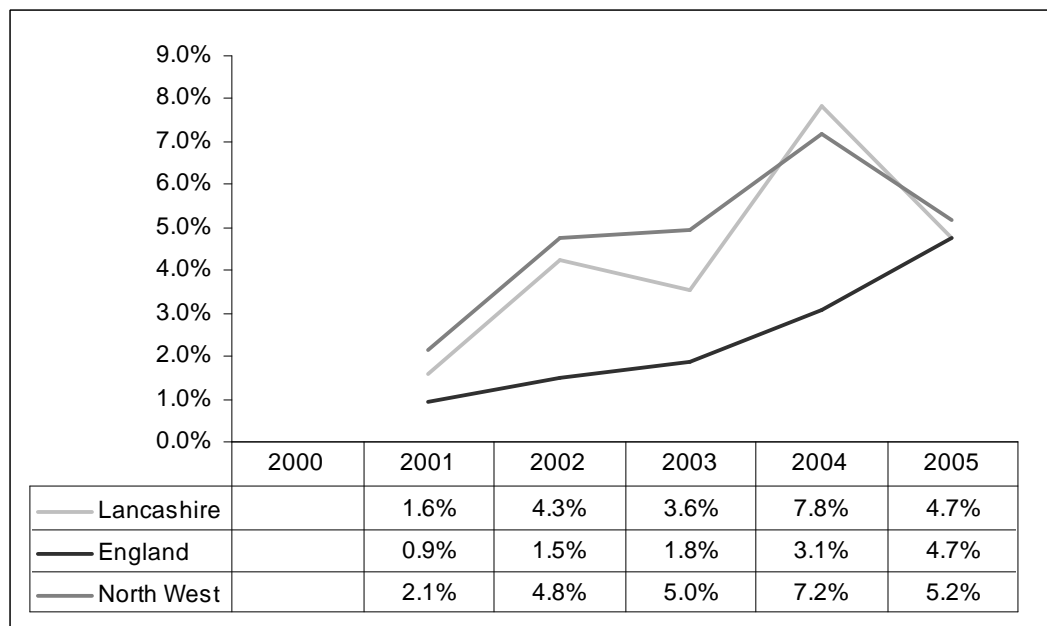
3.1.1 This chapter looks at the demand for labour in [insert area], both in terms of the volume of people needed for employment and the required occupation and skill levels. It considers:

- Historical changes in employment, and forecast changes;
- Employment levels within industrial sectors and geographies;
- The occupational structure of the workforce; and
- Economic development and skill priorities in the area.

3.2 Employment

3.2.1 The most recent figures on employment show that there are over 595,800 people employed in Lancashire, an increase of 27,000 since 2000. Over the last five years employment in the sub-region has grown by on average 1.1% per which was similar to regional and national levels.

Figure 3: Employment Growth 2000 to 2005



Source: *Annual Business Inquiry*, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

3.3 Employment by Sector

3.3.1 The changes in employment by sector since 2000 are shown in the table below. The sectors that continue to be of greatest significance (by employment numbers) in Lancashire are manufacturing (17.1% of workforce), retail (17.6%) and health & social work (14.1%).

Figure 4: Employment by Broad Industrial Group 2000 to 2005

	Lancashire				England	
	2000	Flags	2005	%	2005	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,300	0.1%	500	0.1%	50,100	0.2%
Manufacturing	127,200	17.1%	101,500	17.1%	2,545,900	11.2%
Construction	28,900	5.6%	33,100	5.6%	1,030,000	4.5%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair	96,200	17.6%	104,500	17.6%	4,041,800	17.8%
Hotels and restaurants	43,700	7.0%	41,400	7.0%	1,526,200	6.7%
Transport, storage and communica	27,100	4.1%	24,500	4.1%	1,403,000	6.2%
Financial intermediation	11,000	1.9%	11,200	1.9%	913,500	4.0%
Real estate, renting and business	56,600	11.7%	69,300	11.7%	3,983,600	17.6%
Public administration and defence	36,800	5.9%	34,800	5.9%	1,193,000	5.3%
Education	42,300	10.8%	63,800	10.8%	2,149,400	9.5%
Health and social work	69,300	14.1%	83,700	14.1%	2,669,500	11.8%
Other community, social and pers	25,800	4.2%	24,700	4.2%	1,175,200	5.2%
Column Total	566,200	100.0%	593,000	100.0%	22,681,200	100.0%

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

3.3.2 The table below shows the ten largest growing industry sectors in Lancashire between the years 2000-2005.

Figure 5: High Growth Industrial Sectors 2000 to 2005 (000)

Industry	2005	2000	% change	volume change
Air transport	21	11	90.9%	10
Real estate activities	2167	1349	60.6%	818
Other business activities	8000	5214	53.4%	2786
Water transport	12	8	50.0%	4
Sewage and refuse disposal, sanitation and similar activities	144	97	48.5%	47
Manufacture of office machinery and computers	43	31	38.7%	12
Post and telecommunications	483	354	36.4%	129
Electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply	27	20	35.0%	7
Education	1478	1104	33.9%	374
Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel	8	6	33.3%	2
Recycling	58	45	28.9%	13

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

3.3.3 In Lancashire air transport has shown the largest growth of 90.9 per cent between 2000 and 2005, equating to 10,000 employees. Unlike other sub-regions in the North West some areas of the manufacturing industry show substantial growth over the five year period. The manufacturing of office machinery has grown by 38.7 per cent, and the manufacturing of coke, refined petroleum has grown by 33.3 per cent.

3.3.4 The table below shows the ten industry sectors in Lancashire which have experienced the smallest growth rate between 2000 and 2005

Figure 6: Declining Industrial Sectors 2000 to 2005 (000)

Industry	2005	2000	% change	volume change
Mining of coal and lignite; extraction of peat	1	3	-66.7%	-2
Tanning and dressing of leather; manufacture of luggage, handbags, saddlery, harness and footwear	36	62	-41.9%	-26
Manufacture of wearing apparel; dressing and dyeing of fur	94	151	-37.7%	-57
Other mining and quarry	27	41	-34.1%	-14
Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas; service activities incidental to oil and gas extraction excluding surveying	2	3	-33.3%	-1
Manufacture basic metals	44	61	-27.9%	-17
Manufacture of pulp, paper and paper products	96	131	-26.7%	-35
Manufacture of textiles	233	306	-23.9%	-73
Forestry, logging and related service activities	28	34	-17.6%	-6
Insurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security	53	63	-15.9%	-10
Manufacture of transport equipment	72	84	-14.3%	-12

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

3.3.5 As the table above shows the mining of coals in Lancashire has seen the largest proportion of depletion, with a fall of -66.7 per cent between 2000 and 2005. As with the majority of the North West areas Lancashire has seen a substantial reduction in the manufacturing industry including; manufacturing of wearing apparel (-37.7 per cent) and the manufacturing of basic metals (-27.9 per cent).

3.4 Occupational Structure

3.4.1 The table below shows the number of people employed in different occupations in Lancashire in 2006, and compares this to the profile for England. The key difference is the lower proportion of professional and associate professional jobs in Lancashire than in England.

Figure 7: Employment by Occupational Group, 2006

	Lancashire		England	
	2006	%	2006	%
Managers and senior officials	87,400	13.5%	3,645,700	15.4%
Professional occupations	70,400	10.9%	3,114,300	13.1%
Associate prof & tech occupations	88,900	13.7%	3,425,400	14.4%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	84,700	13.1%	2,882,600	12.2%
Skilled trades occupations	77,700	12.0%	2,563,400	10.8%
Personal service occupations	60,200	9.3%	1,884,200	7.9%
Sales and customer service occupations	50,400	7.8%	1,807,100	7.6%
Process, plant and machine operatives	58,600	9.1%	1,702,300	7.2%
Elementary occupations	69,000	10.7%	2,692,500	11.4%
		100.0%		100.0%

Source: Annual Population Survey, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

Figure 8: Employment Change by Occupational Group, 2006

	Greater Merseyside		England	
	Difference 2004-2006	%	Difference 2004-2006	%
Managers and senior officials	-10,600	-12.1%	49,000	1.3%
Professional occupations	1,100	1.6%	155,400	5.0%
Associate prof & tech occupations	7,600	8.5%	145,800	4.3%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	-2,000	-2.4%	-104,600	-3.6%
Skilled trades occupations	1,400	1.8%	-58,300	-2.3%
Personal service occupations	3,100	5.1%	98,100	5.2%
Sales and customer service occupations	-1,700	-3.4%	-7,200	-0.4%
Process, plant and machine operatives	7,800	13.3%	-33,400	-2.0%
Elementary occupations	-4,400	-6.4%	-3,600	-0.1%

Source: Annual Population Survey, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

3.5 Employment Forecasts

3.5.1 The 2006 Working Futures report produced by the Institute of Employment Studies gives some insights into the projected sector and occupational mix of the Lancashire economy to 2014. The economic model which underpins Working Futures is trend based, and so the model will miss significant regeneration or other initiatives underway or planned in specific areas. We address this in a separate section below through qualitative analysis of major projects underway or planned in the sub-region.

3.5.2 The Working Futures forecasts show employment growth in Lancashire of 2.0% between 2004 and 2014 (cumulative growth), which translates into 16,000 new jobs. However, this growth rate is relatively low and below that predicted for the North West region (2.9%).

Figure 9: Employment Growth Forecasts 2004 to 2014

Total employment (000s)	2004	2014	% Change
England	25,517	26,694	4.6%
North West	3,358	3,459	2.9%
Cheshire & Warrington	537	559	4.0%
Cumbria	235	239	1.7%
Lancashire	666	680	2.0%
Greater Manchester	1,318	1,365	3.4%
Greater Merseyside	602	617	2.3%

Source: Working Futures 2

3.5.3 The table below shows forecast employment in Lancashire by sector to 2014. The key changes are:

- Decreases in employment are forecast in the manufacturing and construction sectors with zero growth in primary sectors and utilities. Each decline is less than that experienced in the North West, in particular for primary sectors and utilities employment. .
- Business and other services sector employment is forecast to grow the fastest at 10.5%, although this is forecast nearly 1% below the regional average.

3.5.4 Non-marketed services is the only sector in which employment growth is forecast at a higher level than regionally, 5.6% versus 4.4%.

Figure 10: Employment Growth Forecasts by Sector 2004 to 2014

	Numbers (000s)			%		% change
	2004	2014	2004-2014	2004	2014	2004-2014
Primary sector & utilities	10	10	-1	1.5%	1.4%	-7.4%
Manufacturing	119	106	-12	17.8%	15.7%	-10.4%
Construction	44	43	-1	6.6%	6.3%	-3.0%
Distribution & transport	190	195	5	28.5%	28.7%	2.8%
Business & other services	124	137	14	18.6%	20.2%	11.0%
Non-marketed services	179	189	9	26.9%	27.8%	5.2%
All industries	666	680	14	100.0%	100.0%	2.1%

Source: Working Futures 2

3.5.5 The table below shows forecast employment in the Lancashire sub-region by occupational group to 2014. Key points to note are:

- Growth in employment in the higher skilled occupations (managers, professionals, associate professionals) is expected to outstrip the forecast for the region.

- Personal services, and sales and customer services employment are also forecast to grow, the former at a higher rate than regionally.
- Employment is predicted to fall in both machine and transport operatives and elementary occupations, and at greater rates than regionally.

Figure 11: Forecast Employment Change by Occupational Sector 2004 to 2014

Lancashire: All industries Employment Levels (000s)	Changing Composition of Employment by Occupation			
	2004	2004 - 2014 Net Change	Replacement Demands	Total Requirement
Managers and Senior Officials	92	8	33	41
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	89	5	30	35
Skilled Trades Occupations	83	-3	27	24
Administrative, Clerical and Secretarial Occupations	79	-4	32	27
Professional Occupations	78	15	29	44
Elementary Occupations	77	-19	28	9
Transport and Machine Operatives	62	-5	22	17
Personal Service Occupations	54	13	22	34
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	53	4	19	23
Total	666	14	241	255

Source: Working Futures 2

3.5.6 The table below shows forecast employment in Lancashire by gender and employment status to 2014. The key points are:

- Male, female, full and part time employment is forecast to grow, but only part time employment is forecast to exceed that of the region. This is accounted for by the high forecast growth in female part time employment (5.1% growth versus 0.9% for the region).
- Whilst female part time employment growth is predicted to be over five times greater than regionally, full time female employment is expected to fall by 3.4% - compared to regional expansion of 2.5%.
- Self employment is forecast to fall over the period, but at a lesser rate than regionally.

Figure 12: Employment Structure by Gender and Status 2004 to 2014

	2004	2014	2014 Employment %	2004-2014 change
Male full-time	263	280	41.2%	6.2%
Male part-time	45	49	7.2%	7.5%
Male self-employed	53	44	6.5%	-20.7%
Male Employees	362	374	54.9%	3.2%
Female full-time	145	140	20.5%	-3.5%
Female part-time	138	145	21.4%	5.1%
Female self-employed	22	21	3.1%	-2.3%
Female Employees	304	306	45.1%	0.6%
Total Employment	666	680	100.0%	2.0%

Source: Working Futures 2

3.6 Major Developments

3.6.1 A number of skills needs have been identified as priorities for Lancashire. Identified growth sectors include creative industries, aerospace and advanced manufacturing. Acceleration of the transition to higher value added

manufacturing is defined as a priority, as is improving the productivity of the service sector and stimulating entrepreneurship, economic growth and building the knowledge economy. A proposed Manufacturing Skills Academy for the region has been designed to ensure the development of the necessary skills to ensure the future viability of the Aerospace sector within Lancashire.

3.6.2 Current skills needs have also been identified in:

- Enhancing enterprise and entrepreneurship;
- Skills in tourism and hospitality in Blackpool;
- Construction related opportunities, derived from Housing Market Renewal;
- Major retail and leisure developments in the Urban Centres; and
- Digital, information technology and science-based industries.

3.7 Economic developments/issues

3.7.1 Current regeneration plans in place include:

3.7.2 Blackpool and its development as a world class resort destination; (see case study).

3.7.3 Preston City Vision; £2 billion pounds of investment by 2021 will build upon the planned Tithebarn retail scheme and develop a central Commercial Quarter alongside a new residential and civic quarter. Preston RiverWorks will capture the latent potential of Preston's waterways for residential, leisure and tourism use. It is anticipated that 15,000 jobs will be created.

3.7.4 Pennine Lancashire Transformation Agenda; includes the investment planned for the Elevate East Lancashire Housing Market Renewal programme, finding innovative solutions to problems of low demand, negative equity and housing market collapse. The delivery of the Pennine Lancashire Gateway Strategic Employment site and town centre investment in Blackburn and Burnley are key elements of the overall transformational agenda.

3.8 Sub regional case study: Tourism in Blackpool

3.8.1 Blackpool's development as a world class resort destination will be a key element in the development of the sub region. Blackpool's URC Master Plan aims to create a new and international sustainable year round destination based on balanced and healthy neighbourhoods. Over 50 projects are envisaged in total under the key themes of casino development, major town centre renewal, neighbourhood improvements, public realm (a return to nature and the illuminations) and better movement through an increase in parking and the new Tramways. The creation of 22,000 jobs is envisaged.

3.8.2 The planned conference and casino cluster will create around 6,500 jobs by 2010 (assuming that a casino licence is granted). The Government is expected to make its decision and announce the location of the first regional casino in the UK at the beginning of 2007. Development of Blackpool's central seafront is already underway and will create 900 new jobs. The Casino Training Alliance provides a collective and proactive response to the skills issues arising from the casino development and Blackpool and the Fylde College have established a Regional Gaming Academy.

3.8.3 The creation of a university style higher education campus on the central Blackpool site of Blackpool and the Fylde College will offer the opportunity to local people to develop skills relevant to the local economy in areas such as

leisure, hospitality, engineering and management. Key outcomes will include an expanded central campus, an increase in work-ready graduates and increased participation in non-compulsory education.

3.9 Summary

- 3.9.1 Demand for labour in Lancashire has seen employment grow at a similar rate to regional and national levels but is forecast to slow to a rate below the national rate. Future growth will be driven by major regeneration initiatives, with extensive tourism development and housing renewal requiring particular demand for up-skilling of the workforce. The manufacturing sector remains a significant sector and has been able to retain jobs up until now, although forecasts suggest it will lose jobs in the future. Service sector growth has been driven by the expansion of the Health & Social Work and Construction sectors are more significant in the sub-region than nationally. However, the Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities sector remain significantly underrepresented.
- 3.9.2 In terms of occupations there are relatively fewer high skilled jobs in Lancashire, particularly Managers & Senior officials, Professional and Associate Professional jobs, and relatively more process, plant and machine operatives. Forecast for the future are that there will be a growth in higher skilled occupations of managers, senior officials and professionals and a reduction in transport and machine operatives and elementary occupations. Personal service, sales and customer service occupations are expected to grow at a higher rate than the region.

SECTION:4 THE SUPPLY OF SKILLS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter looks at the supply of labour in [insert area], both in terms of the volume of people available for work, and their skills levels. It considers:

- Historical changes in demographics, and forecast changes;
- Economic Activity rates according to people's characteristics;
- The qualification profile of the working age population; and
- Employer training behaviour.

4.2 Demographics – Population Growth

4.2.1 The table below shows the total population between 1996 and 2006 down to district level in Lancashire. It is evident that the population in England has grown substantially by 5 per cent over the ten year period in comparison to a slight increase of 1 per cent in the North West region.

Figure 13: Total Population 1996 to 2006

	1996 Total	2006 Total	Volume Difference	Growth
England	48,519,100	50,762,900	2,243,800	5%
North West	6,809,600	6,853,200	43,600	1%
Blackburn with Darwen	138,800	141,200	2,400	2%
Blackpool	147,600	142,700	-4,900	-3%
Burnley	90,500	88,000	-2,500	-3%
Chorley	97,100	103,700	6,600	7%
Fylde	73,000	75,700	2,700	4%
Hyndburn	80,600	82,200	1,600	2%
Lancaster	134,600	143,000	8,400	6%
Pendle	87,200	90,100	2,900	3%
Preston	132,200	132,000	-200	0%
Ribble Valley	52,000	57,800	5,800	11%
Rossendale	65,400	66,700	1,300	2%
South Ribble	102,100	106,400	4,300	4%
West Lancashire	108,000	109,800	1,800	2%
Wyre	103,000	110,400	7,400	7%
Lancashire Total	1,412,100	1,449,700	37,600	3%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 4 October 2007]

4.2.2 Population growth is varied at district level with an increase of 11 per cent in Ribble Valley in contrast to a fall of -3 per cent in Blackpool and Burnley.

4.2.3 The table below shows the age profile of the working age population in Lancashire at district level in 2001, taken from the latest census data.

Figure 14: Age Profile of Working Age Population 2001

	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50-retirement age
North West	363,700	423,300	815,600	1,461,100	1,041,600
Lancashire	77,300	86,300	166,000	301,800	225,900
Blackburn with Darwen	6,900	9,400	19,900	27,200	19,700
Blackpool	7,100	8,600	16,200	27,600	23,000
Burnley	4,700	4,200	15,300	17,500	12,900
Chorley	5,800	3,600	8,600	27,600	16,500
Fylde	5,300	3,400	6,600	17,200	10,300
Hyndburn	4,500	6,600	10,800	14,300	13,000
Lancaster	6,400	10,100	17,200	28,600	22,200
Pendle	7,300	9,500	8,800	17,500	10,500
Preston	5,700	13,100	20,000	26,800	17,300
Ribble Valley	1,800	2,500	2,800	13,600	11,100
Rossendale	3,800	2,400	7,100	17,200	10,000
South Ribble	5,200	3,600	11,600	22,100	21,600
West Lancashire	8,100	4,300	10,600	25,400	17,300
Wyre	4,800	5,000	10,400	19,200	20,500

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved (from Nomis on 19 October 2007)

4.2.4 In Lancashire 35.2 per cent of the working age population are aged between 35 and 49 years old. As expected the working age population varies greatly at district level with some areas showing a high proportion of the population aged between 50 and retirement age. In Wyre 32 per cent of the working age population are aged between 35 and 49, in comparison to 34.2 per cent of the working age population above 50 years old.

4.2.5 The table below shows the expected population change between 2005 and 2020 across Lancashire. The North West Region is expected to show growth of 4.4 per cent over the 15 year period

Figure 15: Population Change 2005 to 2020

	2005	2010	2015	2020	% Change 2005 – 2020
Blackburn with Darwen	141,300	143,600	146,400	149,300	5.4%
Blackpool	143,600	147,300	151,400	155,400	7.6%
Burnley	88,000	86,600	85,800	85,600	-2.8%
Chorley	103,700	107,600	111,600	115,600	10.3%
Fylde	76,200	79,900	83,500	87,200	12.6%
Hyndburn	82,200	83,000	84,200	85,500	3.9%
Lancaster	141,500	148,500	154,400	160,100	11.6%
Pendle	89,700	90,700	91,900	93,200	3.8%
Preston	131,100	132,500	134,100	135,800	3.5%
Ribble Valley	57,700	61,400	64,600	67,500	14.5%
Rossendale	66,200	66,600	67,200	68,100	2.8%
South Ribble	106,200	108,900	111,700	114,700	7.4%
West Lancashire	109,600	111,000	112,200	113,400	3.4%
Wyre	110,600	116,600	122,300	128,000	13.6%
Lancashire	1,447,600	1,484,200	1,521,300	1,559,400	7.2%
North West	6,842,700	6,938,800	7,043,300	7,156,200	4.4%

Source: Revised 2004-based Subnational Population Projections, ONS

4.2.6 It is evident that the sub-region of Lancashire is expected to grow by 7.2 per cent, 2.8 percentage points more than the North West average. As shown there is great disparity of population change at district level in Lancashire. The district of Wyre has the largest forecasted population growth of 13.6 per cent. The only district to show decline is Burnley with a forecasted fall of -2.8 per cent.

4.2.7 The table below shows the population change by age group between 2005 and forecasted to 2020. The North West has seen a decrease in the proportion of 0-24 year olds and 35 to 44 year olds between 2005 and 2020

Figure 16: Population Change by Age Group 2005 and Forecast 2020

	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Blackburn with Darwen	0.6%	-3.1%	10.4%	-14.8%	13.3%	14.5%	16.5%
Blackpool	2.0%	4.9%	18.8%	-23.7%	16.5%	14.4%	14.1%
Burnley	-14.7%	-23.7%	11.1%	-29.3%	-5.5%	5.4%	20.5%
Chorley	2.2%	-8.2%	10.9%	-10.6%	14.3%	8.4%	36.0%
Fylde	-3.6%	0.0%	18.9%	-18.9%	15.6%	20.7%	27.8%
Hyndburn	-5.6%	-2.9%	13.7%	-23.0%	6.2%	9.5%	20.4%
Lancaster	4.2%	-6.7%	24.4%	-1.6%	15.6%	16.3%	24.1%
Pendle	-4.7%	-13.3%	10.8%	-16.2%	0.8%	13.9%	24.0%
Preston	-2.1%	-11.7%	14.0%	-15.8%	9.2%	14.6%	14.0%
Ribble Valley	3.7%	6.0%	16.4%	-19.0%	21.4%	19.8%	33.8%
Rossendale	-11.3%	-9.6%	10.3%	-20.9%	9.9%	9.7%	25.8%
South Ribble	-1.1%	-7.7%	13.3%	-19.1%	11.8%	9.2%	28.4%
West Lancashire	-6.4%	-8.7%	7.4%	-30.4%	5.1%	6.3%	28.2%
Wyre	1.1%	-1.7%	20.9%	-19.8%	19.3%	20.2%	28.3%
Lancashire	-1.8%	-6.1%	14.8%	-17.8%	11.7%	13.4%	24.3%
North West	-4.3%	-10.5%	13.7%	-18.5%	8.2%	11.6%	21.0%

Source: Revised 2004-based Subnational Population Projections, ONS

4.2.8 It is evident that there is expected decline in 0-24 year olds in Lancashire with an overall fall of -1.8 per cent, -2.5 percentage points less than the North West Region. The 35 to 44 population age group is also forecasted to decline across Lancashire by -17.8 per cent.

4.2.9 There is great disparity of growth at district level between the population age groups. It is important to note that the 0-14 age group in Lancashire is varied with forecasted growth of 4.2 per cent in Lancaster in contrast to a fall of -14.7 per cent between 2005 and 2020. The 15 to 24 age group is also varied across the districts with a growth of 6 per cent in Ribble Valley and a decline of -23.7 per cent in Burnley. The population of 65 year olds and upwards is expected to increase by an average of 24.3 per cent in Lancashire, 3.3 percentage points greater than the Regional average. The increasing population of 65 year olds and upwards hides the great variation at district level. Chorley has a forecasted growth of 36 per cent compared to the smallest growth of 14 per cent in Preston.

4.3 Economic Activity

4.3.1 The table below shows the change in the economic activity rate by district between 2005 and 2006 in Lancashire.

Figure 17: Economic Activity by District, 2005 and 2006

	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	% Change
Burnley	73.8	76.1	3.0%
Chorley	82.5	86.7	4.8%
Fylde	80.2	77.7	-3.2%
Hyndburn	72.4	69.6	-4.0%
Lancaster	77.4	76.4	-1.3%
Pendle	74.8	75.8	1.3%
Preston	72.5	76.3	5.0%
Ribble Valley	83.6	83.8	0.2%
Rossendale	77.9	76.7	-1.6%
South Ribble	83.3	83.9	0.7%
West Lancashire	80.0	75.5	-6.0%
Wyre	78.7	77.7	-1.3%
Lancashire	77.2	77.0	-0.3%
North West	76.6	76.7	0.1%
England	78.4	78.6	0.3%

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.3.2 As the table above shows that the area of Lancashire has seen slight decline in the rate of economic activity, falling by -0.3 percentage points over the year. Although the rate has remained relatively static the rate of economic activity in Lancashire is -1.6 percentage points below the national average and 0.3 percentage points above the regional average in 2006.

4.3.3 The economic activity rate varies greatly at district level in Lancashire. Chorley has a substantially high proportion of economically active in 2006, 8.1 percentage points above the national average. Hyndburn has the lowest economic activity at 69.6 per cent in 2006, -9 percentage points below the national average.

4.3.4 The table below shows economic activity by age group in 2006 and compares the districts in Lancashire to the regional and national average.

Figure 18: Economic Activity by Age, 2006

	16-19 (%)	20-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-49 (%)	50-retirement age (%)	over retirement age (%)
Burnley	62.2	90.9	77.6	83.4	64.6	!
Chorley	89.7	91.7	100.0	91.5	69.6	13.4
Fylde	41.5	58.1	89.4	93.9	68.0	12.2
Hyndburn	47.0	76.4	79.8	82.5	51.3	!
Lancaster	55.5	45.2	82.8	89.2	75.1	7.4
Pendle	52.8	88.9	87.5	83.0	57.9	5.8
Preston	64.1	73.1	83.7	84.4	61.7	12.2
Ribble Valley	80.1	67.3	86.6	92.4	77.0	11.9
Rossendale	52.0	100.0	91.0	80.9	63.4	7.4
South Ribble	82.2	89.2	93.9	86.8	75.2	16.4
West Lancashire	62.9	75.6	83.4	82.4	66.6	11.7
Wyre	72.8	84.9	80.7	89.3	64.7	4.4
Lancashire	61.2	76.2	83.3	85.5	66.9	8.2
North West	53.2	77.8	83.2	84.3	68.6	8.9
England	54.9	76.4	83.7	85.2	73.7	11.2

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.3.5 The economic activity rate in the North West is similar to the national average up until the age of 50 and above. The North West has a much lower proportion of the economically active population over retirement age than the national average, a total of -2.3 percentage points less.

4.3.6 As the table above shows, Lancashire has a high proportion of 16-19 year olds counting towards the economic activity rate, and is currently 6.3 percentage

points greater than the national average. Economic activity rates in Lancashire are nearly in line with the national proportion with the exception of those over 50 years old in which Lancashire is below the national average.

4.3.7 At district level the proportion of the economically active varies greatly by age group in comparison to the national and regional averages. In Lancaster 45.2 per cent of 20-24 year olds are economically active in comparison to 100 per cent in Rossendale.

4.3.8 The table below shows the rate of economic activity in Lancashire by gender in 2006.

Figure 19: Economic Activity by Gender, 2006

	Male (%)	Female (%)
Burnley	80.1	72.0
Chorley	86.0	87.5
Fylde	79.6	75.5
Hyndburn	71.5	67.5
Lancaster	81.3	71.4
Pendle	79.9	71.3
Preston	85.0	67.0
Ribble Valley	82.3	85.6
Rossendale	82.6	70.5
South Ribble	83.2	84.7
West Lancashire	82.5	67.8
Wyre	80.1	75.1
Lancashire	81.0	72.8
North West	80.6	72.5
England	83.6	73.3

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.3.9 As the table above shows, the North West has a slightly lower proportion of economically active males (80.6 per cent) compared to the national average, a total of -3 percentage points less. The proportion of economically active females in the North West is substantially lower than the proportion of males, and is currently -0.8 percentage points below the number of females in England.

4.3.10 As expected there is great disparity across Lancashire in the proportion of the economically active population. Chorley has the highest proportion of economically active males (86 per cent) compared to 71.5 per cent in Hyndburn. Chorley also has the highest proportion of economically active females (87.5 per cent), in contrast to Preston (67.5 per cent).

4.3.11 The table bellows illustrates the rate of economic activity by disability in 2006.

Figure 20: Economic Activity and Disabled, 2006

	working age (%)	disabled (%)	DDA & also work-limiting (%)	DDA only disabled (%)	work-limiting only disabled (%)
Burnley	76.1	45.9	30.5	100.0	59.2
Chorley	86.7	67.0	36.2	94.0	89.2
Fylde	77.7	49.2	36.9	81.9	!
Hyndburn	69.6	30.6	13.2	83.7	100.0
Lancaster	76.4	53.5	33.7	84.2	86.2
Pendle	75.8	44.1	29.1	100.0	62.5
Preston	76.3	53.3	37.3	63.2	100.0
Ribble Valley	83.8	59.8	!	100.0	100.0
Rossendale	76.7	48.2	31.5	85.0	!
South Ribble	83.9	54.0	37.5	100.0	80.5
West Lancashire	75.5	51.4	38.4	89.5	71.2
Wyre	77.7	42.7	29.9	78.2	62.8
Lancashire	77.0	48.5	30.6	85.8	79.5
North West	76.7	48.1	31.3	84.0	70.7
England	78.6	55.4	38.8	83.9	74.4

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.3.12 Lancashire has a low percentage of the working age population who consider themselves as having a disability, -6.9 percentage points below the national average. A total of 79.5 per cent of the disabled population in Lancashire consider themselves to have work-limiting disability, this is 5.1 percentage points above the national average.

4.4 Qualifications

4.4.1 It is not just the number of people available for work which affects the supply of and demand for labour in the North West region. The quality of the labour force, in terms of expertise and skills available to employers, is also crucial especially so given the occupational profile that is emerging from recent employment growth.

4.4.2 Qualifications are also used as a proxy indicator for the skills of the workforce. The following table shows the qualification profile of the working age population in the North West, local area and at district level. Whilst the qualification profile of the Lancashire is similar to the profile in the North West there is great variation at district level.

Figure 21: Qualification Profile of the Economically Active Population, 2006

	Economically Active Population (000's)	Economically Active qualified to at least level 4		Economically Active qualified to at least level 3		Economically Active qualified to at least level 2		Economically Active adults without a level 2 qualification	
		Number (000's)	%	Number (000's)	%	Number (000's)	%	Number (000's)	%
England	23,541	7,225	31.5%	11,832	51.0%	16,827	72.1%	6,715	27.9%
North West	3,068	897	29.4%	1,525	50.4%	2,188	72.2%	880	27.8%
Lancashire	640	166	25.9%	309	48.3%	460	71.8%	181	28.2%
Burnley	41	9	21.3%	17	42.1%	30	74.8%	10	25.2%
Chorley	52	13	25.8%	25	48.7%	37	71.3%	15	28.7%
Fylde	32	12	37.3%	18	55.1%	25	77.3%	7	22.7%
Hyndburn	34	8	23.7%	17	48.9%	25	73.4%	9	26.6%
Lancaster	62	20	31.5%	33	53.5%	46	73.3%	17	26.7%
Pendle	39	10	24.5%	19	47.5%	27	69.2%	12	30.8%
Preston	61	14	23.6%	29	47.1%	41	67.4%	20	32.6%
Ribble Valley	26	10	39.2%	15	58.6%	21	80.4%	5	19.6%
Rossendale	30	6	21.7%	14	47.7%	21	69.7%	9	30.3%
South Ribble	52	11	21.9%	24	46.3%	37	71.2%	15	28.8%
West Lancashire	48	12	25.4%	24	50.5%	36	75.0%	12	25.0%
Wyre	45	13	29.6%	23	50.2%	35	77.3%	10	22.7%
Blackburn with Darwen	59	16	26.5%	28	47.1%	40	69.0%	18	31.0%
Blackpool	60	11	18.9%	24	40.2%	39	64.8%	21	35.2%

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.4.3 As the table above shows, the area of Lancashire has a higher proportion of the economically active population without a level 2 qualification, 0.4 percentage points above the regional average. The proportion of the economically active Lancashire with a qualification is lower than the regional average, most noticeably so in level 4 qualifications which are -3.5 percentage points below the North West.

4.4.4 Qualifications of the economically active population vary greatly at district level. Fylde and Ribble Valley have a substantially high proportion of the economically active population qualified to level 4, 7.9 and 9.8 percentage points respectively, above the regional average. Although some districts are substantially higher than the regional average, 10 areas in Lancashire have a lower proportion of the economically active population qualified to level 4 compared to the North West.

4.4.5 The qualifications of the economically inactive are shown in the table below. The key point to note is the lower qualifications levels of people who are inactive. In the North West 49 per cent of the economically inactive population do not have a level 2 qualification.

Figure 22: Qualification Profile of the Economically Inactive Population, 2006

	Economically Inactive Population (000)	Economically Inactive adults without a level 2 qualification	Economically Inactive qualified to at least level 2	Economically Inactive qualified to at least level 3	Economically Inactive qualified to at least level 4
England	7,127	46.5%	53.5%	30.9%	15.4%
North West	1,037	49.0%	51.0%	28.4%	11.7%
Cheshire/Warrington	114	44.6%	55.4%	34.3%	18.1%
Cumbria	65	45.6%	54.4%	30.3%	12.2%
Greater Manchester	387	52.6%	47.4%	24.6%	10.5%
Lancashire	217	49.9%	50.1%	28.7%	11.6%
Greater Merseyside	254	56.0%	44.0%	21.9%	8.8%

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.4.6 As the table above shows Lancashire has a low proportion of the economically inactive with a qualification in comparison to the National and Regional averages.

The proportion of the economically inactive population without a level 2 is 49.9 per cent, -3.4 percentage points below the national average. The most noticeable disparity between Lancashire and England is the proportion of the economically inactive qualified to level 4, Lancashire is -3.8 percentage points below the national average.

4.4.7 Low skills have an impact on the employment opportunities; this is evident in the tale below which shows the qualification attainment of those employed in 2006.

Figure 23: Employment Rate by Qualification Attainment,2006

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	No
England	86.7%	76.6%	73.8%	71.5%	48.4%
North West	86.0%	78.0%	73.3%	69.9%	44.3%
Lancashire	84.9%	75.8%	76.1%	71.9%	43.8%
Burnley	74.5%	66.7%	86.7%	68.1%	37.1%
Chorley	93.7%	87.7%	89.5%	78.7%	70.8%
Fylde	95.3%	63.6%	75.3%	74.5%	44.9%
Hyndburn	75.7%	79.0%	74.0%	50.8%	32.5%
Lancaster	86.5%	55.7%	69.5%	68.8%	51.7%
Pendle	86.4%	79.3%	62.9%	77.8%	29.6%
Preston	74.6%	76.0%	91.1%	72.7%	40.9%
Ribble Valley	90.3%	84.3%	80.0%	79.4%	69.6%
Rossendale	87.8%	81.0%	66.7%	73.2%	47.4%
South Ribble	83.9%	83.1%	76.0%	89.9%	67.7%
West Lancashire	82.1%	80.9%	78.2%	70.3%	35.3%
Wyre	86.3%	80.9%	71.2%	72.3%	35.8%

Source: Annual Population Survey

4.4.8 As the table shows a low proportion of the Lancashire population in employment have no qualifications (43.8 per cent), -4.6 percentage points less than the national average. The employment rate of those with qualifications is varied across all qualification levels in comparison to the Regional and National averages. Lancashire has a high employment rate of those qualified to level 2, 2.3 percentage points above the regional average.

4.4.9 It is important to note that there is a positive correlation across the area and region connecting increased employment rates with higher qualification attainment. The levels of qualifications in Lancashire vary at district level. Districts including Chorley, Flyde and Ribble Valley have a higher proportion of the employed population qualified to a level 4 in comparison to the regional average. It is important to note that Chorley has an extremely high proportion of the employed population without a qualification (70.8 per cent).

4.4.10 Although the qualification attainment rate is high in the employment in Lancashire, there remains a high proportion of the employed with no or little qualifications. The high levels of poorly qualified residents in the North West will reduce their ability to access new employment opportunities, its is therefore crucial to target those without qualifications offering them an opportunity to broaden their skills through Train to Gain services and FE courses.

4.5 National Employer Skills Survey (NESS)

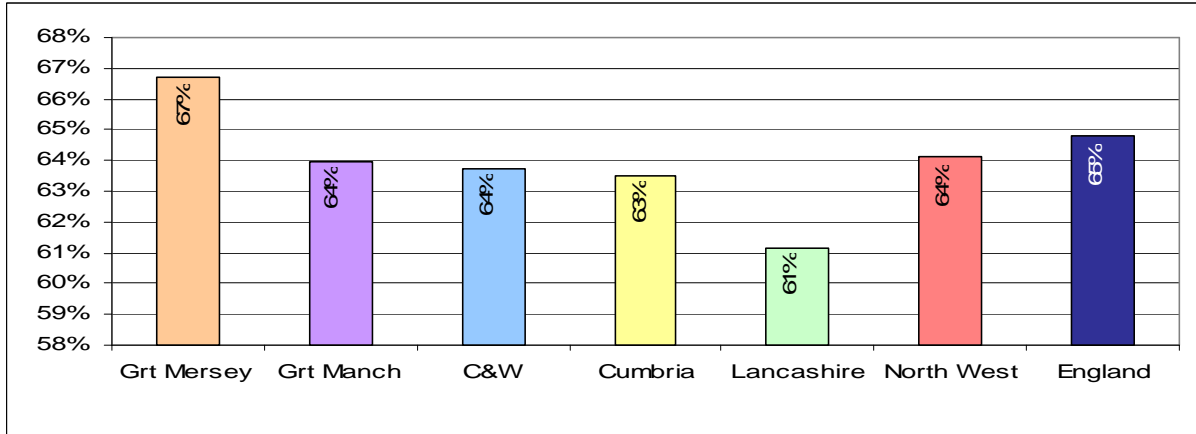
4.5.1 This section uses data from the National Employer Skills Survey 2005 to describe the training behaviour of employers in Lancashire, particularly with regard to the skills gaps they identify in their workforce, and skills related recruitment difficulties they face.

4.5.2 The National Employers Skills Survey 2005 (NESS 2005) was commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council together with the Department for Education and Skills and the Sector Skills Development Agency. Its purpose is to provide a

detailed analysis of the extent and nature of skills gaps, recruitment problems and training activity.

4.5.3 The chart below shows the proportion of employers who provided training during the previous twelve months. At 64% of employers, the Lancashire figure is slightly below the England average but relatively similar to the other North West sub-regions.

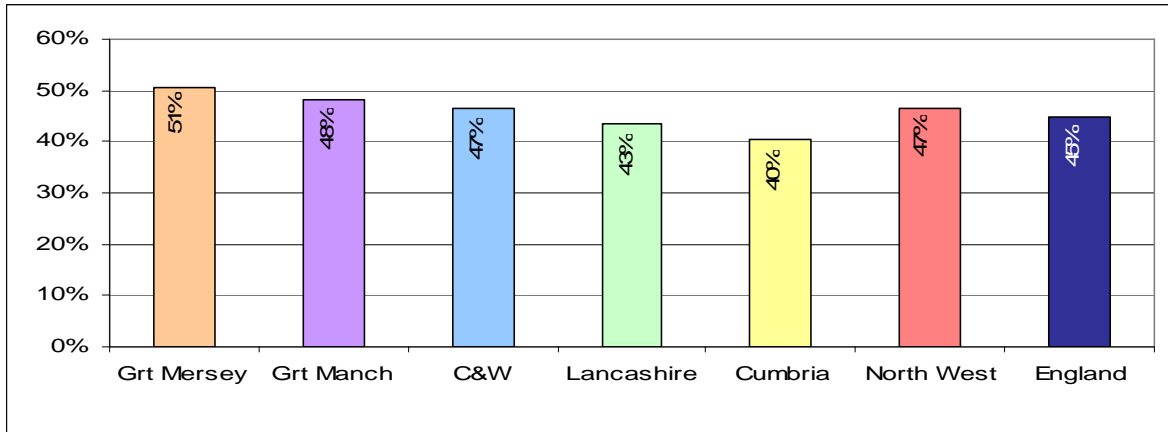
Figure 24: Proportion of Employers providing Training in the past 12 months



Source: NESS 2005

4.5.4 The figure below shows the proportion of employers with a formal training plan – this figure is 43% in Lancashire, the same as the North West average proportion and slightly higher than the England average.

Figure 25: Proportion of Establishments with a Formal Training Plan



Source: NESS 2005

4.5.5 The NESS surveys employers about vacancies that they find difficult to fill due to skills deficits in candidates – skills shortage vacancies (SSVs). The table below shows the distribution of SSVs by occupation, in Lancashire and in the North West.

Figure 26: Distribution of SSVs by Occupation, Lancashire

	Lancashire		North West	
	Number	%	Number	%
Managers	112	3%	947	4%
Professionals	372	12%	1,611	6%
Associate professionals	411	13%	5,102	19%
Admin/clerical staff	167	5%	1,220	5%
Skilled trades staff	482	15%	6,027	23%
Personal service	411	13%	2,130	8%
Sales/customer service staff	392	12%	4,056	15%
Machine operatives	426	13%	2,358	9%
Elementary staff	341	11%	2,550	10%
Unclassified staff	104	3%	222	1%
Total	3,218	100%	26,223	100%

Source: NESS 2005

- 4.5.6 In Lancashire, the distribution of skills shortage vacancies is more balanced between occupations that regionally. The skills shortage vacancies are split relatively equally between higher and lower skilled occupations.
- 4.5.7 Compared to regional figures, employers in Lancashire report a higher than average level of SSVs in three of the main occupational categories – professionals, personal service, and machine operatives. The difference is most marked for the higher skilled, professional occupations with double the proportion of employers reporting skills shortage vacancies compared to regional levels. In the associate professional, skilled trades and sales / customer service occupational categories employers report a lower than average number of skills shortage vacancies. The difference is greatest for skilled trade and associate professional occupations for which the proportions of employers reporting SSVs are eight percentage points and six percentage points respectively, below the regional average.
- 4.5.8 The survey also asks about skills gaps in the existing workforce. This is shown in the table below. The distribution of skills gaps in Lancashire is relatively similar to the North West average and this is particularly true for managerial, professional, associate professional, personal service and elementary occupations. Lancashire does stand out with a high skills gap in the administrative/clerical group though (16% of employers reporting a skills gap compared to 10% for the North West). However, Lancashire performs well against the regional average in some occupations: skilled trades; sales / customer service; and machine operatives.

Figure 27: Distribution of Skills Gaps by Occupation, Lancashire

	Lancashire		North West	
	Number	%	Number	%
Managers	3,085	9%	14,890	9%
Professionals	1,110	3%	6,156	4%
Associate professionals	1,624	5%	9,361	6%
Admin/clerical	5,485	16%	17,144	10%
Skilled trades	2,889	8%	16,139	10%
Personal service	2,372	7%	10,817	7%
Sales/customer service	5,994	17%	31,498	19%
Machine operatives	4,571	13%	24,242	15%
Elementary	7,344	21%	34,738	21%
Total	34,474	100%	164,984	100%

Source: NESS 2005

4.6 Summary

- 4.6.1 Change in population across the North West is extremely important when considering competition for jobs, the volume of workers available, and the proportion of those needing skills development. Lancashire has seen varied population growth at district level, but overall is -2 percentage points below the National average (In 2006).
- 4.6.2 As in England as a whole the issue of an ageing population will impact on Lancashire in future years. Between 2005 and 2020 there Lancashire is forecasted to growth 2.8 percentage points greater than the Regional average. It is expected that Lancashires 0-24 age group will experience a smaller decline than the North West, and an increase in the proportion of residents above the age of 50. It is likely that an increasing number of people in this age category will remain in employment post retirement age.
- 4.6.3 The economic rate of activity in Lancashire has shown slight decline between the years 2005-2006, but remains below the National average. The economic age groups of the Lancashire population who are economically active is similar to the National average. However, the proportion of 16-19 year olds who are economically active is 6.3 percentage points greater than the National average, with a lower proportion of economically active of those aged 50 and upwards.
- 4.6.4 Lancashire has slightly lower qualification rates in comparison to the National average. The area has a higher proportion of the economically active population without a level 2 qualification in comparison to the national average, with lower proportions of all qualifications (level 2, 3, 4). Rates of economic inactivity are higher amongst those with no qualifications. The proportion of the economically inactive in Lancashire without a level 2 qualification is 3.4 percentage points above the national average.
- 4.6.5 Data from the National Employer Skills Survey suggests that Lancashire employers have a culture of workforce development on which to build, as shown by training plans in place. In Lancashire 61 per cent of employers have provided training in the last 12 months (-5 percentage points below national average), and 43 per cent of employers have formal training plans (-2 percentage points below the national average.). Although training opportunities are evidently available in Lancashire there remain noticeable gaps between the area and the national averages, which need to be developed in order to up skill workers. Within Lancashire there appears an equal balance of high and low skills required to fill job vacancies. The skills gaps noted by employers in Lancashire is similar to the Regions, however the employers have a greater need for administrative skills. This would suggest that continued development in training is required at both a high and low skill level in order to fulfil the skills gaps.

SECTION:5 PROVISION AND PARTICIPATION

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter looks at participation in learning and skills development in Lancashire, and the quality of provision, as measured by success rates and inspection grades. It focuses on learners whose main learning aim is a long course (greater than 24 weeks). The focus of this section is on post-compulsory education for young people and adults, excluding higher education which is covered in Chapter 10.

5.2 Young People

5.3 Post-16 Participation

5.3.1 The proportion of young people in Lancashire in full-time education or training after leaving school at age 16 is 60 per cent in line with the North West and 3 percentage points below the National figure. The table shows figures for each Local Education Authority (LEA) within the sub-region.

Figure 28: Post-16 Participation in Education and Training 2005

	17 year olds							Total Education and WBL %
	Full-time education				Total %	WBL %	Part-time education %	
	Maintained schools %	Independent schools %	Sixth form college %	Other FE %				
England ⁶	23	6	9	25	63	8	5	76
North West	17	4	14	26	60	11	5	76
Lancashire	12	3	11	33	60	11	6	76
<i>Blackburn with Darwen</i>	9	8	11	34	62	9	5	76
<i>Blackpool</i>	5	5	14	29	53	11	4	67
<i>Lancashire</i>	14	2	11	34	60	11	6	77

Source: DFCSF SRF 22/2007

5.3.2 Participation within Lancashire varies greatly by LEA, Blackpool has the lowest participation rate in full time (53 per cent) and part-time education, compared to Blackburn and Darwen which is 9 percentage points higher. The table shows that Lancashire has a greater proportion of post-16 learners in WBL with 3 percentage point above the National average.

5.4 FE Participation Rates

5.4.1 The table below shows how participation of young people in the FE sector in Lancashire has changed over the last three years.

Figure 29: FE Participation: Number of Learners Aged 16-18

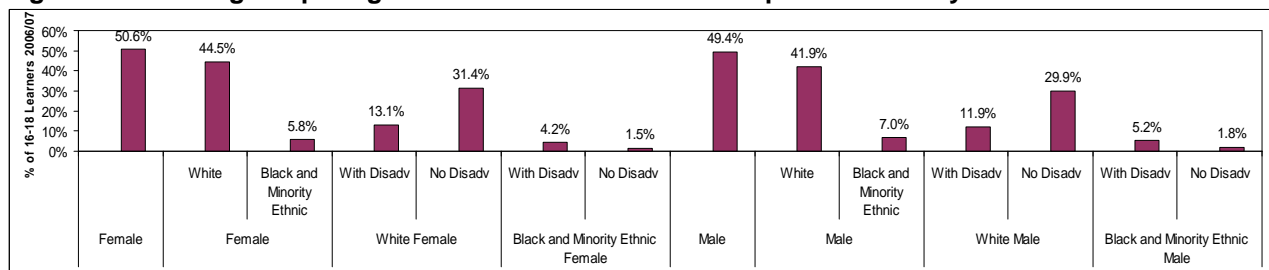
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	111,262	115,621	119,950
Lancashire	25,195	26,485	28,431
Burnley	1,501	1,582	1,701
Chorley	1,917	1,937	2,037
Fylde	850	878	941
Hyndburn	1,530	1,654	1,740
Lancaster	1,448	2,246	2,682
Pendle	1,831	1,809	1,952
Preston	2,643	2,660	2,918
Ribble Valley	732	806	818
Rossendale	953	984	1,025
South Ribble	2,213	2,104	2,215
West Lancashire	2,031	2,137	2,309
Wyre	1,801	1,879	1,939
Blackburn with Darwen	3,178	3,213	3,309
Blackpool	2,557	2,597	2,840

Source: North West Residency Platform

5.4.2 Lancashire has experienced a 7.3 per cent increase in young peoples participation on last year compared to 3.7 per cent regionally. This increase is evident to district level in Lancashire with Lancaster showing the greatest growth of 19 per cent between 2005/06 to 2006/07.

5.4.3 The table below shows young peoples participation rates by characteristics in 2005/06. The data taken from the Residency Platform provides success rates by gender, ethnicity group (White and Black and Minority Ethnic group), and disadvantages.

Figure 25a: Young People Aged 16 to 18 FE Courses Participation Rates by Characteristic



Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform

5.4.4 As shown in the table above participation rates vary greatly by characteristic in Lancashire. It is important to note that there are a slightly higher proportion of females participating in FE courses in comparison to males, totalling 1.2 percentage points. For both male and female participants there are a substantially high proportion of white learners in comparison to black and minority ethnic groups; participants from black and ethnic minority groups are currently 5.8 per cent for females and 7 per cent for males.

5.4.5 The proportion of those with a disadvantage is similar for both males and females groups, with a greater proportion of learners without a disadvantage. Only 4.2 per cent of black and minority ethnic females with a disadvantage are participating in an FE course in comparison to 5.2 per cent of males in the same group.

5.5 FE Success Rates

5.5.1 The success rate is a qualification measure which calculates the number of qualifications achieved as a proportion of qualifications started. Success Rates are generally higher for short courses (less than 24 weeks) than long courses. The table below shows success rates for long courses in Full Level 2 and 3 taken up by 16-18 year olds.

Figure 30: Young People Aged 16 to 18 FE Long Courses Success Rates by Level 2005/6

	Full Level 2			Full Level 3		
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Cumbria	59%	62%	66%	55%	63%	68%
Lancashire	61%	66%	71%	59%	63%	66%
Greater Merseyside	54%	58%	64%	55%	57%	64%
Greater Manchester	60%	65%	69%	57%	64%	66%
Cheshire and Warrington	59%	66%	70%	63%	62%	67%
North West	59%	64%	69%	58%	62%	66%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

5.5.2 As shown, the most recent success rates in Lancashire have been above or the same as the North West average. FE Full Level 2 success rates are the highest in the North West at 71 per cent and show one of the largest improvements since 2003/04 of 10 percentage points. Full Level 3 success rates are in line with the North West however the growth since 2003/04 is slightly less at 7 percentage points.

5.6 Work Based Learning

5.6.1 The table below shows how participation of young people in the WBL sector has changed over the last three years.

Figure 31: WBL Starts: Number of Learners Aged 16-18

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	20,906	17,723	18,007
Lancashire	4,300	3,485	4,005
Blackburn With Darwen	337	305	364
Blackpool	452	334	425
Burnley	326	238	340
Chorley	307	272	278
Fylde	184	180	154
Hyndburn	273	202	249
Lancaster	316	259	232
Pendle	281	221	321
Preston	338	284	297
Ribble Valley	225	176	159
Rosendale	202	181	214
South Ribble	396	335	370
West Lancashire	287	253	286
Wyre	371	245	316

Source: North West Residency Platform

5.6.2 The North West has seen an overall reduction in the number of young people starting WBL courses between 2004/05 and 2006/07 of -13.9 per cent. The trend

in the North West has not been steady with a fall of -15.3 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 with a growth of 1.6 per cent in learner numbers in the following year.

5.6.3 Within Lancashire the districts of Flyde, Lancaster, and Ribble Valley have all experienced a fall in starts between 2004/05 and 2006/07. The area with the largest growth is Pendle with 45.2 per cent, equating to 100 learners.

5.7 Work Based Learning Success Rates

5.7.1 WBL success rates are calculated in a similar way to FE success rates. Success Rates for qualifications taken by 16-18 year olds in WBL are shown below for level 2 and level 3.

Figure 32: Young People Aged 16 to 18: WBL Success Rates by Level 2004/05 to 2006/07

	Level 2			Level 3		
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	51%	58%	65%	58%	68%	72%
Cheshire & Warrington	49%	56%	68%	57%	65%	73%
Cumbria	55%	56%	67%	58%	77%	73%
Greater Manchester	53%	56%	64%	58%	66%	66%
Greater Merseyside	44%	58%	63%	51%	63%	73%
Lancashire	56%	64%	71%	66%	72%	78%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

5.7.2 WBL success rates for young people have consistently been greater than other regions in the North West for level 2 and 3 since 2004/05. Lancashire has seen a 15 per cent point increase in level 2 success rates since 2004/05 to 71 per cent, and 12 per cent for level 3.

5.8 School Sixth Form

5.8.1 The table below shows how participation of young people in school sixth forms in Lancashire has changed over the last two years.

Figure 33: School Sixth Form Participation: Number of Learners Aged 16-18

Learners District	2004/05	2005/06
North West	34459	36197
Lancashire	5124	5324
Blackburn With Darwen	360	407
Blackpool	205	196
Burnley	481	510
Chorley	32	44
Fylde	461	464
Hyndburn	145	146
Lancaster	1346	1384
Pendle	231	216
Preston	79	124
Ribble Valley	411	409
Rosendale	582	582
South Ribble	145	153
West Lancashire	306	348
Wyre	340	335

Source: North West Reporting Platform

5.8.2 Overall Lancashire has experienced a 3.9 per cent increase in participation on last years figures compared to 5 per cent regionally. Within the sub-region there

is greater variation, the majority of districts saw a growth in participation with the exception of Blackpool, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Wyre.

5.8.3 The table below shows the education routes of young people as a proportion of all 16-18 year olds in learning in 2006 cohort.

Figure 34: Proportion of Young People in Education & Training by Route 2006

	SSF	FE	WBL
North West	20.1%	64.4%	15.6%
Cumbria	32.9%	47.0%	20.2%
Lancashire	14.0%	70.0%	16.0%
Greater Manchester	11.3%	73.9%	14.8%
Greater Merseyside	29.8%	54.4%	15.8%
Cheshire and Warrington	30.6%	55.5%	13.9%

Source: NW LSC Residency Platform

5.8.4 There is considerable variation in participation across the sub-regions. In Lancashire the high proportion in FE (70 per cent) is balanced by the low proportion in School Sixth Forms (14 per cent). Lancashire WBL Participation is above the North West average at 16 per cent.

5.9 Adults

5.10 FE Participation Rates

5.10.1 The table below shows how participation of adults in the FE sector has changed over the last three years.

Figure 35: FE Participation: Number of Adult Learners

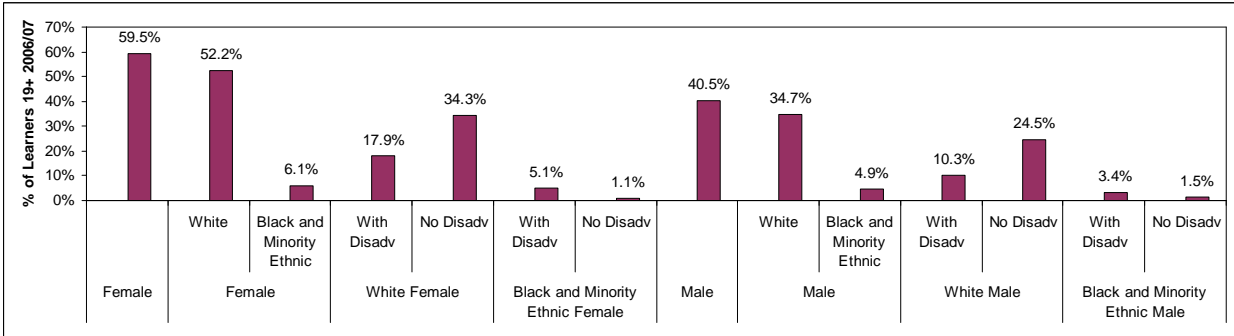
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	396,602	332,914	238,521
Lancashire	86,001	71,378	50,308
Burnley	5,211	4,252	3,018
Chorley	5,546	5,357	4,404
Fylde	3,776	3,253	2,507
Hyndburn	4,823	4,190	2,986
Lancaster	9,953	8,685	6,083
Pendle	5,216	4,428	3,107
Preston	9,226	7,996	6,084
Ribble Valley	2,759	2,310	1,541
Rosendale	3,859	3,040	1,858
South Ribble	6,360	4,606	3,323
West Lancashire	6,149	4,559	3,365
Wyre	5,777	4,286	2,841
Blackburn with Darwen	8,628	8,153	5,104
Blackpool	8,677	6,232	4,087

Source: North West Residency Platform

5.10.2 In the North West adult participation has fallen in each of the past three years, and more dramatically between 2005/06 and 2006/07 (-29.4 per cent). Lancashire has experienced a similar reduction of 30 per cent on last year's adult participation rates, equating to 21,070 learners. This decline is evident at district level with the largest fall of 39 per cent in Rossendale.

5.10.3 The table below shows adult participation rates by characteristics in 2005/06. The data taken from the Residency Platform provides success rates by gender, ethnicity group (White and Black and Minority Ethnic group), and disadvantages.

Figure 31a: Adult FE Course Participation Rates by Characteristic



Source: North West Performance Reporting Platform

5.10.4 As the table shows there are a substantially higher proportion of adult females participating in an FE course in comparison to males, equating to 19 percentage points more. The proportion of adult black and ethnic minority groups participating towards an FE qualification is low. There remains a substantial difference between the proportion of white learners and ethnic minority groups, 46.1 percentage points for females and 29.8 percentage points for males.

5.10.5 There appears a great difference between those with and without a disadvantage in all groups. A relatively high proportion of adult FE learners are white females with a disadvantage (17.9 per cent). The proportion of female black and ethnic minority groups studying towards an FE qualification varies dependent on whether they have a disadvantage; 4 percentage points more adults from a black or ethnic minority group have a disadvantage than those that do not. The difference between males from a black or ethnic minority group with and without disadvantages is lower than females, at 1.9 percentage points.

5.11 FE Success Rates

5.11.1 Success Rates for long qualifications taken by adults are shown in the table below.

Figure 36: Adult FE Long Courses Success Rates by Level 2005/6

	Full Level 2			Full Level 3		
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Cumbria	60%	69%	73%	54%	65%	65%
Lancashire	62%	65%	69%	50%	52%	62%
Greater Merseyside	54%	60%	63%	56%	61%	63%
Greater Manchester	52%	59%	66%	53%	59%	63%
Cheshire and Warrington	59%	68%	72%	55%	62%	63%
North West	57%	62%	67%	53%	59%	63%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

5.11.2 Success rates have improved year on year across the North West. Full Level 2 success rates in Lancashire (69 per cent) are greater than the North West average, full level 2 success rates are below the regional figure by -1 per cent. FE Full level 3 success rates in Lancashire have seen a significant 12 percentage point growth on last year to 62 per cent.

5.12 Work Based Learning

5.12.1 The table below shows how participation of adults in WBL in Lancashire has changed over the last three years.

Figure 37: WBL Starts: Number of Adult Learners

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	13,925	12,255	13,477
Lancashire	2,759	2,212	2,810
Blackburn With Darwen	272	192	245
Blackpool	350	216	331
Burnley	242	164	225
Chorley	186	171	202
Fylde	144	166	109
Hyndburn	175	128	182
Lancaster	219	182	133
Pendle	181	148	218
Preston	203	187	248
Ribble Valley	91	60	83
Rossendale	128	106	157
South Ribble	178	160	222
West Lancashire	181	189	235
Wyre	205	143	220

Source: North West Residency Platform

5.12.2 Between 2004/05 and 2006/07 WBL participation has decreased by -3.3 per cent in the North West. Numbers have fallen in all Sub-Regions, with the exception of Lancashire which has grown by 27 per cent between 2005/06 and 2006/07. There is variation at district level with Fylde and Lancaster the only two districts to show a fall in starts between 2005/06 and 2006/07. Within Lancashire there has been large pockets of growth in recent years with Blackpool increasing by 53.2 per cent and West Lancashire by 53.8 per cent.

5.12.3 Train to Gain was introduced in 20 LSC areas (the former Employer Training Pilots) across all 9 regions in April 2006. The remaining 27 LSC areas and the National Employer Service introduced Train to Gain in August 2007.

5.12.4 The aim of the service is to increase the responsiveness of the learning and skills sector by offering flexible mechanisms for identifying and providing training to meet business needs. This will then drive up the demand for skills training from employers and contribute additional skills for life and full level 2 qualifications towards national Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets.

5.12.5 The table below shows the Train to Gain starts in Lancashire in 2006 at Period 12, with the breakdown between Skills for Life and Level 2 & 3. Level 3 trials have not been included in the total.

Figure 33a: Train to Gain Starts in 2006

	2006/07 Period 12		
	Train to Gain Level 2 & Level 3	Train to Gain SFL	Total
Blackburn With Darwen	636	41	677
Blackpool	779	54	833
Burnley	558	47	605
Chorley	333	25	358
Fylde	202	5	207
Hyndburn	421	11	432
Lancaster	526	43	569
Pendle	365	15	380
Preston	486	29	515
Ribble Valley	183	9	192
Rossendale	336	6	342
South Ribble	412	20	432
West Lancashire	302	42	344
Wyre	346	16	362
Lancashire	5,885	363	6,248
North West	26,069	2,315	28,384

Source: NW LSC Residency Platform

5.12.6 As the table above shows Lancashire is responsible for 22.5 per cent of the North West's Train to Gain level 2 & 3 starts, and 15.6 per cent of Train to Gain skills for life. There is some disparity at district level with Flyde contributing the lowest volume of starts (207 per cent) in contrast to 677 in Blackburn with Darwen.

5.13 Work Based Learning Success Rates

5.13.1 The table below shows adult WBL success rates by level 2 (apprenticeships) and level 3 (advanced apprenticeships) between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

Figure 38: Adults: WBL Success Rates by Level 2004/05 to 2006/07

	Level 2			Level 3		
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	54%	60%	70%	51%	58%	70%
Cheshire & Warrington	53%	58%	70%	52%	60%	69%
Cumbria	58%	62%	69%	57%	64%	70%
Greater Manchester	54%	60%	69%	53%	58%	68%
Greater Merseyside	52%	57%	68%	46%	56%	71%
Lancashire	56%	65%	73%	53%	60%	74%

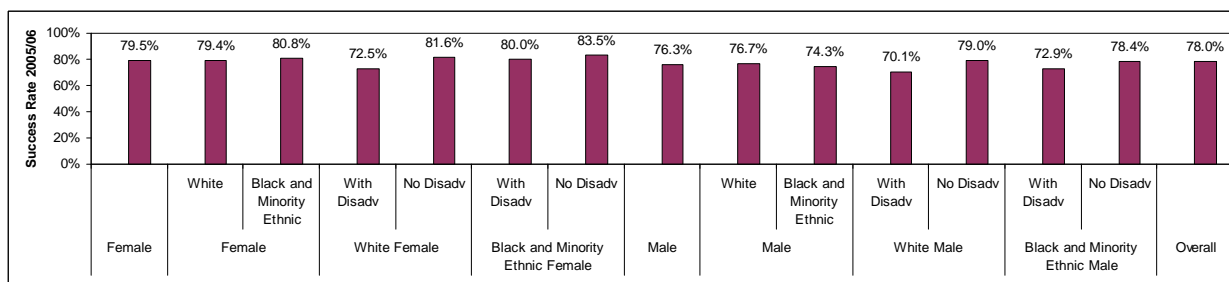
Source: North West Reporting Platform

5.13.2 Regionally there has been a substantial increase in both level 2 and level 3 success rates in the last three years, which has been reflected in the sub-regional figures. Lancashire level 2 success rates have been above the North West average and have grown by 8 percentage points since last year. Level 3 success rates have also been greater than the North West and increased by 14 percentage points.

5.14 Learner Success Rates

5.14.1 The purpose of this section is to investigate the extent to which FE success rates vary by learner characteristics including gender, ethnic group and disadvantage.

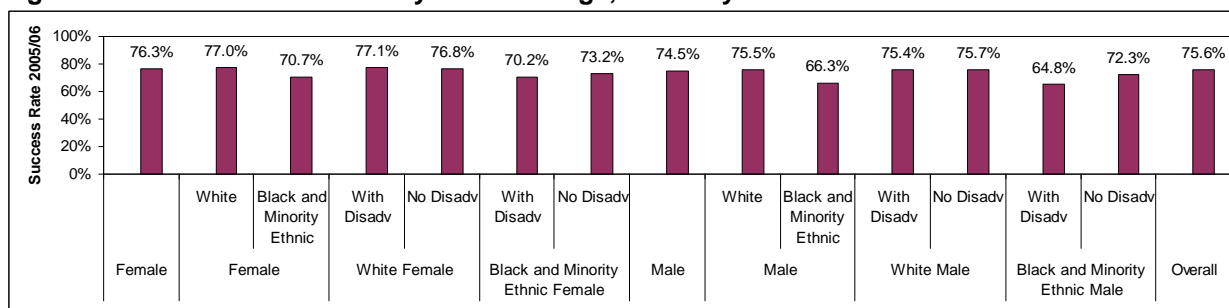
Figure 39: FE Success Rates by Disadvantage, Ethnicity and Gender 2005/6-Young People



Source :North West Residency Platform

5.14.2 The table above shows FE success rates for young people by gender, ethnicity and disadvantage in Lancashire. The key points to note are that female success rates are higher than male success rates by 3.2 percentage points. The group with the highest success rates are Black and minority group females with no disadvantages (83.5 per cent). The lowest success rates were white males with disadvantages (70.1 per cent).

Figure 40a: FE Success Rates by Disadvantage, Ethnicity and Gender 2005/6-Adults



Source: North West Residency Platform

5.14.3 The table above shows Adult FE Success rates by disadvantage, ethnicity and gender in 2005/06. The key points to note are the majority of adult success rates are lower than young peoples, with the exception of two groups. White females with disadvantages have the highest success rate (77.1 per cent) and Black and minority ethnic males have the lowest (64.8 per cent).

5.15 Independent Quality Assessment: Inspection

5.15.1 The Regional Strategic Analysis contains further analysis of FE College inspection scores from 2005/06 to 2006/07. Ofsted inspect colleges across the year assessing curriculum areas, quality, standards and management. The table below shows the number of Colleges in Lancashire and the assessment results. Throughout the North West only two Colleges were deemed 'inadequate', and were also the only provision to rate as 'poor' in curriculum areas.

Figure 41: FE Inspection Grades

	Overall effectiveness	Capacity to make further improvements	Achievement and standards	Quality of provision
Oustanding	0	1	0	0
Good	2	1	2	2
Satisfactory	2	1	3	3
Poor	1	2	0	0

Source: Ofsted

5.15.2 Lancashire has a relatively low incidence of poor provision, with only one college rating 'poor' in a curriculum area, and inadequate overall. The majority of provision is rated 'good' or 'satisfactory'.

5.15.3 WBL providers are now inspected by Ofsted as of this year. Recently we have reduced the number of WBL providers which we contract with by removing poor quality provision; as a result the quality of the sector has improved, as highlighted in the significant improvements in success rates.

5.15.4 Due to the recent take over of Ofsted only 7 WBL providers have been assessed this year between July and November, all of which have been rated as outstanding, satisfactory or good.

5.16 Summary

5.16.1 Overall provision in Lancashire is good with high success rates and reasonable Ofsted assessments. Participation and success varies greatly at district level, for example Blackpool has substantially lower levels of 17 year olds in education and WBL compared to Blackburn with Darwen, with declining numbers in School Sixth Forms.

5.16.2 Regional participation rates for young people have increased in FE. Lancashire has also experienced rising learner numbers with Lancaster volumes improving by 19 per cent over three years. The rapid growth in Lancashire has been met by increasing success rates in full level 2 and full level 3 long courses. Adult participation has continued to fall in line with the North West over the past three years (21,070 learners in Lancashire); however this has been balanced by improving success rates.

5.16.3 Although FE success rates are improving it is essential that we continue to target those from minority groups. Participation and success rates of learners from black and ethnic minority groups are low compared to white learners. As evidenced in the Regional Strategic Analysis participation in both FE and WBL shows that there is an imbalance in both learning routes. Concisely black and minority ethnic groups are under represented in WBL, and white ethnic groups are under represented in FE. These issues are relevant for both young people and adults. The LSC Single Equality Scheme (April 2007) states:

- "Members of black or ethnic minority groups form about one-tenth of the English population. They were under-represented in WBL, in full Level 2 and 3 programmes"

5.16.4 The volume of young people on WBL courses in the North West has continued to fall over the last three years partially as a result of the removal of poor provision. The volumes in Lancashire are falling at a slower rate than the Region, with some districts showing improvements such as South Ribble. Success rates for 16-18 year olds on WBL courses have been consistently higher than the Regional average with large growth over the three year period.

5.16.5 Adult WBL participation has been varied, with an overall fall in Lancashire. The majority of districts have experienced small decline with some extremes, for example, Rossendale has grown by 9 per cent compared to a sharp fall of -18.3 per cent in Lancaster. As with young people, adult learner success rates are strong and have experienced substantial growth over the last three years. Although WBL performance is improving it is essential that we remain focused on this route into learning. The Commissioning Spending Review (CSR) shows increasing focus away from growth in FE and School Sixth Forms and towards WBL and Leitch ambitions.

SECTION:6 EMPLOYABILITY AND WORKLESSNESS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The following chapter highlights the issue of worklessness in Lancashire, breaking down the headline figures on unemployment and economic inactivity by characteristics such as age, gender, disability, those who are claiming benefits, and ethnicity. This reflects the increasing alignment of the skills and employment agendas as set out in the Annual Statement of Priorities 2008/09, and the challenge for the learning and skills sector to provide skills for employability to help sustain and build the regional economy.

6.2 Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity

6.2.1 Levels of economic inactivity are mixed across Lancashire, 6 of the local areas have rates of economic inactivity above the regional average, including Hyndburn, which has a rate 7.1 percentage points above the regional rate. However some areas are considerably below the North West average, Chorley has a rate of economic inactivity of 13.3 per cent, which is 10 percentage points below the regional rate.

Figure 42: Employment Status of Working Age Population (by %), 2006

	Economically Active		Economically Inactive
	Employed	Unemployed	
England	74.3%	5.5%	21.4%
North West	72.5%	5.4%	23.3%
Burnley	70.4%	7.5%	23.9%
Chorley	84.3%	2.8%	13.3%
Flyde	76.5%	!	22.3%
Hyndburn	68.0%	!	30.4%
Lancaster	71.3%	6.7%	23.6%
Pendle	70.1%	7.5%	24.2%
Preston	70.8%	7.2%	23.7%
Ribble Valley	83.8%	!	16.2%
Rosendale	74.0%	3.6%	23.3%
South Ribble	81.5%	3.0%	16.1%
West Lancashire	72.7%	3.7%	24.5%
Wyre	73.5%	5.4%	22.3%
Blackburn with Darwen	67.1%	6.8%	28.1%
Blackpool	69.9%	6.3%	25.4%

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.2.2 The highest volume of employed people are in Lancaster (60,000), this gives an employment rate of 71.3 per cent. The highest volume of economically inactive people are in Blackburn with Darwen (23,000)

Figure 43: Employment Status of Working Age Population (by Volume), 2006

	Economically Active		Economically Inactive
	Employed	Unemployed	
England	22,794,700	1,326,500	6,560,900
North West	2,978,000	168,900	958,400
Burnley	38,400	3,100	13,000
Chorley	52,500	1,500	8,300
Flyde	32,800	!	9,600
Hyndburn	33,500	!	15,000
Lancaster	60,200	4,300	19,900
Pendle	37,500	3,000	13,000
Preston	58,700	4,600	19,600
Ribble Valley	26,600	!	5,100
Rossendale	29,900	1,100	9,400
South Ribble	52,300	1,600	10,300
West Lancashire	47,800	1,800	16,100
Wyre	44,000	2,500	13,400
Blackburn with Darwen	55,800	4,000	23,300
Blackpool	57,800	3,900	20,900

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.3 Economically Inactive

6.3.1 The rate of economic inactivity for females is higher in most areas of Lancashire than the rate for males, this trend mirrors that seen regionally and nationally. However, in Chorley, Ribble Valley and South Ribble the rate of economic inactivity for males is higher, this is not a common occurrence anywhere in the region. One factor that all three of these areas have in common is a relatively low rate of economic inactivity for both sexes when compared to other local areas.

Figure 44: Economic Inactivity Rate by Gender, 2006

	Male		Female		Total	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
England	16.4%	2,586,100	26.7%	3,974,800	21.4%	6,560,900
North West	19.4%	409,700	27.5%	548,700	23.3%	958,400
Lancashire	19.0%	84,200	27.2%	112,700	23.0%	196,900
Burnley	19.9%	5,500	28.0%	7,500	23.9%	13,000
Chorley	14.0%	4,500	12.5%	3,800	13.3%	8,300
Flyde	20.4%	4,700	24.5%	4,900	22.3%	9,600
Hyndburn	28.5%	7,300	32.5%	7,700	30.4%	15,000
Lancaster	18.7%	8,000	28.6%	12,000	23.6%	19,900
Pendle	20.1%	5,600	28.7%	7,400	24.2%	13,000
Preston	15.0%	6,400	33.0%	13,200	23.7%	19,600
Ribble Valley	17.7%	3,000	14.4%	2,100	16.2%	5,100
Rossendale	17.4%	3,600	29.5%	5,800	23.3%	9,400
South Ribble	16.8%	5,500	15.3%	4,800	16.1%	10,300
West Lancashire	17.5%	6,100	32.2%	10,000	24.5%	16,100
Wyre	19.9%	6,100	24.9%	7,200	22.3%	13,400
Blackburn with Darwen	21.1%	9,000	35.4%	14,300	28.1%	23,300
Blackpool	20.7%	8,900	30.5%	12,000	25.4%	20,900

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.4 Context

- 6.4.1 Of the total economically inactive population of Lancashire, the proportion that want a job is varied in different areas. The highest rate of those who want a job is in Wyre (26.3%), the lowest is in West Lancashire (8.3%).
- 6.4.2 Rates of those who are economically inactive who do not want a job are high across many areas of Lancashire, only Wyre and Rossendale have a proportion lower than the national average (74.8%).
- 6.4.3 Of the group who do want a job, for most local areas the highest proportion are inactive due to long term sickness. The highest instance of this is in Hyndburn where 16.5 per cent of the economically inactive who do want a job are classed as long term sick.

Figure 45: Profile of Economically Inactive Population, 2006

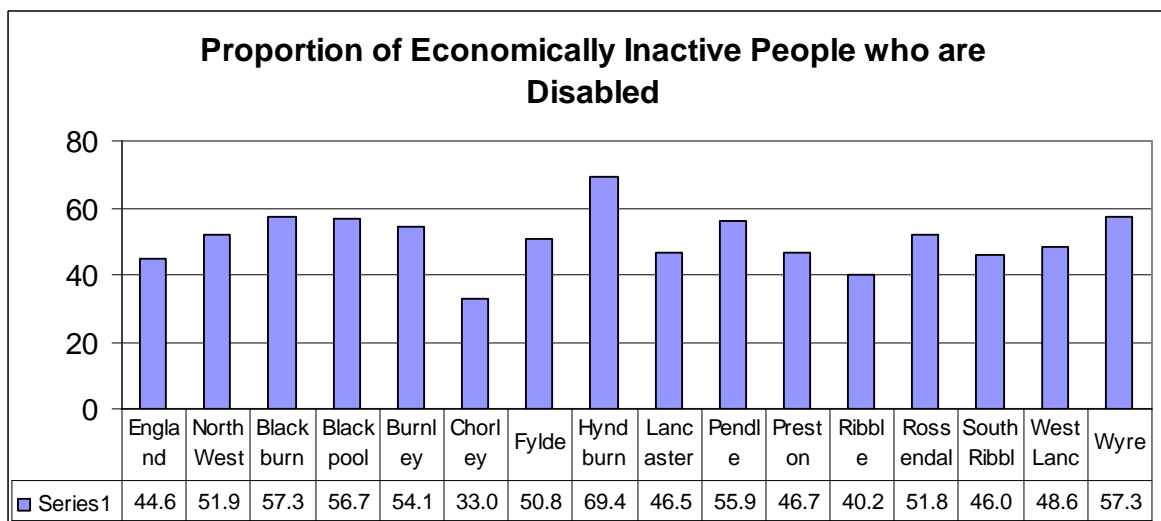
% of economically inactive	DO want a job	DO NOT want a job	DO want a job (breakdown)			
			Long-term sick	Looking after family/home	Students	Other
England	25.2%	74.8%	7.1%	6.6%	3.7%	4.6%
North West	20.1%	79.9%	6.8%	4.3%	2.8%	3.7%
Burnley	17.8%	82.2%	!	!	!	!
Chorley	14.5%	85.5%	!	!	!	!
Flyde	22.6%	77.4%	!	!	7.8%	9.1%
Hyndburn	25.2%	74.8%	16.5%	!	!	!
Lancaster	15.1%	84.9%	6.8%	!	!	!
Pendle	19.0%	81.0%	7.0%	!	6.6%	!
Preston	23.3%	76.7%	7.8%	6.2%	!	6.6%
Ribble Valley	!	87.3%	!	!	!	!
Rossendale	25.8%	74.2%	9.4%	10.2%	!	!
South Ribble	15.2%	84.8%	9.0%	!	!	!
West Lancashire	8.3%	91.7%	!	!	!	!
Wyre	26.3%	73.7%	!	7.4%	!	10.8%
Blackburn with Darwen	17.5%	82.5%	5.5%	4.9%	1.5%	4.5%
Blackpool	15.9%	84.1%	5.0%	4.7%	1.7%	2.6%

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.5 Economic Inactivity by Disability

- 6.5.1 Of the economically inactive population of Lancashire, the highest rate of disabled people among this group are in Hyndburn, where 69.4 per cent of those who are economically inactive are disabled. The lowest instance of this is in Chorley where 33 per cent of those who are economically inactive are disabled.

Figure 46: Economic Inactivity Rate by Disability, 2006



Source: Annual Population Survey

6.6 Economic Inactivity by Ethnicity

6.6.1 Analysis of economic inactivity by ethnicity is problematic in many areas of Lancashire due to the small sample size, particularly for the Black or Black British Group.

6.6.2 Figure 47 shows that Preston has a rate of economic inactivity for the Indian ethnic group that is above regional and national averages, however the same area has a rate of inactivity lower than regional and national figures for the Pakistani / Bangladeshi ethnic group, although this rate is still high compared to other ethnic groups.

6.6.3 The rate of economic inactivity for the White ethnic group is varied across Lancashire, with seven local areas below the regional average (22.3%). Chorley has the lowest rate of economic inactivity among the White ethnic group (13%), Hyndburn has the highest (27%).

Figure 47: Economic Inactivity Rate by Ethnicity, 2006

	% of whites of working age who are economically inactive	% of mixed ethnic group of working age who are economically inactive	% of Indians of working age who are economically inactive	% of Pakistanis/Bangladeshis of working age who are economically inactive	% of Black or Black British of working age who are economically inactive	% of other ethnic group of working age who are economically inactive
England	19.9	26.4	24.4	47.4	27.3	34.5
North West	22.3	29.9	25.9	47.9	32.6	35.5
Blackburn with Darwen	22.2	!	41.8	52.2	!	43.4
Blackpool	25.4	!	!	!	!	!
Burnley	22.6	!	!	35.4	!	!
Chorley	13.0	!	!	!	!	!
Fylde	21.4	!	!	!	!	!
Hyndburn	27.0	!	!	57.1	!	!
Lancaster	23.6	!	!	!	!	!
Pendle	23.4	!	!	25.4	!	!
Preston	18.3	!	29.6	45.6	!	49.8
Ribble Valley	16.2	!	!	!	!	!
Rossendale	18.3	!	!	100.0	!	!
South Ribble	15.6	!	!	!	!	!
West Lancashire	25.1	!	!	!	!	!
Wyre	22.2	!	!	!	!	!

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.7 Incapacity Benefit

- 6.7.1 Analysis of benefit claims in Lancashire reveals that the highest proportion of claims, as a percentage of the working age population, are for Incapacity Benefit (IB) / Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) (ave.9.5%). The highest instance of this is in Blackpool where 13.7 per cent of the working age population claim IB / SDA.
- 6.7.2 2.5 per cent of the working age population of Lancashire Claim Job Seekers Allowance, this rate is lower than the North West (2.9%) and national figure (3.1%).
- 6.7.3 Levels of income support claims in Lancashire are mixed, with 4 areas above regional and national rates (7.5% / 7.0%). The lowest rate of income support claims are in Ribble Valley, this area also has the lowest rate of claimants for each of the benefit types shown in Figure 48.

Figure 48: Proportion of Working Age Population Claiming DWP Benefits by Type

	Incapacity Benefit & Severe Disablement Allowance		Jobseekers Allowance		Disability Living Allowance		Income Support	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	2662210	8.7%	936300	3.1%	1670020	5.4%	2134170	7.0%
North West	408220	9.9%	9800	2.9%	251620	6.1%	306790	7.5%
Lancashire	81200	9.5%	21030	2.5%	50050	5.8%	54690	6.4%
Burnley	6680	12.3%	1430	2.6%	3330	6.1%	4660	8.6%
Chorley	4550	7.3%	1180	1.9%	2980	4.8%	2450	3.9%
Fylde	3070	7.2%	530	1.2%	2040	4.8%	1570	3.7%
Hyndburn	5700	11.6%	1140	2.3%	3370	6.8%	3810	7.7%
Lancaster	6640	7.9%	2050	2.4%	4240	5.0%	4780	5.7%
Pendle	5610	10.5%	1300	2.4%	2900	5.4%	3760	7.0%
Preston	7730	9.3%	2340	2.8%	4640	5.6%	5900	7.1%
Ribble Valley	1800	5.7%	260	0.8%	1230	3.9%	680	2.1%
Rossendale	3810	9.4%	790	2.0%	2350	5.8%	2260	5.6%
South Ribble	4140	6.5%	980	1.5%	2910	4.5%	2150	3.4%
West Lancashire	5370	8.2%	1890	2.9%	3670	5.6%	3550	5.4%
Wyre	4900	8.2%	940	1.6%	3370	5.6%	2760	4.6%
Blackburn with Darwen	9870	11.9%	2740	3.3%	6100	7.3%	7710	9.3%
Blackpool	11330	13.7%	3460	4.2%	6920	8.4%	8650	10.5%

Source: DWP Tabulation Tool <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool>.

- 6.7.4 Consistent with other areas in the region, the most common reason given for Incapacity Benefit claims is a depressive episode, with 18.4 per cent of cases citing this as the main reason for the claim. Again as with other areas, the second highest frequency was for Dorsalgia, which is pain in the upper back.

Figure 49: IB/SDA Claimant Conditions

IB/SDA claimants by (10 most common) Conditions February 2007

Main Disabling Condition	North		
	Lancashire	West	Great Britain
Depressive Episode	18.4%	19.6%	18.7%
Other anxiety Disorders	5.0%	5.2%	4.3%
Other Neurotic Disorders	2.7%	3.7%	2.8%
Epilepsy	2.3%	2.2%	2.0%
Other Arthritis	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%
Other Arthrosis	3.0%	2.9%	2.4%
Dorsalgia	7.5%	7.5%	8.2%
Pain, not elsewhere classified	2.8%	2.6%	3.0%
Unknown and unspecified causes of Morbidity	5.6%	6.0%	6.2%

Above total	49.6%	52.4%	50.0%
All other	50.4%	47.6%	50.0%

Source: DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

6.7.5 In most cases, the economically active population has a higher rate of skills attainment than the economically inactive. In Lancashire the rate of economically active working age adults without a level 2 is 28.2 per cent, just above both the regional and national rate. Within Lancashire the rate is highest in Blackpool, where 35.2 per cent of the economically active do not have a level 2 qualification. Although currently active, this group (181,000 people in Lancashire) are more likely to face problems in attaining sustainable employment.

Figure 50: Qualification Profile of the Economically Active Population, 2006

	Economically Active Population (000's)	Economically Active qualified to at least level 4		Economically Active qualified to at least level 3		Economically Active qualified to at least level 2		Economically Active adults without a level 2 qualification	
		Number (000's)	%	Number (000's)	%	Number (000's)	%	Number (000's)	%
England	23,541	7,225	31.5%	11,832	51.0%	16,827	72.1%	6,715	27.9%
North West	3,068	897	29.4%	1,525	50.4%	2,188	72.2%	880	27.8%
Lancashire	640	166	25.9%	309	48.3%	460	71.8%	181	28.2%
Burnley	41	9	21.3%	17	42.1%	30	74.8%	10	25.2%
Chorley	52	13	25.8%	25	48.7%	37	71.3%	15	28.7%
Fylde	32	12	37.3%	18	55.1%	25	77.3%	7	22.7%
Hyndburn	34	8	23.7%	17	48.9%	25	73.4%	9	26.6%
Lancaster	62	20	31.5%	33	53.5%	46	73.3%	17	26.7%
Pendle	39	10	24.5%	19	47.5%	27	69.2%	12	30.8%
Preston	61	14	23.6%	29	47.1%	41	67.4%	20	32.6%
Ribble Valley	26	10	39.2%	15	58.6%	21	80.4%	5	19.6%
Rosendale	30	6	21.7%	14	47.7%	21	69.7%	9	30.3%
South Ribble	52	11	21.9%	24	46.3%	37	71.2%	15	28.8%
West Lancashire	48	12	25.4%	24	50.5%	36	75.0%	12	25.0%
Wyre	45	13	29.6%	23	50.2%	35	77.3%	10	22.7%
Blackburn with Darwen	59	16	26.5%	28	47.1%	40	69.0%	18	31.0%
Blackpool	60	11	18.9%	24	40.2%	39	64.8%	21	35.2%

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.7.6 The rate of economically inactive working age people in Lancashire without a level 2 qualification is slightly greater than the regional and national averages, at 49.9 per cent. However there is great disparity at district level, Blackpool has the highest rate at 62.7 per cent, 20.7 percentage points above the national average. The district with the lowest rate is Ribble Valley at 30.5 per cent, 16 percentage points above the national average.

Figure 51: Qualification Profile of the Economically Inactive Population, 2006

	All Economically Inactive active	Economically Inactive adults qualified to at least level 4		Economically Inactive adults qualified to at least level 3		Economically Inactive adults qualified to at least level 2		Economically Inactive adults without a level 2 qualification	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	7,126,790	1,094,717	15.4%	2,200,430	30.9%	3,810,305	53.5%	3,316,485	46.5%
North West	1,036,510	121,514	11.7%	294,126	28.4%	528,399	51.0%	508,111	49.0%
Lancashire	216,553	25,180	11.6%	62,248	28.7%	108,525	50.1%	108,028	49.9%
Blackburn with Darwen	24,541	2,189	8.9%	5,677	23.1%	10,769	43.9%	13,772	56.1%
Blackpool	22,559	957	4.2%	3,636	16.1%	8,407	37.3%	14,152	62.7%
Burnley	13,913	2,361	17.0%	4,674	33.6%	6,151	44.2%	7,762	55.8%
Chorley	10,609	847	8.0%	2,656	25.0%	5,276	49.7%	5,333	50.3%
Fylde	10,560	647	6.1%	3,682	34.9%	6,459	61.2%	4,101	38.8%
Hyndburn	15,265	2,585	16.9%	4,523	29.6%	7,175	47.0%	8,090	53.0%
Lancaster	22,313	2,631	11.8%	9,760	43.7%	14,034	62.9%	8,279	37.1%
Pendle	14,453	1,495	10.3%	3,712	25.7%	6,894	47.7%	7,560	52.3%
Preston	21,434	3,610	16.8%	6,679	31.2%	8,937	41.7%	12,497	58.3%
Ribble Valley	5,794	1,091	18.8%	2,137	36.9%	4,027	69.5%	1,767	30.5%
Rossendale	10,729	931	8.7%	2,972	27.7%	6,205	57.8%	4,524	42.2%
South Ribble	11,750	2,222	18.9%	4,251	36.2%	7,865	66.9%	3,885	33.1%
West Lancashire	17,691	2,311	13.1%	4,268	24.1%	7,923	44.8%	9,768	55.2%
Wyre	14,942	1,303	8.7%	3,622	24.2%	8,404	56.2%	6,538	43.8%

Source: Annual Population Survey

6.7.7 It is important to note that the economically inactive population have a far greater proportion of the population without a level 2 qualification than the economically active. This suggests that increasing the number of the working age population who are qualified to a level 2 could potentially increase the volume of the economically active population.

6.8 Not in Education, Employment or Training

6.8.1 The rate of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Lancashire is 8.3 per cent. This has reduced by 1.6 percentage points from the previous year, and is below the regional rate of 9.5 per cent. Lancashire has the highest rate of reduction of those who are NEET in the North West, this statistic could be used as an example of where to share best practise across partners.

Figure 52: Percentage of 16-18 Year Olds in NEET

	2006 Jan-March Average	2007 Jan-March Average	Change 2006-2007
England	8.6%	8.0%	-0.6%
North West	9.8%	9.5%	-0.3%
Cumbria	7.5%	6.8%	-0.7%
Lancashire	9.9%	8.3%	-1.6%
Greater Merseyside	11.7%	11.2%	-0.5%
Greater Manchester	9.9%	10.6%	0.7%
Cheshire and Warrington	6.9%	6.3%	-0.6%

Source: DfES

6.9 Entry to Employment

6.9.1 In 2006/07, E2E starts in Lancashire fell by 52.9 per cent from the previous year, with 858 starters accounting for 18.4 per cent of the regional total. Within Lancashire the highest volume of starts are in West Lancashire, with 121.

6.9.2 At 53 per cent, the rate of positive outcome from E2E in Lancashire is above the regional average, this rate has steadily increased from 47.9 per cent in 2004/05

Figure 53: Entry to Employment Starts and Progression

	2004/05			2005/06			2006/07		
	Starts	Positive Leavers	Positive outcome %	Starts	Positive Leavers	Positive outcome %	Starts	Positive Leavers	Positive outcome %
North West	9,539	4,493	47.3%	9,255	5,196	52%	4,643	2,187	50%
Lancashire	1,897	841	47.9%	1,823	1,100	52%	858	447	53%
Burnley	201	73	41.7%	167	124	56%	92	49	60%
Chorley	78	53	60.2%	81	47	64%	50	33	69%
Fylde	15	6	54.5%	52	20	63%	18	16	70%
Hyndburn	121	67	46.9%	134	87	57%	44	31	58%
Lancaster	170	82	51.3%	160	103	62%	90	51	63%
Pendle	168	66	40.0%	146	79	40%	108	40	48%
Preston	108	59	48.0%	114	58	51%	45	28	60%
Ribble Valley	19	10	62.5%	24	19	70%	4	6	75%
Rossendale	153	59	42.8%	117	96	60%	57	33	52%
South Ribble	43	27	56.3%	73	31	46%	21	14	45%
West Lancashire	156	70	56.0%	160	87	50%	121	28	47%
Wyre	166	62	53.0%	111	78	55%	44	30	48%
Blackburn with Darwen	311	135	51.3%	283	180	51%	103	64	50%
Blackpool	188	72	39.3%	201	91	41%	61	24	38%

Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform

6.9.3 The most common progression route from E2E in Lancashire is into Further Education, 45 per cent of E2E positive progression is towards this route. This rate is above the regional average of 37 per cent. The second highest rate of positive progression from E2E is into employment with 41 per cent.

6.9.4 The rate of positive progression into Work-based learning is 14 per cent, this is below the regional average of 22 per cent and a re-balancing between progression routes might be required.

Figure 54: Entry to Employment Progression Route

	2006-2007					
	Into WBL	WBL %	Into FE	FE %	Into Employ	Employed %
North West	484	22%	811	37%	892	41%
Lancashire	61	14%	202	45%	184	41%
Burnley	6	12%	18	37%	25	51%
Chorley	6	18%	5	15%	22	67%
Fylde	3	19%	4	25%	9	56%
Hyndburn	3	10%	14	45%	14	45%
Lancaster	1	2%	38	75%	12	24%
Pendle	5	13%	14	35%	21	53%
Preston	8	29%	15	54%	5	18%
Ribble Valley	3	50%	1	17%	2	33%
Rossendale	2	6%	7	21%	24	73%
South Ribble	2	14%	9	64%	3	21%
West Lancashire	2	7%	20	71%	6	21%
Wyre	6	20%	19	63%	5	17%
Blackburn with Darwen	9	14%	28	44%	27	42%
Blackpool	5	21%	10	42%	9	38%

6.10 Matching Demand and Supply

6.10.1 The volume of skills for life learners on qualifications that count towards target in Lancashire has increased by 15.7 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06. The percentage of learners who count towards target has increased from 38 per cent to 45 per cent. However, the volume of learners who do not count towards target is still higher than those who do.

Figure 55: Skills for Life Achievements Contributing to Target

Local LSC	2004/05			2005/06			2004/05 to Change in learners who contribute to target
	Number of learners contributing to target	Number not contributing to target	Learners contributing to target	Number of learners contributing to target	Number not contributing to target	Learners contributing to target	
Cheshire and Warrington	5,833	4,422	57%	5,892	4,541	56%	-0.4%
Cumbria	2,672	3,507	43%	3,390	2,910	54%	10.6%
Greater Manchester	21,571	30,029	42%	24,255	27,873	47%	4.7%
Greater Merseyside	12,035	17,837	40%	11,060	17,810	38%	-2.0%
Lancashire	8,395	13,590	38%	9,720	11,846	45%	6.9%
North West	50,506	69,385	42%	54,317	64,980	46%	3.4%
National	334,518	516,970	39%	367,635	494,808	43%	3.3%

Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform

6.11 Summary

6.11.1 Lancashire has varied levels of economic activity and employment throughout different local areas, this would indicate a need for a greater level of targeting in those areas with higher rates of economic inactivity and unemployment if the LSC is to work towards it's goal of economic and social prosperity

6.11.2 Economic activity rates for females are a particular area for concern in Lancashire, as with other Local LSC areas the economic inactivity rate for females is consistently higher, however in areas such as Blackburn with Darwen (35.4%) and Preston (33%) rates are particularly high. Joint work with the LSC's partners and stakeholders is essential to encourage greater female participation in the labour market and ensuring that learning opportunities are available for continued skills development.

6.11.3 Ethnicity is a key issue for Lancashire due to high concentrations of people from ethnic minorities in certain areas, analysis of economic activity by local area and by ethnic group shows areas where more focussed work could be carried out, for example; the relatively high rate of economic inactivity amongst the Indian ethnic group in Preston. The learning and skills sector needs to ensure equality of access for all different groups.

6.11.4 The rate of Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disablement Allowance claims in certain areas is particularly high, eg: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, and Hyndburn all have rates of claimants that are high above the regional and national averages. Partnership work could be carried out to anticipate the effects of proposed government changes to the eligibility criteria for claiming disability benefits and the implications this could have on skills provision for people re-entering the work force.

SECTION:7 LOWER LEVEL AND BASIC SKILLS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The following section analyses skills for life needs in Lancashire, looking at literacy, numeracy, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) and information and communications technology subject areas to assess the supply to the labour market, and where there may be gaps.

7.2 Context

- 7.2.1 Below Level 2 qualifications, the focus is on providing individuals with the skills they need to participate in the labour market, including literacy and numeracy skills. The focus is as much about getting people onto the 'skills ladder' as meeting the needs of employers. However, the underpinning skills of literacy, language and numeracy are vital to ensure the region has a workforce which is able to support a move to higher productivity levels. Provision for those lower level skills, is delivered under the umbrella of the national 'Skills for Life' programme.
- 7.2.2 The North West Skills for Life Strategy (July 2006) is the region's response to developments at a national level and shows how the region intends to implement the policy. This is summarised in the Regional Strategic Analysis report.

7.3 Scale of Need

- 7.3.1 The Regional Strategic Analysis report explores the scale of need for Skills for Life provision in the region. Over 1.4m adults of working age in the North West do not hold qualifications at Level 2 or above (35.1% compared to 33.5% in England) –the minimum considered necessary for productive participation in the modern labour market. In Lancashire, there are 288, 000 adults below Level 2.
- 7.3.2 Across the region only 70.2% of those without a Level 2 qualification are employed, compared to 87.9% of those qualified to Level 4 –this equates to nearly 250,000 fewer people in work than would be the case if the employment rates were in line with the national average. For those with no qualifications at all, the employment rate is just 45.3%. Many people without any qualifications are also likely to have basic skills needs. Therefore, Skills for Life provision should be targeted at those who are currently unemployed, inactive, or in low-skilled employment but vulnerable to redundancy.
- 7.3.3 Basic skills gaps are causing North West employers recruitment difficulties. Based on the results of the 2005 National Employer Skills Survey, employers in the North West are more likely than employers anywhere else in the country to cite written communication, literacy, and numeracy skills as lacking amongst applicants for skills shortage vacancies. Of employers reporting skills shortage vacancies, 38% noted that written communication skills were lacking amongst applicants, 31% noted literacy skills as lacking, and 30% numeracy skills. In all cases, these were the highest responses of the nine English regions.

7.4 Targets

- 7.4.1 The region's PSA target is to support 109,670 adults to improve their literacy, language or numeracy skills between 2004-2007. The October 2006 data shows an achievement figure of 128,063 (nondiscounted). This means that the region

has already over achieved its Skills for Life PSA target for 2007 by 117%, with further achievements due for 2006-7.

- 7.4.2 Not all Skills for Life achievements can be counted towards the target. There is a national benchmark set which encourages providers to work towards the balance and mix of 80% of Skills for Life provision to be target or approved provision, and the remaining 20% to be non-accredited provision.
- 7.4.3 Current performance in the North West and Lancashire is shown in the table below. The table shows for 16-18 year olds and adults separately, the proportion of basic skills achievements which count towards the target in 2004/05. The last two columns show how achievements split between young people and adults.
- 7.4.4 In 2004/05, in the North West, 89% of Skills For Life achievements by young people count towards the target - this is to be expected, as a large proportion of under 19 learners will be following key skills programme or re-taking GCSEs, which also contribute towards the target. In Lancashire, the proportion is higher, at 93%.
- 7.4.5 Most adults follow discrete Skills for Life programmes, which are less substantial in terms of guided learning hours. For adults in the North West, only 35% of achievements count towards the target. The Lancashire figure is lower at 31%. The challenge is to increase the number of adults on basic skills courses that count towards the target, and this challenge is likely to increase over time if school performance continues to improve, as this will have the affect that fewer 16-18 year olds require Skills for Life provision.

Figure: Skills for Life Achievements (Target / Non Target) in 2004/05
Skills for Life Achievements (Target / Non Target) in 2004/05

	Age	% Count Towards Target	% Achievements
Lancashire	16-18	93%	31%
	Adults	31%	69%
	All Ages	50%	
North West	16-18	89%	29%
	Adults	35%	71%
	All Ages	51%	

Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform

7.5 The Survey

- 7.5.1 The Regional Strategic Analysis report describes the results of the 2002 Skills for Life (SfL) Survey commissioned by DfES in 2002. Section 8.4 of the Regional report sets out estimated literacy, numeracy, ESOL and ICT needs in the region and sub-regions based on the survey proportions. In this report, we show the analysis at the district level, to get a picture of the areas with the greatest basic skills needs.

7.6 Literacy

- 7.6.1 The tables below show the proportion and number of people (adults aged 16-65) in each district with literacy skills at each of the three levels. There is a significant basic skills needs across Lancashire, with 12% of people at Entry Level and 47%

at Level 1. In total, 59% of 16-65 year olds in Lancashire have literacy skills which are below Level 2; this compares to 56% for England and 60% for the region. There are about 512,700 adults in Lancashire with literacy skills below Level 2, indicating a significant requirement for provision to address this need.

7.6.2 Within the sub-region, Blackburn with Darwen has the highest proportion (and highest number) of people with below Level 2 skills in literacy.

Figure 56: Adults (16-65): Distribution of Literacy Skills by Level of Need

Literacy	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2
Blackburn with Darwen LEA	19%	47%	36%
Blackpool LEA	17%	47%	38%
Lancashire LEA	10%	49%	41%
Burnley District	15%	47%	39%
Chorley District	8%	49%	43%
Fylde District	8%	45%	48%
Hyndburn District	14%	49%	37%
Lancaster District	10%	44%	46%
Pendle District	15%	44%	41%
Preston District	14%	45%	41%
Ribble Valley District	7%	43%	50%
Rossendale District	10%	48%	41%
South Ribble District	10%	43%	47%
West Lancashire District	8%	48%	43%
Wyre District	9%	46%	45%
Lancashire	12%	47%	41%
North West	13%	47%	40%
England	16%	40%	44%

Source: Skills for Life Survey 2002/03, DfES

Figure 57: Number of Adults (16-65) by Literacy Skill Level of Need

Literacy	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2
Blackburn with Darwen LEA	15,950	39,550	29,950
Blackpool LEA	14,590	39,670	32,260
Lancashire LEA	70,530	345,400	285,400
Burnley District	8,115	25,930	21,370
Chorley District	5,175	31,800	27,940
Fylde District	3,250	19,060	20,490
Hyndburn District	7,085	24,470	18,900
Lancaster District	7,800	35,480	36,500
Pendle District	8,460	24,120	22,570
Preston District	11,770	36,960	33,400
Ribble Valley District	2,425	14,420	16,650
Rossendale District	4,305	20,030	17,030
South Ribble District	6,375	28,850	31,350
West Lancashire District	5,770	33,320	29,610
Wyre District	5,510	28,160	27,910
Lancashire	101,100	411,600	358,600
North West	536,760	1,991,600	1,674,800
England	5,021,930	12,232,620	13,682,015

Source: Skills for Life Survey 2002/03, DfES

7.7 Numeracy

7.7.1 The table below shows the proportion of people (adults aged 16-65) in each district with numeracy skills at each of the three levels. At the regional level, there

is a significant basic skills need, with 53% of people at Entry Level and 30% at Level 1. In total, 83% of 16-65 year olds have numeracy skills which are below level 2, and this compares to 75% for England.

7.7.2 There is some variation across the sub-regions; Greater Merseyside has the highest proportion of adults with less than Level 2 numeracy skills, at 87%, and Cheshire and Warrington has the lowest, at 79%. All sub-regions have a higher proportion of adults with numeracy skills below Level 2 than the England average.

Figure 58: Adults (16-65): Distribution of Numeracy Skills by Level of Need

Numeracy	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2
Blackburn with Darwen LEA	67%	25%	13%
Blackpool LEA	61%	27%	14%
Lancashire LEA	43%	35%	20%
Burnley District	54%	31%	16%
Chorley District	44%	34%	22%
Fylde District	44%	34%	23%
Hyndburn District	53%	31%	16%
Lancaster District	52%	31%	17%
Pendle District	46%	36%	18%
Preston District	48%	34%	19%
Ribble Valley District	40%	35%	25%
Rossendale District	52%	31%	16%
South Ribble District	48%	30%	21%
West Lancashire District	46%	32%	21%
Wyre District	47%	33%	21%
Lancashire	49%	32%	19%
North West	53%	30%	17%
England	47%	28%	25%

Source: Skills for Life Survey 2002/03, DfES

7.7.3 There is a substantial need for basic skills training in numeracy across the North West. The table below shows the number of adults with numeracy skills at the different levels. There are about 3.5 million adults in the region with numeracy below Level 2, indicating a significant requirement for provision to address this need. Of these, Lancashire accounts for just over 705,300 adults in need below Level 2. Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool have particularly high numbers of adults below Level 2.

Figure 59: Number of Adults (16-65) by Numeracy Skill Level of Need

Numeracy	Entry Level	Level 1	Level 2
Blackburn with Darwen LEA	56,150	20,650	10,670
Blackpool LEA	51,470	22,630	11,750
Lancashire LEA	303,800	248,700	138,500
Burnley District	29,690	16,910	8,825
Chorley District	28,380	22,140	14,390
Fylde District	18,650	14,440	9,715
Hyndburn District	26,500	15,780	8,170
Lancaster District	41,560	24,660	13,560
Pendle District	25,620	19,760	9,755
Preston District	39,320	27,580	15,230
Ribble Valley District	13,300	11,680	8,520
Rossendale District	21,700	12,900	6,770
South Ribble District	32,210	20,080	14,270
West Lancashire District	31,830	22,260	14,620
Wyre District	28,660	20,240	12,690
Lancashire	426,500	278,800	166,100
North West	2,229,200	1,264,300	710,220
England	14,499,395	8,553,945	7,883,225

Source: Skills for Life Survey 2002/03, DfES

7.8 ICT

7.8.1 The table below shows the results of the ICT assessment. In total, 66% of adults in the sub-region are classified as having ICT skills at Entry Level; this equates to 606,300 adults with a basic skills need in ICT. The proportion at Entry level is well above the England average of 53%. There are 2.5 million people in the region with ICT skills below Level 1.

7.8.2 Again there is some variation by District: Blackpool has the highest proportion of adults at Entry Level (70%), and Ribble Valley the lowest (47%).

Figure 60: Adults (16-65): Distribution of ICT Skills by Level of Need

	Number		Proportion (%)	
	Entry Level	Level 1	Entry Level	Level 1
Blackburn with Darwen	55,420	28,615	66%	34%
Blackpool	59,460	25,540	70%	30%
Burnley District	34,990	20,430	63%	37%
Chorley District	34,700	30,210	53%	47%
Fylde District	23,840	18,965	56%	44%
Hyndburn District	31,660	18,785	63%	37%
Lancaster District	41,410	38,375	52%	48%
Pendle District	33,880	21,265	61%	39%
Preston District	48,810	33,325	59%	41%
Ribble Valley District	15,910	17,590	47%	53%
Rossendale District	24,410	16,955	59%	41%
South Ribble District	34,540	32,030	52%	48%
West Lancashire District	38,000	30,705	55%	45%
Wyre District	35,060	26,530	57%	43%
Lancashire	560,000	311,410	64%	36%
North West	2,462,100	1,741,530	59%	41%
England	16,538,095	14,398,470	53%	47%

Source: Skills for Life Survey 2002/03, DfES

7.9 ESOL

7.9.1 As noted earlier, the survey provides an estimate of the number of people who may require ESOL training. The numbers for the sub-region are shown in the table below. The greatest need is in Blackburn with Darwen.

7.9.2 The North West Skills for Life Strategy notes that there is now higher demand for ESOL in the region. This is not reflected in the 2003 Survey. This is a result of an inflow of migrants with ESOL needs. The North West has established an ESOL task group to identify the scale of demand and suggest ways to plan and address the increase in demand.

Figure 61: Adults in the ESOL Group

	ESOL(number)	ESOL (%)
Blackburn with Darwen	16,725	20%
Blackpool	915	1%
Burnley District	3,835	7%
Chorley District	765	1%
Fylde District	460	1%
Hyndburn District	3,590	7%
Lancaster District	1,280	2%
Pendle District	7,265	13%
Preston District	9,760	12%
Ribble Valley District	350	1%
Rossendale District	1,230	3%
South Ribble District	760	1%
West Lancashire District	650	1%
Wyre District	480	1%
Lancashire	48,045	6%
North West	173,915	4%
England	2,358,060	8%

Source: Skills for Life Survey 2002/03, DfES

7.9.3 Figure 62 shows the volume of Skills for Life Learners by local area within Lancashire. Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancaster and Preston have learner volumes around 4,000, with Preston having the highest volume (4,709).

Figure 62: Skills for Life Learners

Number of Learners	
Local Area	Total
Blackburn With Darwen Total	4,109
Blackpool Total	3,986
Burnley Total	2,707
Chorley Total	2,579
Fylde Total	1,431
Hyndburn Total	2,303
Lancaster Total	4,709
Pendle Total	2,843
Preston Total	4,550
Ribble Valley Total	797

Rossendale Total	1,558
South Ribble Total	1,990
West Lancashire Total	2,587
Wyre Total	2,129
Lancashire	38,278

Source: NW LSC Residency Based Performance Reporting Platform

7.10 Summary

7.10.1 ESOL is potentially a bigger issue in Lancashire than in other areas, with as many as 20 per cent of the population of Blackburn with Darwen may require ESOL provision, however, it would be errant to assume that people would definitely require ESOL provision due to their ethnicity.

7.10.2 As with all other areas in the North West, skills for life: Numeracy is a larger issue than Literacy, although both important, the rate of working age people in Lancashire who are qualified to a level 2 (Literacy) is 41 per cent, the rate of those with numeracy at level 2 is 19 per cent, given the identified requirement for higher level skills in sectors such as engineering and manufacturing, as well as the chemical industry being seen as key to the future of the regional economy, greater levels of attainment in science and mathematical subjects is essential to ensure sustainable employment

SECTION:8 LEVEL 2

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter looks at participation and success rates in full level 2 learning and skills development in Lancashire. Full level 2 qualifications are essential in increasing employment opportunities and the up-skilling of the workforce. In recent years there has been a clear focus on the inclusion of English and Maths achievements as part of the full level 2 qualification

8.2 Context

8.2.1 The Regional Strategic Analysis explains in some detail the reasons for the national focus on level 2. The importance placed on level 2 attainment reflects a belief that this level is the minimum a person requires for employability. Attainment of level 2 is also a platform for progression to developing intermediate and higher level skills. Both DCSF and DIUS have PSA targets that relate to level 2 attainment by young people and adults.

8.3 Level 2 Attainment – Young People

8.3.1 The table below shows the proportion of learners who achieved a level 2 by age 16 and 19, and also the rate of additionality. Looking at the cohort of young people in the North West with a level 2 by age 19 is slightly below the National average of 71.4 per cent. The volume of 19 year olds with level 2 varies greatly at district level.

Figure 63: Level 2 Attainment of Young People

	19 in 06 cohort		
	% L2 by 16	% L2 by 19	Additionality
National	52.2%	71.4%	19.2%
North West	50.1%	70.2%	20.1%
Blackburn with Darwen	42.1%	63.5%	21.5%
Blackpool	42.2%	60.6%	18.4%
Lancashire	53%	70%	17.0%
Burnley	40.4%	61.7%	21.4%
Chorley	59.3%	75.4%	16.2%
Fylde	68.8%	80.0%	11.1%
Hyndburn	38.5%	60.5%	21.9%
Lancaster	55.1%	69.0%	13.9%
Pendle	42.0%	65.1%	23.1%
Preston	45.9%	62.6%	16.6%
Ribble Valley	72.0%	84.1%	12.1%
Rossendale	49.2%	66.2%	17.0%
South Ribble	59.2%	74.6%	15.4%
West Lancashire	51.4%	70.3%	18.9%
Wyre	54.8%	71.7%	16.9%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

8.3.2 The number of 16 year olds in Lancashire who have attained a level 2 qualification varies greatly at district level. A total of 8 districts in Lancashire have a lower proportion of learners with a level 2 qualification than the National average, the lowest being 38.5 per cent in Hyndburn. There are 6 areas in

Lancashire which have a higher proportion of learners than the National average, the biggest being Ribble Valley (72 per cent) which is currently 20 percentage points above England.

- 8.3.3 The number of 19 year olds in Lancashire with a level 2 qualification is below the national average. As with 16 year olds, there are large differences between attainment levels at district level. There are 5 districts which have a higher proportion of 19 year olds with a level 2 qualification than the national average, for example, Ribble Valley (84.1per cent) which is 12.7 per cent above. There are 9 districts in Lancashire with poor levels of attainment in comparison to England, the lowest levels in Blackpool (60.6 per cent) which is -10.8 percentage points below.
- 8.3.4 Rates of additionality are relatively high compared to the National rate partially as a result of overall low attainment levels at age 16. The district of Pendle has the highest rate at 23.1 percent, and is 3.9 percentage points above the national figure.
- 8.3.5 It has become evident over previous years that many lack basic numeracy and literacy skills leading to a national focus on young people attaining level 2 including Maths and English.

8.4 Level 2 Attainment – Adults

- 8.4.1 Of the working age population 32.7 per cent of the population in England do not have a level 2 qualification, equating to 10,031 people.

Figure 64: Working Age Population Qualified to Level 2

	Working age	Working age qualified to a least a level 2		Working age without a level 2 qualification	
	Population (000s)	Number (000s)	Percentage (%)	Number (000s)	Percentage (%)
England	30,668	20,637	67.3%	10,031	32.7%
North West	4,104	2,716	66.2%	1,388	33.8%
Lancashire	857	568	66.3%	289	33.7%
East Lancashire LP	313	206	65.8%	107	34.2%
West Lancashire LP	544	363	66.6%	182	33.4%

Source: Annual Population Survey

- 8.4.2 Of the working age population in Lancashire 33.7 per cent do not have a qualification, which is 1 per cent above the National average. A total of 66.3 per cent of the working age population in Lancashire have a level 2 qualification, -1 percentage point below the national average.

8.5 Plans

- 8.5.1 Currently the LSC does not have plan information from School Sixth Forms, but will begin to collect this information in the next year. Therefore only WBL and FE plans have been considered in this section.
- 8.5.2 The North West has regional plans for Level 2 attainment at 19 and for adults. The plans show the number of full level 2 achievements to be delivered in 2008/09 and include WBL apprenticeship and FE full level 2 achievements.

Figure: Full Level 2 Plan 2007/08



Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform, PaMS

8.5.3 The Lancashire 2007/08 plan for young people in FE full level 2 is 5 per cent higher than the area achieved in 2006/07, equating to an additional 239 learners on the 2006/07 total. The 2007/08 plan numbers of young people attaining WBL Apprenticeships (level 2) is 3,071, requiring an additional 9 per cent growth on last years actual.

8.5.4 The 2007/08 plan for adults in FE Full level 2 are 26 per cent higher than what was achieved in 2006/07, equating to an additional 1,916 learners on top of the 2006/07 baseline of 7,373. The 2007/08 plan number of adults attaining a WBL Apprenticeship (level 2) qualification is 1,482. In 2006/07 Greater Merseyside achieved a total of 1,244 completions, and therefore 19 per cent growth is required to meet the trajectory.

8.6 Supply

8.7 Young People

8.7.1 The table below shows the number of young people who are studying for a FE full level 2 qualification between 2004/05 and 2006/07. In Lancashire there were 4,996 learners studying towards a full level 2 in 2006/07, representing 21.1 per cent of the North West total.

Figure 65: Number of Young People in FE: Full Level 2 Participation

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	20,477	21,278	23,600
Lancashire	4,262	4,447	4,996
Burnley	311	300	274
Chorley	225	237	255
Fylde	157	164	159
Hyndburn	283	281	279
Lancaster	342	361	481
Pendle	308	296	350
Preston	409	413	457
Ribble Valley	109	100	132
Rossendale	194	193	224
South Ribble	303	269	332
West Lancashire	334	446	500
Wyre	282	277	312
Blackburn with Darwen	542	610	658

Source: North West Residency Platform

8.7.2 Participation rates in Lancashire have increased at a steady rate over the last three years by a total of 17.2 per cent. Participation volumes vary greatly at district level with the majority of districts experiencing growth since last year. Lancaster has seen the largest growth of 33.2 per cent on last years figures which is in comparison to a fall of -8.7 per cent in Burnley.

8.7.3 Success rates for 16-18 year olds on FE full level 2 courses are shown below with the latest available data. The overall Lancashire success rate (72.8 per cent) is above the regional average in 2005/06.

Figure 66: Young People in FE: Full Level 2 Success Rates

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
North West	60.9%	65.3%	69.9%
Lancashire	61.5%	66.9%	72.8%
Blackburn with Darwen	57.2%	60.5%	72.4%
Blackpool	54.8%	62.1%	76.1%
East Lancashire	67.7%	73.0%	77.7%
North and West Lancashire	62.0%	68.4%	70.3%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

8.7.4 Lancashire FE level 2 success rates have consistently been above the regional average since 2003/04, and are currently 2.9 percentage points greater than the region. High levels of success are supported down to partnership team level in which all areas in Lancashire are higher than the regional average.

8.7.5 The table below shows the number of 16-18 year olds starting an Apprenticeship (level 2) in the WBL sector between 2004/05 and 2006/07. In Lancashire there are 2,863 young people studying for a WBL apprenticeship, representing 21.1 per cent of the regional total

Figure 67: Number of Young People in WBL: Full Level 2 Starts

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	15380	13295	13506
Lancashire	3,025	2,433	2,863
Blackburn With Darwen	224	231	279
Blackpool	362	238	322
Burnley	226	148	226
Chorley	223	208	214
Fylde	136	126	119
Hyndburn	202	136	179
Lancaster	206	168	146
Pendle	195	146	192
Preston	229	199	210
Ribble Valley	124	114	101
Rossendale	164	126	155
South Ribble	262	248	264
West Lancashire	210	191	217
Wyre	258	154	239

Source: North West Residency Platform

8.7.6 The number of young people starting a course in WBL apprenticeships has fallen across the region by -14 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 and risen by 1.5 per cent from 2005/06 and 2006/07. Participation rates are varied at district level with the number of starts increasing by 55.1 per cent in Wyre and decreasing by -13.1 per cent in Ribble Valley 2005/06 and 2006/07.

8.7.7 Success rates of 16-18 year olds in WBL apprenticeships since 2004/05 are shown on the table below.

Figure: Adults in WBL: Full Level 2 Success Rates

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	51%	58%	65%
Cheshire & Warrington	49%	56%	68%
Cumbria	55%	56%	67%
Greater Manchester	53%	56%	64%
Greater Merseyside	44%	58%	63%
Lancashire	56%	64%	71%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

8.7.8 As with young people, adult WBL success rates in Lancashire are consistently above the regional average, and are the highest across the sub-regions. Lancashire has also experienced a faster growth rate than that of the North West, with success rates increasing by 15 per cent points between 2004/05 and 2006/07 compared to 14 per cent regionally.

8.8 Adults

8.8.1 The number of adults studying for a full level 2 qualification in the FE sector between 2004/05 and 2006/07 are shown below. In Lancashire there were 6,541 adults studying towards an FE full level 2, representing 22.1 per cent of the regional total.

Figure 68: Number of Adults in FE: Full Level 2 Participation

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	26,861	28,671	29,497
Lancashire	5,844	6,683	6,541
Burnley	342	397	359
Chorley	380	384	436
Fylde	240	289	279
Hyndburn	326	413	383
Lancaster	788	781	656
Pendle	294	357	339
Preston	582	783	808
Ribble Valley	123	147	180
Rossendale	237	239	228
South Ribble	415	416	506
West Lancashire	469	502	548
Wyre	418	529	449
Blackburn with Darwen	558	688	686
Blackpool	670	756	684

Source: North West Residency Platform

8.8.2 The North West has experienced a steady increase in learner volumes since 2004/05. The sub-area of Lancashire has risen between 2004/05 and 2005/06 but fallen in the following year by -2.2 per cent. The participation rates at district level in Lancashire have decreased since last year, with the exception of Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire, and Chorley, all of which experienced small growth.

8.8.3 The table below shows FE full level 2 success rates for adult learners by partnership team level.

Figure 69: Adults in FE: Full Level 2 Success Rates

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
North West	57.8%	64.1%	68.9%
Lancashire	62.7%	65.7%	69.5%
Blackburn with Darwen	47.6%	55.4%	66.8%
Blackpool	52.1%	60.9%	72.1%
East Lancashire	68.8%	72.2%	77.9%
North and West Lancashire	64.0%	65.7%	67.3%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

8.8.4 As the table shows adult success rates in Lancashire are 0.6 percentage points above the regional average in 2005/06. Success rates in the area have risen by 6.8 percentage points over the three year period compared to 11.1 percentage points in the North West. Success across Lancashire is varied, East Lancashire has adult success rates of 77.9 per cent in 2005/06, 9 percentage points higher than the North West average. The Local Authority with the lowest success rate is Blackburn with Darwen which is currently only 66.8 per cent, -2.1 percentage points below the region, however there has been substantial growth of 19.2 percentage points over the last three years.

8.8.5 The table below shows the number of adults participating in WBL (level 2) apprenticeships at district level over the last three years

Figure 70: Number of Adults in WBL: Full Level 2 Starts

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	8,084	7,037	7,534
Lancashire	1,593	1,269	1,535
Blackburn With Darwen	157	115	155
Blackpool	189	105	172
Burnley	151	96	120
Chorley	96	94	108
Fylde	66	118	50
Hyndburn	108	80	104
Lancaster	130	99	69
Pendle	96	91	107
Preston	121	118	151
Ribble Valley	57	27	43
Rossendale	84	64	83
South Ribble	106	94	124
West Lancashire	115	110	125
Wyre	114	58	124

Source: North West Residency Platform

8.8.6 As shown in the table participation rates in the region have fallen over the three year period with an increase of 7 per cent since last year. The volume of starts at district level is varied with the majority showing growth, for example Wyre increased by 113.7 per cent (66 learners) and Blackpool by 63.8 per cent (67 learners). Fylde and Lancaster are the only districts to show continued decline in learner starts of -57.7 per cent and -30.4 per cent respectively, between 2005/06 and 2006/07.

8.8.7 The table below shows success rates of adults participating in WBL apprenticeships (full level 2) between 2004/05 and 2006/07 at sub-regional level.

Figure: Young People in WBL: Full Level 2 Success Rates

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	54%	60%	70%
Cheshire & Warrington	53%	58%	70%
Cumbria	58%	62%	69%
Greater Manchester	54%	60%	69%
Greater Merseyside	52%	57%	68%
Lancashire	56%	65%	73%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

8.8.8 Success rates in the North West have grown at a substantial rate during the past three years, growing by 10 per cent between 2005/06 and 2006/07. Lancashire has experienced growth but at a slower rate of 8 percentage points since 2005/06, and is currently 3 percentage points greater than the regional average.

8.9 Summary

8.9.1 Performance of FE Full Level 2 in Lancashire has been good, with particularly high success rates in comparison to the North West region. Performance varies greatly at district level across participation and success rates in both WBL and FE qualifications.

8.9.2 Attainment of level 2 by the age of 16 is greater in Lancashire in comparison to the National average in 5 districts, and below elsewhere. Attainment at 19 has not improved; the average attainment is below the North West and National numbers; however this hides a different pattern of attainment across the districts. A total of five districts have substantially high levels of attainment in comparison to the National figure. The proportion of the working age population with a level 2 qualification is slightly below the National average.

8.9.3 As a result of attainment levels in parts of Lancashire which are below the national average providers will need to continue to work closely with Connexions to ensure that transition from school to post-16 learning is improved. It is important that there is continued developing and maintenance of the comprehensive online prospectuses in every area, Advice and Guidance and implementation of the September Guarantee for all 16 years old and extending this to 17 year olds.

8.9.4 The number of 16-18 year olds participating in FE full level 2 courses has grown at a steady rate over three years with growth filtered down to the majority of districts. Success rates in Lancashire, to district level, for FE Full level 2 have been consistently greater than the North West average. The number of Young people starting an Apprenticeship (level 2) decreased between 2004/05 and 2005/06 and increased in the following year. Success rates have remained strong with substantial growth of 15 per cent over three years.

8.9.5 The 2004/05 decline and 2006/07 slow growth of young people taking up Apprenticeships (level 2) needs to be countered if we are to achieve the ambitions of Leitch and new targets. This may include the raising of knowledge and awareness amongst young people, their families/carers and teachers through campaigns and targeted work amongst those who have traditionally not participated in Apprenticeships. It is also important that we continue to attract new employers to participate in WBL programmes in order for a steady route through learning and into work.

8.9.6 The number of adults taking up FE full level 2 courses has fallen slightly, with decline at district level in Lancashire with the exception of four providers. Success rates in Lancashire are above the North West average, however growth has been at a slower rate across the area in comparison to the Regional rate. The number of adults starting an Apprenticeship (level 2) has increased since 2005/06, to varying levels across the districts, for example both Flyde and Lancaster displaying substantial reduction in starts. The success rates are higher than the Regional average, however the rate of growth is slow, which could become a problem in the next few years as other sub-regions are continuing to improve at a steady rate.

- 8.9.7 Due to growing plans we need to continue to target priority groups and especially those without a first full level 2. In addition it is important that we encourage engagement and participation by supporting colleges and providers to work with the voluntary and community sector to create progression pathways for people without a Level 2.
- 8.9.8 As evidenced in the North West Regional Strategic Analysis it is important to encourage colleges and providers to assist workless individuals in accessing employment opportunities (especially those from BME groups, people claiming working age benefits such as Incapacity Benefit and those aged 50+) allowing and encouraging individuals who gain employment are able to complete their qualification via Train to Gain at level 2.

SECTION:9 LEVEL 3

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter looks at participation and success rates in full level 3 learning and skills development in Cheshire and Warrington. Full level 3 qualifications are essential in increasing employment opportunities and the up-skilling of the workforce.

9.2 Context

9.2.1 There is a growing body of evidence (including the Leitch review) that highlights the increasing importance of level 3. For example, the interim Leitch report notes that evidence of spillover effects, where lower skilled workers become more productive as a result of working with higher skilled colleagues, is only present for level 3 and above qualifications. Strong earnings returns to level 3 qualifications are also seen, indicating an impact on productivity.

9.2.2 It is also important to note that level 3 attainment is the platform for progression to HE and higher level skills, and the additional earnings and productivity benefits that this brings. These issues are discussed in further detail in the regional strategic analysis.

9.2.3 It is important to note that Level 3 qualifications are now considered the new standard going forward. Therefore increasing learner numbers at Level 2 is essential for progression to a level 3 achievement combined with the increasing growth in profile of Level 3 trials.

9.3 Level 3 Attainment – Young People

9.3.1 The table below shows the proportion of 19 year olds who have attained a level 3 between 2003/04 and 2005/06.

Figure 71: Level 3 Attainment of Young People

	Aged 19 at the end of 2003/04	Aged 19 at the end of 2004/05	Aged 19 at the end of 2005/06
Lancashire	38.9%	43.0%	44.4%
Blackburn with Darwen	35.4%	41.5%	39.2%
Blackpool	31.0%	34.8%	33.1%
North West	38.6%	42.3%	43.1%
National	42.1%	45.6%	46.8%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

9.3.2 As shown in the table above the attainment of level 3 in the North West is lower than the National figure by -3.7 percentage points at the end of 2005/06. Attainment across Lancashire is below the National average, the highest is 44.4 per cent in Lancashire, compared to only 33.1 per cent in Blackpool.

9.4 Level 3 Attainment – Adults

9.4.1 The table below shows the number and percentage of the working age population who are qualified to Level 3 across Lancashire.

Figure 72: Adults of Working Age Qualified to Level 3

	Working age population	Working Age Population Qualified to at least a level 3		Working Age Population Without a level 3 Qualification	
	Number (000s)	Number (000s)	Percentage (%)	Number (000s)	Percentage (%)
Burnley	55	22	39.9%	33	60.1%
Chorley	62	28	44.6%	34	55.4%
Fylde	43	21	50.1%	21	49.9%
Hyndburn	49	21	42.9%	28	57.1%
Lancaster	85	43	50.9%	41	49.1%
Pendle	53	22	41.6%	31	58.4%
Preston	83	36	43.0%	47	57.0%
Ribble Valley	32	17	54.6%	14	45.4%
Rossendale	40	17	42.4%	23	57.6%
South Ribble	64	29	44.5%	36	55.5%
West Lancashire	66	29	43.4%	37	56.6%
Wyre	60	26	43.7%	34	56.3%
Blackburn with Darwen	83	33	40.0%	50	60.0%
Blackpool	83	28	33.6%	55	66.4%
Lancashire	857	372	43.4%	485	56.6%
North West	4,104	1,819	44.3%	2,285	55.7%
England	30,668	14,032	45.8%	16,636	54.2%

Source: Annual Population Survey

9.4.2 As the table above shows the proportion of the working age population in Lancashire who are not qualified to Level 3 is slightly greater than both the regional and national averages. In Lancashire the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least a level 3 is -2.4 percentage points below the national average.

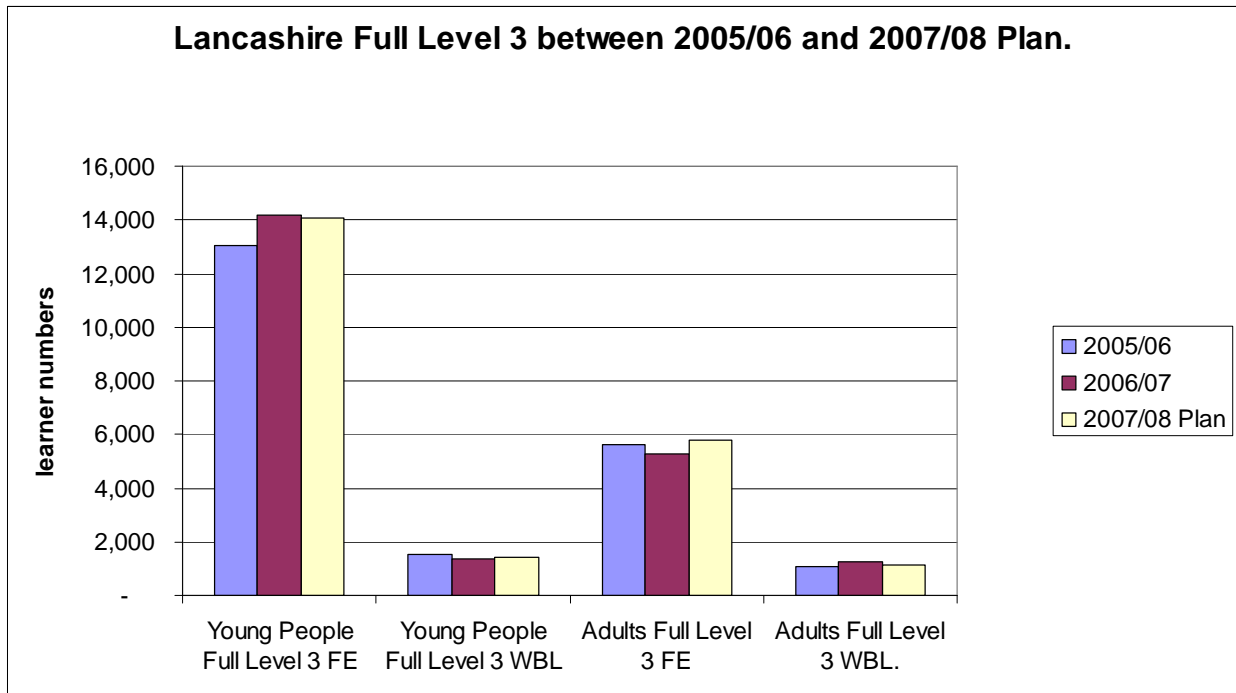
9.4.3 There is great disparity across the districts; Blackpool has the largest proportion of the population without a level 3 qualification (66.4 per cent), and is currently 12.2 percentage points above the national average. Ribble Valley has the lowest rate without a level 3 qualification, at 45.4 per cent, -8.8 percentage points below the national average. This variation also applies to the proportion of the working age with a level 3 qualification in Lancashire.

9.5 Plans

9.5.1 Currently the LSC does not have plan information from School Sixth Forms, but will begin to collect this information in the next year. Therefore only WBL and FE plans have been considered in this section.

9.5.2 The North West has regional plan for Level 3 participation for young people and adults. The plans show the number of full level 3 qualifications and include WBL Advanced apprenticeships and FE full level 3.

Figure71a: Full Level 3 Plan 2007/08



Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform, PaMS

9.5.3 The 2007/08 plan for young people in FE full level 3 is -1 per cent lower than the area achieved in 2006/07, equating to the reduction of -115 learners on the 2006/07 total. The 2007/08 plan of young people attaining WBL Advanced Apprenticeships (level 3) in Lancashire is 1,417, a total of 3 per cent higher than the 2006/07 baseline figure of 1,373.

9.5.4 The 2007/08 plans for adults in FE Full level 3 are 10 per cent higher than what was achieved in 2006/07, equating to an additional 521 learners on top of the 2006/07 baseline of 5,289. The 2007/08 plan of adults attaining a WBL Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3) qualification is 1,115. In 2006/07 Lancashire achieved a total of 1,232 completions, and therefore a -9 per cent reduction is required to meet the plan number.

9.6 Supply

9.7 Young People

9.7.1 The number of young people studying towards a full level 3 FE qualification across Lancashire is shown below. In 2006/07 Lancashire had 14,025 learners, representing 27.3 per cent of the North West total.

Figure 73: Number of Young People in FE: Full Level 3 Participation

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	47,753	48,337	51,206
Lancashire	12,673	12,957	14,025
Burnley	514	552	655
Chorley	1,324	1,355	1,445
Fylde	435	477	533
Hyndburn	628	734	734
Lancaster	487	467	545
Pendle	867	844	898
Preston	1,455	1,552	1,696
Ribble Valley	384	411	436
Rossendale	376	379	421
South Ribble	1,420	1,461	1,486
West Lancashire	1,177	1,102	1,183
Wyre	1,049	1,074	1,167
Blackburn with Darwen	1,371	1,349	1,419
Blackpool	1,179	1,192	1,407

Source: North West Residency Platform

9.7.2 Full level 3 participation in the North West has increased at a steady rate over the past three years, growing by 7.2 per cent, compared to a substantial increase of 10.6 per cent in Lancashire. There has been growth across all the districts most noticeably in between 2005/06 and 2006/07. Blackpool has shown the largest growth since 2005/06 of 18 per cent in comparison to the lowest growth in South Ribble of 1.7 per cent.

9.7.3 The table below shows the success rates of young people in FE full level 3 between 2003/04 and 2005/06.

Figure 74: Young People in FE: Full Level 3 Success Rates

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
North West	58.0%	62.2%	66.0%
Lancashire	59.3%	62.6%	66.2%
Blackburn with Darwen	56.9%	61.5%	63.1%
Blackpool	58.4%	62.7%	60.6%
East Lancashire	63.6%	63.0%	68.1%
North and West Lancashire	58.4%	62.7%	67.7%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

9.7.4 The North West region has seen increasing success rates of 8 percentage points between 2003/04 and 2005/06, compared to a slower growth of 6.9 percentage points in Lancashire. Success rates have been varied across the area; East, North and West Lancashire have high success rates above the regional average compared to Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool which are currently below the North West rate.

9.7.5 The table below shows the number of young people who are starting an Advanced Apprenticeship qualification (level 3) between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

Figure 75: Number of Young People in WBL: Full Level 3 Starts

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	4,820	4,307	4,475
Lancashire	1,165	1,005	1,131
Blackburn With Darwen	99	71	81
Blackpool	83	96	101
Burnley	93	84	113
Chorley	68	45	64
Fylde	45	53	35
Hyndburn	67	62	70
Lancaster	104	91	86
Pendle	77	71	129
Preston	94	84	86
Ribble Valley	98	60	57
Rossendale	34	54	59
South Ribble	124	84	106
West Lancashire	70	60	67
Wyre	108	90	77

Source: North West Residency Platform

9.7.6 As the table above shows there has been a fall of -7.2 per cent of learners in the Region between 2004/05 and 2006/07, however between 2005/06 and 2006/07 learner starts increased by 3.9 per cent. In Lancashire learner numbers have fluctuated in line with the North West, decreasing by -13.8 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 and growing by 12.5 per cent in the following year. The change in starts has varied greatly at district level with Blackpool and Rossendale showing continuous growth across three years, Ribble Valley showing steady decline, and Burnley showing the largest growth of 34.5 per cent since 2005/06.

9.7.7 The table below shows the success rates of young people studying WBL Advanced Apprenticeships (level 3) between 2004/05 and 2006/07

Figure 76: Young People in WBL: Full Level 3 Success Rates

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	58%	68%	72%
Cheshire & Warrington	57%	65%	73%
Cumbria	58%	77%	73%
Greater Manchester	58%	66%	66%
Greater Merseyside	51%	63%	73%
Lancashire	66%	72%	78%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

9.7.8 As shown in the table above WBL success rates in the Region have increased by 14 percentage points over the three year period compared to 12 percentage points in Lancashire. The area is currently 6 percentage points above the regional average.

9.8 Adults

9.8.1 The number of adults studying for a full level 3 qualification in the FE sector is shown in the table below from 2004/05 to 2006/07.

Figure 77: Number of Adults in FE: Full Level 3 Participation

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	24,604	23,838	22,768
Lancashire	5,612	5,134	4,871
Burnley	352	315	309
Chorley	339	327	320
Fylde	216	238	200
Hyndburn	338	308	305
Lancaster	637	646	661
Pendle	361	324	293
Preston	466	392	392
Ribble Valley	166	163	117
Rossendale	268	210	227
South Ribble	366	325	282
West Lancashire	571	539	491
Wyre	421	369	309
Blackburn with Darwen	560	483	523
Blackpool	549	491	442

Source: North West Residency Platform

9.8.2 The North West adult level 3 participation rate has declined at a steady rate of -7.5 per cent between 2004/05 and 2006/07. Participation in Lancashire has fallen by -13.3 per cent over three years, a much faster rate of decline than the regional average. At district level change in participation is varied between 2005/06 and 2006/07, Blackburn with Darwen increasing by 8.2 per cent in comparison to a reduction of -28.3 per cent in Ribble Valley.

9.8.3 Success rates in adult FE Full level 3 are shown on the following table

Figure 78: Adults in FE: Full Level 3 Success Rates

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
North West	53.8%	59.0%	62.6%
Lancashire	49.8%	51.8%	62.4%
Blackburn with Darwen	48.6%	45.1%	59.6%
Blackpool	40.2%	48.1%	70.5%
East Lancashire	60.4%	61.4%	73.0%
North and West Lancashire	51.3%	52.1%	57.8%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

9.8.4 The North West has seen an 8.8 percentage point increase in success rates over three years and is currently 62.6 per cent slightly above Lancashire (62.4 per cent). Performance is varied between the Local Authorities of Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and North and West Lancashire are below the regional average in contrast to high levels of success rates in Blackpool and East Lancashire. East Lancashire is a substantial 10.4 per cent higher than the regional average.

9.8.5 The table below shows the number of adults starting a WBL Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3) between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

Figure 79: Number of Adults in WBL: Full Level 3 Starts

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	4,880	4,877	5,628
Lancashire	968	879	1,198
Blackburn With Darwen	91	71	80
Blackpool	139	107	147
Burnley	73	61	102
Chorley	72	72	83
Fylde	68	47	55
Hyndburn	56	43	74
Lancaster	81	79	61
Pendle	58	56	108
Preston	68	60	92
Ribble Valley	29	32	39
Rossendale	32	40	70
South Ribble	59	57	93
West Lancashire	57	73	100
Wyre	84	81	94

Source: North West Residency Platform

9.8.6 The number of starts in the North West has increased by 15.3 per cent since last year with a slight reduction the previous year. Lancashire has experienced a rapid increase in starts since 2005/06 of 36.2 per cent. Growth is evident at district level with the exceptions of Chorley and Lancaster which have decreased slightly

9.8.7 The table below shows adult success rates in the North West for those studying WBL Advanced Apprenticeships (full level 3).

Figure 80: Adults in WBL: Full Level 3 Success Rates

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	51%	58%	70%
Cheshire & Warrington	52%	60%	69%
Cumbria	57%	64%	70%
Greater Manchester	53%	58%	68%
Greater Merseyside	46%	56%	71%
Lancashire	53%	60%	74%

Source: North West Reporting Platform

9.8.8 Performance in the North West region has increased at a growing rate over the last three years, growing by 19 percentage points in total. Improvement in performance within Lancashire has been similar to that in the region, and is 4 percentage point above the North West success rate in 2006/07. Lancashire is the greatest performer of adult WBL Advanced apprenticeships in the region.

9.9 Summary

- 9.9.1 Level 3 attainment in Lancashire is lower than the national and regional averages. Low levels of attainment are located in pockets across the area including Blackpool which is -13.7 per cent below the average in England. Although attainment at 19 is lower than the national average, the proportion of the working age population with a level 3 qualification is above the National average. Plan numbers for 2007/08 are relatively low and show some reduction in growth in some areas.
- 9.9.2 The number of 16-18 year olds participating in FE full level 3 courses has grown substantially in the area at a faster rate than the regional average; however this growth is varied at district level. Success rates have grown at a slow rate in Lancashire especially considering the rise in learner numbers; however attainment remains greater than the Regional average. The number of young people starting WBL Advanced Apprenticeships (level 3) has shown substantial growth since last year, with some variation at district level. Success rates in Lancashire in 2006/07 are substantially higher than the North West figure, but are growing at a slower rate than the regional average.
- 9.9.3 Although level 3 participation and attainment is improving the LSC Single Equality Scheme (April 2007) states: "Members of black or ethnic minority groups form about one-tenth of the English population. They were under-represented in WBL, in full Level 2 and 3 programmes". By reviewing with providers what this means for the North West region, appropriate action can be taken to address this inequality.
- 9.9.4 The number of learners in adult level 3 FE courses in Lancashire has dropped at a faster rate than the North West average, with disparity at district level. The success rates are also varied at local authority level with both Blackpool and East Lancashire attaining high success rates, greater than the Regional average. The participation of adults on WBL Advanced Apprenticeship courses has shown rapid growth in comparison to last year. In order for the forecasted decline in 2007/08 plan in Advanced Apprenticeships providers will need to continue working closely with employers to encourage them to invest in training. Employers need to recognise the value in upskilling of their workforce and the role it will play in improving productivity and competitiveness.
- 9.9.5 As adult learning evolves to focus on the goals of employability and progression there is a need for the learning and skills sector to target those groups at most disadvantage in the labour market; workless individuals, residents of deprived areas, offenders etc.

SECTION:10 HIGHER LEVEL SKILLS (LEVEL 4+)

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 The following Chapter analyses level 4 skills in Lancashire, looking at both demand and current supply.
- 10.1.2 Higher level skills at Level 4 and above are vitally important for ensuring that the North West is able to improve its regional competitiveness: Recent growth in new jobs has been concentrated in occupations requiring intermediate and higher level skills.
- 10.1.3 Employment forecasts by occupational category suggest significant demand for Level 4+ qualifications, particularly in the Associate Professional and Professional occupational categories. There is projected expansion in jobs that require higher skills levels, to support value-added corporate strategies in an increasingly competitive global market place.

10.2 Context

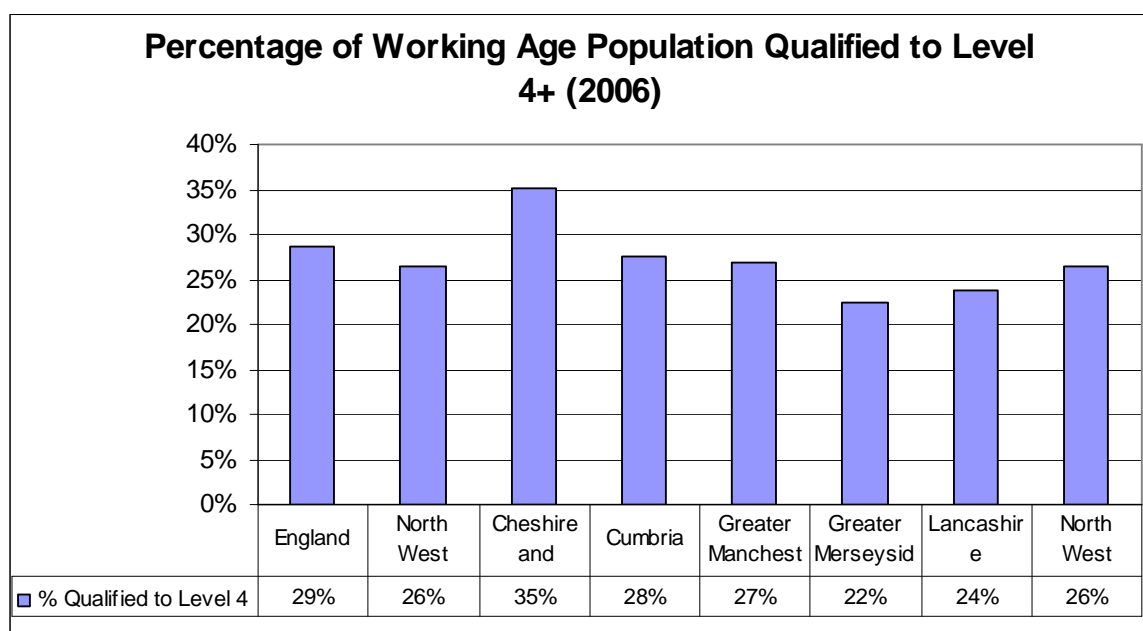
- 10.2.1 Higher level skills at Level 4 and above are vitally important for ensuring that the North West is able to improve its regional competitiveness. The Leitch review highlights the importance of intermediate and higher level skills to support international competitiveness and productivity, in increasingly open global markets. Sector level evidence often points to intermediate and higher level skills needs.
- 10.2.2 In the North West, recent growth in new jobs has been concentrated in occupations requiring intermediate and higher level skills. Employment forecasts by occupational category suggest significant demand for Level 3 or higher qualifications, particularly in the Associate Professional and Professional occupational categories.
- 10.2.3 Currently, the North West has a deficit in intermediate and high level skills when compared to England. If the qualification profile of the North West working age population was in-line with the England average, the region would currently have an additional 80,000 people with higher level qualifications.
- 10.2.4 The National Employer Skills Survey 2005 indicates that recruitment difficulties in the North West are most prevalent in Skilled Trades and Associate Professional occupations, where intermediate (Level 3) and high level skills will typically be required. Sector level qualitative evidence tends to highlight skills gaps at intermediate and higher levels. This reflects the forward looking nature of these studies and the projected expansion in jobs that require higher skills levels, to support value-added corporate strategies in an increasingly competitive global market place.
- 10.2.5 There is a strong sector dimension to intermediate and higher skills needs, with significant demand from the regions high growth sectors. Specific examples taken from the RES include: Energy and Environmental Technologies - deliver the National Nuclear Skills Academy; Advanced Engineering & Materials - extend "Grow Your Future Workforce" which delivers more science and engineering skills; Digital and Creative Industries - digital content development skills to support the Media Enterprise Zone, linked to the BBC relocation; and Business and Professional Services - support the development of the regional arm of the Financial Services National Skills Academy.

10.3 Demand

Level 4 Attainment

10.3.1 Lancashire has the second lowest rate, in the North West, of attainment of level 4 amongst it's working age population, 24 per cent compared to a regional average of 26 per cent and a national rate of 29 per cent.

Figure 81: Level 4 Attainment of the Working Age Population, 2006



Source: Annual Population Survey 2006

10.4 Supply

10.4.1 Participation in FE Level 4 in Lancashire has not changed by a large amount between 2004/05 and 2006/07. Currently 2,164 learners are engaged in FE provision at level 4. Most local areas within Lancashire follow this trend, one notable change has been in Chorley where a 24.3 per cent fall has occurred (a reduction of 46 learners).

Figure 82: Participation in FE at Level 4 (Short & Long Courses)

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
North West	10,455	10,229	9,460
Lancashire	2,347	2,269	2,164
Burnley	131	122	122
Chorley	207	189	143
Fylde	109	136	109
Hyndburn	122	139	155
Lancaster	296	265	270
Pendle	141	121	122
Preston	135	131	134
Ribble Valley	96	89	79
Rossendale	110	107	123
South Ribble	169	160	136
West Lancashire	142	190	181
Wyre	182	152	161
Blackburn with Darwen	271	256	217
Blackpool	236	212	212

Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform

10.4.2 FE success rates for long courses at level 4 are split by sector in Figure 83, the overall success rate for level 4 long courses has risen from 50.7 per cent in 2004/05 to 61.1 per cent in 2005/06. By sector subject area a notable rise has taken place in success rates for the Construction, Planning and the Built environment SSA, moving from 40 per cent in 2004/05 to 86.7 per cent in 2005/06. This is a positive shift when put into the regional context of the increasing demand for higher level skills in the Construction sector.

Figure 83: FE Success Rates at Level 4+ Long Courses

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	17.2%	22.2%	55.8%
Arts, Media and Publishing	!	0.0%	18.8%
Business, Administration and Law	58.5%	57.7%	60.6%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	60.0%	40.0%	86.7%
Education and Training	69.7%	48.4%	67.3%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	!	!	!
Health, Public Services and Care	35.3%	40.5%	66.3%
Information and Communication Technology	!	!	!
Languages, Literature and Culture	!	!	!
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	!	!	!
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	0.0%	64.7%	100.0%
Science and Mathematics	!	!	!
Total	53.8%	50.7%	61.1%

Source: NW LSC Performance Reporting Platform

10.4.3 Lancashire has 2 universities, The University of Central Lancashire and The University of Lancaster, neither of these institutions currently has FE provision. However, in combination they have in excess of 46,000 students on either post-graduate or under-graduate courses, giving the potential to make a significant contribution to the volume of high skilled workers available to North West employers.

Figure 84: Full & Part Time HE Provision by Institution

	All Students	Total FE Students		Post Graduate		Undergraduates	
		Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
The University of Bolton	8,540	85	435	760	935	3,680	2,645
University of Chester	14,120	0	0	515	2,325	7,095	4,180
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	1,810	360	410	0	40	960	35
Edge Hill University(#13)	15,645	0	0	630	4,155	5,940	4,920
Liverpool Hope University	8,205	5	45	700	1,290	4,465	1,700
Liverpool John Moores University	24,085	0	0	1,435	2,745	15,100	4,805
The University of Liverpool	20,765	0	0	1,675	2,025	13,705	3,365
The Manchester Metropolitan Univers	32,795	180	55	2,320	3,675	22,990	3,575
The University of Manchester	40,420	0	0	6,230	4,840	24,590	4,755
Royal Northern College of Music	650	0	0	210	0	440	0
The University of Salford	20,185	0	0	1,465	2,570	12,915	3,235
St Martin's College	12,640	0	0	845	2,425	4,580	4,790
The University of Central Lancashire	28,850	0	0	1,090	3,085	16,115	8,560
The University of Lancaster	17,415	0	0	1,725	1,885	8,195	5,615

Source: *The universities Association*

10.5 Summary

10.5.1 Lancashire has a relatively low rate of level 4 attainment amongst its working age population (24%). Working futures forecasts suggest a need for greater levels of intermediate and higher level skills in the next 10 years, specifically in certain sectors of industry, for example the chemicals industry, and in engineering, manufacturing and construction, with a particular need for managerial and professional occupations. Raising the level of attainment of level 4 qualifications needs to be coupled with a clear steer in the direction of Regional Economic Strategy identified key sectors.

10.5.2 The low levels of attainment at level 4 are coupled with high levels of participation at Lancashire's universities, this would suggest that the bulk of people attending these institutions are from outside the area, the LSC and it's partners could do more to enable progression from level 2 / 3 FE and Work-based learning courses into higher education, whether through appropriate information, advice and guidance or improvement of success rates.