

# Learning and Skills Council Local Area Statement of Need

## Tameside

## 2008/09

## February 2008

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and learning opportunities across  
Greater Manchester.

# Introduction

I am delighted on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Greater Manchester (GM) to present the Tameside Local Annual Statement of Need for 2008/2009. This plan outlines the key priorities and challenges for Tameside and sets out how we intend to focus our efforts and resources over the forthcoming year.

The Tameside Strategic Analysis October 2007 highlighted a number of key learning and skills issues which vary considerably at ward level and among different communities. Data for July 2006 to June 2007 shows that the unemployment rate in Tameside is 5.1% which is lower than the GM average of 5.8% (Annual Population Survey June 2007). 11.7% of employers in Tameside reported that they have skills gaps. Failure to train and development staff was also seen as an important skills gap issue. (National Employers Survey 2005). To address this, the Tameside Economic and Learning Partnership (TELP) and the Adult Learning, Skills and Employment Group (ALSG) are working together to identify the key objectives and actions needed to decrease worklessness and improve skills in Tameside and, in particular, in the priority neighbourhoods. This will result in revised strategic plans and a new Tameside Economic Development Plan which will help to develop the skills of local people to ensure that they can take advantage of new employment opportunities.

Tameside has concentrations of employment in the Manufacturing, Construction and Life Sciences sectors. The only sectors to experience a decline were Manufacturing and Hospitality and Tourism, which are significant employers in the borough. To address this, a new Tameside area wide "Strategic Developers' Group" has been established for the construction and care sectors. We will work in partnership to ensure that demand for construction and care labour and training across the Tameside area, equates with supply.

Compared to the national average a significantly higher proportion of adults in Tameside possess no qualifications and a significantly lower proportion possess Level 4 qualifications. We are planning for Train to Gain volumes to increase during 2008/09 to address this issue.

Tameside's participation rate at age 16 - 18 in learning is 78.3% this is higher than the GM average of 76.4%. Data for December 2007 shows that Tameside had 7.9% of young people aged 16-18 in the NEET group lower than the GM average of 8.1% (National Connexions Client Information System). The opening of two new Academies in Ashton and Droylsden in 2008 and 2009 will stimulate demand for learning and provide additional learning opportunities. A purpose built sixth form centre at Hyde Technology School, opening in 2011, will provide new vocational provision.

In 2007, Tameside's achievement of Level 2 by 19 (66%) was lower than the GM average (71%). Achievement of Level 3 by age 19 (35%) was also lower than the GM average (44%) (Department of Children, Schools and Families). To address this we have allocated funding to support activities to raise standards at Level 3 through sharing of good practice, particularly in large underperforming subject areas and to support the implementation of a re-engagement and participation strategy to tackle early leavers especially at age 17.

Partnership working has featured strongly in our approach to driving forward the learning and skills agenda and collaboration will continue to be fundamental to addressing the key issues we face. We will provide leadership and strategic direction to the 14-19 Strategic Partnership and the Adult Learning, Skills and Employment Group. We will also ensure the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and the Local Area Agreement, are aligned with LSC strategy and policy so that the residents of Tameside are equipped with the skills that will enable them to access the opportunities which will emerge over the next 10 years.

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# Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Tameside

## Priority 1: Creating demand for learning and skills

### Key Challenges:

- Raising attainment at Level 2 and Level 3 between the ages of 14-19.
- Increasing the percentage of young people participating in education and work based learning and meeting the requirements of the September Guarantee.
- Reducing the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or those whose post-16 destination is unknown.
- Promoting take up of the Skills Pledge and Train to Gain.
- Increasing the percentage of Tameside residents qualified to Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4.
- Ensuring adequate post 16 provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

To increase the demand for learning we need to drive forward a cultural shift in the perception of learning within Tameside and ensure the benefits of skills acquisition are clear. In addition for 2008/09 we will:

- Work with the **14-19 Strategic Partnership** to plan and provide an increasingly broad and appealing range of learning programmes which includes M-Power Work Related Learning Programmes and Key Stage 4 Re-engagement activities.
- Implement **Raising Level 3 Attainment and Retention at 17 projects**.
- Work with work based learning providers and the College to **develop the work based learning offer** through Apprenticeships including Young Apprenticeships, Entry to Employment (E2E) and the Learning Agreement Pilot.
- **Implement the Engineering Diploma** from September 2008 and make improvements to the Society Health and Development and Creative and Media Diploma submissions so they are approved for delivery from September 2009.
- Proactively **develop the 14-19 and Adult Prospectuses**.
- We will support the work of the **Guidance Forum** so that more learners make a successful transition to post-16 learning.
- Continue our strong partnership working with Connexions through the **September Guarantee** and secure funding to provide targeted activities to **reduce NEET** including a reducing NEET project Year 2 and pre E2E programme.
- Work with Employers Forum to promote Level 2 and 3 and **Skills Pledge**.
- Further promote **Train to Gain**, the Adult Learning Option and Adult Apprenticeships.
- Assist Tameside College and Ashton Sixth Form College in developing **Foundation Degrees**.
- Continue to make improvements in transition, curriculum and provision for **learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities**.

## Priority 2: Transforming FE

### Key Challenges:

- Ensuring growth for Apprenticeships.
- Ensuring that curriculum and timetabling is planned in a coherent way in light of new capital developments and new provision.
- The re-development of post-16 capital facilities alongside the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Whilst the journey to self regulation has begun, we will support the continued transformation of the FE system as a whole with a clear focus on the areas where we believe we can add the greatest value. These include:

- Supporting providers to deliver high quality training to employers.
- Supporting the development of **Academies** in Ashton and Droylsden, the post-16 centre at Hyde Technology School, the re-development of Tameside College and the new build facilities, extensions and refurbishments at Ashton Sixth Form College.
- Working with the Local Authority on their **Building Schools for the Future** programmes and strategy to ensure a coherent approach to capital developments in Tameside.

### **Priority 3: Better Skills, Better jobs, Better Lives**

#### Key Challenges:

- Narrowing the gap in qualification and employment levels between the most deprived neighbourhoods of Tameside and the rest of the borough.
- Improving the basic skills levels of Tameside residents to at least the England average.
- Meeting the skills needs of organisations and entrepreneurs, particularly in growth sectors.
- Developing the infrastructure and skills for the future workforce.

We will focus our efforts and resources to engage more people from disadvantaged groups (people from black and minority ethnic communities, people with disabilities including mental health issues, those with low or no skills, offenders, parents with dependent children and those who are on working age benefits or who are long term unemployed) to increase overall participation and achievement levels. We will drive forward the integration of skills and employment and focus training on addressing skills shortages in local labour market areas. In addition we will:

- Work with partners through the **Tameside Adult Learning Skills and Employment Action Plan** to ensure that skills priorities transform residents' skills and actions complement the Local Area Agreement, Economic Development Plan, Community Strategy and City Strategy.
- Ensure that the Action Plan is linked to the Tameside Economic and Learning Partnership (**TELP**) and the Economic Block of the Community Strategy.
- Ensure that joint working between the **Employment Sub Group** of TELP and the Tameside Adult Learning and Skills Group identifies the key objectives and actions to decrease worklessness and improve skills in Tameside in particular in the priority neighbourhoods.
- Make changes to **PCDL provision** and improve the quality of existing provision. **NLDC funding** will continue to support projects in the deprived areas of the central Ashton wards, the Haughton area of Denton, parts of Hyde and Hattersley within Hyde Godley and Longdendale and focus on skills for jobs activities to prepare adults for sustainable employment.
- Provide basic skills and **Skills for Life provision** in wards with high BME communities and low skills.
- Work with the **Greater Manchester Chamber** to develop employer engagement strategies and an event for employers.
- Work with Tameside College to plan an **event for employers** involving the faith, voluntary and community sector to influence provision.

# Partnership Working

Over the last twelve months, the impact of the Tameside Partnership Team has been positive and resulted in a clearer understanding of the key issues within the borough and supported our ability to align funding and resources to address borough needs. In order to maximise the contribution of the learning and skills sector locally we will continue to drive forward partnership working in 2008/09:

- We will continue to work strategically with our partners on the Tameside Strategic Partnership, Tameside Economic Learning Partnership and Tameside Children and Young People Partnership (CYPP). We will act as the lead agency on a number of performance measures within the Local Area Agreement.
- We will support our colleagues in providing evidence to showcase good work for the Joint Area Review. In particular we will do this through two of the Every Child Matters outcome subgroups: Achieving Economic Wellbeing and Enjoying and Achieving.
- We will co-chair the Tameside 14-19 Strategic Partnership that leads the implementation of the Tameside Campus and 14-19 Memorandum of Understanding, reinforcing a commitment to work together for mutual benefit, and supporting providers, schools and colleges to provide high quality education and training for all learners.
- We will work with Tameside Connexions Team to raise participation levels of young people, meet the September Guarantee and reduce the number of people who are not in education, employment or training.
- We will continue to support The Tameside Education Business Partnership (TEBP). The EBP has been active in employer engagement with 600 employer contacts on its data base. In addition the EBP is involved with Train to Gain and supports activity on the 14-19 Diploma development.
- We will support the Children's Workforce Development Strategy Group and the Tameside Training Alliance to ensure training provision for the Children's Workforce is appropriate to resident and employer need.
- We will continue to work with Tameside MBC to ensure coherent infrastructure planning; aligning the BSF and Academies programme to the FE investment plan. The LSC's influence will ensure that collaboration will benefit learners and that sponsorship extends rather than impacts on Tameside College's mission and vision and that there is leadership and management capacity within the college to pursue this initiative.
- We will lead the Tameside Adult Learning, Skills and Employment Group (ALSEG), to improve the overall quality of learning offered to adults through collaborative approaches to planning and delivery which support the economic development and regeneration of the borough. The Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) group, whose remit is to develop a PCDL strategy and action plan and to ensure provision meets the needs of learners and the community, reports to the ALSEG.
- We will work with Tameside MBC to evaluate and use the learning from innovative local partnership programmes and schemes such as the Hattersley Employment, Education and Training Plan.
- We will work with Jobcentre Plus to integrate skills and employment agendas, promote Local Employment Partnership and increase take up of the Skills Pledge.
- We will support the Voluntary and Community Sector network to help capacity build the sector as part of our commitment to widen learner choice.
- We will strengthen our work with local employers through the Employer Skills Forum and engender a training ethos amongst Tameside employers.