

## Local Authority: Birmingham

<b>Young People</b>
<p><b>Partnership Structures / Sub regional Groupings</b></p> <p>A number of areas in the city which fall within the 10% most deprived in England, according to the indices of multiple deprivation 2004. There are 15 Birmingham and Solihull disadvantaged wards that defined as being 'higher unemployed' areas. Business and Professional Services accounts for 20% of employment in Birmingham. The Wholesale and Retail Sector accounts for 14% and the Health and Social Care sector accounts for just under 13% of employment. The combined Engineering and Manufacturing Sectors account for a further 12% of employment.</p> <p>Birmingham is the largest urban metropolitan Local Authority (LA) in Europe. It encompasses 76 Secondary Schools - 40 with Sixth forms, 12 Special schools, 2 Sixth Form Colleges, 6 Colleges of FE and 6 City Learning Centres. There are 6 planned Academies. The Birmingham 14-19 Strategy Implementation Plan and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) priorities support the Vision and Strategy for Education policy. This commits the Local Authority, schools, colleges and Workbased Learning providers (WBL) to developing 14-19 provision that is highly collaborative, has an aligned workforce and 21st Century ICT and buildings infrastructure. Birmingham is divided into six Area Networks (comparable in size to small LAs) that take the lead in local planning and diploma development in their area. The Networks comprise schools, colleges and WBL providers who work in partnership with the Local Authority and LSC support. The networks have developing a strong ethos and practice of collaborative support, continuing professional development, and curriculum provision. These effective working relationships drive 14-19 developments. The work of the six Networks is delivered within the city wide framework and support structure.</p>
<p><b>Progress Checks Headlines</b></p> <p>The percentage of young people in Birmingham achieving Level 2 by age 19 for 2006-07 was 65.1%. This remains below national figures for the same period of 73.9%. However, three year trend analysis indicates an upward achievement rate that is greater than regional or national trends. The LSC priority for Level 2 delivery in colleges has contributed to current improvements in participation and achievement.</p> <p>Targets have been set in all Birmingham schools for reducing the gap between the percentage of 5A*-C with and without English and Maths. This is 41.7% (with English and Maths) for 2007 compared an England Average of 46.8%. The percentage of 5 A*-C without English and Maths is 61.8 % compared to the England Average of 62%. Performance against these targets is carefully tracked in schools that have been prioritised for support. In 2007, there were 27 schools below the DCSF floor target of 30% 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics. There are 11 schools that have set 2008-09 targets that are below 30%. Learners from these schools are at risk of becoming NEET. Progress in these targeted schools is regularly monitored. The schools are held to account for evaluating the impact of interventions on a termly basis. Support for targeted schools is a central focus for the LSC 14-19 Development Funding in 2008-09. This fund has also prioritised developments including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the maintenance of a Birmingham and Solihull Area-Wide Prospectus.</li> <li>• a Common Application Process (CAP) development that involves piloting a clearing house process to support the September Guarantee.</li> <li>• the commission of a project to evaluate skill needs within 14-19 networks (recommendation from Melvyn Kershaw, DCSF Regional Advisor, West Midlands)</li> <li>• monitoring Diploma pilots against Ofsted criteria and the development of resource to evaluate the impact of the first five Diploma lines</li> <li>• Advisor support for Gateway 3 diploma applications with each of 6 Area Networks, to inform 14-19 network planning for 'Raising Expectations'</li> <li>• developing collaborative learning management system, to evaluate compatibility with the BSF ICT provider and other CMIS/SIMS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Academies / Presumptions</b></p> <p>Birmingham is in the Wave 2 project that is the largest urban BSF project in the country. Investment in over 70 schools will be made through the Birmingham Local Education Partnership, including the council's programme of Academies, over six phases. The first schools are scheduled to open in 2010. Birmingham is also in Wave 5 of BSF. Currently, one school in Birmingham has submitted a presumption for a capital build for 16-19 provision. This application will be considered by the LSC Regional Capital Committee in mid-autumn 2008.</p>
<p><b>NEET/ NEET Strategies</b></p> <p>Connexions reported a 9.5% overall NEET cohort in January 2007 for Birmingham and Solihull. The level of NEET was reduced to 8% in November 2007 and this is within the national target of 9% for</p>

NEET. However, the proportion of young people in NEET for Birmingham is one of the highest in the region. The local LSC has formed a NEET development group and works closely with Connexions on joint strategies to tackle NEETs. Current local LSC initiatives include:-

- three NEET contracts (value £1.8M) to ensure successful learner progression
- targeted support through new ESF funds for identified NEET hotspots
- £2.2 million allocated to Connexions for post 16 NEET across Birmingham m.
- £614K allocated for a pre-16 NEET to work with high NEET schools
- £1.3M to target provision on NEET LLDD learners and teenage parents
- maintaining a LSC NEET action plan to evaluate the impact of initiatives

#### September Guarantee

A September Guarantee Action Group has established a work plan for 2008-09. Stakeholders include the LSC, Connexions, and the Local Authority. A co-ordinated approach has been agreed by the NEET strategy group for raising awareness of September Guarantee. Letters have been sent to schools, colleges and WBL providers to ensure maximum return for the first census point for receiving information regarding offers from post 16 providers. Monthly meetings take place with Connexions and the LSC to take action where learners who have no offers.

#### Young Apprenticeships

The Young Apprenticeship (YA) programme began in September 2004 with approximately 1,000 students. Ministers approved a fourth cohort of up to 9,000 pupils which started in September 2007. The YA provides a route at Key Stage 4 which allows motivated and able 14 - 16 year olds to study for vocational qualifications. Pupils are based in school and follow the core National Curriculum subjects, but for two days a week (or equivalent). They also work towards nationally recognised vocational qualifications. There are 137 learners due to complete a cohort 4 YA programme during 2008-09 and cohort 5 programmes will start in September 2008. The sectors which have gained apprenticeships in Birmingham include: Construction, Health & Social Care and Hairdressing.

#### Schools Engagement Programme

The School Engagement Programme (SEP) started in 2006-07. It meets LSC priorities around NEET, increased participation, and Level 2 attainment. The programme contributes to pre-16 NEET prevention and the Foundation Learning Tier. The SEP programme aims to motivate students through a more work-focused element to the curriculum that will encourage students to progress to learning, further training or employment with training. The programme is aimed at re-engaging young people with barriers to learning. This includes low skills levels to a range of psychological problems or disabilities. The offer is deliberately flexible to reflect the diversity of learner need. In 2007-08, the SEP programme was extended to 15,000 students from 70 programmes around the country. In Birmingham, 181 places were secured and £226,250 offered to support the needs of individuals identified. Schools are crucial in ensuring the programme is sustainable beyond the initial funding, and to ensure embedding in the KS4 curriculum offer. In 2008-09, as the move towards mainstreaming intensifies; embedding work is continuing with the Local Authority.

#### Diploma Summary

##### September 2008

Creative & Media	Central Birmingham Network
Creative & Media	South Birmingham Network
Engineering	South West Network
Construction & Built Environment	North Birmingham Network
Engineering	North Birmingham Network

Diploma line	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	
	Pre 16	Post 16	Pre 16	Post 16	Pre 16	Post 16
Construction			12			
Creative and Media	8	36	92			22
Engineering	5		52			

##### September 2009:

Society Health & Development	East Network
Information Technology	East Network
Society Health & Development	Central Network
IT	North Network
Creative & Media	South West Network
Business Admin & Finance	North West Network
Hair & Beauty	North West Network
IT	North West Network

IT Creative & Media	South Network Sutton Network
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## Economic Development

Birmingham has benefited from business, commercial and redevelopment activities. There is potential for significant additional demand for labour and skills over the next decade associated with the following regeneration activities:-

- The Hub – Witton Road Regional Distribution Hub, £150 million
- Cole River Park Ground, remediation complete and construction underway
- Signal Point Phase One, to be completed by end of 2008, delivering 90,00sq ft of Light and general industry, storage and distribution space
- Longbridge Site, a major investment, creating around 10,000 jobs
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Planned physical developments in Birmingham are currently estimated to create up to 23,718 jobs over the next five years across the following sectors/ occupations:

Business and Professional, Wholesale and Retail, Leisure and Tourism, Warehousing and Distribution, General Industrial and Health and Care.

The LSC, AWM and the Regional Observatory are working together with local areas to design a consistent skills modelling tool. This tool will help forecast the occupation and levels of predicted new employment opportunities and will inform integrated employment and skills procurement activity. There is a need to focus on Construction provision to support the ambitious programmes, and retail for the town centre developments- highlighted above. The ability to contract with providers and sufficient capacity to respond to targeted work will be vital to ensure the regeneration impacts are maximised. Work will be undertaken to ensure that providers are linking into work with existing employers and businesses.

### Sub-regional:

## Workforce Development / Worklessness

**The Work based Learning (WBL) Cluster Group** is convened monthly to steer the management and development of the Apprenticeships and Entry to Employment (E2E) programme. Priorities for 2008/09 include:

- Transition planning for implementation of the National Apprenticeship Service
- Increasing apprenticeship participation and success rates for all learners
- Addressing inequalities in apprenticeship access and participation
- Increasing progression to apprenticeships or employment from E2E and overall to 56%
- Piloting of the Level 1 Pre-Apprenticeship option
- Focussing support on providers with success rates below regional averages
- Mitigating the impact of Minimum Levels of Performance (MLP)
- Utilising flexibilities in employer responsive funding to enable apprenticeship growth
- Support the development and delivery of new frameworks in Birmingham and Solihull
- Support the entry of new providers and build capacity
- Support employers to develop Apprenticeship programmes
- Enabling the WBL Provider Network to support the building of capacity among the provider base

**The Partnership Team formed a Train to Gain (TTG) Cluster Group** during 2008, to oversee the transfer of contract management from the regional LSC team to the local partnership team. The group meets every two weeks and focuses on the following aspects of the local TTG partnerships:-

- supporting strategies to achieve local growth targets
- analysing performance information and sharing best practice
- developing effective monitoring processes and disseminating policy and guidance from the regional TtG team and National Office

A local sub- group of providers has been established to develop strategies to increase performance across Birmingham and Solihull. The main FE College TTG partnerships and a training provider have been identified as having the capacity to significantly grow TTG provision. The region is leading the field nationally in respect of TTG performance. Additional new and responsive TTG providers have been given contracts in 2008. These are performing well across arrange of sectors within the area. However, quality improvement activity and development work to support weaker provision is a priority area for

2008-09. This will address the three providers delivering under 50%. South Birmingham College followed by JHP are the best local TTG performers currently, with 136% and 116% respectively. Birmingham and Solihull TTG initial allocation for 2008-09 - £39M

**An ESF cluster group has been established.** In 2007-08 there has been concentrated effort by the partnership and regional team on ESF project closure. An evaluation of all ESF projects, Objective 2/3 began in July 2008. A draft report will be received in mid October 2008 followed by a review to evaluate the data and impact of the programme that ran from 2000 - 2008. This will include MG Rover, Fair Cities and Equal Projects. There will also be an internal evaluation to consider how the LSC has supported providers and particularly our key client group of organisations in the community and voluntary sector. The Birmingham and Solihull Area Office are in the process of closing over 150 projects. They cover a wide range of training activities and are spread across colleges, training providers and the voluntary sector. The projects worked with individuals with low skill levels, who had been disengaged in targeted areas. **New ESF Programme 2008** - The total allocated is £11,751,126. In Birmingham and Solihull under the new programme for Phase 1a and 1b there are a total of 17 projects. This provision is currently in the process of being contracted, although with the introduction of greater flexibilities around Train to Gain it is unlikely that all of the projects will go ahead.

**The local partnership team has formed a Skills for Life (SfL) cluster group.** The group meets every month to focus on activities relating to SfL, OLASS and Adult Safeguarded Learning. Numeracy remains a priority for Birmingham and Solihull. Only 36% of those living in the three high need wards in Birmingham are likely to have 'average or above average' numeracy skills at Level 2 compared to 51% of those living in other wards. Birmingham & Solihull Measures of Success for SfL:-

1. Provide pre-employability and SfL provision for workless clients through bespoke training focused on employers needs.  
Success Measure – Birmingham & Solihull city strategy targets in priority wards
2. Success Measures – Skills for Life identified at appropriate volumes and level within LSC contracted OLASS, ESF, Employability Skills Programme and TTG.
3. Successful delivery of Skills for Life in appropriate ways through ESF contracts

**Birmingham and Solihull LSC has recently formed a local LLDD Forum.** This is a new operational group that involves partners and stakeholders including the Local Authority, Colleges and Work-Based Learning Providers. The group is focused on four main areas of work which include transitional arrangements for learners, workforce development; specialist provision and the LSC Additional Learner Support (ALS) funding allocation. The local LSC has been successful in obtaining three LLDD Development Fund Bids that total £510K for 2008/09. The Regional Data Team has undertaken analysis on ALS spend within the region. A paper is being presented on this to the regional ALS Group in October 2008. The findings will inform partnership team discussions with Colleges and Providers. Birmingham and Solihull LSC are currently tendering for Post 16 NEET activity with a total funding contract value of £1.4M. The specification focuses on the "hardest to help with mid to moderate learning difficulties and/or disabilities" that have been identified through a full initial/diagnostic assessment. It is currently estimated from Connexions data that around 346 NEET young people have LLDD needs

**Worklessness / Integrated Employment and Skills.** Birmingham Local Authority has the highest proportion of working age adults who are workless. The Birmingham average is 8.8% and this compares to a regional average of 4.4%. Unemployed rates across Birmingham vary considerably, but are high in the 8 wards of Aston, Bordesley Green, Ladywood, Lozells, East Handsworth, Nechells, Soho, Sparkbrook and Washwood Heath. The unemployment rates averages over 15% in these wards. City Strategy provision currently provides engagement and ongoing support for 5,800 long-term unemployed people. This is to be augmented by significant levels of Working Neighbourhood Funds in 2008-09. The allocation of this funding will be jointly planned by the LSC, Jobcentre Plus and Birmingham City Council. Trials of the Integrated Employment and Skills model are to be undertaken in 2008-09. Nextsteps staff will be co-located in Jobcentre Plus offices to trial the Adult Advancement and Careers Service. It is estimated that they will have 10% of all new claimants' referrals during 2008-09. Part of the offer includes trials of the Skills Healthcheck and this will be used to inform a detailed Skills Action Plan for Birmingham. Skills Account trials will also to commence during 2008-09.

**Third Sector.** In recognition of the key role played by the third sector in engaging with 'hardest to reach' clients in the community and that it has developed innovative approaches to working with specific groups of learners, their involvement in delivery of initiative such as City Strategy Pathfinder is crucial. The recent formation of the Third Sector Assembly in Birmingham provides a long term network for voluntary groups. It is envisaged that the Assembly will improve communication and incorporate a planned skills and employment network. This network would provide advocacy and representational role to ensure that the third sector can actively participate in, influence and improve policymaking, commissioning and service delivery. To build on this innovative approach, the LSC are funding the development of a local learning consortia. In doing so, the third sector will continue to make a contribution to achieving the government's goals relating to learning and skills through partnership

delivery commissioned services. In addition, NLDC funding is being used to fund additional unemployed client engagement through third sector organisations to work with individuals furthest from the labour market.

**Neighbourhood and Community.** There are 5 Local Area Planning Groups (LAPG) which equate to the Excellence in City area groupings. The LAPG groups stem from the recommendations from the Birmingham the Area Wide Inspection 2002. The groups act a local area consultative partner forum concerning planning and review of adult provision.

## Quality

The partnership team has formed a **Business and Quality Cluster Group** that has created a local interface for the implementation of the LSC quality improvement imperative. Processes have been established between the LSC Regional Quality Forum and the group to effectively monitor provider performance and provide advice on quality improvement services. Information, advice and sources of support on quality functions including Notices To Improve (NTI), Ofsted and Inspection, Minimum Levels of Performance (MLP), Framework for Excellence (FFE) and Support and Challenge are provided through this group. Since June 2008, Version 1 of the Framework applies to all FE, tertiary, sixth form, agricultural and horticultural, and art and design colleges, and to training providers that deliver Apprenticeships, Train to Gain and other LSC employer responsiveness-funded provision.

### **Inspection – FE**

Three colleges were inspected in the last year between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. One college was judged overall Outstanding, one overall Good and one overall Inadequate.

### **WBL Inspection**

From 1 April 2007 under new Ofsted, there have been five WBL inspections and re-inspections. Most learners based with these providers are on apprenticeship programmes. One provider was judged overall Good and four providers were judged Satisfactory. In addition to these five inspections, one ACL provider inspected was judged overall Good. Nationally throughout the second Inspection Cycle there has been an improving trend for WBL.

### **Minimum Levels of Performance – FE**

In 2007-08, one college received a Notice to Improve for long and short course provision. One ACL provider also received a Notice for short course provision.

Ten colleges are identified as being priority for support. Two for receiving a Notice to Improve, six for being at risk of receiving a Notice to Improve and two classified as satisfactory but not improving. One college is receiving QIA/LSIS support

### **Minimum Levels of Performance - WBL**

MLP for the period 2007-08 will be expanded to include Train to Gain provision. The Training and Quality Standards (TQS) Award will be one measure enabling providers to improve the quality of provision and increase the delivery capacity of apprenticeship provision. LSIS (QIA) continue to offer a wide range of support for providers offering practical advice for self assessment and employer engagement

A sector analysis of provision falling below the 45% MLP threshold for apprenticeship frameworks in 2006/07 was undertaken against the related volumes of learners. This identified 7 key sectors in Birmingham & Solihull and 406 associated learners including Hospitality and Catering, Construction, Dental Nursing, Health & Social Care, Hairdressing, Customer Services and Children's Care learning and development.

**Equality and Diversity** sits within the Business and Quality cluster group. The Partnership Team is represented on the Birmingham Equality & Diversity Task Force Group, set up to undertake a Comprehensive Area Assessment Pilot in 2008, in response to the Audit Commission. The local LSC was also a pilot area for the DIUS (Ministerial Delivery Unit) BME research project. This was commissioned following the Worldclass Apprenticeship Report. Publication of the full report for D. Lammy is currently awaited. These initiatives illustrate the local area commitment to tackling increased participation from non-traditional entry and BME groups.