

Sub-regional: Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire**Workforce Development / Worklessness****SHROPSHIRE**

Total Population = 290,900 (2007) of which;

Male: 142,800

Female: 146,200 .

Aged over 60 = 26% of population

Under 16 = 18% (52,700)

Proportion of Working Age Population

Shropshire	Shropshire %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
170,500	58.6%	61.0%	62.2%

South Shropshire has the lowest population density with 41 people per square km against 3,759 in Birmingham.

Economically Inactive:

Shropshire	Shropshire %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
31,100	18.6%	22.9%	21.4%

Of which those claiming Key benefits – including JSA, Incapacity Benefit and Lone Parents

	18,440	10.8%	15.5%	14.1%
	Of which	Of which	Of which	Of which
JSA	2,430	1.4%	3.0%	2.2%
IB	9,710	5.7%	7.2%	7.1%
LP	1,860	1.1%	2.2%	2.0%

The majority of companies in Shropshire are classified as SMEs (less than 25 employees). However there are a number of major employers (greater than 400 employees) across the county.

Deprived wards are identified as:

*Harlescott

*Meole Brace

*Sundorne

*Ludlow Henley

*Oswestry Castle

*Skills for Jobs programme and Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Plans have been developed in the above wards.

Issues

- Local skills gaps are in Hospitality and Catering, Tourism and Leisure and replacement demand identified in engineering,
- 7.9% of Shropshire's working age population is employment deprived with Oswestry having the highest levels of employment deprivation (9.5%) and Bridgnorth with the lowest (6.5%)
- 26% of population is over 60 compared to 16% nationally.
- No dedicated HE Centre in the County
- Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin have the lowest level of staff receiving training in past 12 months than any other county in the West Midlands
- Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin have the highest proportion of companies reporting skills gaps in the West Midlands

Groups:

Shropshire Business Board – who oversee and comment on Shropshire economic strategies

Local providers are involved in the PCDL Partnership

Worklessness Group – linking to the National LAA indicators.

Skills for Jobs provision is being delivered in relation to LEPs.

There are three Local Area Partnerships, North, South and Central, with LSC representation on the executive boards.

Employment and Skills board set up in Shropshire.

There is a strong network support for the key clusters of Creative Media, Land Based, Environmental Technologies, Built Environment, Education, Health and Care and Leadership and Management Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Learning Consortium

TELFORD AND WREKIN

Total Population = 161,700

Male: 79,500

Female: 82,200

Proportion of Working Age Population

Telford & Wrekin	T & W %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
101,000	62.4%	61.0%	62.2%

Economically inactive

Telford & Wrekin	T & W %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
22,800	22.5%	22.9%	21.4%

Of which those claiming key benefits – including JSA, Incapacity Benefit and Lone Parents.

	Telford & Wrekin	T & W %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
	16,000	15.8%	15.5%	14.1%
Of which		Of which	Of which	Of which
JSA	2,190	2.2%	3.0%	2.2%
IB	7,750	7.6%	7.2%	7.1%
LP	2,580	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%

Deprived Wards:

**Brookside

**Woodside

**Hadley & Leegomery

**Sutton Hill

**Cuckoo Oak.

*Malinslee

*Donnington

*City Strategy Pilot wards

** Skills for Jobs

Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Plans and action plans have been developed for the following wards: - Brookside, College, Arleston & Haygate, Cuckoo Oak, Dawley, Hadley & Leegomery, Ketley & Ketley Bank, Madeley, Newport, Overdale and Woodside. The PCDL Partnership will align its delivery to these wards addressing the action plans accordingly.

Issues

- Local skills gaps are in Hospitality and Catering, Tourism and Leisure and replacement demand identified in engineering,
- An overall rise in unemployment of 208 people in the last 12 months. The current unemployment level is 2.5%, the highest level since April 07. (West Midlands rate 3.3%.)
- Population increased by 29% since 1981 and is estimated to rise to 175,000 (15%) by 2011.
- The borough has a 65 and over population of 21,900 (16.3% of the borough's population compared to 16% nationally).
- The borough currently has an under 16 population of 34,300 (20.8% of the borough's population), compared to 19.3% nationally.

Other Key issues include;

- High levels of lone parents in Borough
- High levels of Incapacity Claimants
- Lack of employers offering apprenticeships

Groups:

LEPs – local involvement with providers delivering Skills for Jobs and City Strategy provision.

The City Strategy Pilot is being delivered in the wards of Malinslee and Donnington, target work is in

place to deliver the Integrated Employment and Skills model.

A Recruitment and Redundancy Support group is in place in Telford and Wrekin

A Worklessness Group is in place linking to the National Local Area Agreement indicators

An Employment and Skills Board has been set up in Telford and Wrekin.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Herefordshire

178,400 Overall Population
 58% Working Age Population
 80.5% Economically Active
 19.5% Economically Inactive
 28.0% Population 60+
 22.6% Population Under 20

West Midlands

5,381,800 Overall Population
 61.0% Working Age Population
 77.1% Economically Active
 22.9% Economically Inactive
 22.3% Population 60+
 25.0% Population Under 20

- More than a quarter of the population of Herefordshire are over the retirement age
- There is a lack of Higher Education provision in the county and this factor impacts upon the retention of young people in the area.

1.7% of Working Age Population are JSA Claimants, 3.3% West Midlands

5.5% of Working Age Population are Incapacity Benefit Claimants, 7.2% West Midlands

1.3% of Working Age Population are Lone Parent Benefit Claimants, 2.2% West Midlands

1.0% of Working Age Population are Carer Benefit Claimants, 1.3% West Midlands

Claimants are concentrated in the wards of Belmont (1,100), St Martins & Hinton (1,060), Three Elms (725), Leominster North (545), Tupsley (520), Ledbury (485) and Leominster South (480).

- Local wages are 89% (£384.40) of the West Midlands (£430)
- Largest employers are Public Services, Special Metals and Sun Valley
- Local skills gaps in Hospitality and Catering, Tourism and Leisure. Replacement demand in Engineering.
- Skills for Jobs activity being delivered in relation to LEPs across the County
- Lack of employers offering Apprenticeships
- Worklessness group in place – linking to the National LAA indicators
- Employment and Skills Board set up for Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- Regional Spatial Strategy will result in the building of 18,000 residences

WORCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire

555,400 Overall Population
 60.4% Working Age Population
 81.7% Economically Active
 18.3% Economically Inactive
 24.6% Population 60+
 23.5% Population Under 20

West Midlands

5,381,800 Overall Population
 61.0% Working Age Population
 77.1% Economically Active
 22.9% Economically Inactive
 22.3% Population 60+
 25.0% Population Under 20

2.0% of Working Age Population are JSA Claimants, 3.3% West Midlands

5.4% of Working Age Population are Incapacity Benefit Claimants, 7.2% West Midlands

1.4% of Working Age Population are Lone Parent Benefit Claimants, 2.2% West Midlands

1.0% of Working Age Population are Carer Benefit Claimants, 1.3% West Midlands

Claimants are concentrated in the wards of Greenlands (930), Warndon (905), Broadwaters (900), Batchley (890), Cathedral (845) and Church Hill (825).

- Largest employers are Public Sector, Private Healthcare (Craegmoor Healthcare Co Ltd) and Sanctuary Housing.
- 23.8% employed in Public Sector compared to 28% West Midlands. 20.5% employed in Manufacturing compared to 17.5% in the West Midlands.
- Local skills gaps in Hospitality and Catering, Tourism and Leisure. Replacement demand in Engineering.
- Skills for Jobs activity being delivered in relation to LEPs across the County
- Lack of employers offering Apprenticeships
- Worklessness group in place – linking to the National LAA indicators
- Employment and Skills Board set up for Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Quality

In 2006/07 the success rates for Work Based Learning in the sub region was 67.7% compared to the regional success rate of 66.3% and the national success rate of 63.8%.

E2E will remain a big challenge for the sub-region as we seek to bring about significant improvements in performance both in terms of positive progressions from the programme and movement from e2e into an apprenticeship programme. For Shropshire this situation is further complicated that the latest round of tendering has seen us lose two of our established providers and have them replaced by six that have to get established quickly if we are not to see an actual dip in performance as opposed to the improvement we are looking for.

FE Success rates for 2006/07 for Herefordshire and Worcestershire were 82% and for Shropshire were 84% compared to the regional success rate 78% and the national success rate of 77%.

We have one institution in Shropshire working through a Notice to Improve in 2008-09.

Of the 74 schools in the sub-region 10 are National Challenge Schools (based on 2006/07 data). These are as follows across the four Local Authority areas;

Telford and Wrekin	6 out of 14 Schools
Shropshire	1 out of 22 Schools
Worcestershire	2 out of 24 Schools
Herefordshire	1 out of 14 Schools