

## Local Authority: Sandwell

<b>Young People</b>
<b>Partnership Structures / Sub regional Groupings</b>
<p>Sandwell has a single 14-19 Partnership Board chaired by an LA Cabinet member. The partnership comprises representatives from three geographically based consortia, representing all LA schools, Academies and WBL training providers; and representatives from the LA 14-19 team, Sandwell College, the Connexions service and the LSC. (Sandwell College are also part of each consortium group for planning purposes.)</p> <p>The LA 14-19 team leads a Borough-wide approach to Diplomas and the wider reform agenda.</p> <p>The Machinery of Govt sub-regional grouping, subject to final negotiation, will likely see a partnership between all four Black Country Local Authorities.</p>
<b>Progress Checks Headlines</b>
<p>The area prospectus is in place and attracts a high level of usage from learners.</p> <p>Of the qualitative indicators in the last progress check, four were Amber/Red, two were Amber/Green and one was Green. The average score for the qualitative indicators was 2.8.</p>
<b>Academies / Presumptions</b>
<p>Sandwell Academy is now starting its third year. The Shireland/George Salter Collegiate Academy is starting its second year of operation. The Q3 and RSA Academies open in September 2008.</p> <p>There are no current presumptions.</p>
<b>NEET/EET Strategies</b>
<p>Sandwell was identified as a 'NEET Hotspot' area in 2007. A high-level group was established from all key partners, and produced and implemented a local action plan. This responsibility has now been absorbed into the Successful Young People's Programme Board, which in turn reports to the Children &amp; Young People's Partnership Board.</p> <p>A NEET operational group has existed for some time, comprising representatives from the LA, Connexions, Prospects, Providers and the Voluntary/Community sector.</p> <p>In July 2008 the level of NEET in Sandwell was 12.6% (702 actual), down from 14.4% in July 2007. The LAA target is 11.3% in 2008/09. The level of 'not-knowns' has been reducing, from 10.6% in July 2007 to 6.9% in July 2008.</p>
<b>Young Apprenticeships</b>
<p>Sandwell LA has not participated in the YA programme to date.</p>
<b>Schools Engagement Programme</b>
<p>Sandwell LA did not participate in this programme in 2007/08. They were successful in applying for support for 2008/09, which will allow them to support 100 learners at a cost of £172k.</p>
<b>Diploma Summary</b>
<p>Sandwell have approval to carry out development work for 6 diploma lines in 2008/09, to enable them to be offered from September 2009. The areas covered will be – Creative &amp; Media, IT, Engineering, Hair &amp; Beauty, Construction, and Business &amp; Admin.</p> <p>The Diploma line numbers and delivery requirements are included in the Building Schools for the Future proposals.</p>

### Economic Development

Sandwell is going through a major transformation and has commissioned an urban regeneration company, RegenCo to lead on most of the investments.

The aims are as stated below:

- To transform West Bromwich into a premier town centre within the Borough and the West Midlands
- To deliver maximum private sector investment into our area through well designed and well linked physical regeneration
- To promote the opportunities of the Sandwell area to local, regional, national and international audiences
- To give the Borough a real heart, integrating major physical redevelopment with social and economic regeneration in support of national strategies.

**West Bromwich:** The area will be transformed with 1,000 new homes; a new shopping and leisure hub that will provide a variety of bars, cafés, restaurants and recreation facilities; high quality working environments and a state of the art new college facility.

**Smethwick:** The £70.5 million residential-led scheme, Brindley Village II, linked by canal to Birmingham's Brindleyplace, will provide some 200 new homes built to very high design and environmental standards. The scheme will create a vibrant urban village where people can make a home, earn a living and have fun as part of a modern sustainable community designed for the 21st century.

**Hilltop:** The regeneration of this area will centre on the development of 'green industries'. The key driving force behind this will be a planned Pikehelve Eco Park, which is being progressed by Sandwell MBC.

Please note, it is the **potential** number of jobs stated, and this should not be viewed as a definite number.

Investment Sites	No. of jobs created	Sectors	Estimated completion date
The Public	450	arts, business support and catering	Spring 2008
All Saints  All Saints is planned to become the premier office location for West Bromwich.	1900	Services sector, knowledge base	Winter 2009
Queens Square, West Bromwich	1000 preserved and created	Retail	Winter 2009
Sandwell College	550 preserved	Education, Construction	Autumn 2010
Eastern Gateway	800	Construction	Late 2010
Tesco and shopping centre,	1500	Retail	Tesco August 2011 - Shopping Complex October 2011
Junction 1	1900	Service sector	Autumn 2011
Lyng Housing Extension		Construction	2012

Overall jobs in Sandwell – approx 7,550

**Sub-regional: Black Country**

**Workforce Development / Worklessness**

The four Local Authorities in the Black Country each have a city strategy local management group focusing on worklessness. The groups were established before the city strategy pathfinder and are therefore expected to continue into the future. They all feed into the wider sub-regional economic development partnerships and onto the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

In Walsall the worklessness group has established links with homelessness to ensure information is shared on the client groups and the necessary links and referrals are in place. Sandwell are developing links to a sports pathways project, using sport to engage clients group, whilst Dudley are making the links to health.

All four Local Authorities have included a target to reduce worklessness in their Local Area Agreements and are currently developing delivery plans to achieve the targets. The LSC is working closely with all partners to ensure that ESF, DAF, NLDC and the Working Neighbourhood Fund are all aligned and avoid duplication.

**Quality**