

Local Authority: Staffordshire

Young People

Partnership Structures / Sub regional Groupings

The local authority operates 14-19 Partnerships at county and district level. The County 14-19 Strategic Partnership leads the strategic development, planning and monitoring the implementation of 14-19 reform and delivery of the entitlement. This is supported by a steering group of LA, LSC and Connexions senior officers. At County level working groups are convened as necessary to address specific issues such as NEETs and L3 attainment.

At district level the 14-19 Partnership manages the district delivery and acts as a diploma partnership. There are various sub-groups of the district partnership covering IAG, Curriculum Managers etc.

The machinery of Government sub regional grouping, subject to Government approval, is likely to comprise of Stoke-on-Trent LA and Staffordshire LA.

Progress Checks Headlines

The Progress Check for 2008 shows many areas of strong progress and performance. The quantitative indicators show that the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has reduced from 6.7% in 2004 to 5.8% in 2007. Achievement of 5 A*-C including English and maths has improved from 42.8% in 05/06 to 45.7% in 06/07 and the attainment of L2 by age 19 for those in receipt of free school meals has improved from 43.7% 05/06 to 51.4% 06/07.

Areas causing concern are the decline in participation at 17 from 78.4% in 05/06 to 77.7% in 06/07 and the gap in attainment at L3 for those in receipt of free school meals which was 25.3% in 05/06 and 28.4% in 06/07.

Qualitative indicators show many areas of positive improvement and strengths including strong strategic partnership, good progress on IAG strategy, a variety of approaches showing responsiveness and capacity to prevent disengagement and collaborative approaches to development.

Areas for further development include further work on specialist and shared facilities linked in to BSF programme; further work on use of September Guarantee data at district level; the next level of L3 attainment strategy and further work to develop ILP and CAP linked to the area prospectus.

Academies / Presumptions

The LA has 54 secondary schools of which 46 have sixth forms. There are consultations currently underway to re-configure provision in Tamworth as part of BSF which includes closing the local school sixth forms and consolidating sixth form provision into a new academy with a separate post 16 site, located alongside the FE college campus.

One further academy development is underway. This is the JCB sponsored academy in Rocester which is close to completing feasibility stage and will cater for 14-19 year olds, specialising in engineering, manufacturing and international business.

There are no presumptions.

NEET/EET Strategies

Through the commissioning of close to £3million of activity Staffordshire Connexions have been successful in securing provision to support young people with Pre and Post 16 provision in partnership with a cross section of providers across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Current NEETs (excluding not-knowns) was 7.2% at the end of August 2008, compared with 7.6% in August 2007 and progress check measures place quantitative outcomes at green.

The largest group of young people not in employment, education, and training is those with a statement of SEN or have been on school action or school action + at 28%. Young offenders represented 17% of the NEET cohort.

Young Apprenticeships

The first cohort of learners began in 2004/05. Provision has continued through each of the subsequent application rounds. A total of xx young people have participated to 2007/08. There are 130 new places available in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent during 2008/09. The following sectors and places are available:-

Hospitality – 10
Administration – 57
Health and Social Care – 34
Construction - 29

Schools Engagement Programme

The programme began at the start of 2007/08 offering 100 places across all the districts in Staffordshire. In 2008/09 there will be 290 places available with the programme being managed by Staffordshire County Council.

Diploma Summary

Diploma	Available from 2008	Available from 2009
Society Health and Development	Tamworth	Newcastle and Stafford
ICT	Cannock Chase and East Staffordshire	Cannock Chase, Stafford and Tamworth
Engineering	East Staffordshire	Lichfield & Burntwood, Newcastle and Tamworth
Construction and the Built Environment	Tamworth	Lichfield & Burntwood
Business Administration and Finance		Lichfield & Burntwood, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stafford and Tamworth
Creative and Media		East Staffordshire, Newcastle, Stafford and Tamworth
Hair and Beauty		Cannock Chase, Stafford and Tamworth
Hospitality		Staffordshire Moorlands and Tamworth
Manufacturing		Tamworth

Economic Development

Physical regeneration projects across Staffordshire:

Lichfield – Friarsgate, construction jobs initially, with retail, leisure, jobs coming on board late 2010/2011. Working with Lichfield Venture, JCP, Connexions, training providers to identify skills needs and courses required to address these. Due to down turn in the economic climate there is a need to be aware of the potential effects on the development/timescales etc.

Tamworth town centre developments may create a number of jobs, down turn in economic climate could impact on the developments.

Stafford renewed - major developments in Town Centre initially construction jobs, with retail, leisure, office to follow over the next five years, also included capital developments Stafford College.

Cannock Chase area town centre developments in Cannock, Rugeley, Hedensford other developments include Towers Business Park – warehousing and distribution, Mill Green Office Development – impact on construction, retail, warehousing, office and leisure

Newcastle Under Lyme

Town Centre developments include regeneration of parts of the main shopping areas.

Keele University Science Park continues to grow with Phase 3 of the new development has infrastructure underway providing design and build options suitable for technology led companies. The expansion includes a conference centre and post graduate accommodation. Four distinctive high technology buildings and two medical technology offices with lab facilities.

Regeneration of the Knutton and Cross Heath area of Newcastle bringing new housing and a health centre to the area.

The **economic downturn** is impacting on construction with fewer houses being built across Staffordshire, however, Stafford and East Staffordshire have been identified as Growth Point Areas under the Government's initiative designed to provide support to areas that wish to pursue large scale and sustainable housing growth. This could result in 13,200 new dwellings in East Staffordshire Borough and a further 10,200 in Stafford Town by 2026.

Sub-regional:

Workforce Development / Worklessness

Work continues with all local authorities and key partners across Staffordshire to promote the benefits of an Integrated Employment and Skills Service and the Employer Offer to employers.

The Staffordshire sub-region is effectively two separate geographic and economic entities:

- North Staffordshire - covering Staffordshire Moorlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent has extreme concentrations of worklessness and low skills, with Stoke-on-Trent having the highest proportion of Incapacity benefit claimants in the West Midlands
- Southern Staffordshire – pockets of worklessness and low skills exist in disadvantaged wards affecting all Districts, including Stafford, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth, Burton-upon-Trent and South Staffs.
- Staffordshire Local Area Agreement places a strong emphasis on reducing levels of worklessness and increasing the skills base of residents within the most disadvantaged areas of the county – Worklessness priorities and targets have been agreed with GOWM for the inclusion of 43 key neighbourhoods (Lower Super Output Areas) where the Staffordshire LAA benchmark of 20%

or more of the working age population is claiming out of work benefits.

- Worklessness action groups have been established across the county with a view to developing and implementing neighbourhood specific actions to tackle worklessness within areas of need and targeting hard to reach groups who have real barriers to getting into work. ESF funding is being used to support client engagement and interventions and further work with PCTs and Registered Social Landlords is underway.
- Links to LAA Locality working are being considered in order to expand on the “whole person” approach to helping people back into work.
- Within the north of the county, a Jobs Enterprise and Training Infrastructure (JET) is being developed, which will provide shop front community facing centres to engage with individuals who have been unemployed or economically inactive for 12 months or more to support them in their journey into sustainable employment. Additionally JET business is working closely with employers to provide interview and employment opportunities for the clients engaging with the community JETs. Refurbishment of high street properties and shop premises are underway in Knutton and Newcastle, with JETs having already been set up in Blurton, Bentilee and Burslem in Stoke on Trent.
- An Employment and Skills Board has already been established in the north of the county and proposals are currently being submitted for a Board to be developed that will cover Southern Staffordshire.
- Staffordshire have submitted a bid, which is currently being considered as part of the Prototype Advancement Networks that will test out a “no wrong door” approach in accessing a range of services.

A significant number of **potential job losses** that will impact on the worklessness agenda across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent have been identified. Early indications suggest that a possible 3000 jobs could be at risk in a variety of sectors, including Food and Drink, Manufacturing, Social Care, Retail and Information Technology.

Quality

In May 2008, two institutions in Staffordshire were issued with notices to improve (Ntl): Both institutions are in receipt of support via the Improvement Advisor Service (IAS) delivered by the Quality Improvement Agency. A number of institutions have been identified at risk of receiving an Ntl in 2008/09 on the basis of success rates in 2006/07. These institutions are either in receipt of IAS support or are in the process of completing applications.

A sector analysis of provision falling below the 45% MLP threshold for apprenticeships frameworks in 2006/07 was undertaken against the related volumes of learners. This identified four key sectors in Staffordshire and 321 associated learners. The sectors included: Hospitality & Catering, Health & Social Care, Children’s Care Learning & Development and Engineering. The provision was subsequently subject to the open and competitive tendering process and has been

reallocated where appropriate.

A number of Staffordshire providers are participating in the Support for Excellence programme delivered by the QIA. The purpose of the programme is to improve capacity for self assessment and self improvement via a peer mentoring approach.

Staffordshire providers are participating in the framework for excellence pilots. Rodbaston, Burton and Stafford Colleges have participated in version 1 pilot and Staffordshire County Council, Stoke on Trent City Council and Finning UK Ltd are participating in version 2 of the pilot commencing September 2008.

A number of Staffordshire providers have been invited to participate in the QIA's programme on Word Class Skills. The focus of the programme is on developing responsive provision and includes a package of individual consultancy and a number of themed seminars.