

Local Authority: Walsall

Young People
Partnership Structures / Sub regional Groupings
<p>Walsall has a single 14-19 Strategic Partnership led by the Local Authority. This group reports into the Walsall Children's Trust Executive Board. The Strategic Partnership has representation from the LA, LSC, FE, and schools. There are no longer consortia groups.</p> <p>The borough's education services are contracted out to Serco, with which the borough has just agreed a twelve year contract. Serco has just appointed a 14-19 lead.</p> <p>The Machinery of Government sub-regional grouping, subject to final negotiation, will likely see a partnership between all four Black Country Local Authorities.</p>
Progress Checks Headlines
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. % of 17 year olds participating is showing an upward trend2. The 2008 NEET reduction target was met3. Increase in validated Level 2 achievements for 16 and 17 year olds in 2005/6 and 2006/74. 06/07 GCSE increased by 1 % from 05/065. Increase in validated Level 3 achievements in 2005/6 and 2006/7 combined with increased numbers in FE, WBL and starting HE courses. (632 in 05 to 1043 in 06.)6. Increased success rate in apprenticeship completion.
Academies / Presumptions
<p>There is one academy at present, with another being created in December, and a proposal for a third, to replace Darlaston, imminent. All schools in Walsall have a sixth form.</p>
NEET/EET Strategies
<p>The partnership is much less successful than similar authorities and the national average in encouraging young people not in education, employment or training to re-engage with learning. A high proportion of young people known to the Youth Offending Team are not engaged in learning or employment both pre-16 and at 19. The strategy group is actively addressing this through tighter Walsall joint area review of children's services 19 monitoring processes and better information gathering and sharing, but it is too early to assess impact.</p> <p>The adjusted 16-18 NEET in February 2008 was 8.7% while the comparative figure in February 2007 was 9.4 Good progress has been made with vulnerable groups accessing post 16 education and training with 77.6 of LDD in EET in 2008 compared with 74.4 in 2007</p> <p>In July 2008 8.8% of the cohort was NEET with 4.6% = Not known</p>
Young Apprenticeships
<p>The first cohort of learners began in 2004/05. Provision has continued through each of the subsequent application rounds. By the end of 2008/09 a total of 150 pupils will have undertaken a Young Apprenticeship. The following sectors are available during 2008/09: Engineering, Sports, Administration, Health, Retail and Construction</p>
Schools Engagement Programme
<p>The programme began at the beginning of the 2008/09 academic year. 150 learners are supported throughout the borough at the cost of £150,000.</p>
Diploma Summary
<p>The Management Group currently undertakes the role of strategy direction for Diplomas. There are terms of reference for the development groups and timelines for future activities. There are 14 Diploma Development groups in place. Schools from the Independent sector are also involved. Rodbaston College is leading on the Environmental and land based. A number of Consortia produced gateway 1 bids. Creative and Media was successful. The consortium will begin delivery in September 08 with 45 young people studying at level 2.</p> <p>A second consortium was successful in gateway 1, subject to conditions which it has now met, and will begin delivery on the Engineering Diploma in 2009. Further bids for delivery in 2009 were submitted through gateway 2. In 2009 Hair and Beauty and Hospitality and catering will begin delivery.</p>

Economic Development

Walsall is under-going major transformation, much of which is being coordinated by the Walsall Urban Regeneration Company. The aims of the Regeneration Company help deliver the Walsall Sustainable Community Strategy key objectives, some of which are:

- there are more and better jobs for local people
- there is a wide range of facilities for people to use and enjoy
- there exist high-quality and distinctive designs of buildings and spaces
- people are our strength and have the skills and attitude required by employers
- everyone has the chance to live in a home fit for their purpose and fit for the future

The Regional Spatial Strategy recognises Walsall as one of the four key strategic centres in the Black Country. The major regeneration projects are listed below.

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
Waterfront North Phase 1 New offices and residential	650	Managerial, IT, Office support and Administration	2010
Waterfront South Residential, Office and Leisure Development	300	Managerial, IT, Office support and Administration	2012
Business, Learning and Retail Campus New college and Tesco	350	Education and Retail	2010
Darlaston SDA Re-development of an old site for business incubation, small distribution and light commercial sites	2,800	Logistics, Distribution, Warehousing, Administration and Business Start-ups	2012
Walsall Gigaport Office development	3,000+	Data, Finance Media and Health	2015
Manor Hospital New build	100	Facilities management	2010
Performance Arts and Business Centre	70	Performing Arts	2013

Overall jobs in Walsall – approx 7,270

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