

## Lifelong Learning and Skills

### LAA Quarter 4 (2009/10) Performance Update

Theme Lead Officers: Ian Merritt, Hartlepool Borough Council, Child & Adult Services, Petrina Lynn, Skills Funding Agency, Diane Martin, Hartlepool Borough Council, Economic Development

### Community Strategy Aim

**All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities**

## Children's Trust Update

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act received Royal Assent in November 2009. The Act places Children's Trusts on a Statutory footing from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and the Children and Young People's Plan has become the responsibility of the Children's Trust Board. It will be the agreed joint strategy of the partners in the Children's Trust, on how they will co-operate to improve children's well-being.

During Quarter 4 the Children's Trust Board has met twice and discussions have included the following issues:

- Risk Taking Behaviours
- Fuel Poverty
- Response to the DCSF Children's Trust Guidance consultation
- Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Plan
- Development of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011

There have also been a number of items for information including presentations from colleagues in NHS Hartlepool and Foundation Trust, as well as Young people from the Stakeholder Group.

## Enjoy and Achieve

Standards at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage have improved with the gap between the most deprived 30% of children and their peers narrowing.

Key Stage 1 primary standards are also improving and are much closer to the national average than they have been in the past. Particularly for the most able pupils in relation to reading and maths - Key Stage 2 primary standards remain above the national average. Maths standards are particularly high, particularly for the more able pupils. Hartlepool ranks top or near to the top when measured against statistical neighbours. Hartlepool was above the England average by 4% for the pupils achieving level 4+ in both English and mathematics. GCSE standards have improved significantly with Hartlepool making the greatest improvement of all LAs in the country (jointly with Haringey). The % of pupils achieving 5A\*-C (including English and maths) has improved by 9.3% since 2008 and is now very close to the national average. The % of pupils achieving 5A\*-C without English and maths (73%) is now above the national average.

The Primary Transformation Programme is progressing well, transformational plans for the first school to be completely rebuilt under the Primary Capital programme, Jesmond Road Primary school, have been prepared. Building work will begin in January 2010; the school is due to open by Easter 2011. Excellent progress has been made with regard to the implementation of Building Schools for the Future and transformation of learning across the secondary school sector.

### **Stay Safe**

Providing safe and secure placements to children who are looked after is essential to promoting their long term well being and the five Every Child Matters outcomes. This is a key priority for local authorities and partner organisations and enshrined in legislation in the Children and Young Person's Act 2008. In the coming year, this priority will be further strengthened by the publication of revised regulations and statutory guidance which will place a duty of local authorities to take steps to secure sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of looked after children.

In order to meet this new requirement, the local authority will need to work with key partners to manage the placement market, have access to surplus placements and work with partners in the Children's Trust to ensure this new duty is met. Children in Hartlepool have the right to remain living in their home town, to have continuity of education, health provision, and social and community networks. All of these factors lead to improved outcomes for children but present a challenge to the local authority given the size of the town and the numbers of children requiring good quality stable placements.

A *Looked After Children* Strategy has been developed to provide a focus to activity in the coming three years. A key focus of this work will be improving the range, choice and quality of placement provision for looked after children. The implementation of this strategy will be the main means through which this priority will be taken forward in 2010/11.

Safeguarding children requires timely and effective interventions for those at risk. Over the past 18 months, there has been considerable scrutiny of local authority arrangements for safeguarding children and a high level of Government activity which has culminated in the publication of a revised version of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* in March 2010. In November 2009, Hartlepool Borough Council received its first unannounced inspection of arrangements for safeguarding children. This inspection highlighted areas of strength and areas for development to be taken forward by the council.

### **Be Healthy**

Breastfeeding data collection processes have been improved and a breastfeeding co-ordinator has been appointed. The target has marginally been achieved but prevalence is very low at 21%. Partners have participated in a National Support Team visit in March looking at childhood obesity. Membership of the Teenage Pregnancy Board has been revised. There is a positive trend on teenage pregnancy rates, but it is too soon to tell if this is a sustainable trend. Women who are pregnant and smoking continue to be targeted through an incentive scheme.

The PCT has commissioned a breastfeeding campaign across Tees, through TFM radio. It has also procured a strategic partner to deliver sexual health services

### **Make a Positive Contribution**

Positive Activities for Young People are central to our work around several major challenges including, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, crime and antisocial behaviour reduction. We continue to develop our integrated working processes in partnership with the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the Children's Trust partners. This work will be further developed through the new Team around the School programme.

In terms of specific volunteering activities for young people the Youth Service operates a licence for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and accredits young people involved in volunteering through the service section.

Examples of the diversity of projects that include young people 'making a positive contribution' would be from young people accessing Mobile and Detached provision producing bags to give out within the local community to combat racism, engaging young people on the streets to participate in developments within their community, to fundraising in clubs for charities such as the Butterwick hospice and Children In Positive Activities for Young People is central to our work around several major challenges including, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, crime and antisocial behaviour reduction. We continue to develop our integrated working processes in partnership with the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the

Children's Trust partners. This work will be further developed through the new Team around the School programme.

In terms of specific volunteering activities for young people the Youth Service operates a licence for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and accredits young people involved in volunteering through the service section.

Examples of the diversity of projects that include young people 'making a positive contribution' would be from young people accessing Mobile and Detached provision producing bags to give out within the local community to combat racism, engaging young people on the streets to participate in developments within their community, to fundraising in clubs for charities such as the Butterwick Hospice and Children In Need, to young people who volunteer within clubs to support the programme or other young people.

The prevention agenda continues to be a main focus of services working with children and young people and we intend to consolidate our work currently commissioned through the voluntary sector to work with those young people who are vulnerable to social isolation. The Family Intervention Project has recently commissioned resource workers from the third sector and the Children's Fund continues its commitment to the voluntary sector.

The focus on the positive contribution of young people and in particular ensuring that their views are heard and acted upon already has a sound foundation in the town and partners will be supported to continue this work across their services.

## **Achieve Economic Well-being**

Our vision for this outcome for 2010/11 is that children and young people will achieve the qualifications, develop the skills and be given the necessary life experiences to enable them to lead full and active adult lives. This outcome is important to young people because it gives access to high-level qualifications, well-paid employment and provides a strategic approach to the creation of wealth. Services will work collaboratively to ensure children and young people have opportunities to succeed in their chosen career and live in households free from poverty. The outcome is a key cross cutting theme and there are many facets that contribute to this outcome including housing, environment, and social issues such as substance abuse, crime, education and economic activity.

Child and Adult Services across Hartlepool are working through the Children Trust and the 11-19 Partnership which incorporates the 14-19 Strategic Board to:

- ensure that education and training is planned in a co-ordinated manner involving all partners;
- ensure that all young people are prepared for working life;
- ensure that childcare opportunities are available for all residents of Hartlepool;
- ensure that all Key Stage 4 pupils have opportunities for vocational studies and work experience;
- ensure that all young people aged 13-19 have impartial careers advice and guidance.
- continue to support looked after children to achieve economic well-being;

- continue to support children who have learning difficulties and or disabilities to achieve economic well being;
- continue to support regeneration initiatives which support the needs of children and young people by supporting the narrowing the attainment gap targets.

In taking forward this outcome as part of the LAA, the Children's Trust will oversee the delivery of the national and local priorities for children and young people and contribute to the delivery of the Hartlepool Community Strategy. These are:

- Reduce the number of young people classified as not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- Improve the number of young people engaged in education, employment or training from disadvantaged groups;
- Increase the number of young people having the opportunity to access higher education.

A range of activities and innovative projects will put into place to address issues in targeted areas and groups. This includes new activities to support underachieving boys, which includes the appointment of a dedicated member of staff to challenge and support schools to work with underachieving boys, the appointment of Integration Support Managers and the development of Team around the School to develop integrated working which will ensure all young people receiving the support they require from multi agency teams.

## Skills Partnership Update

The Skills Partnership met in March 2010. Key issues discussed included:

- A review of quarter 3 performance in delivering the targets and actions set out in the Local Area Agreement;
- Comprehensive Area Assessment: Jobs & Skills inspection;
- 2010/11 Local Area Agreement Delivery & Improvement plan;
- Post LSC arrangements.

The Partnership was brought up to date on the changes that will follow the demise of the Learning and Skills Council. Two replacement bodies, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) will be formed. The timescale for closure of the LSC and handover to the two new successor bodies is 1 April 2010, with shadow bodies already in place.

### The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)

[www.ypla.gov.uk](http://www.ypla.gov.uk) is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). It will support the delivery of education and training to young people in England. The YPLA champions young people by:

- providing financial support to young learners;
- funding Academies for all their provision;

- supporting Local authorities in fulfilling their new duties for commissioning education and training for all 16-19 year old learners in England.

The YPLA also funds and manages the performance of Academies and provides direct support for learners, in particular the Education Maintenance Allowance, for people aged between 16 and 19.

### The Skills Funding Agency

[www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](http://www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) is an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Their job is to fund and regulate adult FE and skills training in England. They will be part of a network of organisations in the country who commission, manage and market training for adults.

Their mission is to ensure that people and businesses can access the skills training they need to succeed in playing their part in society and in growing England's economy. This will be done in the context of policy set by BIS and informed by the needs of businesses, communities and regions, and sector and industry bodies. They will employ around 1,200 staff at a head office in Coventry and in 21 offices around England.

All regions including Hartlepool have appointed lead officers who have transferred from the LSC (Kelly Armstrong – Hartlepool) to manage the future commissioning process, and the transfer of remaining 16-19 funding for 2009/10 which has transferred to the LAs from the YPLA. LA commissioning leads are in close contact with the YPLA, and will soon begin

work on the refresh of 14-19 town wide plans, which will subsequently assist in the development of a LASN document (Local Area Statement of Need).

This document will be used with the YPLA to identify gaps in provision in the local area and sub region, and give future projections for post 16 numbers to be used for consideration in future commissioning years to ensure best VFM.

During the business cycle, the commissioning leads will meet as part of the Sub regional grouping, to ensure that the money follows the learners, which may lead to cross border funding to ensure learner needs are met.

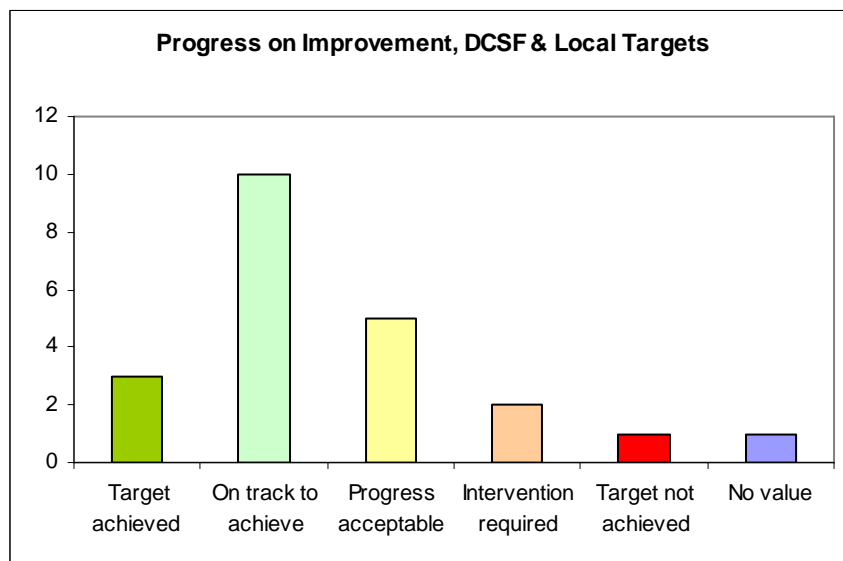
The commissioning lead for Hartlepool Local Authority will feedback to, and ensure that the Hartlepool 11-19 Strategic Board take ownership of the commissioning plan.

A Tees Valley Sub Regional Grouping has been established and calls upon experts from the Local Authority (which includes LSC transferees and original LA staff) to meet at monthly intervals, to ensure there is coherence in the commissioning process, there are also groups established for Education Business Partnership (EBP), LLDD, Quality, Curriculum, Apprenticeships and CEIAG. The Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) attend all groups when appropriate.

The sub regional groups are full representative of the 5 local Tees Valley authorities, to ensure the money follows the learner. The Commissioning Group the lead for cross border study patterns has been identified as Paul Richardson, the 14-19 Director from Darlington Local Authority.

Stockton have been identified as the lead LA for commissioning in the Tees Valley Sub Region. Darren Coulton the, 14-19 Commissioning Manager for Stockton chairs the sub regional commissioning group and links to the wider regional commissioning groups across the North East (Durham and Newcastle/Northumberland).

**Lifelong Learning and Skills  
Summary of progress against Improvement, DCSF<sup>1</sup> and  
Local Priority Targets**



**The one target that has not been achieved is:**

Indicator	Notes
Increase the proportion of NRA pupils achieving two level gains from KS1 – KS2 in English at a rate which exceeds the increase for non NR. CSD P031a	Figures calculated using DCSF publication data matched to 2009 January School Census. Target not achieved due to a change in the methodology which affects the number of children included in the calculation.

<sup>1</sup> Department for Children, Schools and Families

**The two targets where intervention is required are:**

Indicator	Notes
Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 NI 93	Figures calculated internally using provisional data. Figure to be updated once DCSF publish final data. The target set is significantly above national average so was exceptionally high and very unrealistic. The achievement of 84.1% represents very good achievement for most young children in Hartlepool.
Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 NI 94	Figures calculated internally using provisional data. Figure to be updated once DCSF publish final data. the target set is significantly above national average so was exceptionally high and very unrealistic. The achievement of 86.7% represents very good achievement for most young children in Hartlepool.

As has been stated previously, Performance Indicators for school attainment are problematic. Historically, highly aspirational targets were set. School attainment levels have risen very significantly so that from a position well below average, Hartlepool levels of achievement are now in line with national expectations in many areas. This represents excellent progress. Full details of the progress against all targets are detailed in the remainder of the Lifelong Learning & Skills Theme Quarter 4 update.



## Outcome 5 Enjoy and Achieve LAA Performance Update - Quarter 4 (2009/10)

**Owner and Organisation – Caroline O'Neill, Hartlepool Borough Council**

**Key Partners** (\*denotes overall lead) - Children's Services Department\*, Lifelong Learning and Skills Theme Partnership incorporating HLLP, SureStart Partnership and the Education Partnership, Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Health & Social Care Partnership, Economic Forum, Culture and Leisure Theme Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, The children and young people of Hartlepool The UK Youth Parliament representative, Parents and carers, Hartlepool Police, Durham Diocesan Board of Education, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, Headteachers, Learning and Skills Council Tees Valley, Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency, Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations, West View Project, UNISON, Barnardo's North East, Hartlepool Governors Association, Tees & North East Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust, New Deal for Communities, Connexions Hartlepool, Hartlepool Youth Offending Service, Hartlepool SureStart Partnership, Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, Cleveland College of Art and Design Local Safeguarding Children Board, Probation Service, Housing

### **1.0 Update on Key Focus of Activity for 2009/10**

Standards at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage have improved since 2008 with the gap between the most deprived 30% of children and their peers narrowing. Key Stage 1 primary standards are also improving and are much closer to the national average than they have been in the past, particularly for the most able pupils in relation to reading and maths. Key Stage 2 primary standards remain above the national average. Maths standards are particularly high, particularly for the more able pupils. Hartlepool ranks top or near to the top when measured against statistical neighbours. Hartlepool was above the England average by 4% for the pupils achieving level 4+ in both English and mathematics.

GCSE standards have improved significantly with Hartlepool making the greatest improvement of all LAs in the country (jointly with Haringey).

The % of pupils achieving 5A\*-C (including English and maths) has improved by 9.3% since 2008 and is now very close to the national average. The % of pupils achieving 5A\*-C without English and maths (73%) is now above the national average.

### **2.0 Update on Target Areas and Groups**

There are some encouraging signs within the secondary school sector that standards are improving in a number of schools. The early entry GCSE students in both High Tunstall and Manor Colleges suggest the percentage of students achieving 5A\*-C (including English and maths) will be higher than in 2009.

Early Years outcomes have improved and the bringing together of the 0-11 team under the Council's Business Transformation programme will ensure a continued focus on outcomes for young children.

### 3.0+ Latest Developments

OfSTED inspections of High Tunstall College and St. Hild's School have highlighted some very positive aspects and suggest that the quality of education in both establishments is improving. However, this cannot be confirmed until the outcomes of GCSE assessments are available to us in August 2010. There continues to be much work to do in both schools to ensure sustainable school improvements and good pupil progress, particularly for the most able learners.

The work of the Early Years Foundation Stage Consultants is now more focused and should support schools to raise standards.

Early Years Foundation Stage profile results are now carefully moderated by the LA and individual school's anomalies challenged by SIPs and LA personnel.

There is every indication pupils achievement is on track to exceed last year's outcome i.e. the percentage of pupils making 2 levels progress between KS1 and KS2. The risk is in relation to pupil attainment at the end of KS2 because the 2010 cohort indicates there are more pupils with LDD in 2009.

Ofsted inspections of a number of primary schools and the Council's only nursery schools indicate many are being judged to be good with outstanding features or outstanding in all aspects.

## 4.0 Risk Update

Risk	Rating	Who	Date to be completed	Update
Failure to consolidate upon recent improvements in achievements and standards in all Key Stages	Medium - Possible	Children's Services Department	March 2010	Consolidation of improvements continues to be maintained.

#### 4.0 Update on Strategic Targets and Progress

##### Department for Children, Schools and Families Targets

Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
NI 72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	Lynne Pawley; Danielle Swainston	44.9%  (achieved 48.5 % in Aug 2009 therefore achieved target ahead of target date)	Annual data available in August 10	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	<p>STEPS introduced</p> <p>All schools and Head Teachers trained in Foundation Stage Profile anomalies</p> <p>SIPs challenging schools on data</p> <p>EYCs in schools where concerns are</p> <p>Training on EYFSP for teachers increased</p> <p>More LA moderators trained</p>

Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	Lynne Pawley	82.0%	Not currently available  Unsure if/when this data will be available due to SATs boycott by schools	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	Schools with predicted low results are being supported intensely by advisors, consultants and Primary Strategy Consultant Leaders.  SIPs working with schools
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	Caroline O'Neil	52.0%	Not currently available	Autumn 2009	No Value	Data will be taken from published DCSF Achievement & Attainment Tables
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	Jackie Webb	5.4%	Data will be available in August 2010	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	The target is challenging. At present all schools are on track to achieve their individual targets

Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
NI 92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	Danielle Swainston	39.1%	Not yet available Annual statistics available Aug 10	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	The target has been revised to 38.1% for Aug 2010
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Lynne Pawley	97.0%	Not currently available  Unsure if/when this data will be available due to SATs boycott by schools	Autumn 2009	Intervention required	The target set is significantly above national average so is exceptionally high and very unrealistic
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Lynne Pawley	97.0%	Not currently available  Unsure if/when this data will be available due to SATs boycott by schools	Autumn 2009	Intervention required	The target set is significantly above national average so is exceptionally high and very unrealistic.




Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
NI 99	Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	Zoe Westley	43.0%	Data will be available in October 2010	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	The cohort is very small and the uncertainty surrounding the boycott of KS2 SATs may affect this indicator.
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	Zoe Westley	43.0%	Data will be available in October 2010	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	The cohort is very small and the uncertainty surrounding the boycott of KS2 SATs may affect this indicator.
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and mathematics)	Zoe Westley	18.0%	Data will be available in October 2010	Autumn 2009	On track to achieve	The cohort is very small and mobile however we hope to achieve this very challenging target.

## Local Priority Targets

Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
LAA LLS P003	Increase the percentage of pupils in self governing mainstream secondary schools	Performance Team; Rachel Smith (BSF)	100	100	2009/10	Target achieved	Hartlepool currently offers a diverse range of schools. We will further increase the diversity in our school system through the greater involvement of external partners.  To achieve greater external support, all secondary schools are self-governing.
CSD P031 b	Increase the proportion of NRA pupils achieving two level gains from KS1 – KS2 in mathematics at a rate which exceeds the increase for non NR.	Lynne Pawley	5.4	4.6	2009/10	Target achieved	Figures calculated using DCSF KS2 publication data matched to 2009 January School Census.

Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
CSD P031 a	Increase the proportion of NRA pupils achieving two level gains from KS1 – KS2 in English at a rate which exceeds the increase for non NR.	Lynne Pawley	4.9	6.1	2009/10	Target not achieved	Figures calculated using DCSF KS2 publication data matched to 2009 January School Census. Target not achieved due to a change in the methodology which affects the number of children included in the calculation.

## Actions for Improvement

Code	Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
LAA D17	Work with the Secondary B&A Partnership to reduce the number of PA students so that no Hartlepool School is classed as a PA school by the NS.	Caroline O'Neill	31 Mar 2010	 Action On track	2 schools High Tunstall & Dyke House potentially PA schools. Continuing to work with B&A partnership to reduce PAs. This area of work continues to be a priority and will be included in next year's improvement plan.
LAA D18	Implement all recommendations identified in the statutory guidance for the role of the Designated Teacher for LAC.	Caroline O'Neill	31 Mar 2010	 Action Completed	All recommendations have been implemented.
LAA D19	Continue to develop 'Transformation of Learning' as an innovative approach to raising standards in secondary schools and work closely with QCA as one of the 2 National Innovation Zones.	Caroline O'Neill	31 Mar 2010	 Action On track	Hartlepool continues to develop good relationships with Knowsley through innovation zone work and positive partnership development with QCDA, SSAT, NCSL, TDA etc. This area of work continues to be a priority and will be included in next year's improvement plan



## Outcome 6 Provision of high quality learning and skills opportunities that drive economic competitiveness, widen participation and build social justice

LAA Performance Update - Quarter 4 (2009/10)

Owner and Organisation – Petrina Lynn (SFA\*) / Diane Martin (HBC)

**Key Partners** (\*denotes overall lead) – Skills Funding Agency\*, Hartlepool Borough Council, Post 16 Providers, Schools, Connexions, Voluntary Sector, Private Sector Training Providers, University of Teesside

### 1.0 Update on Key Focus of Activity for 2009/10

The Regional Employment & Skills Partnership has identified four key priorities:-

- Developing management and leadership skills and capability
- Increasing the proportion of the workforce qualified to Level 3
- Supporting individuals not currently participating in the labour market to access learning and sustainable employment
- Ensuring young people are motivated and skilled in order to enter and succeed in an increasingly knowledge-based labour market

Sub groups have been established to co-ordinate the regions response to the economic downturn (Skills & Employment Response Group) and partners approach to tackling worklessness and low skill levels (Regional Employability Framework Strategy Group).

Priorities for the Skills Partnership in the coming year will focus on supporting adults and employers to address their skills needs in the face of the economic downturn. Ensuring that individuals' skills reflect employers' needs and employers remain competitive by investing in the development of their workforce.

The disaggregation of the Learning and Skills Council and the newly formed Skills Funding Agency, Young Peoples Learning Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service will be aligned to the activity of the Hartlepool Partnership and development work will take place in the new year to establish priority areas for Hartlepool.

Partners will work together to ensure that the provision available to individuals and employers in Hartlepool is high quality and flexible enough to meet identified needs. The Community Strategy analysis identifies the following issues in the area of Lifelong Learning & Skills:-

- Hartlepool has the second highest percentage of adults with no qualifications within the Tees Valley;
- The number of adults attaining basic and intermediate level qualifications remains below regional and national averages;
- The proportion of residents in Hartlepool with low basic skills remains particularly high in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA);
- Achievement of Level 1 by residents in the NRA has reduced recently; achievement of Level 2 qualifications remains steady;
- Further work needs to be done to improve access to formal & informal learning opportunities in the NRA;

- Local employers seeking to fill vacancies indicate that applicants from the NRA do not always have the skills, behaviours and attitudes they need.

The Partnership will continue to review achievement against Skills for Life, Level 2 & 3 qualifications, Apprenticeship completions and participation in Train to Gain.

Engagement in learning will be monitored at Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) level as well as Borough wide. Working Neighbourhoods Funds will be used to address any gaps left by mainstream funding available via the newly established Skills Funding Agency and the Young People Learning Agency.

The Skills Partnership complements the work of the sub-regional Employment and Skills Board of Tees Valley Unlimited.

## 2.0 Update on Target Areas and Groups

**HBC (Hartlepool Adult Education Service)** are continuing to use online Skills for Life assessments across the service. Additional pathways programmes have been put in place which continue to be positively received. NVQ programmes are also being delivered at levels 3, 4 and 5.

Surveys have been completed in more NAP areas to determine residents' views and needs regarding Lifelong Learning. A Community Development worker is in place and a programme of courses has been developed and implemented as a result of the findings from the previous NAP surveys. Two pilot Widen Horizons Neighbourhood projects are operating utilising NAP funding. The long term objective is to narrow the gap in attainment in these deprived areas

## Business & Enterprise NE Performance Information

The following applies to quarter 4 2009/10 and total for year.

- Pre-Start Assistance** - The number of individuals that are investigating starting up a business that have been assisted by BENE in the period.
- Assisted Start-ups** - Number of new businesses that have been established within the Quarter, and have had some pre-start assistance.
- Businesses Assisted** - The number of businesses assisted during the period (including assisted start-ups).
- Skills Intervention** - The number of businesses that have had an intervention by a BENE skills broker in the specified period.
- Assisted Start-ups surviving 12 months** - Number of businesses that BENE have assisted, that are still operating after 12 months.

	Q4		Year to Date
Pre Start	116	Pre Start	365
Start Up	4	Start Up	51
Businesses Assisted	219	Businesses Assisted	518
Skills	55	Skills	177

Survivals	Q4	Survivals	Year to Date
	10		16

## NEEIC Applications Received and Contracts Issued

	Q4			Total
	Business Type			
	Established	Pre-Start	Start-Up	
Business Support Applications Received	3	4	12	19
Business Support Contracts Issued	1	2	6	9
Value of Business Support Contracts Issued	£ 3,195.75	£4,623.00	£30,945.00	£38,763.75
Skills Applications Received	12	0	2	14
Skills Contracts Issued	8	0	0	8
Value of Skills Contracts Issued	£14,848.95	£ 0	£ 0	£14,848.95

## 3.0 Latest Developments

### HBC (Hartlepool Adult Education Service)

HBC is the lead partner for the Tees Valley Event Volunteering Programme (Personal Best). This qualification has been marketed and the course materials developed. Darlington have completed their first course, the learners will now be building up their volunteering hours. Stockton have started their first course

HBC also leads a partnership of the 12 adult education providers, in the North East local authority areas to administer the LSC and ESF funded Community Grants Programmes. 1<sup>st</sup> round ended 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> round ended 30<sup>th</sup> October. In total over 500 applications were sent out and 102 eligible bids were scored. 53 bids have been successful. 47 were for "Grants for Individuals" in total £483,532 has been awarded with £456,468. 6 Grants, totalling £65,533, have been awarded for Capacity Building projects, leaving £63,381 funding available for the final rounds. These grants are to enable small third sector organisations, which would not otherwise be able to access ESF, to access small grants through simplified application arrangements. Grants will strengthen the ability of small 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations to deliver employment and skills activities to disadvantaged people and support progression on to other programmes

Drop in job clubs continue to run and new venues across Hartlepool were added from September onwards to widen the scope of this activity. This activity will work in partnership with existing outreach provision operated by the VCS and those funded via WNF in the Jobs & Economy theme.

## New Futures

New Futures (previously Building Futures), a partnership between the five local authorities within the Tees Valley area, has secured Single Programme Funding for two years. New Futures has been re-designed to develop Intermediate Labour Markets (ILMs) and apprenticeships in potential growth areas such as the Chemicals Industry. Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Development Team is leading on this project and they continue to bring key partners together including the LSC and Jobcentre Plus to review skills shortage areas and potential growth sectors.

Hartlepool Outputs as follows:

Clients receiving IAG 219

Training 28

Clients who have benefited from employment subsidies

Apprenticeships 18

completing quals 8

ILM (gain exp ) 7

Sustain in emp 19

emp by FJF 16

---

68

IAG only 151

Total 219

qualification and training who would otherwise have lost their employment status.

Development activity and discussion with Hartlepool College of FE and others on provision of training in renewables, wind and sea turbines and energy is ongoing. New Futures is looking to pilot sector activity with a small cluster of SMEs, in 2010/2011. Other planned activity is in Tourism & Hospitality, Engineering and Chemicals and Energy.

Since August 2009 the project has funded local residents to enter into work placements through offering job subsidies to employers and ILM placements, this includes jobs retained by Apprentices to complete

## Employer Gateway

The Jobsmart Consortium, Visit Tees Valley and other key stakeholders continue to develop the 'Employer Gateway' for the Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure sector for the Tees Valley area. The gateway will provide support to local employers and will act as a routeway for residents wishing to enter into employment within these sectors. Current activities include:

- The appointment of a Development Worker to support residents seeking training and employment in these sectors
- Representatives from HBC attended the Tourism Passport group meetings and have met with key businesses / agencies in sector to discuss business needs.
- HCFE keen to work with partners on developing a pre-employment sector routeway and are offering their College facilities to provide tasters/ work experience. Local businesses, including The Grand Hotel, are also keen to be involved in this.
- A Small to Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) cluster group for this sector was established through funding from the LSC.

The group met to feed into the gateway to provide an insight into the demands of local employers around Diagnostic Assessments (and training). The Cluster Group formed with Navigation Point business and town centre business will be forming a Business Association in 2010/2011. The group will meet and include skills and workforce development issues to be shared with stakeholders and the Hartlepool Skills Partnership. The group are looking at investment in training in anticipation of demands on good customer service as events such as 'Tall Ships' encourage visitors.

## Future Jobs Fund

Hartlepool is leading the way nationally as they successfully deliver this programme. By March 2010 Hartlepool created filled 283 FJF vacancies and all 283 have achieved employability qualifications and majority are working towards L2 and L3 attainment. Training and skill development is being accessed through various providers including Adult Education, HCFE etc, to assist in sustaining individuals in employment.

## 4.0 Risk Update

Risk	Rating	Who	Date to be completed	Update
Impact of economic downturn leads to a reduction in employer investment in training & learner participation leading to non achievement of LAA targets	Medium	Lesley Monaghan LSC	Mar 2010	Progress towards the achievement of the targets set continues to be positive. Demand from employers to support their training needs remains high, this is reflected by starts in the Train to Gain programme. A number of new initiatives have been introduced to support young people into work and assist those at risk of redundancy

## 5.0 Update on Strategic Targets and Progress

### Improvement Targets




Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Annual Target 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
NI 161	Number of Level 1 qualifications in literacy (including ESOL) achieved	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	420		2009/10	On track to achieve	Updated data due May 2010. Target expected to be exceeded (480 achieved 07/08)
NI 162	Number of Entry Level qualifications in numeracy achieved	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	132		2009/10	Progress acceptable	Updated performance data due May 2010 for 08/09. 120 achieved for 07/08.
NI 163	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	69.6%		2009/10	On track to achieve	The 2008 DIUS Annual Population survey is the latest measure of performance which was published in August 2009. At 67.3 % this suggests targets set for 2008/09, (measurable Aug 2010), and 2009/10 (measurable Aug 2011) will be achieved. This continues to be a priority area for Learning & Skills Council funding.
NI 164	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 3 or higher	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	44.5%		2009/10	Progress acceptable	The latest data available for this area is the results of the 2008 DIUS Annual Population Survey published in Aug 2009 which shows 42.5% <sup>1</sup> .. Though progress is being made, achievement of this target will be challenging




<sup>1</sup> Performance information for 2008/09 will be available in Aug 2010. Performance data for 2009/10 will be available in Aug 2011.

## Local Priority Targets

Code	Indicator	Assigned To	Annual 2009/10	Current Value	Last Update	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
NI 161 (NRA)	Number of Level 1 qualifications in literacy (including ESOL) achieved (Neighbourhood Renewal Area)	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	301	Performance information available May 2010 for 08/09.	2009/10	PI Progress acceptable	Performance information available May 2010 for 08/09.
NI 162 (NRA)	Number of Entry Level qualifications in numeracy achieved (Neighbourhood Renewal Area)	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	100	Performance data due May 2010 for 08/09	2009/10	PI Progress acceptable	Performance data due May 2010 for 08/09
LAA LLS P004	Number of Apprentice Framework Completions	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	294	77	2009/10 (Period 6)	PI On track to achieve target	There have been 77 framework completions as at period 6. Data will be updated each month as new information becomes available.
LAA LLS P005	Number of Apprentice Framework Completions (Neighbourhood Renewal Area)	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	125		2009/10	PI Progress acceptable	Performance data filtered by NR area for 2008/09 and 09/10 has been delayed due to LSC transfer and will be available at end May 2010
LAA LLS P006	Train to Gain (Number of Employees)	Kelly Armstrong; Lesley Monaghan	585	657	2009/10	PI Target achieved	Target exceeded

## Actions for Improvement

Code	Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
LAA D26	Complete review of Skills Partnership membership & linkages with the Economic Forum	Lesley Monaghan (LSC)	30 Apr 2009	 Action Completed	Review completed May 09. Outcomes to be discussed at Skills Partnership meeting October 09.
LAA D27	Contracts to be issued to providers to support delivery of training to individuals facing redundancy or newly unemployed	Lesley Monaghan (LSC)	31 May 2009	 Action Completed	Contracts issued in line with National Guidance.
LAA D28	Contract to be issued to providers to support delivery of training those unemployed for 6 months or more to address barriers to employment	Lesley Monaghan (LSC)	30 Jun 2009	 Action Completed	Contracts issued in line with National guidance and delivery underway.
LAA D29	Develop a high quality and targeted business support package for businesses in the Southern Business Zone (SBZ)	Mike Lakinski (Business & Enterprise NE)	31 Mar 2010	 Action Progress acceptable	No further progress. BE-NE awaiting response from HBC Economic Development Team.

Code	Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Expected Outcome	Latest Note
LAA D30	Deliver Managing Community & Voluntary Organisations (MCVO) Level 2 and Level 3 courses to develop the skill levels of local volunteers	Karen Milburn (Skillshare)	31 Mar 2010	 Action On track	Project is on schedule to deliver agreed targets with positive feedback from participants to date.
LAA D79	Design workforce development programmes within the SBZ proposed package which will target key growth sectors including Engineering, Process and Energy.	Diane Martin (HBC)	31 Mar 2010	 Action Completed	Business Liaison progressing through direct or mail out contact. Specific project activity to commence during April 2010/March 11
LAA D80	Delivery of the 'On Target' project which will provide skills and learning opportunities for young people with mental health problems.	Patrick Wilson (HBC)	31 Mar 2010	 Action Completed	MIND will now lead on the On Target project.

