

## Update

### Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Review – Draft Final Report

*With the agreement of the Committee the information in this update will be added into the final report arising from this review prior to it being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.*

#### **A. Latest Job Seekers Allowance figures & Information - February 2013**

1. National context - York has a statistically lower level of Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimants than regional and national averages. However York has an issue with the proportion of long-term and youth claimants within its figures with long-term youth claimants still being higher than one year ago.
2. York overall picture - The JSA Claimant count for York in February 2013 is 3112. This is an increase of 74 from the previous month and represents 2.4% of the working age population. The region stands at 4.9% and GB at 3.9%. Last February (2012) the total was 3682 (therefore a decrease of 570 since February 2012) and was 2.8% of the working age population. This is the lowest February figure since 2008.
3. Seasonal effects - Between January and February there are some seasonal effects that we would expect to result in an increase in unemployment numbers with trends indicating that next month's figures should come down.
4. Ward - The most deprived Ward's have;
  - the highest number of long-term claimants
  - the highest number of youth claimants
  - the highest number of claimants aged over 50

These Ward's are;

- Westfield
- Holgate

- Clifton
- Micklegate
- Heworth
- Guildhall

## 5. Further Headlines

- York has seen an increase in its youth unemployment count, up by 45 from last month. In February 2012 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 1025, reducing by 255 to 770 in February 2013
- Claimants out of work for over 1 year decreased by 25 last month, and that represents a decrease of 40 from 1 year ago
- Male claimants have increased by 57 from the previous month
- Female claimants have increased by 17 from the previous month
- 18-24 year olds, claiming over one year, have stayed the same as last month, totalling 110, however an increase of 30 from one year ago
- 330 people found work in the last month and 315 failed to sign – the majority of these will have found employment and will have not informed JCP
- York is the fifth least affected city for JSA claimant rate change since February 2008 (Centre for Cities)
- York is the joint 4th least affected city for Youth JSA claimant rate change since February 2008 (Centre for Cities)

## **B. Update on the success of the free bus travel scheme offered in January 2013**

*Paragraphs 82 to 86 of the draft final report refer:*

- The four major UK bus operators (Arriva, First, Go Ahead and Stagecoach) offered free bus travel for job seekers for the month of January 2013.<sup>1</sup>
- In York, approximately 1,000 journeys were made by job seekers under the offer in January. In addition to the two operators involved with Greener Journeys, York operators EYMS and Yorkshire Coastliner also made the offer available on their services.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information can be found via the link below:

<http://www.greenerjourneys.com/2012/12/bus-for-jobs-job-hunters-given-free-bus-travel/>

- The offer was made on a commercial basis (i.e., the operators took the 'hit' for the revenue lost and were not reimbursed by local authorities).
- It is believed that there is no intention to extend the scheme.
- As this was a national initiative, it is unlikely that free bus travel for job seekers would be introduced on a local basis without local authority subsidy.

### **C. Implications of the recommendations:**

Where possible those affected by the recommendations arising from this scrutiny review were involved in the review and made aware of the likely recommendations and the impact these would have on them. There was a general consensus running throughout the review that all were implementable. However the Task Group, due to time constraints were unable at the time of the review to consult with the officer responsible for Recommendation 9. His comments are detailed in the paragraphs below.

#### **Overall:**

- **HR** - The Head of Strategic Workforce Development and Resourcing has indicated that she is content with the recommendations and there are no implications for HR. However:
  - It should be noted that 6 of the 10 recommendations specifically make reference to the post of Learning City York Partnership Manager to lead or work with other CYC post holders to implement the actions arising from the review. This means that various post holders will need to pick up these specific actions as part of their core role and responsibility.
- **Financial** – Where recommendations may require 'additional funding' or capacity this has, where possible, either been addressed through bids to the Economic Infrastructure Fund e.g. for recommendation 4 around financing jobs fairs or is currently being reviewed within Education and Skills e.g. deployment of Apprenticeship time to support or deployment of staff time within other teams [*comment from the Learning City York Partnership Manager*]
- **Financial** - These recommendations carry their own financial implications, although it is understood that several of these will be drawn from existing budgets and where this is not possible and additional funding is required, proposals will be made formally to

the appropriate funding source – and where necessary to external pots of funding [*comment from the Head of Economic Development*]

**For Specific Recommendations:**

Recommendation 4: Funding has already been found, via a successful bid to the Economic Infrastructure Fund (EIF), for jobs fairs to take place in May and October until and including 2016.

Recommendation 9: The comments of the Committee are welcome as they highlight the key role that transport has in enabling access to employment opportunities. The recommendation would require a feasibility study. Funding and resources would be required to undertake this study as it is not in the current work programme.