

Annex B - **Current skills initiatives**

- In terms of Connecting People to Jobs (CYC Economic Inclusion Policy and Priority 2 of the York Skills Strategy, 2013-2016), the Learning City Partnership (City of York Council) works with Job Centre Plus, the National Careers Service, Work Programme providers and other training providers across the city to better cohere and plan programmes and provision to support unemployed York residents.
- Whilst Job Centre Plus (JCP) hold the statutory responsibility to provide support for all ages of benefit claimants to get back into work, the employability, training and advice programmes are delivered by other partners and operate within a fragmented funding landscape which can create gaps for particular residents .
- The current measures under the generic 'Get Britain Working Campaign' include access for benefit claimants to work experience, work clubs, an Enterprise Allowance for start-ups and Sector Based Work Academies. SBWAs are delivered by training providers funded by the Skills Funding Agency that combines employability and sector specific vocational training with work experience and a guaranteed interview with employers that have vacancies. In York, we have built up a range of programmes for vacancies in the Care Sector, retail / customer services, hospitality and are seeking to launch a programme for the Construction sector.
- The DWP funded Work Programme provides support for the longer-term unemployed (9 months plus).
- Some vulnerable groups are provided with targeted support through European Funded programmes such as ex-offenders (a regional contract delivered locally by York Learning), Adults with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties (Work Choice, delivered locally by Shaw Trust) and Families with Multiple Issues (Support for York delivered locally by York Learning). These programmes come to an end in 2015 and the new ESF programme of support is yet to be tendered.
- Through CYC Economic Inclusion Funding and Government funding devolved to Leeds City Region, Learning City has worked with local training providers to support two 'age specific' programmes. 'Experience Works' to support those aged 50+ back into work (delivered by York College) and 'Head Start' to support longer-term unemployed 18-24 year olds back into work of between 6-9 months and those returning from the Work Programme after two years unemployment. These programmes come to an end Sep – December 2015.

- As existing employability programmes and funding streams come to a close, the Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities Network will continue to work together to plan and cohere provision for unemployed residents and will seek to embed the nuances of the Universal Credit to the advice and guidance provided
- Future Prospects (York Learning) continues to provide a customer facing advice and guidance service at West Offices, along side CAB and will seek to work with other agencies and providers to offer support