



Improving Jobs Prospects and Employability

Scrutiny Panel

28th Feb 2013



Walsall Council



Unemployment & Benefits

Out of Work Benefits



- Over 28,000 Walsall people claim an ‘out of work benefit’
- Equal to 17.8% of working age adults aged 16-64
- Higher than the 12.1% across England overall
- Around 10,000 claim Jobseeker’s Allowance, suggesting they are actively looking for jobs
 - *Large increases caused by the recession*
- Nearly 13,000 claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit, suggesting they are unfit for work.
 - *Has remained largely static since before the recession*

Proportion of working age adults claiming out of work benefits, Feb12

Source: Department for Work and Pensions



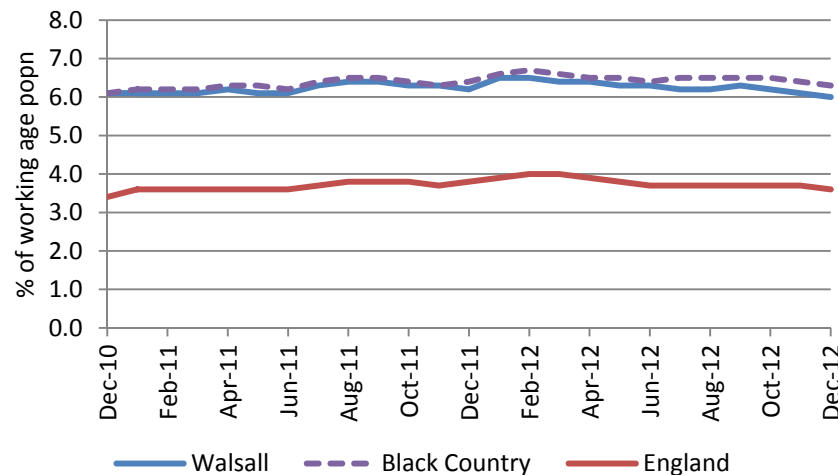
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Unemployment & Benefits

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

- Above national average levels of claimants BUT a significant (above national) improvement during the previous year
- Claimants concentrated in some parts of the borough: 6 wards home to over half of all claimants
- Average length of claims higher than England, BUT has reduced during previous year
- Male unemployment higher but falling BUT number of female claimants rising
- Youth (18-24) claimants rates very high BUT above average level of improvement recently



JSA claimant rates, Dec 10-Dec 12

Source: Office for National Statistics Claimant Count



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Regeneration - Our Role

Developing the demand side - creating the conditions that actively support wealth and job creation

Developing the supply side - helping local people to gain employment

Co-ordinate activity and utilise our assets, to ensure that we are all working together to best effect.

Further illustrated in our Service Plan on one page: –

Regenerating Walsall



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Regenerating Walsall

Black Country / LEP Priorities

Transform Black Country Infrastructure.... Sites, Transport, Environment
Raise Education, Employment and Skills... More People Working, Raise Abilities
Improve Black Country Competitiveness... Higher Performing Existing & New Businesses

Walsall's Priority

Get people into work & keep them in work

Council's Regeneration Focus

Create the conditions for Sustained Economic Growth...
 by supporting the growth of business and jobs in Walsall, ensuring Walsall people have the skills and environment to make the most of opportunities

Directorate Strategy



- Stimulate private investment
- Support service delivery
- Reduce costs & liabilities

- Improve footfall
- Increase Investment
- Improve customer experience

- Attract new business
- Retain existing business
- Raise external reputation of Walsall
- Create future supply
- Business friendly council

- Understand & Respond to new & existing business needs
- Retain & increase jobs
- Promote Walsall to new investors

- Reduce worklessness & resulting demands
- Raise aspirations
- Increase spending & demand in Walsall economy

- Improve chance of getting & keeping a job
- Improve future resilience & employment flexibility

- Respond to housing need
- Improve existing homes
- Create new homes



Strategic Regeneration – Our Role

- Understanding our Economy & Setting Direction
- Producing information in a way that Informs and Empowers others
- Acting as an effective middle man, creating the conditions that bring partners together and effect delivery

Including the delivery of;

- The Invest Black Country – Inward Investment Service
- An effective Employment & Skills Service
- The Walsall Works Apprenticeship Programme
- A new Employment (Sector) Growth Service
- A new External Funding / Advice Service
- A new and effective Marketing and Communication service
- An effective Transport Major Projects Development & Design service
- The delivery of Transportation improvements throughout Walsall



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Client Journey to Work

Clear understanding of the services available to unemployed clients

- Getting Sorted
- Getting Started
- Becoming more employable
- Getting into Work
- Getting into Business
- Keeping a Job
- Progression

See Walsall Provision and Client Journey to Work diagram



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Current Activity in Walsall

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Employment One Stop Shops

Support for Transport and Childcare Barriers

Advice for Self Employment

Jobcentreplus

Getting Britain Working

Youth Contract

Work Programme

Flexible Support Fund

European Social Fund, Skills Funding Agency, Lottery Funding



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Walsall Works

Vision

- 2 year programme commenced April 2012
- Tackling youth unemployment by creating apprenticeships
- Incentives to employers to unlock new jobs
- 450 young people into apprentices
- 290 young people start pre-apprenticeship programmes

Walsall Outcomes

1,105 young people

172 employers have signed up

78 young people started Apprenticeship

72 young people started the Pre-Apprenticeship

111 young people supported into a positive outcomes



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Impending Reforms and Changes

Benefit CAP

From April 2013 a limit will be put on the total amount of benefits that people aged 16 to 64 receive. This will mean that workless households no longer receive more in benefits than average working households

- £500 a week for couples or single parent (with or without children living with them)
- £350 a week for single adults who don't have children, or whose children don't live with them

Bedroom Tax

From April 2013 tenants in Social Housing will have to pay between £11-£20 a week for bedrooms in their property deemed to be in excess of their needs (or downshift to a smaller property).

Universal Credit

Universal Credit simplifies and streamlines the benefits system for claimants by bringing together a range of benefits and credits into a single system.



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Questions

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