



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Employment & Skills in the West of England

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West of England
Employment & Skills Board

Skills and the West of England Economy

- Improving Competitiveness means Improving Skills.
 - Adding to skill levels is key lever to increasing GVA & so the wealth creating potential of the sub-region.
 - An increase of 10% in higher level skills (Level 4+) could produce a 2-3% rise in GVA.
- We must compete nationally & globally with cities which offer a high knowledge base & a workforce to match.
- More jobs at a higher skill level create wealth to sustain the lower skill service jobs within & beyond the sub-region.
- A Level 3 achiever will see, on average, an earnings increase of around £179,400 over a working lifetime.
 - This sub-region is the engine of a much wider economy in the SW, accounting for approx. one quarter of the region's new jobs.



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The Challenge

- Coming out of the Downturn and back into growth
- Tackling Worklessness – especially for young people
- Responding to the Slowdown in Growth of the Working Age Population
- Matching Increasing Demand for Higher Level skills
- Recognising the realities of public sector funding

The targets 1

Action	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise achievement of L3 + qualifications relevant to the needs of the local economy • Increase the number of people qualified to at least level 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of additional 5,500 L3 qualifications over lifetime of agreement • Achievement of additional 6,500 L2 qualifications in sub-region over lifetime of agreement
Action	Target
Reduce worklessness in sub-region in 11 most disadvantaged wards	Reduce gap between the 11 most deprived wards in the sub-region and the national average by 1 percentage point over the lifetime of this agreement

The targets 2

Action	Target	
Decrease the number of jobs without training on offer to 16 to 18 year olds through the effective engagement of employers in 14 to 19 learning	Make significant progress in reducing year on year the number of school leavers in jobs without training	
	16 – 18 yr olds in jobs w/o training	
	2010	8.3%
	2011	8.3%
	2012	7.2%
2013	6.2%	
2014	5.0%	



The Opportunity

- “Section 4” powers with requirement on Chief Executive of Skills Funding Agency to implement any strategy formulated by the WoE Employment & Skills Board
- The ability to better align support of other partners behind Flexible New Deal through co-commissioning arrangements – as soon as practicable
 - Some flexibility in Apprenticeship offer tackling specifically young people going into jobs w/out training



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