

Title: Addressing Worklessness in Derwentside: The Derwentside Employment Team Performance Update

To/On: Learning & Economy Scrutiny 12th June 2007

By: Director of Development and Asset Management

Portfolio: Economy

Status: Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress made by the Derwentside Employment Team in tackling worklessness in Derwentside.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Derwentside Partnership has allocated over £1.5m of NRF resources during 2006/08 to support a local response to worklessness that can work alongside national Job Centre Plus initiatives such as Pathways To Work.
- 2.2 The Council took the lead in establishing the Derwentside Employment Team which became operational in October 2006 with seconded staff from Job Centre Plus, Durham PCT and Durham County Council.

3.0 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

- 3.1 The tables below set out performance to-date:
Performance for the four months to the end of February 2007:

	Registered clients	IB/SDA	IS	JSA/PWD	JSA	CARER	SSP ONLY	NO BENEFIT	
Nov-06	47	19	5	12	6		1	4	
Dec-06	48	12	6	17	8	1		4	
Jan-07	110	54	5	21	28			5	
Feb-07	69	30	3	11	14	1		10	
Mar-07	111	30	15	17	36	0	0	13	
TOTAL	385	145	34	78	92	2	1	36	
	JOBS	IB/SDA	IS/LP	JSA	JSA/PWD	JSA/EX OFFENDER	CARER	SSPONLY	NO BENEFIT
Nov-06	9	5		1	3	1			
Dec-06	7	4			2				1
Jan-07	23	10	3	2	4		1		3
Feb-07	21	9	1	4	3				4
Mar-07	44	11	2	14	15				2
TOTAL	104	39	6	21	27	1	1		10

IB: Incapacity Benefit
SDA: Severe Disablement Allowance
IS: Income Support
PWD: Person with Disability
JSA: Job Seekers allowance
SSP: Statutory Sick Pay

Type of Job	% employed
Self employed	16
Hospitality	23
Construction	13
Factory	20
Customer Service	9
Care	4
Driver	2
Security	4
Admin	2

3.2 The Team has made strong progress in a short period of time and has established an extensive network of community outlets across the District. The Team remains focussed on getting people into work and on the long term IB claimants in the District. It should be noted that of the 28 IB claimants going into work some 70% had been on IB for over one year.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Tackling worklessness is a complex issue that needs a long-term, co-ordinated response from a range of local and national agencies. The Derwentside Employment Team has funding to operate until the end of March 2008. The Team is currently preparing the operational plan for 2007/08. The performance of the Team will continued to be monitored and evaluated with a view to securing longer term funding.

For Further Information Contact:

Peter McDowell, Development Manager – Tel: 01207 218239 or email:
 p.mcdowell@derwentside.gov.uk