

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: COATBRIDGE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE'S YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES		
Date: 19 January 2016	Ref: HG/PK	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Area Partnership of levels of unemployment, provide an update on the performance of the North Lanarkshire's Working Employability Services and the council's Youth Investment Programme (YIP) within the Coatbridge area.

2. Background

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council launched the Youth Investment Programme in February 2012 as a response to the high levels of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, generated by the financial recession. This was in addition to the existing North Lanarkshire's Working programme, which is delivered as part of EU funding awarded to North Lanarkshire. The overall programme had an ambitious target of 5,000 into work to be achieved by March 2015.

2.2 The 5,000 target was a mixture of:

- Those supported into subsidised jobs in the private sector.
- The council's Modern Apprenticeship Programme.
- NLC Youth Placement Programme (200 x six month paid work experience opportunities for long term youth unemployed)
- NLC Graduate Futures (70 x 12 month paid work experience positions for unemployed or underemployed graduates).
- Those young people supported into employment without a subsidy paid to employer.

2.3 By the end of November 2015 North Lanarkshire's Working and the Youth Investment Programme had supported 6,090 unemployed residents into employment. Figures continue to show that 78% of those supported through YIP remain in work up to 12 months after their initial job start date. At least 68% remain in work up to 18 months after their initial job start date. These are strong levels of sustainment and compare well with other employability programmes.

3. Coatbridge Unemployment profile

	Total JSA		16-24 year-old JSA	
	No	%	No	%
Coatbridge North and Glenboig	295	2.4	50	2.4%
Coatbridge South	210	2.1	35	2.2%
Coatbridge West	205	1.8	35	1.8%

Coatbridge LAP	710	2.1	120	2.1%
North Lanarkshire	4,690	2.1	850	2.2%
Scotland	62,575	1.8	11,920	1.9%

Source: Nomis, NLC calculations

- 3.1 The total unemployment rate in the Coatbridge LAP in October 2015 was 2.1%, down from 3.4% in October 2014. This is higher than both the North Lanarkshire average of 2.1% and the Scottish average of 1.8%.
- 3.2 The youth unemployment rate in the Coatbridge LAP in October 2015 was 2.1%, down from 4.8% in October 2014. This is only slightly higher than both the North Lanarkshire average of 2.2% and the Scottish average of 1.9%. JSA claimant rates have been falling slowly but steadily since 2013 with the number of 16 to 24 year-olds claiming JSA in North Lanarkshire falling by 77.6% between the launch of the YIP in February 2012 and October 2015. This is slightly better than the Scottish average decrease of 73.7% during the same period. The decrease rate for the Coatbridge LAP is 81%.

4. The Youth Investment Programme 2015/16

- 4.1 The Council has committed a further another £1.7m for 2015/16 to continue the implementation of the Youth Investment Programme which will again be enhanced with EU funds. The programme will continue to strike a balance between providing employers with job ready candidates and supporting those further from the labour market who have barriers to employment.
- 4.2 However, in the context of the labour market in North Lanarkshire nearing pre-recession levels, there will be a renewed focus on engaging with on those groups who face multiple barriers to employment and moving them toward the labour market. With this emphasis on providing support to those furthest from the labour market the target for 2015/16 is to get 1,000 unemployed residents into work.
- 4.3 By the end of November 2015 and with the new phase of YIP in its fourth year, the number of people assisted back into work was 6,090. Regeneration Services is managing the Youth Investment Programme and staff promote several key messages to employers:
- There must be the chance of a sustainable job.
 - The young person must be unemployed and resident in North Lanarkshire.
 - The job needs to be advertised through the council.
 - The employer will be expected to appoint a mentor.
 - Support is available if there are problems
- 4.4 Agencies working with young unemployed residents are being asked to promote key messages to young people about the scheme, they should:
- Check the website www.northlanarkshiresworking.co.uk and register on the jobs portal.
 - Apply for jobs online where you meet the criteria.
 - Engage with Routes to Work Ltd. and the Careers Service
 - Don't rely on this opportunity; it is only part of the solution.

5. North Lanarkshire's Working

- 5.1 Since the launch of the Youth Investment Programme in February 2012 a total of 6,090 North Lanarkshire residents have been assisted into employment through North Lanarkshire's Working. 1,141 of these residents come from the Coatbridge area with the majority being aged 16-25.
- 5.2 These are distributed across the Coatbridge Local Partnership area as:

	Under 16	16 to 18	19 to 25	26 to 49	26 to 49	Over 65	Misc*	Total
Coatbridge North and Glenboig	0	26	154	151	74	1		406
Coatbridge South	2	30	122	129	68	0		351
Coatbridge West	2	36	155	134	57	0		384
Coatbridge LAP	4	92	431	414	199	1		1,141
North Lanarkshire	11	537	2733	2087	718	4	27	6,090

*27 filled vacancies that cannot be matched to a LAP area

6. Routes to Work

- 6.1 Routes to Work (RTW), owned by North Lanarkshire Council, delivers a range of free, confidential and bespoke employability support services to residents of North Lanarkshire. Based and working from a variety of community settings throughout the area, Routes to Work is the key locally based delivery mechanism for CPP (Community Planning Partnership) EU funded employability services and in this LAP area services are delivered from: Main Street - Coatbridge, Coatbridge Community Centre, Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre, Safety Zone, and Bargeddie. Current partnerships include Community Learning & Development, SDS, links with Bellshill and Airdrie Job Centres covering this geography and the VANL Area Network.
- 6.2 The company offers key worker services to unemployed people with various levels of support depending on needs of the individual including support and funding with childcare and training. In addition the company refer clients to other partners for literacy and numeracy, IT, health interventions, and debt and money advice. Other activities include the delivery of a lottery funded project named ALP (Action: Lone Parents) which targets lone parents who aren't engaging with mainstream services.

7. Youth Investment Programme/Coatbridge Local Area Partnership

- 7.1 By November 2015, 3,110 unemployed residents have benefited from the vacancies secured from the private sector. To date, 471 of the people supported into employment have come from the Coatbridge LAP area and the breakdown is as follows:

Ward	16-24 year-old JSA claimants					Youth unemployment rate Oct-15	Number of people into jobs through YIP
	Jan-08	Feb-12	Oct-14	Oct-15	Decrease since Feb-12		
Coatbridge North and Glenboig	80	245	100	50	-195	2.4%	155
Coatbridge South	85	170	75	35	-135	2.2%	147
Coatbridge West	100	220	95	35	-185	1.8%	169
Coatbridge LAP	265	635	270	120	-515	2.1%	471
North	1,585	3,800	1,700	850	-2,950	2.2%	3,110

Lanarkshire							
Scotland	22,245	45,380	19,460	11,920	-33,460	1.9%	

- 7.2 The figures show that the Coatbridge LAP area as a whole seems to have had an appropriate share of the Youth Investment jobs to date (15.1% of the overall share). The results show that the Coatbridge North & Glenboig area has a higher rate of youth unemployment than the two other wards.
- 7.3 To ensure a good take up, it is important that public services that have contact with young people such as Housing, Social Work, Health and Police promote the Youth Investment Programme to their front line staff who can make referrals. It is proposed that at Local Area Team meetings an offer to provide employability training or presentations to frontline staff is available. Partners are asked to
- Promote YIP to employers
 - Promote to young people in most need.
 - Assist registration and applications.
 - Get young people motivated and "job ready".

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Youth Investment Programme has performed very well; however, supporting people back into work remains challenging as new issues and needs emerge linked with the impact of welfare reform. Regeneration Services require the support of all stakeholders and partners to make this a success and are open to feedback from partners on how the programme can be improved.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note the performance and progress made in delivering the employability services detailed.

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For further information on this report please contact Paul Kane on 01236 632867