

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB

DATE: 11 November 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Outcomes of 2011 Skills for Life Survey and improvements in Halton

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- To provide Members with details of the outcomes of the recently published 2011 Skills for Life Survey
- To inform members on the progress made since the 2003 survey results published in 2005.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

The report is noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Skills for Life 2011 Survey was commissioned by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.
The last Skills for Life Survey was conducted in 2003 and the results were published in 2005.
- 3.2 The survey was designed to measure basic skills amongst people aged between 16 and 65 (inclusive) in England.
- 3.3 The aim of the Skills for Life survey was to provide an evidence base upon which the government could judge what progress had been made on Literacy and Numeracy amongst adults of working age in England since 2003. The survey also provided robust evidence of the standard of ICT skills in the population.
- 3.4 Data is available for the Local Authority and modelled estimates are available at ward level.
- 3.5 All learning providers, including the Adult Learning and Skills Development Team, delivering Skills for Life provision in Halton may have contributed to the improvement in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT levels.

3.6 Table 1 represents the Qualifications framework– levels and examples of equivalent qualifications

Table 1

Level	Examples of equivalent qualifications	Age
Level 2	GCSE Grade A* - C	13-15
Level 1	GCSE Grade D - G	11-13
Entry 3	KS2 - Primary	9-11
Entry 2	KS1 - Primary	7-9
Entry 1	Foundation – KS1 - Primary	5-7

4.0 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

4.1 Skills for Life levels in Halton have improved in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT when compared to the 2003 Skills for Life Survey. In comparison to local, regional and national averages, Halton has outperformed all in terms of improvement.

4.2 Literacy

4.2.1 The number of respondents reaching Literacy Level 2 in Halton has improved by 17% since 2003.

4.2.2 Tables 2 to 5 represent the 2011 Literacy Levels and percentage improvement since Skills for Life Survey 2003 at Halton, Greater Merseyside, North West and England levels.

Table 2: Halton

Literacy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	32%	49%	17%
Level 1	45%	31%	-14%
Entry 1-3	23%	19%	-4%

Table 3: Greater Merseyside

Literacy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	37%	50%	13%
Level 1	48%	31%	-17%
Entry 1-3	15%	19%	4%

Table 4: North West

Literacy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	41%	54%	13%
Level 1	42%	30%	-12%
Entry 1-3	18%	15%	-3%

Table 5: England

Literacy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	44%	54%	10%
Level 1	40%	30%	-10%
Entry 1-3	16%	16%	0%

4.2.3 Halton's percentages in 2011 are similar to the North West and National picture as detailed in Table 6.

Table 6

Literacy Level	Halton	North West	England
Level 2 and above	49%	54%	54%
Level 1	31%	31%	30%
Entry Level 3	10%	9%	9%
Entry Level 2	3%	2%	2%
Entry Level 1 and below	6%	4%	5%

4.2.4 Table 7 represents 2011 Literacy levels compared to 2003 levels in Halton's Wards

4.2.5 The wards showing the most significant progress (decrease of below Level 2 Literacy skills) from 2003 to 2011 are:

- Hough Green 15.1%, Appleton 14.5%, Halton View 14.4%, Ditton 13.9%, Mersey 13.9% and Halton Brook 13.3%

Table 7:
LITERACY

Council Ward	EL1 and below	EL2	EL3	L1	L2 and above	2011	2003	Progress from 2003 to 2011
						Below Level 2 skills	Below Level 2 skills	Below Level 2 skills
Appleton	7.0%	3.1%	10.8%	32.6%	46.5%	53.5%	68%	14.5%
Beechwood	4.2%	2.0%	7.8%	29.3%	56.6%	43.4%	53%	9.6%
Birchfield	3.2%	1.6%	6.3%	26.6%	62.4%	37.6%	42%	4.4%
Broadheath	7.7%	3.4%	11.6%	33.4%	43.9%	56.1%	66%	9.9%
Halton Castle	10.6%	4.4%	14.2%	34.6%	36.2%	63.8%	73%	9.2%
Daresbury	3.4%	1.7%	6.6%	27.0%	61.4%	38.6%	42%	3.4%
Ditton	6.4%	2.8%	10.1%	31.8%	48.9%	51.1%	65%	13.9%
Farnworth	4.5%	2.1%	8.0%	29.3%	56.0%	44.0%	53%	9.0%
Grange	8.3%	3.6%	12.0%	33.1%	43.1%	56.9%	68%	11.1%
Hale	4.9%	2.3%	8.6%	30.3%	53.9%	46.1%	57%	10.9%
Halton Brook	7.0%	3.1%	10.6%	32.1%	47.3%	52.7%	66%	13.3%
Halton Lea	9.0%	3.8%	12.7%	33.8%	40.6%	59.4%	69%	9.6%
Halton View	5.3%	2.5%	9.0%	30.9%	52.4%	47.6%	62%	14.4%
Heath	5.0%	2.4%	8.7%	30.5%	53.4%	46.6%	58%	11.4%
Hough Green	6.4%	2.8%	9.9%	30.8%	50.1%	49.9%	65%	15.1%
Kingsway	7.0%	3.1%	10.6%	32.2%	47.1%	52.9%	65%	12.1%
Mersey	6.0%	2.7%	9.8%	31.7%	49.9%	50.1%	64%	13.9%
Norton North	5.4%	2.4%	8.8%	29.6%	53.8%	46.2%	59%	12.8%
Norton South	8.1%	3.5%	11.8%	33.0%	43.7%	56.3%	68%	11.7%
Riverside	7.0%	3.1%	10.9%	32.7%	46.3%	53.7%	65%	11.3%
Windmill Hill	11.0%	4.6%	14.6%	34.8%	35.1%	64.9%	77%	12.1%

4.3 Numeracy

4.3.1 The number of respondents reaching Numeracy Level 2 in Halton has improved by 8% since 2003.

4.3.2 The number of respondents reaching Numeracy Level 1 in Halton has improved by 7% since 2003.

4.3.3 At both regional and national level, the number of respondents reaching Numeracy Level 2 has fallen since 2003, whilst Halton and Greater Merseyside region have improved significantly over the same period.

4.3.4 Table 8 to 11 represent the 2011 Numeracy levels and percentage improvement since Skills for Life Survey 2003 at Halton, Greater Merseyside, North West and England levels.

Table 8: Halton

Numeracy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	11%	19%	8%
Level 1	20%	27%	7%
Entry 1-3	69%	54%	-15%

Table 9: Greater Merseyside

Numeracy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	13%	21%	8%
Level 1	26%	27%	1%
Entry 1-3	61%	52%	-9%

Table 10: North West

Numeracy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	23%	17%	-6%
Level 1	28%	28%	0%
Entry 1-3	49%	54%	5%

Table 11: England

Numeracy Level	2003	2011	% Improvement
Level 2	25%	23%	-2%
Level 1	28%	28%	0%
Entry 1-3	46%	49%	3%

4.3.5 Table 12 shows that Halton has a higher percentage of Level 2 and above Numeracy than the North West

Table 12

Numeracy Level	Halton	North West	England
Level 2 and above	19%	17%	23%
Level 1	27%	28%	28%
Entry Level 3	27%	29%	26%
Entry Level 2	19%	18%	17%
Entry Level 1 and below	8%	8%	7%

4.3.6 Table 13 represents 2011 Numeracy levels compared to 2033 levels in Halton's Wards

4.3.7 The wards showing the most significant decrease of below Level 2 Numeracy skills from 2003 to 2011 are:

- Riverside 10%, Norton South 8.7%, Hough Green 8.6%, Appleton 8.1%, Mersey 7.8%, Windmill Hill 7.3% and Halton Lea 7.1%

Table 13:

NUMERACY						2011	2003	Progress from 2003 to 2011
Council Ward	EL1 and below	EL2	EL3	L1	L2 and above	Below Level 2 skills	Below Level 2 skills	Below Level 2 skills
Appleton	8.7%	20.2%	27.8%	26.1%	17.1%	82.9%	91%	8.1%
Beechwood	5.5%	15.1%	25.8%	29.9%	23.7%	76.3%	77%	0.7%
Birchfield	4.1%	12.2%	23.8%	31.7%	28.3%	71.7%	67%	-4.7%
Broadheath	9.3%	21.3%	28.4%	25.3%	15.7%	84.3%	89%	4.7%
Halton Castle	12.1%	24.7%	28.3%	22.2%	12.6%	87.4%	89%	1.6%
Daresbury	4.3%	12.6%	23.9%	31.4%	27.8%	72.2%	67%	-5.2%
Ditton	7.9%	19.1%	27.4%	27.0%	18.6%	81.4%	87%	5.6%
Farnworth	5.7%	15.1%	25.5%	29.9%	23.9%	76.1%	77%	0.9%
Grange	9.8%	21.9%	28.1%	24.8%	15.4%	84.6%	89%	4.4%
Hale	6.6%	16.9%	26.6%	28.6%	21.2%	78.8%	80%	1.2%
Halton Brook	8.6%	20.1%	27.7%	26.3%	17.3%	82.7%	87%	4.3%
Halton Lea	10.5%	22.9%	28.5%	24.0%	14.1%	85.9%	93%	7.1%
Halton View	6.8%	17.5%	27.0%	28.4%	20.3%	79.7%	85%	5.3%
Heath	6.5%	16.8%	26.6%	28.7%	21.4%	78.6%	80%	1.4%
Hough Green	7.5%	17.9%	26.4%	27.6%	20.6%	79.4%	88%	8.6%
Kingsway	8.4%	19.7%	27.5%	26.5%	17.9%	82.1%	88%	5.9%
Mersey	7.6%	18.8%	27.5%	27.3%	18.8%	81.2%	89%	7.8%
Norton North	6.5%	16.5%	25.8%	28.7%	22.4%	77.6%	84%	6.4%
Norton South	9.5%	21.5%	28.1%	25.1%	15.7%	84.3%	93%	8.7%
Riverside	8.8%	20.4%	27.9%	26.0%	17.0%	83.0%	93%	10.0%
Windmill Hill	12.5%	25.2%	28.3%	21.7%	12.3%	87.7%	95%	7.3%

5.0 2011 Skills for Life Survey Outcomes

- 5.1 The improvement in Literacy and Numeracy levels for people aged between 16 and 65 in Halton is very positive.
- 5.2 Significant improvement in Literacy and Numeracy levels has been made since 2003.
- 5.3 The borough-wide Skills for Life Assessment Service enables adults aged 19+ living and/or working in Halton to access Literacy and Numeracy assessment to establish the current level and provides information, advice and guidance which leads to individuals progressing to the most appropriate provision in the borough. Additionally, tutors and learners are able to quickly progress to a more detailed, diagnostic assessment and develop individual learning plans at the start of the programme. This service is delivered by Halton Borough Council's Employment, Learning and Skills Division.
- 5.4 The outcomes of the 2011 Skills for Life survey evidence that more local people have the literacy, language and numeracy skills to make the most of all the opportunities available to them.
- 5.5 The achievement of Skills for Life qualifications has contributed to significant progress since 2003, leading to a decrease in the number of adults with no qualifications.
- 5.6 Through the achievement of English and mathematics qualifications, parents and family members are better able to support children's learning, resulting in increased attainment levels
- 5.7 Local people are now better placed to provide an effective and efficient service to employers, including Halton Borough Council.

6.0 Next Steps

- 6.1 The development of Literacy and Numeracy skills and the progression and achievement of the level will remain a priority in Halton
- 6.2 Skills for Life provision is a regular agenda item at the Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) Skills Group meetings. The outcomes of the 2011 Skills for Life Survey were discussed at the September 2013 meeting.
- 6.3 Learning providers in Halton will share information and best practice to ensure provision continues to meet the needs of local people.
- 6.4 The Council's Adult Learning and Skills Development team will implement an appropriate curriculum design to meet the needs of adults.
 - 6.4.1 The Council's Adult Learning and Skills Development team has started to implement a 'mixed delivery model' from September 2013 to ensure an appropriate curriculum design is offered for adults. The mixed delivery model will include:
 - sessions will increase to 2.5 hours in the main learning centres and will remain 2 hours in Children's Centres in line with crèche requirements

- individuals will attend two taught sessions per week in the main learning centres
- intensive English and maths programmes will be available (4 days per week for 4 weeks)
- Blended Learning provision will be introduced from September 2013 (taught sessions, distance learning and tutorials)

6.4.2 The Council's Skills for Life and Employability team will better monitor learner attendance and have a stronger focus on improving quality through existing quality processes to improve retention and success rates for a small number of learners on English and mathematics courses.

6.4.3 English and mathematics courses will be evaluated by the council's Skills for Life and Employability team on a termly basis and improvements identified leading to timely implementation.

6.5 The Employment, Learning and Skills Division will continue to offer an integrated Information, Advice, Guidance and Assessment service to help, guide and support adults in Halton to access the most appropriate learning provision or employment.

6.6 The Council's Skills for Life and Employability team will maximise the Simplified Funding model introduced by the Skills Funding Agency from 1st August 2013. The new funding model will result in an increased amount of funding for each full Functional Skills learning aim in the 2013/14 academic year. This will allow the delivery of the required increase in learning hours to achieve full qualifications.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Whilst significant improvement has been made since 2003, Literacy levels in Halton remain lower than in the North West and in England and, although Numeracy levels are higher than the North West, they remain lower than in England. The development of Literacy and Numeracy levels and the progression and achievement of the next level must remain a priority in Halton.

8.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The introduction of Functional Skills qualifications for adults in September 2012 has resulted in learning programmes that require an increased number of hours in learning and, as a result, a greater commitment is required if individuals are to succeed in improving their English and maths skills.

8.2 Awarding Bodies have responded to the need for short qualifications in English and mathematics and accredited units have been approved by Ofqual within the Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF). As a result the unit qualifications are funded by the Skills Funding Agency. The achievement of units will lead to adults being able to achieve Functional Skills Awards and credits towards a full Functional Skills qualification. However, a similar time commitment is required to achieve a full Functional Skills qualification, but it is hoped that unit accreditation will maintain motivation and commitment and lead to the achievement of the full qualification.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Through the achievement of qualifications in Functional Skills in English and mathematics, parents and family members will be better able to support children's learning resulting in increased attainment levels.

9.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The achievement of Skills for Life qualifications has contributed to a decrease in the number of adults with no qualifications and the improvement in Skills for Life levels in Halton since 2003 evidences this decrease.

The outcomes of the 2011 Skills for Life survey evidences that more local people have the literacy, language and numeracy skills to make the most of all the opportunities available to them.

9.3 A Healthy Halton

None

9.4 A Safer Halton

None

9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

10.0 RISK ANALYSIS

10.1 The introduction of Functional Skills qualifications for adults has resulted in learning programmes that require an increased number of hours of learning and a greater commitment for individuals.

11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None