



The Sustainable Community Strategy

for Halton

2011 – 2016

End of Year Progress Report







01st April – 31st March 2014

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This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 - 2016.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.

The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the 2013 / 2014 target and as against performance for the same period last year.



	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse than this time last year

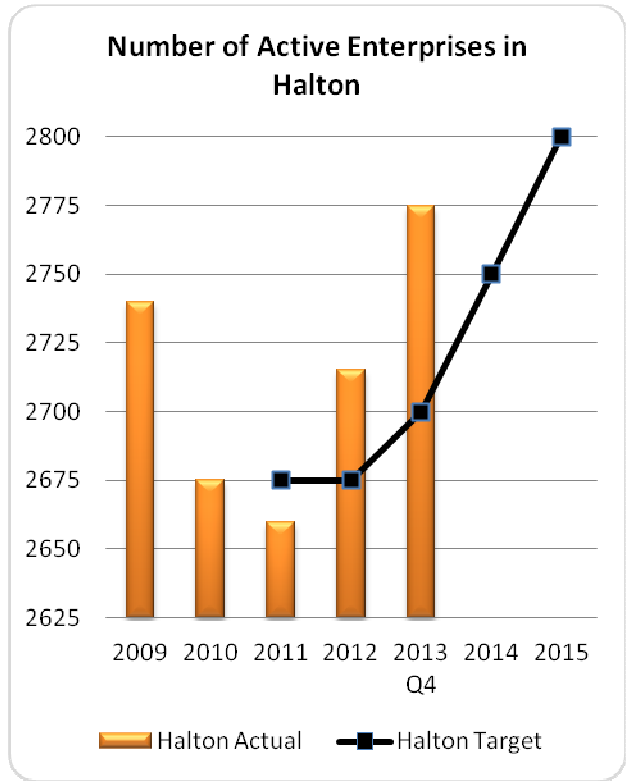
Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Page	Ref	Descriptor	2013 / 14 Progress	Direction of Travel
	ELS 1	Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough (NEW 2011)		
	ELS 2	Increase the proportion of business diversity (NEW 2011)		
	ELS 3	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed (NEW 2011)		
	ELS 4	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications		
	ELS 5	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above (Revised NI 165)		
	ELS 6	Increase the percentage of adults using a library (NI 9) (PLACEHOLDER)	N/A	N/A
	ELS 7	Reduce the percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA claimants) (NI 152)		
	ELS 8	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (Revised measure)		
	ELS 9	Increase the gross weekly earnings by residents (NI166)		

SCS / ELS1

Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough (New measure)

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
2715	2700	2775	2775		



Data Commentary:

Used to show growth of active enterprises within the Borough.
Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

To date, in this financial year, Halton’s ‘Enterprising Halton’ Service has supported 54 people into self-employment. Working in partnership with Blue Orchid Halton Borough Council has delivered a range of ‘Kick Start’ courses as well as offering National Careers Service interventions and follow up appointments to new Business Start Ups. 54 Start-up businesses in Halton have also benefit from a £400.00 Business Start Up Grant.

A tracking exercise was completed in June 2013 to ascertain the number of business starts from 2012-2013 that were still trading and to provide any post-start support that may be required to help sustainability. 87% of businesses contacted were still trading and these were offered workshops on sales and marketing to enhance their business.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Halton Borough Council, through the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) initiative, provide a range of services to support local people to both establish new businesses and to support micro-businesses to become sustainable during the first three years of their existence.

Enterprising Halton Business Start-Up and Post-Start Support

Halton Borough Council are part of a consortia encompassing the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region which will deliver enhanced start up support and post start support provision utilising European funding under ERDF Priority 4.1.

The primary delivery agency in Halton will be Blue Orchid, supported by The Princess Trust and others.

The provision will include 12 hour pre-start support and/or 12 hour post start support for recent starts or

companies less than three years old. An individual company cannot have both pre and post-start support but could have an element of each.

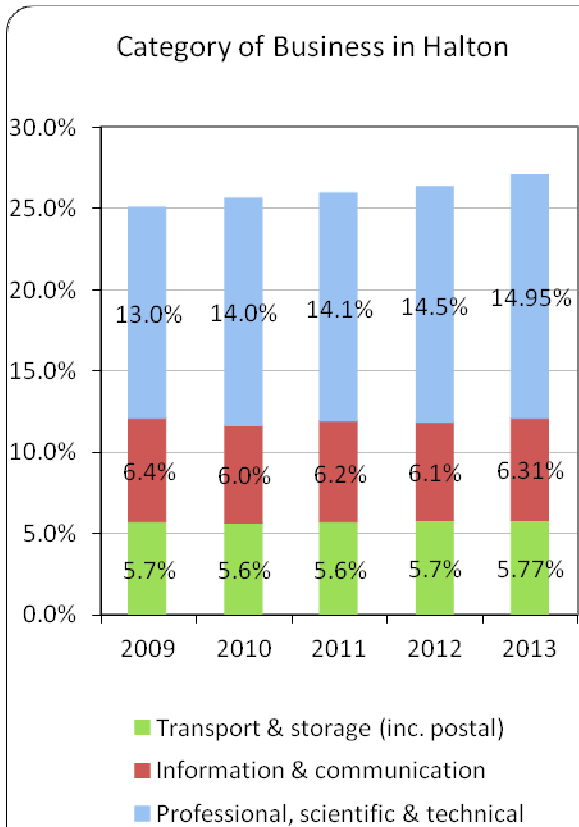
Output measures are not only number of starts but also the provision of advice without the necessity for the support to result in the creation of a new business. The programme is, therefore, far more flexible than previous programmes.

This financial year Halton's Enterprising Halton Service has supported 54 people into self-employment. Working in partnership with Blue Orchid, who Halton match-funds to support enterprise development, Halton has delivered a range of 'Kick Start' courses as well as offering National Careers Service interventions and follow up appointments to new Business Start Ups, some of which have also benefitted from the £400 Business Start Up Grant.

SCS / ELS2

Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: (New Measure)

- Knowledge / Economy,
- Super port
- Low Carbon/ green
- Visitor Economy



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
26.34% Oct 2012	25.5%	27.03% (March 2013)	27.03% (March 2013)		

Data Commentary:

The measure is in line with the Liverpool City Region priority agreed sectors for growth.

Standard categories are used to classify businesses, which enables diversity of business within the local area to be measured. These particular categories have been chosen as areas of focus for growth and as representative of the four larger sectors within the local area. The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication
- Transport and Storage

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

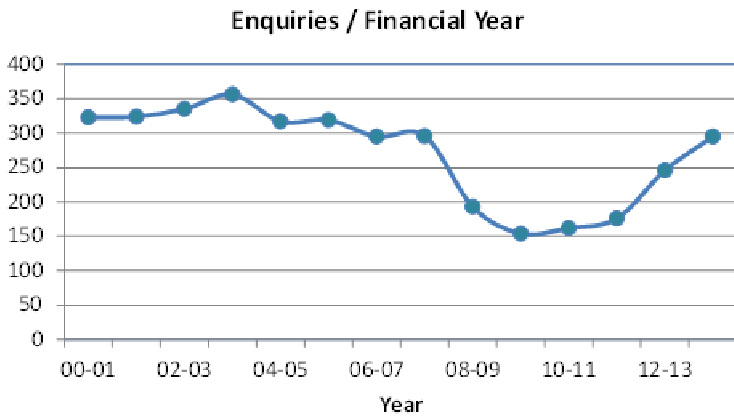
The latest data released on 3rd October 2013 is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Inward Investment Enquiries

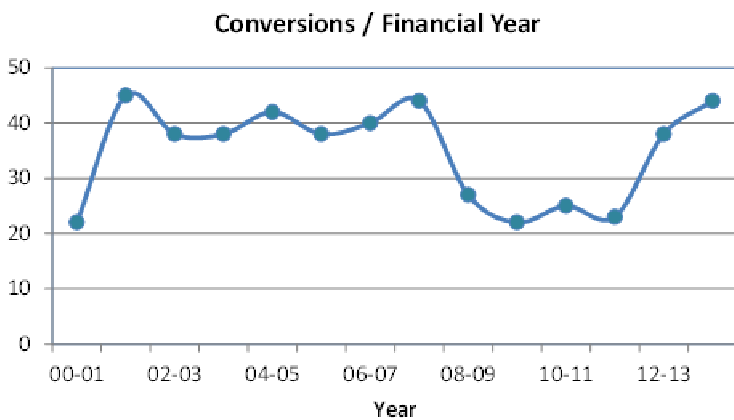
The number of investment enquiries managed by the Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team in the

Financial Year 2013/14 (295) is at the highest level since before the onset of the global recession in 2007/08 (296). The level of inward investment enquiries in 2013\14 represents a significant rebound in economic activity since 2008.



Conversions (inward investment enquiries ‘converted’ into actual investment projects)

The upward trend in investment enquiries is reflected in the number of conversions which, at 44 in 2013/14, is the highest level since 2007/08. The percentage of inward investment enquiries ‘converted’ into actual investment projects in Quarter 4 2013\14 at 19% considerably exceeds the annual target of 10% and contributes to an actual conversion rate for the full year of 15 %



To complement the business start- up and post start-up measures described in ELS-1 The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team deliver the following business support programmes in Halton :-

The Merseyside Business Support Programme

Halton Borough Council deliver the Halton element of the ERDF funded Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) through the provision of consultancy support to SME’s who have been in existence for more than one year and a day. The Halton element will deliver an initial evaluation followed by either the provision of a professional business mentor or more specific intervention which meets the particular needs of individual businesses. The programme will, therefore, focus upon second stage growth and as such will seek to engage with established SME’s who have the ambition and capability to grow and expand.

It is anticipated that the following outputs will be achieved :-

Businesses assisted to improve their performance

146

Number of businesses with improved performance	94
Jobs created	115
Jobs safeguarded	60

To date the programme has :-

- Received 167 enquiries
- Completed 96 diagnostics and Action Plans
- Referred 75 companies for specialist intervention

A second stage marketing campaign is underway targeting 300 + Halton businesses who have yet to engage with the programme. The programme end date has been extended across the whole of Merseyside from December 2014 to June 2015. However, the extension does not include any additional resources.

Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant

The Council's Executive Board gave approval on October 17 2013 to roll out the Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant in Halton. The scheme can provide grant of between £10,000.00 and £1,000,000.00 across the LCR based on a private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs.

To date 38 Halton companies have sought support from the schemes. Of that total 11 formal Expressions of Interest (EOI) and 2 full applications have been completed. The first full application was externally appraised and approved by the internal Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Panel on Monday 31 March. To date £363,703.00 in grant has been requested .

Growth Accelerator

The Borough Council have also engaged with the private sector deliverers of the government's 'Growth Accelerator' programme. Formerly, the 'High Growth Programme' government invited the private sector to tender for the delivery of the 'Growth Accelerator'. The contract was awarded to Grant Thornton, Oxford Innovation, PERA and Winning Pitch.

The Growth Accelerator is available only for 'companies with genuine potential for rapid and sustainable growth. Businesses with the capacity, commitment and intent to double turnover or employment within three years'. The Borough Council are working with Winning Pitch and PERA locally to target companies who will benefit for the intensive coaching programme associated with the Growth Accelerator

International Festival of Business 2014

The BIG Team are currently facilitating two major events in Halton during International Festival of Business 2014 :-

- At SciTech Daresbury on Tuesday 24 June UKTI, Liverpool Vision, STFC and Halton Borough Council will hold a major national UKTI ICT focusing on 'big data'
- On Thursday 26 June The Heath Business and Technical Park will host an event entitled 'Addressing the Skills Needs of the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector'. The event will feature a panel debate, chaired by BBC Business Correspondence Steph McGovern, an exhibition and events for 200+ young interested in careers in science and technology

EMERGING ISSUES

EU Structural Funds 2014-20

The BIG Team have developed, in detail, two project proposals for the forthcoming EU Programme 2014-20;

a successor programme to the current ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) and a project entitled 'Maximising the Benefits of ICT' designed in part to compliment the roll out of superfast broadband locally.

In all likelihood a successor ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) will remain a pan-Merseyside programme with local delivery. The pan-Merseyside decision to 'opt-in' to a range of national programmes, for example Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) Growth Accelerator (GA) and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) will also impact upon the proposals for business support provision locally

EU Assisted Areas Map

Halton, unlike most of the LCR, is not an Assisted Area. Assisted Areas are those locations where regional aid may be granted under EU legislation.

The current Assisted Areas Map came into effect on 13 February 2007, and remains in force until 31 December 2013. The 2014-2020 UK Assisted Areas map is due to come into effect in January 2014, although June 2014 is more realistic.

The Borough Council developed, on behalf of the LCR, the submission to government describing the proposed new Merseyside Assisted Area. The proposed new map includes all of the Borough's employment areas.

Combined Merseyside Local Authority

The Merseyside LA's have worked together to create a 'combined authority for the Liverpool City Region'. This is not the same as creating a single Metropolitan Council but rather a working arrangement to 'deliver improvements in economic development, regeneration and transport across the sub-region'. The arrangement will allow the LCR LA's to bid for part of the £2 billion Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF)

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority came into existence on April 01 2014 a Combined Authority for the LCR has the potential to radically change the way economic regenerations services are delivered in the City Region

Liverpool City Region Growth Hub

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region.

The creation of a Growth Hub will allow the City Region to access new UK Government funds. However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop. The prescribed model suggests a preminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. To quote from the guidance :-

"Local Chambers must be involved in the design and governance of all Growth Hubs receiving funding from the W2GH programme. It is also assumed the chambers will be responsible for delivering the one stop shop function expected of all Growth Hubs, but HMG will consider relaxing this rule where LEPs put forward persuasive arguments for alternative arrangements."

A Growth Hub would generate additional funding which can be used as match towards ERDF funding for the services considered to be most needed.

SCS / ELS3 Increase the number of people classed as self-employed (New measure)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
5.9% Dec 2012	7.0%	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	Nomis data not yet available	?	↔

Data Commentary:

To show that the authority is supporting entrepreneurship by showing how much Halton has increased the number of people classed as self-employed.

Source NOMIS: % self-employed of those aged 16-64.

Self-employed information for the borough is available from the NOMIS website via the annual Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). This measure is reported between September and December for the previous year.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available from ONS relates to 2011/2012. However, 54 customers accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during quarter 1 and quarter 4.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

This financial year, Halton supported 54 people into self-employment as part of the Enterprising Halton programme. Working in partnership with Blue Orchid, who Halton match-funds to support enterprise development, Halton has delivered a range of 'Kick Start' courses as well as offering National Careers Service interventions and follow up appointments to new Business Start Ups, some of which have also benefitted from the £400 Business Start Up Grant.

A tracking exercise was completed in June 2013 to ascertain the number of business starts from 2012-2013 that were still trading and to provide any post-start support that may be required to help sustainability. 87%



of businesses contacted were still trading and these were offered workshops on sales and marketing to enhance their business.

HBC will continue to match fund Blue Orchid's BSUS ERDF programme to support local residents during 2014-2015.

The removal of HBC core funding from the Division from April 2014, will result in there being no funding to offer business start-up grants in future.

DWP's New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) Scheme continues to be available to Halton residents up to Dec 2014. Lone Parents and customers in receipt of Jobseekers / Employment Support Allowance can access the programme at day 1 of receiving their benefit. NEA is not available to Work Programme customers.

SCS / ELS4 Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications.

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
11.5% (Jan to Dec 2011)	11.5%	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)		

Data Commentary:

To show that Halton is fostering a culture where learning is valued this indicator would assist by showing the number of residents without any qualifications decreasing.

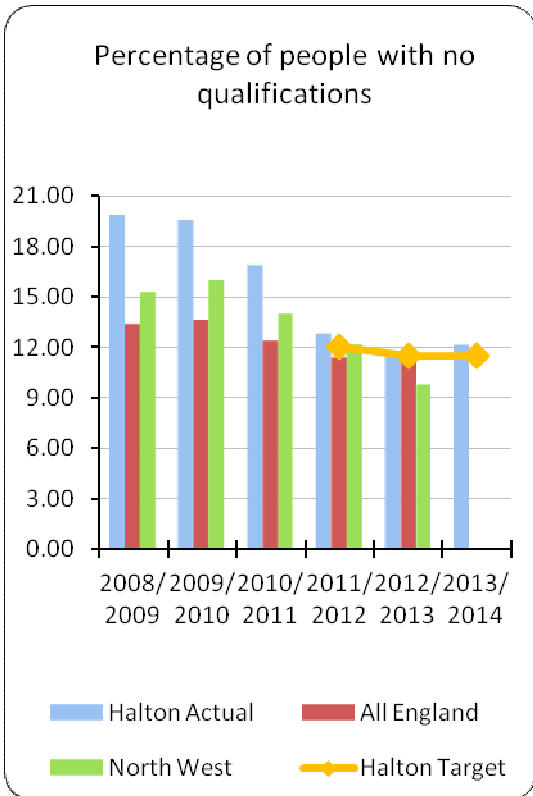
The latest data available (Jan to Dec 2012) is 12.1% which is an increase from 11.5% compared to the same period in 2011. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk

The percentage is a proportion of the resident population of area aged 16-64.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

- HBC does not own this NI data. However, **74** learners previously with no qualifications have achieved full Functional Skills qualifications from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council’s Employment, Learning & Skills Division
- **151** learners achieved an Employability Skills Award at Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3 or Level 1 from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council’s Employment, Learning and Skills Division
- **138** learners have achieved a Personal Development Award at Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3 or Level 1 from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council’s Employment, Learning and Skills Division
- **48** learners achieved Level 1 Awards in vocational sectors ie Customer Service, Hospitality, Retail and Contact Centre Operations from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council’s Employment, Learning and Skills Division
- **64** learners achieved Functional Skills or Supporting a Child’s Learning & Development qualifications while attending community learning programmes in their children’s school (Q4 pending results)
- **148** learners achieved vocational qualifications Q1-Q3 in subject areas such as Floristry, IT, Counselling and Garment Construction



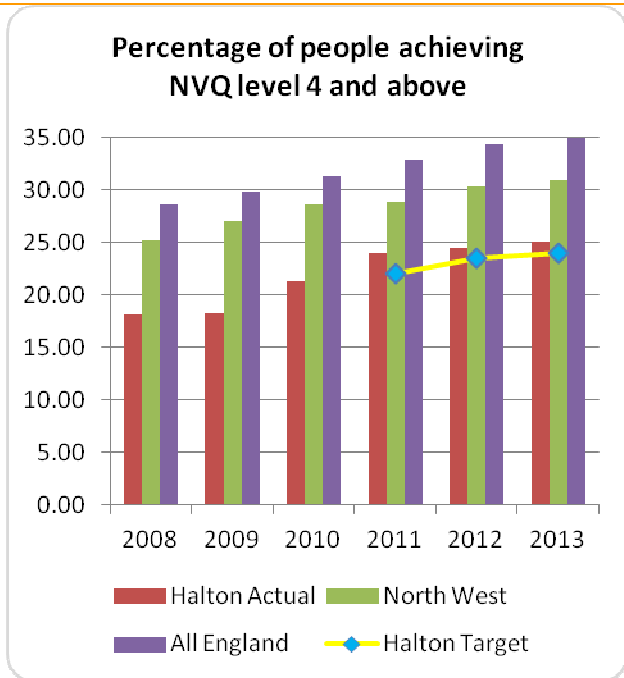
- **Q4** vocational qualifications and community learning qualifications are awaiting verification but can be reported end April 2014.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- HBC's Employment, Learning & Skills Division has and will continue to deliver a range of qualification bearing courses. In addition to the Functional Skills qualifications, it has also delivered employability/personal development qualifications and accredited courses in Supporting Your Child's Learning and the Diploma in Childcare & Education. Forthcoming activity for the Division will include delivery of a range of pre-employment, accredited programmes to support the new Mersey Gateway project. This will include an accredited Volunteer Training programme and pre-employment courses in Traffic Management, General Construction and Admin.

SCS / ELS5

Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above (Revised NI 165)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
24.0% Jan to Dec 2011	24.0%	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)	25.1% (Jan to Dec 2013)		

Data Commentary:

Qualifications data are only available from the APS for calendar year periods, for example, Jan to Dec 2005.

Data shows the number of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above qualifications show that residents within the borough are reaching a high level of educational attainment. NVQ4 equivalent and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent.

Source: ONS annual population survey.

% is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

* 27 students in 2012/13 and 3 in 2013/14 with home postcodes in WA7 or WA8 completed a level 4 or higher with full achievement at Riverside College Halton

** 161 Halton residents are currently studying at level 4 or higher at Riverside College with 60 due to complete by the end of 2013/14

Incl. 30 successful*
+161 working towards**

Performance Commentary:

- There has been an increase in the range of courses and places offered at level 4 and above at Riverside College. Courses include: Counselling; DTLLS; Advanced Practice in Early Years; Business and Management; Health and Social Care; IT and Systems Development; and Sport.
- The curriculum areas provide progression for level 3 students and employment opportunity on completion at levels 4,5 and 6.

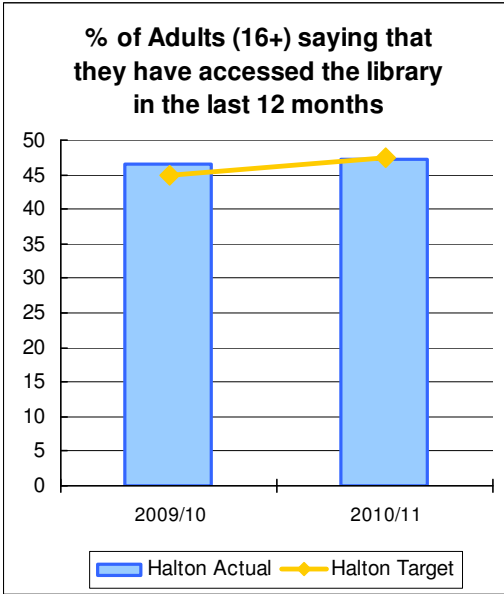
There has been an increase of 15 more learners study at Higher Education level in the Borough at Riverside College.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- Engineering from September 2014 start
- Further develop progressive partnership with Staffordshire University which includes identification of students who would benefit from studying STEM at SU
- Achieve successful outcome for Higher Education Review to confirm high quality of provision and student experience

SCS / ELS6 Increase the percentage of adults using a library (NI 9)

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
Satisfaction Rate Adults 94%	-			Placeholder measure	



Data Commentary:

The data source for this target is no longer available.

As an alternative measure satisfaction levels of adults using the service (CIPFA PLUS Survey, public library user survey) were collected in Autumn 2012, this survey will be repeated every three years. Data from this will be used to provide information around the uptake of library services.

Performance Commentary:

No targets have been set against this data as the data source (NI9) is no longer available.



Library satisfaction levels taken from the CIPFA PLUS Survey were collected in 2012-2013 and the survey will be undertaken again in 2015-16, this is therefore a placeholder measure where the target will be to improve performance from 2012 to 2015.

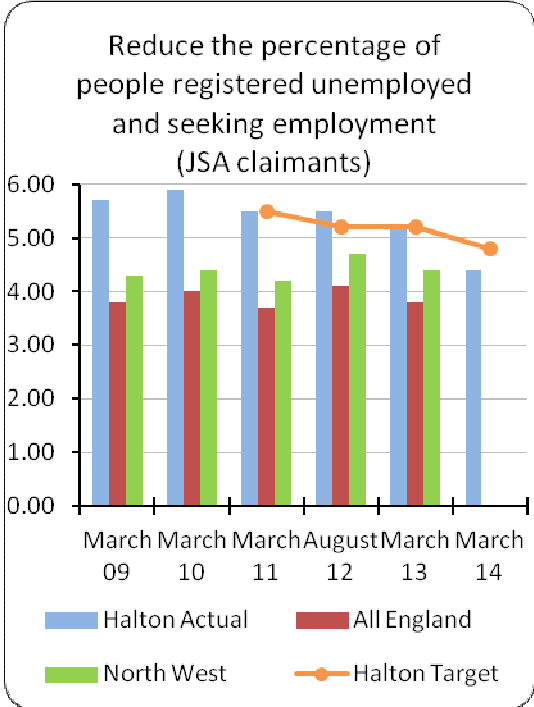
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The Library Service continues to offer a wide range of activities and events to encourage the use of the service through its buildings, outreach and online.

This includes: assisting and providing access to people getting online, 1 to 1 support, IT Clinics and work clubs; working with children and young people to instil a love of reading through Bookstart, Summer Reading Challenge, contact with schools and the Reading Activists programme; supporting health and well-being through the provision of resources such as Books on Prescription, Mood Boosting collections and memory boxes.

SCS / ELS7 Reduce the percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA claimants) NI 152

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
5.2% (February 2013)	4.8% (March 2014)	4.4%	4.1% (January 2014)		



Data Commentary:

JSA claimant count records the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. People claiming JSA must declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made.

The percentage figures express the number of claimants resident in an area as a percentage of the population aged 16-64 resident in that area. Data is available one month in arrears.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

In January 2014, there were 3292 individuals who were registered unemployed and on JSA. Whilst this was a slight increase on December's figures, it was a decrease of 23.4% on January 2013 figures, which is excellent.





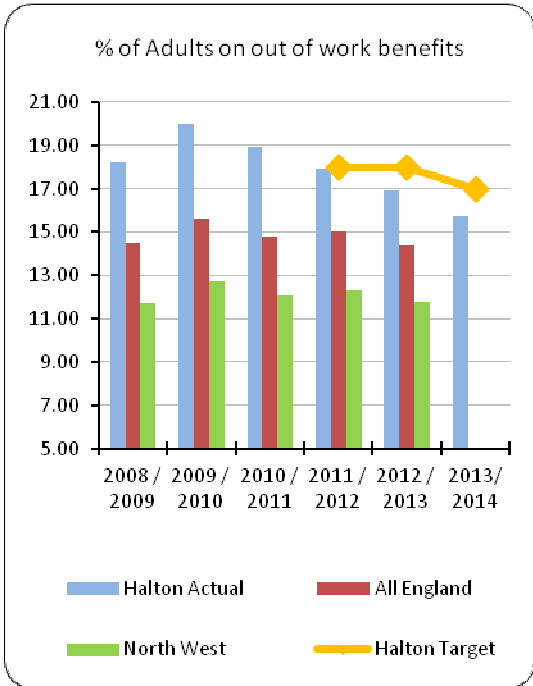
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- Jobcentre Plus is an active member of all ELS & SSP sub-groups
- The Governments 'Get Britain Working' measure have seen an increase:
- Work Experience for the operational year - 2953 across Merseyside
- SBWA that have been hosted during the operational year – 1281 across Merseyside.
- Wage Incentives – 1518 across Merseyside
- Work Clubs (All Digital) – 10
- JCP have rolled out across the Borough with Claimant Commitment a new process for customers claiming JSA to focus more on customer needs to improve employment prospects.
- An event was delivered to Halton partners to support Claimant Commitment roll out and update on Universal Credit 02/04/14

- JCP continue to issue Wage Incentive vouchers to eligible customers, to self market themselves to prospective employers. The up take of employers employing Youth customers through wage incentives is steadily increasing.
- JCP have 7 Internet Access Devices (P.C. with Internet access) across the Halton JCP offices for customers to access to jobsearch and to make claims to benefit.
- JCP are working with NAS promoting Apprenticeships with employers
- JCP sit on the strategic NEET Groups to support vulnerable customers
- JCP hosted a Work Programme Returner and Youth Event informing customers about training and opportunities in collaboration with Riverside College. 22 partners attended with 249 customers attending and 94 customers registering for training courses and 5 moving into a Work Experience Placement.
- JCP sit on the Inspiring Families Strategic Board and work jointly with the programme a JCP advisor supports the programme with data updates and delivery to families in outreach locations in both Widnes and Runcorn .
- JCP Advisers are in Children's Centres to offer advice and support to customers with families
- Jobcentre Plus refers eligible customers to the ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems programme to enhance customers' skills\jobsearch and to move them closer to the Labour market.
- JCP work with Prolific Offender Team and Probation to support ex-offenders into employment and sit on the Strategic Integrated Offender Management Programme working with Police and Probation
- JCP are working with Riverside College to provide the opportunity of Traineeships for our local Youth.
- JCP working collaboratively with the HEP Group on moving customers into employment and supporting the planning stages for the new Bridge construction to fully utilise any vacancies that become available to fill them with local labour.
- JCP are members of the Mersey Link Employability Group
- JCP working collaboratively with the Skills Group on moving customers into training
- JCP work with HBC Adult Learning Team to offer training to customers
- JCP are supporting Halton Disability Partnership with a Jobsfair they are organising focusing on the Care Sector vacancies and personalisation.
- JCP are working with Ashley House to focus on the Substance Misuse strategy and forge better relations for three way interviews to better support service users into employment (an event was held for JCP/CRI/RSL's/Service Users to promote organisational rolls.

SCS / ELS8 Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (Revised measure)

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
16.9% Mar 2013	March 2013 17%	15.74%	15%		



Data Commentary:

Out of work benefits includes Job seekers allowance, ESA (Incapacity Benefits), Lone parents and other income related benefits.

Data is taken from the Department for work and Pensions claimant figures via the office of National statistics NOMIS reporting system, www.nomisweb.co.uk. Data is available quarterly and is released six months in arrears.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

The Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit statistics for August 2013 is 7410.
 The Income Support (Lone Parents) statistics for August 2013 is 1550.
 The number of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (JSA, ESA and lone parent benefit) in Q4 was 12,252 (9 more than in Q3), which is 15% and demonstrates the direction of travel is positive.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- JCP work closely with all Halton Children Centres to support lone parents and families with jobsearch advice and support. Personal Advisers are currently undertaking outreach work in Runcorn\Widnes Children Centre's.
- Jobcentre Plus sit on the Advisory Boards of the Children Centre's to support Economic agenda and have had input in to the recent Ofsted Inspections where partnership working was recognised as outstanding.
- JCP hosted an internal event to support Personal Advisers knowledge of the provision that is available to support IS Lone Parents back into work.
- Jobcentre Plus has membership of the Local Authorities Child Poverty Groups.
- Jobcentre Plus has a Disability Employment Adviser in each site to support customers who require additional support to move closer to the labour market. There are programme such as Work Choices which support customers with the highest needs and helps move them into employment.

- JCP have specialist ESA advisers in each site to support this customer group.
- Disability Confident was launched by Government on 18/7/2013 with the aim of reducing the employment gap between disabled and non disabled customers which is currently at 30%. A regional event was held on 19th March 2014 in Manchester. A local event will be planned for employers within the region.
- JCP are working with National and local organisations and employers on a 'Disability Awareness' campaign to promote the employment of people with disabilities and the 'two ticks' disability symbols are being reviewed with local employers.
- Access to Work can support customers with equipment requirements to support a return to employment for customers with disabilities.
- JCP have worked with Riverside College and HBC Adult Learning Team to deliver bespoke training tailored to ESA customers
- JCP working with Carers Centre to better support carers into employment and training opportunities. JCP to present at the next Carers Forum in November to promote opportunities, incentives and support available.

SCS / ELS9 Increase the gross weekly earnings by residents (NI166)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
£432.30 (Dec 2011)	Close the gap with NW average	£452.50p (Dec 2012)	£485 (Dec 2013)		

Data Commentary:

The gross median weekly earnings of residents showing an increase would show that people are able to maximise their potential and rise out of poverty. Data obtained from www.Nomisweb.co.uk. No lead partner or responsible officer identified to set targets.

Performance Commentary:

Since 2011 the average earnings gap for residents between Halton and the North West has been narrowing. The provisional figures for 2013 point to residents' pay rising above the North West average for the first time. The provisional 2013 data was released in Dec 2013. At this time, the 2012 data was also revised (so the provisional figure of £452.5 from 2012 has been revised slightly). Estimates for 2011 and subsequent years use a weighting scheme based on occupations which have been coded according to Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2010 that replaced SOC 2000. Therefore care should be taken when making comparisons with earlier years.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The gap between the average weekly earnings in Halton and the rest of the North West has narrowed. Further work is required to evaluate the reasons for this, and there may be a number of interconnected factors. For example, it is probable that there is a correlation between this narrowing of the gap and the increase in high quality housing provision in the borough, leading to the increase in 'higher earners' in the borough. In addition, the success of a wide range of employability measures has seen a gradual decline in the number of people out of work and small rises in income levels in the borough.