

## Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the second quarter of 2021 / 22 for service areas within the remit of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2021 - 22 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy & Performance Board i.e.
  - Employment, Learning and Skills
  - Library and Culture and Leisure Services
- 1.3 The emergence of the global COVID19 pandemic early in 2020 has had a significant and unavoidable impact upon Council services the full extent of which is yet to become known. The Council, along with key partner agencies, has prioritised its resources upon mitigating the serious risks to public health, the protection of vulnerable residents, and the social cohesion of the local community. In developing appropriate responses to emerging national and local priorities this situation is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.
- 1.4 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 7 of this report.

### 2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 There have been a number of developments during the period which include:-

#### Employment, Learning & Skills

- 2.2 The Division commissioned the **production of 2 videos** during Q2:
  - Prevent video – to raise awareness for learners/customers of radicalisation and the Prevent programme, which is used as part of their induction into adult learning and throughout their time with us <https://vimeo.com/617860016>
  - Adult Learning Welcome video (final draft still to be signed off)

Both videos were funded from the £40k Access Grant awarded by the Combined Authority, to support the safe return of adult learners back in to our centres.

- 2.3 As part of the Skills Capital works at Kingsway Learning Centre, a **mural was painted** on one section of the main corridor to depict the challenges that were faced by tutors/learners during the Covid Pandemic and the opportunities that would be available once centres started to reopen, including courses, access to HPIJ

and the Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team. Feedback has been really positive and a news piece will be produced for the November Inside Halton, following a visit by Cllr Nolan.

2.4 Q2 saw the **return of face to face** adult learning provision – the centres fall under DfE Covid Guidance, which is the same as school settings. Access to Teams Education will allow for a return to online learning should any further lockdowns occur.

2.5 Additional **accommodation for HPIJ** has been provided at Kingsway Learning Centre. This is to allow for the expansion of the team following the award of new employment programmes including JETS and Restart.

2.6 The Division commenced delivery of the **Supported Internship Programme** for 16-24 year olds with an EHC Plan. The programme is being delivered on behalf of the Council's 14-19 Team. Additional safeguarding measures have been implemented as the service has not delivered training to under 19s before.

2.7 Crystallised won the **Apprenticeship Support Promotional Campaign** contract in Q2 and have worked up their concepts with the team. There are 2 aspects to the contract – general promotion of apprentices to residents of the City Region; and increasing the number of apprenticeship vacancies being posted on the [Be-More Portal](#) by local employers.

## **Library, Culture and Leisure Services**

### **2.8 Library Service**

2020-21 saw a significant increase in library use, mostly via digital platforms. Residents continued to use libraries during the pandemic and new members discovered resources that supported their lifestyle during lockdown. An iterative approach to delivery & agile allocation of resources ensured Halton continued to have a vibrant, relevant library service even when building access was limited.

### **2.9 Other Culture**

#### **The Brindley Theatre**

The Brindley Theatre reopened with full capacity on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 after working with Public Health to produce COVID guidance and safety measures for both the staff and public.

The venue continues to be used by the NHS as part of the COVID vaccinations programme.

A third application has been submitted to the Government's Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) with a decision due shortly. The CRF funding summary to date is below;

**Round 1** (1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021) - £230,660 Application Successful

**Round 2** (1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021) - £114,780 Application Successful

**Round 3** (1 November 2021 – 31 January 2022) - £114,780 Application Decision October 2021

**TOTAL            £460,220**

## 2.10 Leisure Centres

The government lifted all restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July, however, a slow and cautious approach was taken in the centres, with some restrictions still in place to keep staff and centre users safe and prevent crowding. Participation has increased significantly, specifically the pools. Occupancy levels for all sessions increased.

Increased swimming capacity from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Brookvale Recreation Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Kingsway Leisure Centre; providing more pool space and participation over the summer.

Indoor casual sports bookings returned 31<sup>st</sup> August; further increasing participation.

### Brookvale Recreation Centre (BRC)

Refurbishment and extension of Astro turf pitch at Brookvale Recreation Centre: Football Foundation grant award £303,284, total project cost estimate, including changing rooms works £587,284 will provide a state of the art pitch; thus increasing the quality of facility, attracting more users, increasing revenue and participation. Project to start in November with completion expected by end of January 2022.

<b>BRC</b>	<b>GYM</b>	<b>SWIM</b>	<b>DRYSIDE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
JULY	2636	3327	1785	7748
AUGUST	3157	3493	2601	9251
SEPTEMBER	1596	5016	1204	7816
<b>3 MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>7389</b>	<b>11836</b>	<b>5590</b>	<b>24815</b>

### Kingsway Leisure Centre (KLC)

Vending area returned, providing better social space for customers to have a drink after their activities.

Kingsway sports change lighting upgrade to LED tube lights, changing rooms brighter, more efficient. Foyer area lighting upgrade, all ceiling panels changed to LED, brighter, modern look to the entrance/foyer area, energy efficient fittings.

Indoor Bowls returned Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, increased footfall and income during off peak hours.

Cheshire Junior Netball League, every Sunday through until May 2022, increased footfall and income for the site.

<b>KLC</b>	<b>GYM</b>	<b>SWIM</b>	<b>DRYSIDE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
JULY	4137	6419	2705	13261
AUGUST	3395	7242	2425	13062
SEPTEMBER	2642	7014	3348	13004
<b>3 MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>10174</b>	<b>20675</b>	<b>8478</b>	<b>39327</b>

### Fitness

Class capacity increased from 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Additional Aqua classes' added and Aqua numbers increased to: KLC = from 20 to 35; BRC = from 12 to 20; Runcorn Swimming Pool (RSP) = from 16 to 20

National Fitness Day Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - 14 free classes and opened the centres free to all. Free swims = 97 non-members; Free gym passes = 48; Free class attendance = 137.

NEW class timetable launched, additional classes at KLC and new class Power at BRC launched. KLC launched Active Combat each week day.

A 'Join today get rest of the month free and next month half price' was offered in September to celebrate National Fitness Day. Results - KLC – 149 (51 on the offer); BRC – 55 (21 on the offer);

Memberships increasing steadily - KLC 1,244, BRC 661, RSP 84. Total memberships 1,989, which is 186 higher than last quarter.

### **Holiday Activity**

BRC 'Kops n Kids' Summer Programme - total participation of 1087. Delivered over 8 days, supported by Community Shop, supplying packed lunches and drinks for the children. Halton Speak Out and their youth engagement Bright Sparks also involved. Feedback from all partners was excellent.

Active Soccer – two week soccer camps, 130 children over 2 weeks.

£1 Swim over summer - 196 participants.

KLC 'Kops n Kids' Summer Programme; organised in partnership with Cheshire Police. Multi-sports activities, all free of charge (Funded by Cheshire PCC). Total participation – 473 (50-60 each day).

HAF Multi-flex Summer Programme for 3 weeks in August. Free packed lunches provided - 126 children

## **3.0 Emerging Issues**

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of services including:-

### **Employment, Learning & Skills**

3.2 The Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team will be delivering the latest LCR [Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony](#) at Grand Central Hall in Liverpool on 25<sup>th</sup> November. 150 apprentices will 'graduate' and be joined by their family, friends and employers. The guest presenter will be the Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle MBE.

3.3 The Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team will be delivering the [LCR Skills Show](#) on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Exhibition Centre in Liverpool. 6000 visitors are expected, with the twilight session on the 18<sup>th</sup> targeted at job seekers and parents and the main event on the 19<sup>th</sup> targeted at school/college students. The show will be highly interactive, giving visitors a real taste of what it is like to do that job role.

Completion of the Adult Learning **Self-Assessment Report (SAR)** is due in Q3. It is highly likely that the service will receive an Ofsted inspection end 2021/early 2022 and the SAR is the key document that Ofsted will use as the benchmark for the inspection.

## Library and Culture and Leisure Services

### 3.4 Library Service

Based on experiences during the pandemic, and projections for the future, rebalancing the library service offer across physical, digital, & outreach platforms will be essential to ensure we maintain a customer base in line with what was achieved during 2020-21. Dedicating resources to reallocating finances, updating technology, utilising funding, & redeveloping staff structures to ensure objectives are met & capacity exists to meet future customer expectations.

#### 4.0 High Priority Equality Actions

- 4.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.
- 4.2 The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:



<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Equality-and-Diversity.aspx>

#### 5.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.

#### Employment, Learning & Skills

##### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2Progress
EEP 01a	To manage and sustain employment support programmes Work Programme by <b>March 2022</b>	
EEP 01b	To deliver a Liverpool City Region Skills Show <b>by January 2022</b>	

##### Supporting Commentary






















###### EEP 01a

Implementation of new DWP Restart Programme and HBC Supported Internship Programmes commenced. Delivery of the ESF Ways to Work programme, Kick Start, JETS and Work & Health Programme continued.

###### EEP 01b

The Liverpool City Region Skills Show will be held at the Exhibition Centre Liverpool (ECL) on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan (16.30 – 19.00) and 19<sup>th</sup> Jan (09.30 – 15.00). To date we have over 50 exhibitors and 2,597 individuals booked for the event. This includes group bookings from 31 LCR schools, of which 2 are from Halton. An exhibitor masterclass will be held at the ECL on the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 to encourage more businesses to exhibit with industry experts available to help provide ideas and inspiration on how to create interactive stands.

## Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	20/21 Actual	21/22 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
EEP LI 08	Number of Enrolments (Adult Learning).	698	TBC	766		
EEP LI 09	Number of People supported into work (HPIJ).	333	750	231		
EEP LI 10	Percentage of learners achieving accreditation.	15%	35%	30%		
EEP LI 11	Total number of job starts on DWP Work and Health and JETS programmes (Ingeus).	142	582	200		
EEP LI 12	Total number of job starts on DWP Restart programme (G4S). <i>(New)</i>	N/A	265	2		
EEP LI 13	Number of Businesses Supported.	1091	500	307		
EEP LI 14	Number of individuals supported into paid work placements (ILMs)	22	47	11		
EEP LI 15	Number of adult learners who feel prepared for choosing the next steps (e.g. into employment, another course, college/university etc.)	90%	100%	97%		
EEP LI 16	Number of adult learners who have progressed onto another course	49%	52%	36%		
EEP LI 17	Deliver supported internships <i>(New)</i> .	N/A	10	11		
EEP LI 18	% Increase coverage in disadvantaged wards <i>(New)</i>	N/A	10%	5%		N/A

### Supporting Commentary

#### EEP LI 08

Enrolments continue to be affected by Covid. Uptake in Children's Centres and schools remains low at the moment. There has been no delivery in these venues for at least 18 months due to Covid and it will take time to rebuild confidence of potential learners.

CCs are still limiting face to face delivery which hampers efforts to re-engage/market. Learner numbers have increased 55% compared to the same period last year – it should be noted though that KLC was shut for refurbishment during that period. Intensive efforts were made to market new Autumn offer e.g. roundabout advertising, banners, social media events, community events, partnership work and targeted marketing to wards with a high proportion of unemployed adult/low take up ratio.

**EEP LI 09**

231 people supported into work in Q2 via HPIJ's suite of employment programmes. Cumulative total for 21/22 is 401 people supported into work.

**EEP LI 10**

Due to Covid and the increased mental health needs of local residents, plus the disrupted effect on longer term commitments we anticipated that the ratio of accredited/non-accredited would shift downwards slightly. In addition, KLC closure in Autumn and local lockdowns impacted on both longer term course enrolments and achievement results in lower level IT courses. The upward direction reflects the assessment period at end of year.

**EEP LI 11**

200 people supported into work in Q2 via WHP and JETS programmes. Cumulative total for 21/22 is 337 job starts on WHP and JETS programmes.

**EEP LI 12**

2 people supported into work in Q2 via G4S Restart Programme. Referrals in the first quarter have been significantly lower than the indicative DWP profile therefore caseloads are lower and job starts are lower. Referrals are now increasing as we enter Q3.

**EEP LI 13**

Businesses supported are quantified in terms of Growth Hub brokerages in a given period. Growth Hub is delivered by Halton Growth Hub Partnership made up of the Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise.

The Chamber is the lead partner and contract holder with respect to Growth Hub delivery. The figures here include:

- 29 commercial property enquiries
- Not including Growth Hub interactions. Currently working to assess consistency of recording interactions – due to be resolved Q3

**EEP LI 14**

11 paid placements started in Q2. (4 ILM's and 7 Kick Start's). Extension to DWP ESF Ways to Work ILM programme confirmed in Q2 to be able to increase ILM's from Q3

**EEP LI 15**

97% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt prepared for choosing the next steps

**EEP LI 16**

The figure for Q1 was higher as this is reflective of learners who progress within year to another course. It is to be expected that this figure would decline in the last term as learners complete their courses in year. (Progression within the service takes place within year rather than at end year.) This figure is likely to increase again as the Autumn term 21-22 enrolments move to new courses in Spring 21-22.

**EEP LI 17**

11 young people commenced the Supported Internship Programme in Q2.

**EEP LI 18****Targeted Ward data:**

Kingsway 56% increase (3<sup>rd</sup> of 21)



Grange 44% increase (7<sup>th</sup> of 21)

Halton Lea 46% increase (6<sup>th</sup> of 21)

Appleton 43% increase (9<sup>th</sup> of 21)

## Community Services

### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
CE 02a	Create a digital offer that utilises up to date technology and hardware options to ensure residents are able to access information, communication, & learning opportunities that support personal growth and individual ambition. <b>March 2022</b>	
CE 02b	Working in partnership, deliver an ambitious cultural programme that builds on the legacy of the Borough of Culture festival season, securing external funding to maximise impact, value & potential. <b>March 2022</b>	

### Supporting Commentary







#### CE 02a

In discussion with HBC ICT on several strands of the project to revitalise access to technology on library buildings.

#### CE 02b

Currently delivering a series of festivals as part of Borough of Culture programme.

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	20/21 Actual	21/22 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 07	Number of active users (physical & digital resources) of the library service during the last 12 months.	1,799,950	1,250,00	703,960		
CE LI 08	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	1,485,023	987,000	656,849		
CE LI 09	Percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity (150 minutes per week - Active Lives Survey)	50.1	53	N/A		N/A
CE LI 10	Percentage of people physically inactive (less than 30 minutes of activity - Active Lives survey)	38.9	30	N/A		N/A



## **Supporting Commentary**

### **CE LI 09**

Lifting of all restrictions will increase opportunities across Halton. Private, Community and Voluntary sector providers contributing to the offer. For example, currently circa 5,000 Centre visits per week. Pre covid level of 9,500 weekly visits. Next survey results December 2021

### **CE LI 10**

People in Lower socio economic groups are less likely to take part in activity independently, they require support and motivation of others, so are more likely to be members of a groups/facility, thus been adversely affected by the pandemic. Post Covid provide as many opportunities as possible in Leisure Centres and support community settings reopening. Sports development, will keep all activity timetables and Active Halton webpage up to date and links to support. Inc. Merseyside Sport website.

Continue supporting Halton adults stay active at home, updating, motivating and sharing content for online access and Social media platforms. Funding information circulated to all clubs. Support Volunteers and coaches get back up and running post Covid19.

Next survey results due December 2021.

## **6.0 Financial Statements**

### **ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY**

To be confirmed at the earliest opportunity




### **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**

To be confirmed at the earliest opportunity





## 7.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

### Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

### Direction of Travel Indicator

Green 	Indicates that performance <b>is better</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance <b>is the same</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance <b>is worse</b> as compared to the same period last year.
N / A 	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.