



Work Health and Skills Team: *Priorities for 2022 - 2024*

Steph Rush: Work, Health and Skills Manager

We will provide support and access to training and employment opportunities for every adult in the borough that wants to work and learn and we will support our workforces to grow and flourish.

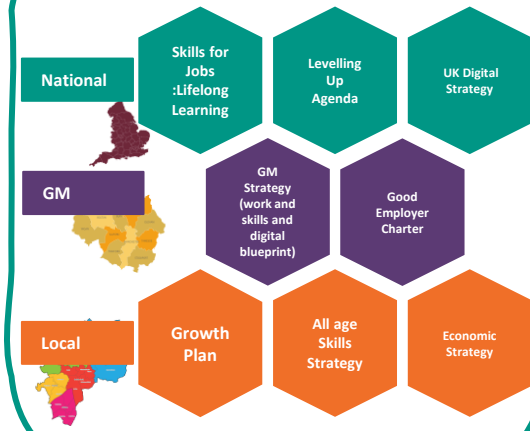
Indicator	Latest data	GM average	Difference to GM average - widening (red), improvement (green) or no change (black)	Frequency and source	Latest data	+/- from previous period	RAG rating	Comment (including position in GM where known)
Employment rate	65.7%	71.3%	5.6%	Quarterly (Annual Population Survey)	April 2022			10 th in GM
Unemployment rate (model based)	6.1%	5.1%	1%	Quarterly (Annual Population Survey)	April 2022			Joint 8/9 th with Oldham, Manchester 10 th
Claimant count (JSA and UC (out of work))	6% (8330 residents)	5%	1%	Monthly (DWP)	August 2022			9 th in GM (Oldham Higher)
% 18-24 claiming out of work benefits	7.7% (1345 residents)	6%	1.7%	Monthly (DWP)	August 2022			9 th in GM (Oldham Higher)
% over 50 claiming out of work benefits	4.3% (1815 residents)	3.8%	0.5%	Monthly (DWP)	August 2022			Joint 7/8 th with Oldham - Bolton and Manchester lower
Number of people on ESA/sickness related benefits	12,600							

% of working age population with L2 qualification (5 x A*-C GSCE)	72.8%	76.3%	3.5%	Annual (APS)	Jan 21 – Dec 21			8 th in GM Manchester and Oldham lower
% of working age population with L3 qualification	54.8%	57.9%	3.1%	Annual (APS)	Jan 21 – Dec 21			6 th in GM with Bolton, Oldham, Tameside and Wigan lower
% of working age with L4 qualification (HND or Foundation Degree level)	31.3%	39.1%	7.8%	Annual (APS)	Jan 21 – Dec 21			7 th in GM with Oldham, Tameside and Wigan lower
% of working age populations with no qualifications	11%	8.3%	2.7%	Annual (APS)	Jan 21 – Dec 21			10 th in GM
Gross median annual pay – residents (prosperity indicator)	£25742	£28980	£3238	Annual (Employer Survey of hours and earnings)	October 2021			10 th in GM
Gross median annual pay – workplace (quality of jobs indicator)	£26495	£28833	£2338	Annual (Employer Survey of hours and earning)	October 2021			9 th in GM higher than Tameside
Number of enterprises	6,845			Annual (ONS)	April 2021			

Our Mission

We will provide support and access to training and employment opportunities for every adult in the borough that wants to work and learn and we will support our workforces to grow and flourish.

Our Strategic Drivers



Key Partners

- Job Centre Plus
- National and GMCA devolved Employment Programmes
- Training Providers
- RDA and Employers
- VCSE Organisations
- Children's Services
- Health Colleagues

Our Work and Initiatives



Supporting the population to improve their economic position & benefit from growth opportunities

Support Unemployed Residents into Employment

We will make sure we support all our residents including priority groups and young people into, or on the journey to employment, by providing an holistic needs assessment, linking people to the right support and programmes including job opportunities and provide ongoing support for those that need it.

Work with People in low skilled low paid employment

We will support people in work that are in low skilled low paid employment to progress, especially those on Universal Credit and other benefits. This support will extend to people entering the labour market so they can be supported to achieve their full potential and meet their long term goals and aspirations.

Improve Skill Levels of the Adult Population

We will help shape the skills system through the Adult Education Budget and other learning opportunities at a locality level, to meet the boroughs strategic objectives including the needs of our residents and the local economy. More people will obtain relevant and meaningful qualifications at all levels and build on their existing skills and interests, so they can move into work and progress, while we narrow the gap with the rest of GM.

Digital Inclusion

We will grasp the opportunity to increase digital skills for the benefit of the local economy and our communities. Ensuring that all residents have the basic level of digital skills needed for day-to-day life, are able to take advantage of public services delivered through digital channels and are equipped to function productively in the modern workplace.

Work with Employers

We will strengthen employer engagement between internal and external partners making sure the wide offer of support is promoted and joined up to help support businesses and their workforces. Employers will become more productive, have skilled workforces, create healthier places to work for our residents and adopt good employment practice that will enable more businesses to pay the real living wage.

Make Every Contact Count

Work and skills will be embedded in every council policy and is included in outcome frameworks of commissioned contracts. We will raise the profile of work and skills across all services and demonstrate how; getting, keeping and progressing people in work can support a variety of agendas, reduce inappropriate access to services, improve health and well-being and increase revenue to the council.

Help ESOL Learners improve their English

We will provide a single access point for people that need English classes, provide additional support and work with training providers to help meet the demand and avoid long waiting lists. We will make sure we have community based provision through Talk English to offer classes to people with little or no English.

Our Priorities

The Impact of Work and Skills; Supporting Borough Wide Priorities and helping Reduce Inequalities

Economic Indications Influencing our Work (Sept 22)

- 12,600 people on sickness related benefits
- 8,330 residents claiming U.C.
- Highest number of people in GM with no qualifications
- Skill levels of the adult population are below the GM & national average at every level
- Residents annual earnings are the lowest in GM

Why our work is important

- Two of the biggest drivers behind the cost-of-living crisis are high levels of economic inactivity and low pay
- Rising inflation has meant workers have suffered a real-term pay cut
- People are more scared than ever before to leave benefits for work in the fear that they would be left worse off
- National approaches are a long way away from tackling the roots of the problems facing people who are either unemployed, economically inactive or in-work

Making Every Contact Count



Agendas we can support

The Impact of Work, Skills and Learning

Golden Thread - Embedding Work and Skills in all policies, connecting with other services, and highlighting the impact on other agendas and priority areas

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is good for people's health and well being, evidence shows that being unemployed can have a big impact on people's physical and mental health. • Lifelong Learning is good for people's physical and mental health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting people into jobs can help people secure decent housing and reduce reliance on Housing Benefits. • Improving skill levels of people can improve self esteem and provide more opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing people with learning and employment opportunities can prevent people accessing other services and improve their economic position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Skill levels can help people secure better paid jobs and help take people of working age out of poverty. • Finding the right employment can help people improve their financial position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting people into good employment can reduce crime rates. • Helping people access meaningful and relevant training courses can provide people with things to do and provide people with opportunities for their future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more people we support into jobs the more people start to contribute to things like Council Tax and be less reliant on other locally managed schemes. • More money people earn the more they will spend in the local economy attracting more business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more people earn and are supported the more opportunities they have of getting out of debt. • Access to money management courses and equipping people with the skills will help people manage their money in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the English of parents whose first language isn't English will enable them to help their children with their school work and learning. • Improving skills of parents helps them support their children and promotes a positive image of learning.
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