
Quarter 2 Update

2009-10

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

November 2009



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Introduction

The purpose of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) is to reduce levels of worklessness and increase enterprise and skills in our most deprived communities. The WNF is about new ways of working, taking into account local individuals and communities, with flexibility and opportunities to respond to particular challenges within local areas.

Bolsover district qualifies from WNF in the respect that it has more than 20% of its Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the overall Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and that it is ranked among the top 40 districts on an equally weighted measure of key benefit claim rate and employment rate

The WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council, to be paid as one element of the Area Based Grant, is just over £7m over 2008/09 to 2010/11. The WNF has been allocated in two ways. Bolsover District Council has allocated £1 million WNF per annum to the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to commission initiatives that are focussed on **preventing worklessness**. The remainder of the WNF is focused on addressing the NI 153 indicator, to **reduce the number of people claiming benefits** in the worst performing areas. A Core Worklessness Group (CWG) consisting of the Leader/Deputy Leader, Officers of Bolsover District Council and relevant partners in relation to worklessness has been established to move this agenda forward.

In May 2009, the Working Neighbourhood Fund Strategy for Bolsover was published, following a series of consultation events to identify key priorities and potential intervention projects to address worklessness across the district. The WNF Strategy will drive the delivery of the WNF programme over forthcoming years and the CWG and LSP will use the Strategy as the basis for commissioning activity to address worklessness and to impact on the relevant national indicators. The LSP and the CWG have five strategic priorities each that reflect the focus for each group, in addition to four cross-cutting priorities. The priorities are interdependent and are detailed below:

Figure 1: WNF Priorities

WNF Priorities	
CWG	LSP
1. Apprenticeships, Internships & Placements	6. Financial Inclusion
2. The Newly Unemployed	7. Raising Aspirations
3. The Hard to Reach	8. Healthy Lifestyles
4. Localised Provision of Business Support	9. Volunteering
5. Raising Aspirations of Businesses	10. Increasing Business Competitiveness

Cross-Cutting Priorities	
11. Access to Employment and Training	
12. Supporting Ethnic Minority Residents	
13. Supporting Young People	
14. Supporting those with Disabilities and Mental Health Problems	

Bolsover District Council and the LSP have taken a strategic approach to the commissioning of activities using WNF, ensuring interventions meet an identified need and genuinely add value to existing services. This has only been possible through continuing the existing good working relationships with all of our key partners. The table below details the interventions already commissioned by the CWG and the LSP and how they impact on the key priorities.

Figure 2: WNF Commissioned Interventions

Commissioned Interventions														
Priority	CWG					LSP					Cross-Cutting			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
CWG Commissioned														
Family Employment Initiative		✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Apprenticeships feasibility study	✓				✓		✓					✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure Development Officer					✓					✓				
Start-up Support for those with Disabilities		✓			✓		✓					✓	✓	✓
Ways to Work		✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓
Free Legal Advice (new in Q2)		✓	✓			✓						✓	✓	✓
Bolsover Apprenticeship Programme (new in Q2)	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LSP Commissioned														
Raising Aspirations (Strands 1-3)		✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓
FEI Practice Nurse							✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan		✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Bolsover Volunteering Project		✓	✓				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Hot Prospects	✓				✓					✓				
Bolsover Financial Inclusion Project (new in Q2)		✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓

2009/10 Quarter 2 Activity

The total allocation of WNF is £7,031,056, with £321,926 allocated to Management and Admin over four years. The remaining allocation of £6,709,130 has been distributed between the CWG and LSP. To date, £4,009,189 has been assigned to projects through formal contracting arrangements, leaving approximately £2.7m of WNF uncommitted at this stage. However, it is expected that a further £1m will be allocated to initiatives currently being commissioned by the CWG and the LSP over the coming months.

Quarter 2 has been another busy period with a number of projects being formally approved and activity commencing. WNF spend in Quarter 2, July to September 2009, was £114,062 against a quarter forecast of £134,314. In addition, £78,477 of match funding was levered into the area, £59,326 of which was through the Family Employment Initiative.

Core Worklessness Group

The most notable area of work in Quarter 2 for the CWG has been the **Bolsover Apprenticeship Programme** which has secured over £1.8 million (combination of WNF, Future Jobs Fund and partner contributions) to create **75 apprenticeship places** within the Bolsover public and voluntary/community sectors over the next three years. This is a flagship scheme for Bolsover and one which is gaining significant interest from other areas that are wishing to develop similar programmes. The first cohort of 25 apprentices is due to commence in January 2010. 5 of these apprentices will be aged 16-18 and will be based within Bolsover District Council (4 within Leisure and 1 within HR). The remaining 20 will be aged 18-24 and will be based within Chesterfield Royal, Derbyshire Primary Care Trust and SNAP (a voluntary/community sector organisation based in South Normanton). The apprenticeships are wide-ranging, from Business/Admin and Social Care through to Construction and Horticulture. The next cohort of 10 apprentices which will be aimed at the 25+ age group is due to commence in April 2010. A small team has now been recruited to deliver the Apprenticeship Programme. Mike Gibson is the Apprenticeships Co-ordinator and Andrea McNeil is the Apprenticeships Officer. Both posts are based within BDC's HR department. The team will be complemented with an apprentice in January 2010.

The CWG has approved approximately £55,000 WNF to Chesterfield Law Centre to provide access to specialist **free legal services** in social welfare law (employment, housing, and housing debt) for people eligible to receive legal aid. The service will be made available from four outreach centres in Bolsover, Shirebrook, South Normanton and Creswell. In addition, clients with enquiries about their employment, loss of employment, conditions of work and wages will be able to access **specialist employment advice** via a dedicated telephone service. This service is also being supported by the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust and will be available for the next five years.

In the Quarter 1 WNF Monitoring Report, details of the proposed **Intermediate Labour Market programme** were given. The aim of the scheme is to provide paid employment and accredited learning opportunities to local unemployed people over a six month period. Unfortunately, this area of work has experienced a slight delay due to the changing environment that we are operating within. The programme has now been re-focused so that the main target group is those that are on Employment and Support Allowance. This is so the programme does not compete with other programmes that have been funded through the DWP Future Jobs Fund, which are aimed at those on Job Seekers Allowance. Meetings with prospective bidders of this work programme are taking place late November with a view to appointing the successful organisation and the programme commencing in January 2010. The programme will provide opportunities for 40 people that are out of work within a variety of work roles, but predominately Horticulture and the Environment. If the programme is successful, there may be opportunities for continuing the programme in 2011/12.

BDC's Economic Development Team is currently working towards securing grant funding to support the development of an **Enterprise Centre in Shirebrook**. The centre will provide 18,000 sq ft of lettable office/workshop/hybrid business accommodation supporting a variety of local new and existing businesses. A WNF Commissioning Brief to cover revenue support for the Centre has been approved by the CWG, subject to the capital funding required to build the centre being secured.

Local Strategic Partnership

Earlier this year, CVP were commissioned to undertake some research into the extent of financial exclusion within the district and propose a **Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan**. Their findings and recommendations were presented to, and approved by, the LSP's Executive Support Group in June and the LSP agreed to utilise WNF to deliver against the strategy. The procurement process for this area of work has now been completed with the award of a contract to CVP. CVP will be responsible for the overall implementation of the strategy but will sub-contract work to various partners for direct delivery of activity; this includes North East Derbyshire Citizen's Advice Bureau, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre and Worksop and District Credit Union. The strategy involves a number of different initiatives including the requirement to achieve district wide credit union coverage by March 2012, and to provide additional benefits/welfare rights advisors from January 2010. Full details of this initiative are available on request from the Chief Executives and Partnership Team.

Earlier this year, and following a competitive tendering process, Connexions Derbyshire Ltd were awarded the contract to deliver the **Raising Aspirations** project which aims to raise the aspirations of particular target groups. The project experienced a slow start but can now report that the Raising Aspirations Contract Manager has been appointed and commenced in post at the end of October 2009. Furthermore, two Assistant Personal Advisers (one for teenage parents and the other for young people with drug/alcohol problems) have also been recruited and are due to commence in post shortly. Many partners will be aware that problems were encountered with sub-contracting delivery of Strand 4 (workless adults) which resulted in the decision of the Executive Support Group to de-commission strand 4 from the overall contract. This has been done in agreement with Connexions who are now focusing efforts on delivering Strands 1-3. The LSP Technical Group produced a revised Commissioning Brief for Strand 4 delivery which will be advertised in line with the Council's procurement processes. It is envisaged that an appropriate organisation will be contracted with in January 2010 for the delivery of Strand 4.

A Commissioning Brief for **Employer Engagement** activity has recently been approved by the LSP and the CWG. The aim of the project is to respond to the needs of local employers and inward investors, by matching their recruitment requirements with the skills of local people, especially those from the most deprived wards. Furthermore, it aims to support local unemployed people and ensure connection to appropriate training to meet the needs of local employers and future skills needs of the district. The Chamber of Commerce have been commissioned to lead on this area of activity which will be delivered via the appointment of two posts. The first post will be a **Business Engagement Officer** that will work with inward investors and indigenous businesses to increase opportunities to Bolsover residents to access employment opportunities, and the second post will be **Training Co-ordinator** role that responds to the needs of local, unemployed people by co-ordinating and brokering relevant training. It is envisaged that this project will commence delivery early in the New Year.

Other Activity

Bolsover District Council has appointed a new **Funding and Appraisals Officer** to work within the Chief Executives and Partnership Team. Jessica Clayton will be commencing on 2nd December 2009 and will assist in delivering the WNF programme by undertaking project appraisals, monitoring visits etc. The role will also involve securing funding to enable further partnership activity to take place. It is also pleasing to report that Natalie Price was successful in her interview for the post of Partnership Performance and Communications Officer and will therefore continue working within the CEPT until March 2012.

Project Activities and Achievements

Project Title and Description of Initiative	£ WNF	Quarter 1 Progress																																				
<p>Family Employment Initiative (08-03), Coalfields Regeneration Trust</p> <p>The Family Employment Initiative (FEI) works with families and households to break down barriers to employment. FEI advisors visit hard to reach families and individuals in homes and other accessible locations. Funding from WNF will expand the Bolsover district team from 4.5 to 5.5 Advisers. A further extension to the project is the provision of a District Nurse to work as a member of the existing Family Employment Team. The Nurse will accompany existing advisers to provide responsive health advice, carry out home based health checks, support families to make better health choices, re-engage people with primary health and run “bespoke sessions” on topics that emerge which link improving health to reducing worklessness.</p> <p>Over the life of the project to March 2011, the project aims to assist 525 people into employment. Outputs to be achieved this financial year are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="129 1023 790 1406"> <thead> <tr> <th>Output</th> <th>09/10</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unemployed people gaining employ't</td> <td>214</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEETs going into EET</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adults with learning disabilities moving into employment</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People (16+) gaining NVQ2</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People benefiting from debt advice</td> <td>105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Care leavers moving to EET</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People on out-of-work benefits supported with health needs</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carers receiving health assessment</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Output	09/10	Unemployed people gaining employ't	214	NEETs going into EET	48	Adults with learning disabilities moving into employment	5	People (16+) gaining NVQ2	36	People benefiting from debt advice	105	Care leavers moving to EET	15	People on out-of-work benefits supported with health needs	50	Carers receiving health assessment	10	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £348,797</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £172,074</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £83,472</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £58,895</p> <p>Underspend (against a flat profile) at the end of Q2 was £24,577. In the main, this relates to staffing underspends due to delays with recruiting the WNF Advisor and Practice Nurse.</p> <p>In comparison, training for clients is overspent as anticipated since directing to training is becoming more important during the recession. The Barriers to Work fund is significantly underspent again, a sign of the reducing availability of employment options open to clients.</p>	<p>Outputs Achieved in Quarter 2:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1234 316 1868 660"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unemployed people gaining employment</td> <td>45</td> <td>87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEETs going into EET</td> <td>12</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People (16+) gaining NVQ2</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People benefiting from debt mgt and advice</td> <td>20</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People supported with their health needs</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>WNF Advisor</p> <p>The new Bolsover WNF Advisor, Diane Ledger, commenced in post on 17th August and has been extremely busy. Initially shadowing other Advisors she is now fully operational and several surgeries have been established in the following locations: Bainbridge Hall, Carr Vale, Bolsover - Tuesday 10.00 – 4.00. Bolsover Library - Wednesday 9.00 – 1.00. Ace of Clubs, Hillstown, Bolsover - Friday 1.00 – 4.00</p> <p>Practice Nurse</p> <p>Sue Dean commenced in post as the Practice Nurse on 5th October. Sue’s work plan, (in line with targets) has been agreed with the PCT and Bolsover WNF and is in the process of being finalised.</p> <p>The referral pathway between FEI and the nurse has been identified and agreed by both parties and advertisement of the project to clients agreed. The nurse is developing this advertisement not only to clients but for local health workers as well. The nurse will attend team meetings and offer health updates for FEI staff in order to cascade good signposting practice. The first of these will be smoking cessation.</p>		Target	Actual	Unemployed people gaining employment	45	87	NEETs going into EET	12	4	People (16+) gaining NVQ2	3	6	People benefiting from debt mgt and advice	20	1	People supported with their health needs	10	0
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Project Title and Description of Initiative	£ WNF	Quarter 1 Progress
	<p>A contract meeting with CRT has been arranged for 24th November to discuss re-profiling expenditure and outputs where necessary.</p>	<p>Arrangements are to be made for the nurse to attend the local doctors, District nurses and Children's centres coordinators with the FEI to raise awareness of the FEI project and nursing support element.</p> <p>Outreach Bases The FEI Project as a whole now operates across 30 Outreach bases in our target communities, so an increase again on the last report.</p> <p>Other Activity The Elmton & Creswell area has proven to be extremely challenging, both to engage and progress clients so FEI have embarked upon a strategy to improve the number of engagements and referrals in the areas linking <u>two</u> advisors together to combine skills and energise the area. They will be working alongside the community nurse as this is a specific area of interest for the PCT and Council.</p>
<p>Grants to Voluntary Organisations (08-04a), Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres DUWCs provide free, confidential and independent welfare rights advice at a variety of times and locations across the district. An informal appointment system will be introduced for drop-in sessions, and where appropriate, telephone advice and home visits will be carried out. Tribunal representation, for users wishing to appeal against decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions or HM Revenue and Customs regarding benefits and credits will be offered, and where possible, on-site redundancy advice will be offered.</p> <p>Work will be led by a full-time paid worker and supplemented by a team of 8 volunteers, with an aim to recruit another 4 over the year.</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £55,350</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £27,400</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £13,700</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £13,574</p>	<p>717 enquiries have been handled during the period July – September 2009. Advisers based at DUWC's centre in Shirebrook and outreach venues in Creswell, Clowne, Bolsover and Pinxton have reported a steady rise in the number of people facing lay offs, redundancy or short time working, as well as those with Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) problems.</p> <p>In September 2009, training was provided to volunteers on tax credits. DUWC are currently arranging interviews for new volunteers signposted by CVP. The project has reported that one new volunteer, a resident of Bolsover, has been taken on who had previously been helped at a tribunal.</p> <p>During Q2, 39 enquiries regarding tax credits were handled, as well as 30 on Job Seekers Allowance. Referrals to the Law Centre regarding employment issues have also continued.</p>

Project Title and Description of Initiative	£ WNF	Quarter 1 Progress																					
<p>Bolsover Volunteering Project (08-05), CVP This project aims to increase the employability, skills and confidence of local people through the provision of high quality volunteering opportunities. The project will employ 1.6 FTE workers.</p> <p>The full time post will be responsible for identifying and developing a range of volunteering opportunities, ensuring that volunteers that are recruited, placed and supported benefit from appropriate personal and professional development opportunities and best practice models.</p> <p>The part time post will recruit volunteers to act as community health champions who will work with their peers in order to promote and adopt healthier life styles.</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £179,476</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £54,763</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £26,390</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £18,645</p>	<p>The Community Health Champion post has now been filled and the worker commenced in August 2009.</p> <p>CVP has registered with Volunteer England and are now part of the wider Derbyshire volunteer centres network, working towards achieving the quality mark. A new volunteer and volunteering opportunities database, Vbase has been implemented to provide the best possible mapping potential for volunteers.</p> <p>A best training event was held in September (volunteer support and supervision) with 11 people benefiting from the training. 20 individuals have accessed volunteering opportunities via Vbase , with 10 of these being successfully placed and remaining within their placements.</p> <p>Project underspend is due to delays in recruiting the Community Health Champion. A revision to contract was agreed in Oct 09 to re-allocate underspend monies to enable the VCI passport scheme to be rolled out across the district. This will benefit a further 75 volunteers.</p>																					
<p>Ways to Work (08-06), Derbyshire Rural Community Council Ways to Work is a cross-cutting transport project where many elements of transport provision are brought together to remove transport as a barrier to work and training. It aims to provide transport opportunities, and/or easy to understand information on available transport options. This enhances existing Wheels to Work provision in Bolsover, through the provision of additional services including push bike and electric bike loan, taxi/bus vouchers, subsidised driving lessons, personalised travel planning and better access to information about transport. Over the lifetime of the project, 133 people will be assisted into employment.</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £144,835</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £52,003</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £18,153</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £16,582</p>	<p>Outputs Achieved in Quarter 2:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1234 938 1868 1321"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unemployed people gaining employment</td> <td>13</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEETs going into EET</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jobs created</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Businesses assisted to improve performance</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of employees benefiting from training</td> <td>1</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of care leavers moving into employment</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The project has made a positive start with outcomes exceeding targets in the second quarter. The moped loan aspect of the scheme continues to be very popular within the district, with</p>		Target	Actual	Unemployed people gaining employment	13	27	NEETs going into EET	1	2	Jobs created	0	1	Businesses assisted to improve performance	1	1	No. of employees benefiting from training	1	28	No. of care leavers moving into employment	1	1
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		<p>steady progress in the development of other areas of the scheme.</p> <p>As part of the project, STAR consultants have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify best practice in administering taxi/bus vouchers etc > Stagecoach have agreed to work with the project and provide a 40% discount on travel fares for Ways to Work clients. • A gap analysis in terms of transport provision to places of employment/training > This was presented to the Joint Transport Action Group in October.
<p>Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (08-07), BDC</p> <p>In a 2007 report, Bolsover was identified as one of the 25 areas with the greatest mismatch between the demand for and supply of affordable credit from third sector lenders.</p> <p>In response to this, tenders were invited with the remit to explore options and propose an action plan to facilitate the implementation of a financial inclusion model for Bolsover District.</p>	<p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £9,800</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>CVP were commissioned to undertake a feasibility study on behalf of the LSP that resulted in the production of a five year Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan for the district. Key findings and recommendations were presented to the Executive Support Group in June 2009. In November, the LSP awarded a contract to CVP to deliver against the Financial Inclusion strategy. Further details will be provided in the Q3 progress update report.</p>
<p>Apprenticeships – Feasibility Study and Interim Arrangements (08-08), BDC</p> <p>To address high levels of youth unemployment (18-24 year old JSA claimant rate of 37.3%), and low educational attainment levels in Bolsover District, tenders were invited with the remit to produce a feasibility study for a public sector apprenticeship scheme which would target those not achieving the grade requirements of traditional apprenticeship schemes.</p>	<p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £43,815</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £29,675</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £29,675</p>	<p>Consultancy support in respect of developing the Bolsover Apprenticeship programme has continued in Quarter 2. The Apprenticeship Programme has now been successful in securing funding to deliver 75 apprenticeship places over the next three years. Funding has been secured from the Future Jobs Fund, Working Neighbourhoods Fund and partner contributions from participating organisations. A team to support the apprenticeship programme has been appointed. Consultancy support will therefore cease in November 2009.</p>
<p>Bolsover Infrastructure Development Officer (08-09), Bolsover District Council</p> <p>Bolsover has a number of key development site opportunities due to come to fruition over the next</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £97,168</p> <p>2009/10 WNF</p>	<p>The Bolsover Infrastructure Development Officer post was advertised during Q2 and the post has now been filled.</p> <p>A contract review meeting is scheduled to take place in November</p>

Project Title and Description of Initiative	£ WNF	Quarter 1 Progress
<p>two to three years. This project seeks to maximise the opportunities available from these regeneration activities for both local residents seeking sustainable quality employment and to provide infrastructure to attract investors and grow local businesses.</p> <p>Existing masterplans and briefs will be used to inform future regeneration activities, promote engagement with local communities, and contribute towards the Council's Local Development Framework.</p> <p>The Projects Officer (Infrastructure) will progress the future development of the town centres and strategic sites and will work with investor/employers locating to strategic sites to help assess skill and employment needs.</p>	<p>Approved: £28,968</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £0</p>	<p>2009 to assess the impact of the delayed appointment on project spend, milestones and outcomes.</p> <p>Detailed project activity will be reported in Quarter 3.</p>
<p>Work for Yourself (08-10), Disability Dynamics</p> <p>The project is seeking to work with disabled residents within Bolsover to encourage them to start their own businesses.</p> <p>Clients are allocated a Business Adviser who will support them with developing an Action Plan, provide regular on-going mentoring and coaching support through each stage. Support continues during the crucial early trading phase until project end. All clients are provided with information signposting them to other employment support sources.</p> <p>This is a joint project with Chesterfield Borough Council and aims to assist the creation of 35 new businesses within the Bolsover district by March 2012.</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £202,371</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £78,491</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £21,458</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £26,271</p> <p>The project has a cumulative underspend of approximately £5K but much of this will be caught up in Q3.</p>	<p>The project is on track for achieving its goals with 37 contacts, 27 engagements, and 21 one-to-one meetings taking place to date.</p> <p>Two enterprise workshops had been planned, booked and promoted during October but unfortunately one had to be cancelled due to low numbers (Shirebrook). This is likely to be re-arranged early in 2010.</p> <p>A significant amount of time has been dedicated to promoting the service over the last two quarters, in order to achieve adequate recruits to the programme so that business launch targets can be achieved. Local newspapers remain the most effective means of recruiting.</p>

Project Title and Description of Initiative	£ WNF	Quarter 1 Progress
<p>Raising Aspirations (08-11), Connexions This project aims to raise aspirations in those individuals who are most marginalised and furthest away from employment. In particular, it will provide additional support, engagement activities and training opportunities for pre-16 students and their families, 16–18 year olds who are NEET, teenage parents, care leavers, homeless and vulnerable young people, together with workless adults who have disabilities or mental health issues.</p> <p>A Contract Manager will be appointed to who provide local management of the project.</p> <p>Strand 1 The project will seek to raise aspirations and increase the awareness amongst school age young people and their families regarding further educational and employment opportunities and encourage informed choices at Key Stage 4 and beyond. A 0.5 fte Co-ordinator will be recruited to oversee the administration and co-ordination of these events with the Bolsover secondary schools.</p> <p>Strand 2 Two Key Workers will be appointed, one to work with Teen Parents and one to work with young people who have drug or alcohol problems (both 1.0 fte). young people who will potentially become NEET can be identified and given enhanced support through this project as soon as they leave school and before they have the opportunity to become NEET.</p> <p>Strand 3 Action For Children will provide an additional specialist worker to offer dedicated support to care leavers who are NEET plus a programme of</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £1,095,000</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £315,596</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £0</p>	<p>The project has got off to a slow start with delayed recruitment of project staff. However, the Raising Aspirations Contract Manager has now been appointed and commenced in post at the end of October 2009. Clare Talati has been extremely busy since then meeting with key partners and identifying current provision and gaps.</p> <p>The two Assistant Personal Advisers (one for teenage parents and the other for young people with drug/alcohol problems) have also been recruited and are due to commence in post shortly.</p> <p>Problems experienced with sub-contracting elements of Strand 4, which is aimed at raising aspirations amongst economically inactive and unemployed adults resulted in the decision of the Executive Support Group to de-commission strand 4 from the overall contract. This has been done in agreement with Connexions who will now focus on delivering Strands 1-3. The LSP Technical Group has produced an amended Commissioning brief for Strand 4 delivery which will be advertised in line with the Council's procurement processes in November 2009. It is envisaged that the successful organisation will be contracted with during January 2010.</p> <p>A Raising Aspirations steering group has been established and terms of reference agreed. This group has now met on three occasions and will provide the strategic direction for delivery of the contract over the forthcoming years. It has been agreed that Strand 4 delivery will continue to be overseen by this group even though it will be subject to a separate contract arrangement.</p> <p>Strand 3 which is aimed at raising the aspirations of young people that are in care/care leavers/homeless is progressing extremely well since the appointment of a dedicated support worker who provides intensive support to these target groups. Their focus is on those with potential transition problems. A buddy scheme is being set up for Care leavers to buddy with ex care leavers with successful transitions.</p>

Project Title and Description of Initiative	£ WNF	Quarter 1 Progress
<p>dedicated learning activities to prepare the young people for re-introduction and reintegration into a learning or employment environment while at the same time addressing their other barriers to economic and social wellbeing.</p> <p>Strand 4 This strand of the project will draw upon the strengths of CDL and CVP to provide a wide range of provision to address the issue of adult worklessness by meeting the needs of the marginalised and diverse client groups that it seeks to assist (adults with learning disabilities, adults in contact with secondary mental health services, workless residents living within LSOAs).</p>		<p>A financial claim has not been made in Q2 as there was little expenditure to report.</p> <p>There will be some impact on project targets and these are currently being re-visited with Connexions.</p>
<p>Hot Prospects (08-12), FMC Online This project aims to place 30 Bolsover District graduates into Bolsover District SMEs by 2010.</p> <p>The target groups include graduates that are currently not in work or training, or that are currently employed in non-graduate jobs. The SMEs will be those which have not previously employed graduates, struggle to access higher level skills, or which require graduate skills but are reticent to take risks in the current climate.</p> <p>The project is facilitated using the existing HotProspects infrastructure with a dedicated account manager, supported by a project manager.</p>	<p>Lifetime WNF Approved: £41,300</p> <p>2009/10 WNF Approved: £41,300</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Target: £19,500</p> <p>Cummulative Q2 Actual: £18,900</p>	<p>The first three months of the HotProspects in Bolsover project have focused on establishing the project's presence in the district with additional emphasis on marketing and business engagement.</p> <p>90 businesses have been engaged with HotProspects with feedback generally being positive although challenges exist in helping businesses identify where graduates can add value.</p> <p>19 expressions of interest have been received from Bolsover SMEs, of whom 9 are awaiting internal sign off.</p> <p>9 organisations have registered with the service (details of companies available on request)</p> <p>68 graduates have registered with the service with an interest in working in the Bolsover district, of these the majority graduated from the University of Derby, Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield University.</p> <p>Although 10 placements have been accepted for recruitment only 1 is currently underway as at the end of Q2.</p>

NI 153 Number of People Claiming Benefits

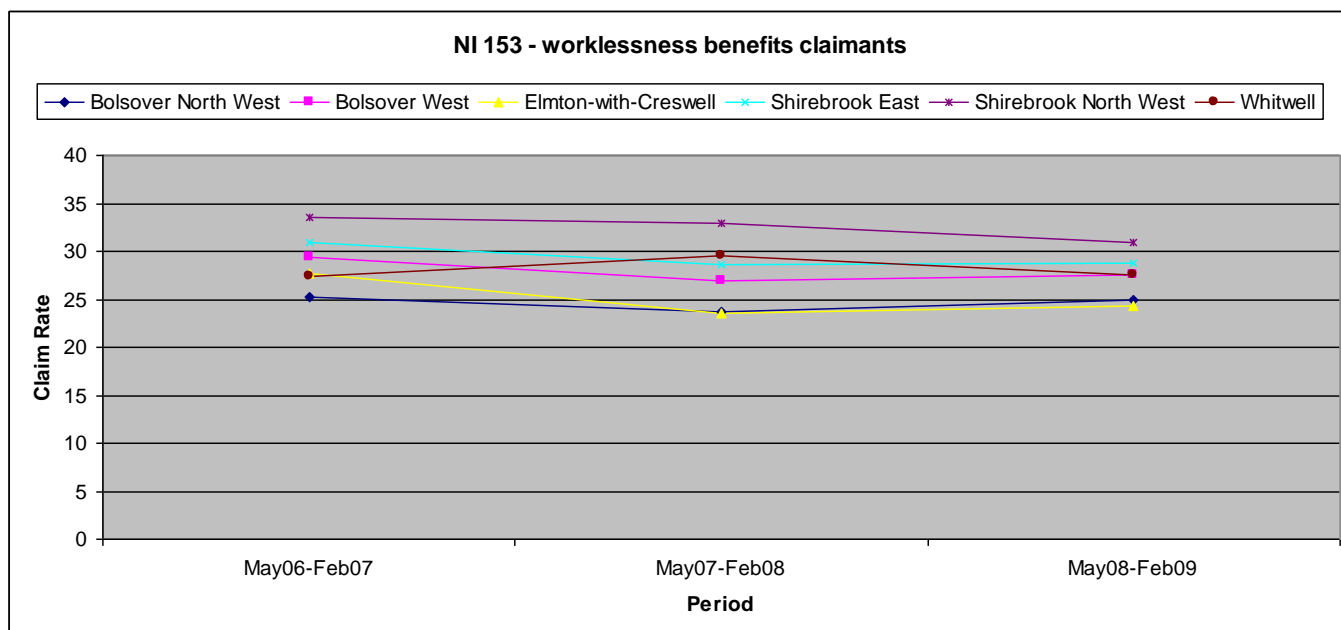
National Indicator (NI) 153 measures progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within local authority areas, particularly those in receipt of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF).

Specifically, the indicator measures the out-of-work benefits claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods - defined as Lower Super Output Areas with a benefit claimant rate of 25% or more as at February 2007 (4 quarter rolling average).

Within Bolsover District, 6 neighbourhoods fell into the 'worst performing' category:

- Bolsover North West
- Bolsover West
- Elmton-with-Creswell
- Shirebrook East
- Shirebrook North West
- Whitwell

The Core Worklessness Group was established to allocate WNF with the explicit aim of addressing NI 153. Progress to date is charted below:



The last data release covered the period to February 2009.

Two years since the February 2007 baseline was established, the claimant rate in all areas has decreased with the exception of Whitwell. Whitwell's rate peaked in February 2008 at 29.5% but has since declined, although it has not yet reached the original baseline rate.

Two areas are able to report a claimant rate of below 25%; these are Bolsover North West and Elmton-with-Creswell.

The economic recession does not appear to have worsened the worklessness situation in these 'worst performing areas', but it may affect the perceived impact of interventions commissioned by the Core Worklessness Group, and those implemented outside of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme.

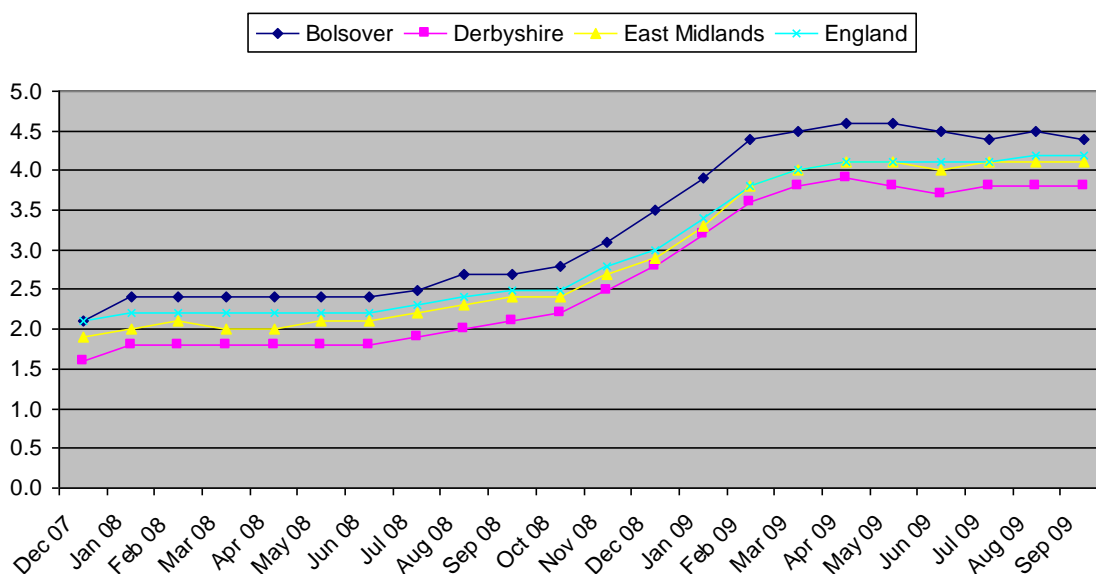
Enquiries have been made regarding the availability of NI 153 data for the whole of the Bolsover district in order to monitor whether there are any areas that are experiencing increases in claimant rates greater than 25%. However, we are informed that NI 153 data is only available for those areas identified above.

Job Seekers Allowance

Job Seekers Allowance claimant data is issued more frequently and can be used as a measure to identify trends and anomalies on a monthly basis.

The chart below shows that the claimant rate increased rapidly from September 2008, with a widening of the gap between district and county/regional/national performance. Although the rate appears to have stabilised for Derbyshire, the East Midlands, and England; Bolsover district is still experiencing fluctuations.

JSA claimant rate in Bolsover district



The knock on effects of increased claimant rates can include lower household incomes, increased demand for debt advice, and an increase in mental health and drug/alcohol related problems including domestic violence.