

## APPENDIX ii- Labour Market and Business Intelligence Update

### Elevate Joint Committee Meeting - 17 July 2015

#### Labour Market and Business Intelligence Update

#### 1. Youth unemployment and NEETs in Berkshire (see accompanying paper)

##### Headlines

- There are approximately 8,100 unemployed young people (aged 16-24 year olds) in Berkshire and roughly 9,500 young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Not all NEETs are classified as being unemployed (because some are not seeking / are not able to work).
- The majority of women who are NEET and are economically inactive are 'looking after family or home'
- Not all unemployed young people are classified as being NEET
- Most unemployed young people who are not NEET are full-time students who would like to work and are actively seeking employment
- Approximately 4,750 16-24 year olds in Berkshire are both NEET and unemployed
- Overall, there are approximately **10,000 young people in Berkshire who are unemployed (but are not full-time students) and/or are NEET**. Approximately 4,750 of whom are not seeking work and/or are not available for work (i.e. they are economically inactive). However, they may be able to enter the workforce in the near future with the right support / opportunities.

##### Implications

- This new analysis (based on data from a recent House of Commons report on NEETs - <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06705>) gives us a clearer picture of the overall size and nature of the target group for Elevate.

#### 2. Labour market conditions

##### Headlines from the April 2015 Labour Market Update report - circulated to the Joint Committee via e-mail in May 2015

- Across the UK, 2014 was a good year for jobs. Employment levels reached a record high and unemployment and youth unemployment continued to fall.
- Across Berkshire however, there was very little movement. Employment and unemployment rates were stable but there was a slight increase in overall youth unemployment (despite the number of young people claiming unemployment benefit dropping substantially).
- This overall stability has led to Berkshire dropping down the employment and unemployment rate tables as other local areas improved their performance.
- For example, in 2013 Berkshire had the **eight lowest** youth unemployment rate of all LEP areas, but the **18<sup>th</sup> lowest** in 2014.

- Berkshire's employment rate currently stands at around 77% of the working age population, whilst unemployment<sup>1</sup> remains at approximately 4.5%.
- In terms of job vacancies advertised on-line across Berkshire, the top five occupations between January and March 2015 were:
  - Programmers and software developer professionals
  - IT business analysts, architects and systems designers
  - Other administrative occupations
  - Business sales executives
  - Other information technology specialists not elsewhere categorised
- The top five specialist skills required by employers advertising on-line in Berkshire during this period were:
  - Business management
  - Sales
  - SQL
  - Telecommunications
  - Javascript

### **3. Business conditions**

**Headlines from the April 2015 Business Intelligence report - circulated to the Joint Committee via e-mail in May 2015**

- Business within Berkshire continues to thrive.
- The number of business enterprises in the Berkshire grew from 34,600 in 2010 to 38,500 in 2014.
- The majority of this growth (79%) was in micro businesses in the ICT and the Professional, scientific & technical sectors. There were 3,000 more micro businesses operating in these sectors in Berkshire in 2014 than in 2010
- Approximately 8,800 businesses started up the Berkshire in 2014, compared with 6,300 in 2013, a 40% increase. The positive trend is continuing in 2015 with March 2015 seeing more new company incorporations in Berkshire than in any of the previous 12 months.

### **4. Future reports**

The next quarterly reports will be circulated in August 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO definition used by the Office for National Statistics. Data is collected through the Annual Population Survey