

Barking & Dagenham Partnership

NI 163 – Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher

Responsible Owner Alan Lazell – Head of Skills and Learning

National Indicator Rationale

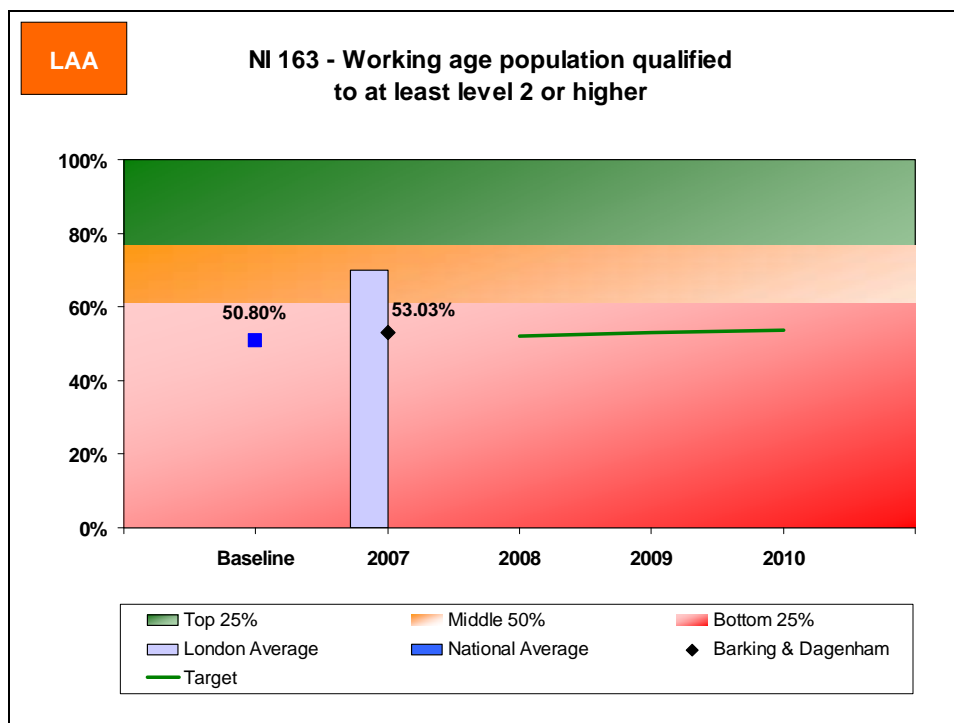
This indicator is needed because of the important role local authorities have with regard to economic development and the key part which skills and qualifications play in supporting economic development.

People are counted as being qualified to level 2 and above if they have achieved at least either 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent, i.e., O levels, CSE Grade 1s), two A/S levels, or any equivalent or higher qualification in the Qualifications and Credit Framework

Current Performance

Performance against Target

Awaiting data



Key Issues:

Specific reasons for underperformance, including equalities / area issues where relevant

1. LBBD residents have a legacy of low skills with 21% of working age adults having no qualifications at all, compared to 14% in London.
2. Historic characteristics of low educational attainment in Barking & Dagenham

Key Projects:

Areas of current /planned projects should focus on reasons for underperformance and link to the Key Issues listed above

Key Issue No.	Project Title	Key Milestones / Date	Project Lead	Project Details
1,2	<u>Family learning programmes (Skills for Life – literacy)</u>		Alan Lazell	Family learning programmes (Skills for Life – literacy) delivered at 35 locations across the borough by the Adult College
1,2	<u>Automotive Upskilling Programme</u>		Alan Lazell	196 Level 2 qualifications gained by LBBD residents delivered at Ford's through the Automotive Upskilling Programme (managed through LBBD)
1,2	<u>Target Skills Gold</u>		Alan Lazell	To date 450 employees have participated in an interactive screening tool (Target Skills Gold) to assess levels of literacy and numeracy. Those employees who fall below the Level 2 threshold are then assigned an e-tutor (based at the Adult College)
1,2	<u>Increase Level 2 activity through LSC funded providers</u>		Trevor Cook	The LSC sets stretching L2 targets for its providers each year. In 07/08, 914 L2's were delivered to B&D residents. The final figures for 08/09 will be available in December. The targets in 09/10 for the top 10 providers delivering to B&D residents represents a 16% increase over 07/08 actuals.
1,2	<u>Develop provider base</u>		Trevor Cook	The LSC, through its tendering process, has introduced new providers to the provider base, a number of which are delivering to B&D residents including DABD, T&L Training, the Adult College of B&D, Twin Training and Sencia.
1,2	<u>Capacity build providers</u>		Trevor Cook	The LSC made available capacity building funding to T&L Training, Barking College and the Adult College of B&D to support the development of their Business Development Units and to increase assessor capacity. Capital funding at the Adult College of B&D has also enabled them to broaden the range of L2 qualifications they offer.

Key Issue No.	Project Title	Key Milestones / Date	Project Lead	Project Details
1,2	<u>Develop progression pathways onto L2 programmes</u>		Trevor Cook	The LSC has made available funding through a number of programmes including 'Employability Skills Programme' and 'Skills for Jobs' that has enabled residents to access bespoke training that has led to jobs that can progress them onto L2 qualifications.
1,2	<u>Introduce external funding (ESF)</u>		Trevor Cook / Alan Lazell	Through the availability of ESF and Future Jobs Funding, the capacity of providers to meet the needs of employers has been strengthened.

Key Risks:

Risks may relate to specific projects or to performance in general

- The Learning and Skills Council own this target – but with their demise in April 2010, a new 'owner' is required.
- The Learning and Skills Council Train to Gain budget is coming under increasing pressure due to increased employer demand.
- The national data set contains a number of risks, it is not updated regularly, there is a considerable time lag in its availability and it is based on a relatively small sample of local residents.
- Target Skills Gold: Some staff already employed by the borough may be reluctant to participate in screening.
- Some may require tangible incentives to commence further training/study

Actions for Improvement (To be used for Quarterly Reporting):

Plans for further interventions must be robust and show clear prospects for improving performance

- Improved collaborative delivery between the borough's secondary schools and local further education providers and in particular at Level 2 for post-16 learners where success and retention rates are low.
- Increasing Level 2 and NVQ 2 provision within the Council's own workforce.
- Male participation rates (white British learners) are very low and are to be addressed.
- Improve planning of adult provision to better meet the need of individuals and employers.
- Improved targeting (through appraisals and 121s) needed in order to identify those employees eligible for training under the Skills Pledge.