
Report to: Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel

Date: 4 September 2018

Subject: **Achievements of the Inclusive Growth project**

Director(s): Liz Hunter, Interim Director of Policy and Strategy

Author(s): Britta Berger-Voigt

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Panel with a summary of achievements of the inclusive growth project.

2. Information

Background

- 2.2 The LEP Board (23 November 2016) and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (1 December 2016) endorsed a project to spearhead inclusive growth and make it a key cross cutting policy for Leeds City Region. The project was established following compelling work by the World Economic Forum¹ and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)², who demonstrated the 'recovery' from the global financial crisis of 07/08 had seen unbalanced growth that has exacerbated inequality. In light of the EU referendum result, Members also concurred with the Royal Society of Arts' (RSA)³ analysis that driving inclusive growth is vital to address the concerns of the electorate – particularly those people feeling economically insecure, who feel they haven't benefitted from globalisation and are most vulnerable to further public sector austerity.
- 2.2 In some ways the UK and Leeds City Region economies have seen strong growth (output growing by almost 20% from 2010 to 2016, employment levels the lowest since 1975, and halving the rate of young people not in education,

¹ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Forum_IncGrwth.pdf

² <https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/cope-divide-europe-2017-background-report.pdf>

³ https://www.thersa.org/globalassets/pdfs/reports/rsa_inclusive-growth-commission-final-report-march-2017.pdf

employment or training). For many in the City Region however, this has not resulted in better living standards:

- 147,000 children (22%) live in poverty
- Of 1,325 care leavers in West Yorkshire (aged 17-21yrs) only 670 (51%) are in work, education or training
- 25% of jobs in the City Region pay less than the real living wage of £8.75
- The employment rate of Bangladeshi and Pakistani women is half that of white women (72% versus 32%)
- 27% of the adult population are qualified below level 2 or have no qualifications; Leeds City Region is ranked 33 out of 38 LEPs for this measure
- The employment rate for disabled people is only 52% compared with 79% for people without a disability
- When in work, one in five families (165,000) rely on in-work tax credits to top up their income. The cost of working and child tax credits for West Yorkshire is £1.3 billion
- 16% of households (159,000) have no-one in work, with 177,000 people (9% of adults) in receipt of out-of-work benefits
- Of 122,000 people claiming Employment and Support Allowance in the City Region, half have mental illness or a behavioural condition

2.3 Inclusive growth cannot be delivered individually by any organisation or sector. Many public, private and community organisations across the City Region have inclusive growth at the heart of their activity – whether that’s providing good work or training opportunities, to those helping people overcome physical or mental ill health. Local authorities play a vital role in identifying local challenges and opportunities to act – including the prevention, mitigation and alleviation of poverty.

Inclusive growth project

2.4 Given the consensus across the City Region that inclusive growth needed championing and promoting, a Project Director for Inclusive Growth was appointed last year to lead the inclusive growth project. Achievements are set out in **Appendix 1**.

2.5 The project has also identified some specific projects that partner councils are delivering to drive inclusive growth. Learning from these projects should be considered across partners, with best practice being shared.

Bradford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty and Ethnicity – a JRF-funded project that works with local employers and Pakistani and Bangladeshi women to seek to overcome barriers and provide access to a wider, more inclusive workforce.
Calderdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with mental health issues – alongside the clinical commissioning group and local voluntary organisations, extend a pilot on the mental health impacts of social isolation and loneliness, predominately amongst the over-50s. This included impacts on employability.

Kirklees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Better – a £5.75m European Social Fund funded programme to help people who face significant barriers into work, along with personal support for the first six months employment.
Leeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing supported internships (courses offered by colleges and post-16 providers) to help young people with learning difficulties and disabilities achieve paid employment by giving them the skills and experience they need through learning in the workplace.
Wakefield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme for children leaving local authority care to improve their offer for housing and employment, including through priority support to achieve apprenticeships and into suitable accommodation.
York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting financial resilience and inclusion for people in those areas of the city ranked amongst the most deprived nationally. It will reduce the number of people using unlicensed/unregulated money lenders and high cost loans, in rent arrears or experiencing fuel poverty.
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering recommendations from the inclusive growth audit, undertaken in conjunction with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, to target all projects and working practices to better deliver inclusive growth.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5. Staffing Implications

5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

6. External Consultees

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That Panel Members note the achievements of the inclusive growth project and within each partner authority / the Combined Authority.

8 Background Documents

LEP Board report (23 November 2016)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority report (1 December 2016)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority report (3 August 2017)

LEP Board report (29 November 2017)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority report (14 December 2017)

LEP Board report (16 January 2018)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority report (1 February 2018)

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of achievements of the inclusive growth project