Skills and Employment Partnership

Date: Tuesday 23 January 2018

Subject: Work and Skills Highlight Report

Report of: Gemma Marsh, Assistant Director – Skills, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

OVERVIEW

This report provides a brief overview of progress in delivering the 10 priorities identified in the GM Work & Skills Strategy & Priorities 2016 - 2019.

For the purpose of this report the following RAG categories will be used
- Progressing to plan
- Progressing with some risks/issues identified
- Not progressing to plan

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Priority 1: Improving Careers Education, Information, Advice &amp; Guidance</strong></td>
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<td>Careers &amp; Participation Strategy</td>
<td>Careers &amp; Employability</td>
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<td>• The first meeting of the refreshed Careers and Employability Advisory Group took place in November and included representation from business, schools, colleges and local authorities across GM. A number of key priorities for action were identified including carrying out a gap analysis across GM and developing a set of metrics to measure success. The group will meet again at the end of January to further develop a plan for the next 12 months.</td>
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<td>• This work is closely aligned to that of the LEP schools task and finish group, chaired by Mo Isap and which has been established to focus on young people and their experiences of the world of work, and how employers can play a more active role in the curriculum to raise young people’s aspirations.</td>
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<td>• The DfE launched their Careers Strategy in December, and much of what is included in the Strategy reflects core elements and the overall direction of travel of GM’s own Careers and Participation Strategy. The CA will continue to work closely with partners to ensure successful implementation of the strategy.</td>
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<td>Technical Education Reforms</td>
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<td>• A two year pilot project is underway to support GM in preparing for the implementation of the Sainsbury Review and subsequent Post-16 Skills Plan. The CA and the Gatsby Foundation are working together with the ten GM GFE colleges to prepare for the introduction of the new technical education reforms/new technical education routes.</td>
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GM is one of three national pilot areas and significant progress has been made during the first 8 months of the project:

- Emsi have produced a report based on data provided by the colleges, to provide an analysis of current provision against technical requirements/fresh view on how we look at technical education requirements. This has been presented to GM Colleges Principals for discussion.
- The Digital Routeway has now been established as the first routes network, which includes key digital leads. A staff survey is currently being carried out to establish training needs and to inform overall GM and college specific workforce development plans.
- DfE has launched a consultation on the draft occupational maps which will help shape the way the new T level qualifications are governed. Each of the 15 occupational maps sets out the occupations within the routes defined in the government’s Skills Plan. GMCA are currently preparing a response to the consultation which closes on 25th January.
- In the coming months, a clear work plan will be developed under each of the five strands; data analysis, provider readiness, CEIAG, employer engagement, dissemination and advocacy. They will form part of the Post-16 skills plan and GM Industrial Strategy as they are developed.

NEET

- The CA has carried out a review into the progress being made to deliver the priorities outlined in the GM Careers and Participation Strategy, with a particular emphasis on the first priority which is focused on NEET reduction and positive progression through high quality participation.
- As part of this review, individual local authorities and relevant stakeholder groups have been consulted about their approaches to reducing NEET and Not Known and whether recent policy changes have changed the way they are choosing to track and prioritise support for certain groups of young people.
- A report outlining key findings and recommendations will be finalised at the end of January.

Bridge

- The new GM work and skills framework for careers will now be known as Bridge.
- The Bridge GM website has now been launched as the key tool to support the network, featuring welcome and introductions from Andy Burnham and Cllr Sean Anstee.
- A total of 77 schools GM schools and colleges are now signed up to the Enterprise Adviser Network.
- 60 potential Enterprise Advisers (EAs) have been recruited from local businesses. Employers recruited into the network come from a wide variety of businesses and groups including; Skanska, WSP Group, ANTZ Network, Law Society, KPMG, Media Clarity, Northcoders, Autotrader, The White Room, NHS, Barclays, Axon Resourcing, Andrew Brownsworth Hotels.
- Working with CIPD to support recruitment of EAs, currently in the process of finalising sign up of 5 potential EAs.
- 45 schools and 45 businesses have currently been matched to deliver the Careers and Enterprise Company’s Adviser Network; enabling business leaders to work strategically with schools and colleges to guide and influence the development and implementation of an effective and innovative careers and employer engagement plan.
Working with GMCA Core Investment Team to recruit an additional 10 EAs from their portfolio of businesses based in GM.

A large speed networking event will be held on 23rd January for 300 GM students and 150 GM business professionals from over 80 different organisations.

There are four Enterprise Coordinators (EC) facilitating four networks of schools and EAs. An additional EC is being recruited in partnership with the Manchester Growth Company. The funding arrangements are different for each EC but the governance is the same. There is a specific EC for Oldham as part of the Opportunity Area developments.

Both ESF NEET and CEIAG contracts are now reaching their final months of delivery. There is potential for a contract extension to July 2018 for both projects and negotiations are currently being led by the ESFA.

Performance has improved and various issues have been resolved following a re-profile. The performance process is being managed by the SFA with GMCA input.

Some concerns about how the contract is performing to achieve all progression targets.

Volumes have been re-profiled into the 2017/18 academic year following agreement between GM, ESFA and the provider.

Number of starts has improved after the re-profile but progressions are low on both the adult and young person elements of the contract. Some areas remain a challenge. However, there is some good examples of high performances in three or four areas.

Recovery plans have been submitted to improve performance.

Interim findings from two projects commissioned as part of the preparation for the devolved AEB were presented to the AEB Task Group recently ahead of final reporting. These projects, together with a data pack provided by the ESFA, will form the basis of the information needed to begin discussions with providers around future plans and to develop GM’s AEB funding policy, rules and guidance.

Following DfE’s decision in late Summer to defer full devolution of the AEB to the 2019/20 academic year due to time lost at a national level, it has been agreed that 2018/19 will see the AEB continuing to be administered by the ESFA but with GMCA having an opportunity to work with ESFA and with providers to influence the way in which allocations are used.

Development continues of GM’s Strategic Skills Plan, which will encompass the full post-16 skills and employment landscape, taking account of the requirements of the Industrial Strategy (Nov 2017), the Greater Manchester Strategy (Oct 2017) and refreshing the GM Work & Skills Strategy for 2016-19. It is envisaged that a draft GM Post-16 Strategic Skills Plan will be issued for consultation by February.

The November Budget and update to GM’s devolution deal included confirmation that GM will have one of the first wave of Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) as announced in the Government’s election manifesto earlier in 2017. We await details on the likely remit and composition of the SAP before the end of January and are making representations on
how we envisage the SAP fitting into GM’s governance and planning structures.

- Meetings and workshops have continued with DfE and other Combined Authority areas in specific areas of support including data and operational readiness. DfE envisages Orders being laid before Parliament for the transfer of a range of statutory functions from the Secretary of State to CAs before the 2018 summer recess.
- GMCA Officers continue to work to establish the appropriate financial, procurement, legal and contracting processes required.
- GMCA has joined a national working group reshaping the basic digital skills framework which will underpin the basic digital skills entitlement. By May the content of the entitlement will have been developed.

**Priority 3: Developing GM’s work & skills infrastructure to meet the needs of the economy**

**Implementation of Area Based Review**

- We continue to work with colleges around developing a post-16 system that works for all residents

**Priority 4: Improving attainment from compulsory education**

**Education & Employability Board**

- The Education and Employability Board met in December 2017 and is now undergoing a review of its roles and responsibilities against other governance structures and priorities in the GMS.

**Secondary School Performance**

- The CA research team have carried out a research piece into secondary school performance data, it compares school attainment and quality, as well as pupil demographics across Greater Manchester, to London and England. The research investigates the underlying reasons for particular groups of pupils attaining lower grades and recommends what stance should be taken by local policymakers to reduce variance and increase performance.
- The final report will be available from February 2018. Interim findings highlight the critical role of social disadvantage in restraining attainment. Disadvantage combined with fairly high proportions of under-performing schools is likely to explain why attainment in certain GM districts is significantly below national norms of educational outcomes. Policy interventions need to understand the needs of specific groups of pupils to lift performance overall, and explore how to drive existing education transformation initiatives to ensure the most effective results.
- The research will also draw on best practice and feedback from school representatives about how to improve the skills of pupils to extract any potential guidance for GM.

**Priority 5: Strengthening Employer Engagement**

**Employer Engagement Framework**

- After a thorough consultation with a wide range of partners five priorities were identified where it was felt commitment/engagement from employers is needed to ensure GM reaches its full potential.
- The five priorities agreed by leaders are; engage with schools and colleges, invest in workforce development, connect unemployed GM residents to job opportunities, healthy workplaces & social value. For each priority there is; an ask of business, a support offer from the GMCA and a role for the public sector to lead by example as a major employer.
- An action plan has been agreed by WLT detailing key actions, leads and timescales for the areas within each of the five priorities that leaders have agreed should be an immediate focus over the next 6 months.
The key priority for the next 6 months is developing and implementing a plan to simplify the interface between business and schools. Including; clearly articulating the ask of employers/education, defining a GM operating protocol for brokerage organisations ensuring all providers are operating collaboratively.

Discussions are taking place to look at the potential to have a single website providing employers with clear information on work and skills in GM.

There is now a website, Bridge GM, which will support employers and schools to be able to work together in five distinct ways (inspiration activity, mentoring, being a governor, being an enterprise adviser and experiences of the world of work. In addition there will information for school professionals to support their wider careers and employability work.

An important element of the framework above is the GM Mayor's manifesto commitment to develop and implement a 'Good GM Employers Charter'. The charter will be co-designed by employers (from the public, private & voluntary sector) and a wide range of stakeholder groups.

Activity to date has focused on three key areas; a) a review of charters and approaches to employer engagement that exist in each of the localities, b) drawing lessons from existing charters in GM and more widely, c) bringing together a group of employees, employers and local authorities to develop a consultation paper. This work will culminate in the publication of a consultation paper in early 2018.

After this initial consultation has gathered views on the potential content and operation of a charter, a draft charter will be developed in the spring.

The first commissioning round of the GM Public Sector Apprenticeship Provider DPS is now complete. Providers that have successfully bid to be included demonstrated a high quality of delivery and approach to learner management, an ability to add value to GM's Apprenticeship landscape, the collaborative public sector approach and social value and occupational competency in the lots bid for. It is likely that a second round of applications will be opened early in 2018; organisations which were unsuccessful in the first round will receive feedback on their application and it will be open to them to re-apply if they wish to do so.

Following the commissioning of a workforce planning review, an interim report has been received and is being considered. A final report is due in early 2018

Work continues to progress the public sector activity and GMCA officers are actively engaged with HR Directors across GM’s public sector and health and care organisations, as well as leading an operational group encompassing local authorities and blue light services. An integrated operational group with representatives from across those organisations meets to ensure a consistent approach and better collaboration across the public sector.

Funding has been approved by the HSCP Workforce Collaborative for a project manager to support the continued integration and collaboration of all activity across the public sector.

Discussions are ongoing around the development of some flagship apprenticeship programmes, including Adult and Social Care, Data Analyst, Early Years and Children's Services, Operational Delivery, and Health & Social Care Degree Manager.

A digital literacy programme – iDEA – has been identified and will be rolled out to public sector apprentices throughout the spring.
### GM Apprenticeship Hub / City Deal programmes

- The majority of City Deal projects have now completed.
- GMCA sits on Steering Groups to ensure alignment with all projects of strategic relevance.
- SEDA project - Stimulating Employer Demand for Apprenticeships
  - Supported 700 (up from 463) SMEs with workforce development plans to encourage apprenticeships (105 (up from) 55 Apprenticeship opportunities created to date)
  - Criteria for an apprentice employer quality mark have been drafted and piloted with 2 employers. In line with the development work around the Mayors Charter, consideration now needs to be given to how these criteria can be promoted across GM and the most appropriate mechanism for assessment. 282 new apprenticeship starts have been created to date
- Pathways to Productivity partnership (The Skills Company + 9 colleges) continues delivering CEIAG provision to FE learners to promote Apprenticeships as a post college option through the This is Me portal.
- #SeeDifferent Apprenticeship marketing and communications project has been extended to March 2018 with a focus on the website (www.theapprenticeshiphub.com) and social media activity. This is seeing good progress with increasing reach and online activity.

### GM Apprenticeship Strategy

- A visual resource with key messages is being developed to ensure all partners are connected with the strategy; it is envisaged that this is something providers may be able to use in their discussions with employers to ensure consistency.
- A plan is in development to support GM levy paying employers who are not large enough to receive the ESFA’s pro-active account management, including a large / levy paying employer forum to develop and implement key GM apprentice messages / values. This will link closely with GM’s employer engagement strategy.
- Discussions underway to identify how and what a UCAS style application process for apprentices will look like in GM.
- Work is underway to better understand the opportunities for people with EHCP’s or who may need additional support to move towards employment through supported/flexible apprenticeships with pilot activity anticipated in 2018.

### Apprenticeship Diversity Pilot

- GM is one of 5 areas selected by the DfE/ESFA in the autumn to take part in a pilot programme to promote diversity in Apprenticeships, particularly amongst people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, who remain disproportionally under-represented within the apprentice cohort compared to the general population.
- A core group of partners met in November for an initial scoping discussion as the shape of each pilot is to be determined locally. This was followed by a co-design workshop on 11 January with strong private sector employer representation to look how partners can contribute and take ownership of this activity.

### Apprentice Transport Offer

- The dual travel offer run in partnership with TfGM continues with 70 providers now signed up to take part in the pilot programme. Communications activities have taken place to raise the profile of the offer. To the end of December:
  - Free re-conditioned bike plus safety equipment and training for any apprentice; 155 applications have been received and 88 bikes distributed
### Priority 7: Developing higher level skills

#### Skills Capital

- £71m of Skills Capital funding was approved for GM (via Local Growth Fund 3 funding) and a call for Expressions of Interest was launched in September 2017
- 16 EoIs were received and a rigorous, transparent ‘Green Book’ appraisal and moderation process was completed by early November to ensure that the only projects taken forward to the next stage were those that offer value for money, return on investment and benefit to learners / economy.
- Following moderation of all the EoIs undertaken by Skills and Employment Team, Research Team and Core Investment Team
  - Two projects were recommended for approval to go ahead to Full Business Case in Round 1
    - Stockport/Trafford College merger - Stockport campus redevelopment
    - Tameside College - campus redevelopment. (already agreed in previous round)
  - A further four well developed projects were recommended to have a meeting with the CA to discuss collaboration, levels of funding and options for phasing projects, prior to progressing to Full Business Case either in Round 1 or Round 2
  - Five projects were recommended to undertake further development prior to potential submission in Round 2
  - The remaining five projects were rejected with feedback at this stage
- All applicants were offered feedback meetings
- These recommendations were endorsed by Wider leadership Team (17 Oct 2017), Chief Executives’ Investment Group (6 Nov 2017) and Strategic Leaders (14 Nov 2017)
- Following meetings with the CA it is anticipated that four projects will now proceed to Full Application in Round 1:
- Full Business Cases for Round 1 are to be submitted by 31 January 2018 with the exception of Stockport/Trafford merger which was accelerated to the end of December 2017 in order to align decisions with a separate

#### GM AGE

- The scheme has now closed and we are currently awaiting the final dataset from ESFA later in January to process the last applications. The final numbers and value of grants paid will be known in March.
- Over the 2 1/4 year lifespan of this grant programme over 4700 employers have been supported with grants to create 6095 apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities
- Evaluation is underway and will include comparison with AGE schemes delivered by other devolved areas.

#### Youth Programmes

- GM Talent Match continuing to deliver and achieve targets – more than 430 young people in total entered work to the end of September from a cohort of more than 1,760 beneficiaries being supported by the programme, with 190 sustaining employment for at least 6 months. The Talent Match Partnership continues considering legacy proposals for the project.
application Stockport College has made to the ESFA’s Transaction Unit to support wider financial restructuring of the college.

- The appraisal and moderation process applied to Full Business Cases builds on the one followed for EoIs and draws on the technical experience of TfGM and the CA Core Investment Team in managing the Local Growth Fund. This includes
  - Appraisal against all five cases of the Treasury Green book. (Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Financial and Management)
  - Expertise from across the CA and TfGM including (Skills and Employment team (Assistant Director of Skills (Policy, Strategy & Delivery), Research team (Principal - Evaluation and Use Cases, Policy and Strategy) and Core Investment team (Transaction Manager, & Programme Manager))
  - External independent appraisal for large scale proposals (Those in excess of £5m). In the case of Stockport/Trafford this has been undertaken by Jacobs, arranged through TfGM
  - Recommendations will then be made to Wider Leadership Team, Chief Executives Investment Group and Strategic Leaders prior to final decision by the LEP & CA (Expected March 2018 except in the case of Stockport/Trafford)

- Round 2 will be launched for Expressions of Interest in January/February 2018 with an initial deadline in March/early April. Full Business Cases for successful applicants will need to be prepared for summer 2018 (dates still to be confirmed) with a view to final decision from the LEP & CA by September 2018.

- Work is ongoing between the CA Skills and Employment Team (who have ultimate oversight of the Skills Capital programme), Core Investment team and TfGM to develop robust project management arrangements, including roles and responsibilities for oversight of the delivery of the individual projects.

**Digital Skills**

- Following Digital Summit 2.0 action plans for talent & skills and inclusion have been developed by the working groups with activity aligned to the themes of the GM Digital Skills Programme. Each of the action plans will go to the GM Digital Steering Group & GMCA in February. There are four recommendations; develop pathways from education to industry, digital skills through informal learning, a recyclable fund to support upskilling/reskilling and a transformational digital inclusion programme.

- The next step is to work with stakeholders to develop each of the strands of activity and start commissioning in the first quarter of 2018.

**GM Institute of Technology**

- The call for Stage 1 Proposals (as part of a two-stage application process) for the development of an Institute of Technology was launched on 15th Dec 2017 with a deadline of 1st March 2018.

- The core aim of the IoT programme is to achieve a step-change in the provision of higher-level technical education in England. This will be through the delivery of high quality applied training and teaching at new, innovative and prestigious institutions, providing the higher level technical skills that employers need.

- GMCA has been working with partners (including FE, HEI’s and private sector businesses) to explore potential options for a GM IoT and will be submitting a Stage 1 application.

**Priority 8: Redesigning universal support provision**

**Integrated Hubs**

DWP released new details of its GM estates plan in early July, which includes 7 full service co-location opportunities, which is an increase from 2
opportunities earlier in the year. These will now be worked up by relevant Local Authorities, GMCA, JCP and DWP.

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<th>JCP Integration</th>
<th>13 universal support GM joint-working opportunities are now operating across the region and opportunities to enhance them are being developed.</th>
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<td>JCP Community Partners have now been recruited, primarily from the Third Sector, who are providing a key brokerage role between local authorities, local services and JCP, as well as capacity building and awareness raising, particularly in relation to work and health.</td>
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<td>Following lobbying by a range of bodies, including GM, a number of revisions were made to the implementation of Universal Credit in the Autumn Budget. However, significant confusion and concerns remain regarding its implementation and local impact. In order to support this work, a number of actions are now being undertaken, including:</td>
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<td>- District awareness raising sessions with JCP and partners on the implementation of UC, key timelines and myth-busting.</td>
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<td>- Analyzing key impacts in GM, including housing.</td>
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<td>- Linking employment &amp; skills support discussions with district revenues and benefits.</td>
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<td>- Identifying areas for collaboration with JCP to maximize the opportunities of UC roll-out.</td>
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<td>Identifying areas of policy and implementation concern on which to focus lobbying with DWP.</td>
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**Priority 9: Developing specialist support for heard to reach groups**

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<th>WW Pilot &amp; Expansion</th>
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<td><strong>Referrals</strong></td>
<td>Referrals have now ceased to the WW expansion. Referral numbers reached 18,929 by the end of November 2017, against a forecast of 19,164 (-236, 99% of forecast). Included within this number is 400 referrals made by GPs.</td>
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<td><strong>Attachments</strong></td>
<td>WW is a primarily voluntary programme and currently 62% (11,434/18,323) of clients referred by the end of October have taken up the offer of support. The forecast target for the programme is 70%. Therefore, the attachment rate is currently 89% against target, demonstrating small improvement over a number of months.</td>
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<td><strong>Early Leavers</strong></td>
<td>To date, 1,455 people have been exited early from the Pilot by JCP without having completed their 2 years’ support, primarily as a result of benefit reassessment. When looking at quarterly attachment cohorts, on average almost 30% of those attaching are being exited early from the programme. On the Expansion there have been 3,622 leavers. The main reasons for leaving include no longer wanting to remain on programme, termination of claim to benefit and moving out of GM.</td>
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<td><strong>Job Starts</strong></td>
<td>WW has consistently met the ambitious 20% in work target agreed with DWP and HMT, and performance has improved as the programme has embedded. The programme is currently operating at 10% above expectations, having supported 2,372 people into work since 2014. In recent months the programme has achieved an average of 170 job starts per month, exceeding the expected 120 job starts per month.</td>
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The programme is proving especially beneficial for Lone Parents, having already achieved the 20% job outcomes target, despite the vast majority of referrals still having between 3-24 months left on programme.

**Sustained Jobs**

Of the 2,372 people who have started work since 2014, 1,858 (78%) are still in work with 561 having sustained employment for at least a year.

**Mental Health & Employment Trailblazer**

1,597 people have been referred to Talking Therapies with 76% taking up support. Of the 1,206 people that have entered treatment: 440 have received High Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), 1,124 have received Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), 6 have received Interpersonal psychotherapy (IPT), 1 has received Couple Therapy for Depression, 1 has received Counselling for Depression.

35% of people are now in recovery following treatment and 58% have shown reliable improvement.

**Working Well (Work & Health Programme)**

**Procurement**

The procurement process for the £52m programme to support 22,500 people is now complete. Following a multistage Competitive Dialogue process InWorkGM (a partnership between current Working Well providers Ingeus and the Growth Company) has been identified as the winning bidder and contracted to delivery employment outcomes for at least 46% of participating clients.

Following a successful procurement process, GM have also identified a successful evaluation partner for the programme (SQW) who are currently establishing the programmes performance and evaluation framework.

GM has successfully been though the DWP Programme board assurance process achieving a ‘green light’ on all measures ensuring that grant funding will be available for go live.

**Implementation**

The Programme is now in an intensive programme implementation period whereby teams are being established and processes finalised in time for the commencement of referrals on the 29th January 2018. In line with GM’s tracker tools the programmes implementation is on track in all identified areas.

A communication event will be held on the 24th of January to publically launch the programme. The event will be attended by existing Working Well Clients, the GM Mayor, GM Portfolio Leader, the Minister of State for Employment and Disability alongside various press representatives.

**Working Well (Early Help)**

**Programme design**

A joint team has been established of officers from GMCA and Health & Social Care Partnership to develop transformational actions, taking a whole population approach, to address worklessness, poor health and low productivity. The programme of work will build on the Working Well brand, and the first priority piece of work is the development of ‘GM Working Well - Early Help’ programme – to design and test an early intervention service to people with health conditions, who are at risk of falling out employment, or are newly unemployed.

The development of Early Help is at an advanced stage with the procurement of a service provider to commence in March 2018, with the programme starting in early 2019. It is anticipated that the programme will be jointly funded by the DoH/DWP Joint Work & Health Unit, GM Health & Social Care
The programme will deliver the following principles:

- An effective early intervention system available to all GM residents in work who become ill and risk falling out of the labour market, or are newly unemployed due to health issues.
- Better support for the diverse range of people who are long-term economically inactive to prepare for, find and keep work.

Development to enable GM employers to provide ‘good work’, and for people to stay healthy and productive in work.

Evaluation
An evaluation design team has been formed comprising staff from GMCA, Manchester Metropolitan University, Learning & Work Institute and Joint Work & Health Unit. Funding for evaluation design has been provided by the Joint Unit.

Working Well (Care & Support)

Learning Disabilities
A programme of work is in development between GMCA and H&SCP to establish a coherent and robust pathway for people with learning disabilities from education into supported internships, traineeships, apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

A review of the current support landscape for people with learning disabilities; options for a whole system GM response and opportunities for the public sector to lead by example will be completed by April 2018.

Over 50’s

Economy & Work
A significant amount of work is underway testing new approaches to supporting older workers and developing policy options for both national and regional government.

In terms of specific activities:

- LWI and CLES have undertaken research into best practice in employment and skills support for older people.
- A market research company has undertaken a survey of over 1000 workers in SMEs regarding workplace well-being.
- A ‘Talent Match’ style programme for older carers will shortly be commissioned by GMCVO under its Ambition for Ageing agenda.
- An employers’ summit was held by Centre for Ageing Better in Manchester in November.
- A GM approach to apprenticeships for older people is in development.
- Following discussions between GMCA and HMT, the Autumn Budget contained a commitment to explore a new approach to employment support: Government and Greater Manchester will work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and local Jobcentre managers to explore opportunities to improve employment support for older people, including consideration of a locally tailored offer targeted at the over 50s. This is now being progressed through the GM Ageing Hub.

Skills for Employment Pilot Programme
- The ESF phase of the SIE Contract has now been formally extended from January to July 2018 to enable all possible outcomes to be achieved. To the end of December nearly 7,600 individuals have been supported with 625 sustaining employment for more than three months (contract target of 1889). In addition a further 1311 have achieved a fully accredited...
qualification (contract target of 1874). The Local Growth Fund phase is now underway and GM continues to work with the ESFA to ensure the programme is fit for purpose and meets / exceeds contractual targets.