

# Oldham's credit crunch war cabinet

**Monthly update**

April 2009



# 1 Credit crunch war cabinet monthly report






Welcome to the second monthly update from Oldham’s credit crunch war cabinet (CCWC). This update is published after each of the war cabinet’s monthly meetings and will give you a clear picture of the current economic situation – positives and negatives – in the borough. It will help the partnership to examine trends, and anticipate the need for preventative action, and will help partners to identify any adjustments they might need to make to their mainstream services.

## 2 Current data

A piece of positive news to begin with: Figures for the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) were released last month. They show that the number of NEET young people in Oldham has fallen by 7% over the last year.

The number of people getting jobs and therefore coming off Jobseekers’ Allowance (referred to as ‘off flow’) is very similar to this time last year. There are more people coming onto Jobseekers’ Allowance (‘on flow’) this year but it’s encouraging that the majority of people in Oldham seem to claim for just a short period of time before re-entering employment. The number of people in Oldham on Jobseekers’ Allowance for longer than two years has stayed the same (15).

Dashboard Indicator	Baseline January 08 (unless stated)	Latest performance data 2008-09		Trend	Rank in Greater Manchester
		Data	Date		
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count	3,899	6449	Feb 09		6 out of 10, where 1 is highest no. of claimants
JSA Claimant Rate (proportion of working age population)	2.9%	4.9%	Feb 09		3 out of 10, where 1 is the highest rate

Number of people coming off JSA	706	1367	Feb 09		5 out of 10, where 1 is the highest off flow
Number of people coming on to JSA	1048	2176	Feb 09		6 out of 10, where 1 is the highest on flow
Jobcentre Plus vacancies	1431 (February 08)	704	Feb 09		9 out of 10, where 1 is the highest no. of vacancies
Business Rateable Values	£136.4m	£134.7m	Jan 09		9 out of 10
Number of commercial properties	7,124	7,108	Jan 09		Not Applicable

- Jobseekers Allowance figures by ward were discussed. It was noted that the claimant count is creeping upwards in wards that aren't the most deprived in Oldham.
- Jobcentre Plus is undertaking large-scale recruitment across the region to enable to it to continue to help people within its target times; Nationally, the Department for Work and Pensions has appointed British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) as the provider of volunteering opportunities for customers unemployed for 6 months.
- House prices have fallen for all types of property but certainly not as much as in other parts of the country. The average price dropped 3% from October to December 2008, in comparison with January to March 2008. The number of sales dropped by 50% in the same period.
- The council are working closely with two local organisations that may need to make workers redundant or put them on shorter hours, and are aware of a third organisation where this may also be the case.
- 123 people are currently on a programme to enable them to get jobs at the town's new Tesco on Huddersfield Road. They graduated from the programme on 17/4/09.

If you would like any more detail relating to the above information, please contact [credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:credit.crunch@oldham.gov.uk)

### 3 Key outcomes

- The war cabinet agreed to do more work on a business case to support and encourage volunteering locally. Several different groups are currently looking at increasing levels of volunteering, so we will bring this work together into one coordinated project that will complement Jobcentre Plus's new national contract. This will be in place by summer.
- A business case will be prepared for the next meeting about communicating the services and help available to residents and businesses; this will include advice roadshows at companies making redundancies or asking employees to work fewer hours.
- The war cabinet heard that interviews will be held for two new Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) staff (who will be funded through the cabinet's rapid intervention fund) over the next fortnight. Extra staff will enable CAB's services to be taken into workplaces.

### 4 Next meeting

The CCWC will meet again on 8 May to discuss volunteering and communications.

### 5 Contact us

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