

## People & Communities

### Summary

#### **Population**

- Dudley Borough has an estimated total population of 306,600 people (2009 mid-year estimates); 183,300 people are of working age (aged 16-59 females and 16-64 males).
- By 2033, the population of Dudley Borough is projected to increase to 328,900 people; an increase of 7.1% from 2009.
- The Borough's working age population is projected to decrease over the same period by 2.8% to 177,900 people, whilst the population of pension age people will increase by 37.6% by 2033.
- It is estimated that those of pension age will account for 27.6% of the Borough's population in 2033 compared with 21.5% in 2009.

#### **Employment**

- The employment rate for working age residents is 68.2% (Jan-Dec 09); above the rate for the Black Country (63.4%) and equal to the rate for the West Midlands.
- Residents employed in manager and senior official roles account for the largest proportion of those in employment, followed by those employed in associate professional and technical roles (14.1%).
- The public administration, education and health sector accounted for 32.4% of residents' employment; higher than regional and national averages. Employment in the distribution, hotels and restaurants sector accounted for 18.2% of residents' employment. Employment in manufacturing decreased from 18.3% in 2005 to 15.9% in 2009.
- The self employment rate is 7.1% of the Borough's working age population compared with 8.2% for the West Midlands and 9.2% for England.

#### **Unemployment and Worklessness**

- In August 2010, there were 9,474 people in the Borough in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA); equating to 4.9% of the working age population. The JSA rate was higher than the regional rate (4.6%) and the national rate (3.5%). The Borough has the lowest JSA rate of the 4 Black Country local authority areas.
- The highest proportion of JSA claimants in the Borough are aged 18 to 24 (30%), followed by those aged 45-59 (24%). 44% of all JSA claimants have been claiming for longer than 6 months whilst 25.5% have been claiming for longer than 12 months.
- From January to December 2009, 23.7% of working age residents in the Borough were economically inactive; lower than the rate for the West Midlands (24.6%) and slightly higher than the England rate (23.1%). Of those in the Borough classified as economically inactive, 12.6% wanted a job compared with 22.5% for the West Midlands region.
- In February 2010, 17.8% of the Borough's working age population were in receipt of working age benefits compared with 17.1% for the West Midlands and 14.7% in England.
- Those claiming out of work benefits (IB/ESA, JSA, IS and other income related benefits) account for almost 15% of Dudley Borough's working age population (28,770 people). ESA and IB account for 45% of all out of work benefit claimants in the Borough whilst JSA accounts for 37.3%.
- Significantly, almost 32% of all out of work benefit claimants have been claiming for longer than 5 years.

#### **Skills**

- 17% of the Borough's working age population have no formal qualifications, higher than regional and national averages.
- 60.5% of the working age population are qualified to at least Level 2, 41% are qualified to at least Level 3 and 21.8% qualified to Level 4 or higher.

#### **Young People**

- In 2010, 56.4% of pupils in Dudley Borough achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSE grades including English and Maths; higher than the average for the West Midlands region (54.2%) and the England average (53.4%).
- In 2009, 4.9% of 16-18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- The proportion of JSA claimants aged 18-24 in the Borough is higher than the Black Country, West Midlands region and national averages.