

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Cabinet**

**28 October 2015**

**Ambition Sheffield City Region Update**

**Report No GBXR/15/15-16/AWC/JW of Councillor G Baxter MBE, Leader & Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Building a Better Council**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To provide an update for Cabinet on the Ambition SCR Programme.
- To request that Cabinet note the progress made to date.

**1 Report Details**

- 1.1 Ambition SCR is a 2 year pilot employment support programme for 18 – 24 year old Job Seekers Allowance claimants from day one of unemployment and started local delivery in January 2015. All referrals are via the Department of Work and Pensions. This pilot programme is funded via monies obtained through the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership from the Youth Contract Underspend. NEDDC are accountable body for the sub-region local authorities and are delivering the programme on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council, Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council.
- 1.2 The programme is being delivered via intensive 1-1 support, individually tailored employability and skills training, work placements, in work support and support with progression. There is a team of a Team Leader, 4 x Key Workers, a Financial and Debt Adviser and a Health Support Adviser. The Financial and Debt Adviser has however now successfully applied for a vacant Key Worker post which leaves the post of Financial and Debt Adviser vacant (please see HR implications). The team provides a holistic service for residents in supporting them into employment. Additional housing support has also been enabled through a successful DCLG Help for Single Homeless bid. A Project Coordinator and a Housing Support Worker will cover North East Derbyshire, Chesterfield, Bolsover and Derbyshire Dales to coordinate a pathways approach to housing for young people. Housing units will be identified for young people, including shared accommodation and links into the existing Private Rented Access Scheme.

- 1.3 Details of the Sheffield City Region Ambition performance to date can be seen in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.4 A communications protocol has been developed to ensure that any promotional materials, publicity and press releases are co-ordinated by NEDDC and involves partners.
- 1.5 Regular meetings are taking place with individual authorities to provide an update and ensure that any local issues are dealt with quickly. Partners have said that they are finding these meetings useful and informative and they are pleased with the progress being made.
- 1.6 An Ambition Partnership Group is being formed and the first meeting is taking place in October 2015. This is being formed with member and officer representation from each of the five local authority areas and this Group will meet bi-annually. The purpose of this group will be to provide strategic overview to the programme.
- 1.7 Regular meetings are taking place with Sheffield City Council who are the accountable body for the SCR. A NEDDC Sub Regional performance update can be seen in **Appendix 2**. Sheffield City Region has noted the good performance locally of the East Midlands region.
- 1.8 Hardwick CCG have offered to facilitate funded mental health awareness training for the team and this is being developed.
- 1.9 Additional funding of £10,000 has been secured through Public Health's Housing and Health pot and this is being utilised to provide accredited mediation training for both Ambition employment and housing teams. Mediation will be utilised to either support young people to stay at home where appropriate or to improve family relations in order to assist with a planned move to their own accommodation.
- 1.10 Back to Work bonuses are being paid to young people to a total of £500 (3 staggered payments) when they have sustained employment for 26 weeks. Young people will be expected to open credit union accounts where these payments will be made to. NEDDC now have a corporate account with both Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union and Two Shires Credit Union where payments to young people will be transferred from.
- 1.11 An external interim evaluation is to take place in November 2015.
- 1.12 A further update will be provided to Cabinet in March 2016

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the progress being made to date by the Ambition Programme

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 These were identified in the Cabinet report September 2014.

#### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 Not applicable as this a performance update on an existing project.

#### **5 Implications**

##### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

5.1 This is a high level, high value project that is being managed by NEDDC. The corporate project management approach is used to effectively manage the project, including finances and risks. The project management document is updated on a monthly basis.

##### **Financial position**

The project value over the two years is worth: £728,697.93. The profile of the project as at September 2015 is £225,111.22 and the actual spend of the project is £169,575.86. There is a current underspend of £55,535.36.

As this funding is for the pilot programme, when representation takes place at the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, leaders may wish to request that additional funding is secured to continue with the programme. Current work is taking place with officers to develop a Progress to Work programme which will extend this support to ESA claimants. This intervention will support this work to make the Progress to Work programme possible.

##### **Risk**

The risks are reviewed and updated monthly as part of the project management and the last review was at September 2015. The current live risks, with comments, are:

1. Insufficient number of referrals. This is an open risk but has not been an issue due to close partnership working with the DWP and regular welcome sessions which are held in each job centre, generating new referrals.
2. A team with insufficient skills and abilities to deliver the project. This is an open risk but the teams skills and abilities are monitored and updated where necessary.
3. Insufficient number of employers in each area. - Regular progress meetings are held with each local authority partners for suggestions on employers in their area to approach, helping mitigate this risk.
4. Barriers to employment, including travel. This is being monitored and is not affecting performance to date.
5. Inadequate additional support available for young people outside of the Programme. This is an open risk however has not been an issue to date.
6. Financial and other NEDDC procedures not being followed. This is a risk and so is monitored monthly, with audits taking place on an ad hoc basis, as instriced by the project board.

7. Contract Option for the SCR to end project in January/February 2016 due to poor performance. This will be resolved when Sheffield City Council evaluate progress of each local authority area as further grant money will be released, but this is a low risk as the project is performing well.
8. Targets achieved ahead of the project timescale. This is an open risk and will be reviewed as and when this happens.
9. Monies not spent at the end of the project. This is mitigated via tight financial control of the project.

## **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

5.2 These were identified in the Cabinet report September 2014.

## **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

5.3 As the Financial and Debt Adviser has successfully applied for a vacant Key Worker post this leaves his original post vacant. The Financial and Debt Adviser will still provide this support re money to clients and hold a reduced client caseload. This position will therefore remain vacant and will be reviewed in six months.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 That Cabinet note the progress to date.

## **7 Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	Unlocking growth potential

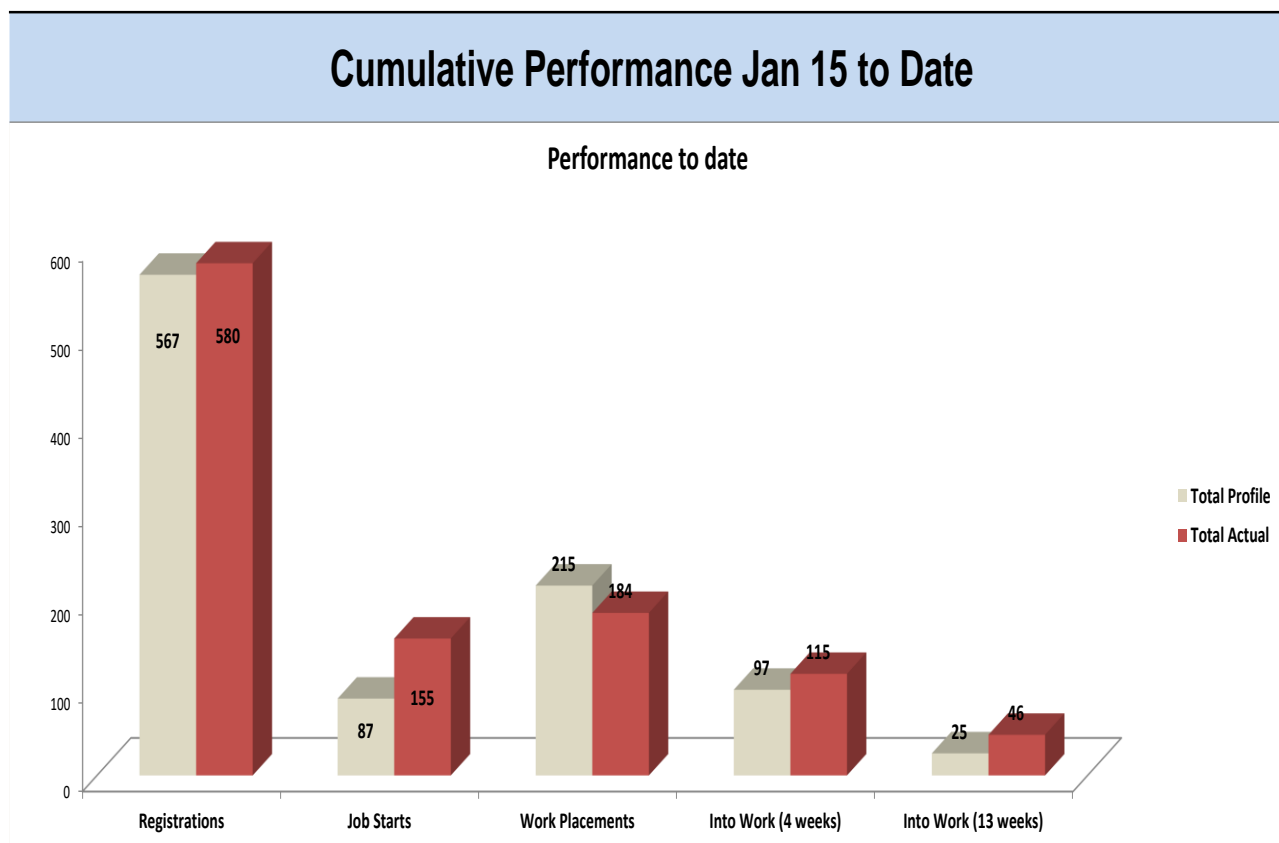
**8 Document Information**

Appendix No	Title
1 2	Key Performance Indicators and outputs Progress charts
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Cabinet report, 19/3/14 Delegated decision, dd/041/14/JW Cabinet report, Sept 2014	
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AGIN 5(a) (CAB 1028) Ambition SCR Update/AJD

## Appendix 1

### Performance update on Ambition across the City Region to Sept 2015.



	<i>Registrations</i>	<i>Job Starts</i>	<i>Work Placements</i>	<i>Into Work 4 weeks</i>	<i>Into Work 13 weeks</i>
Rotherham	53	18	21	14	7
<b>Sheffield</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>
East Mids	177	47	55	36	10
<b>Doncaster</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>
Barnsley	49	21	4	20	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>46</b>

Performance for the Ambition programme to date is above profile in all areas apart from work placements, which is slightly down on profile.

The number of people that have moved into employment and above profile.

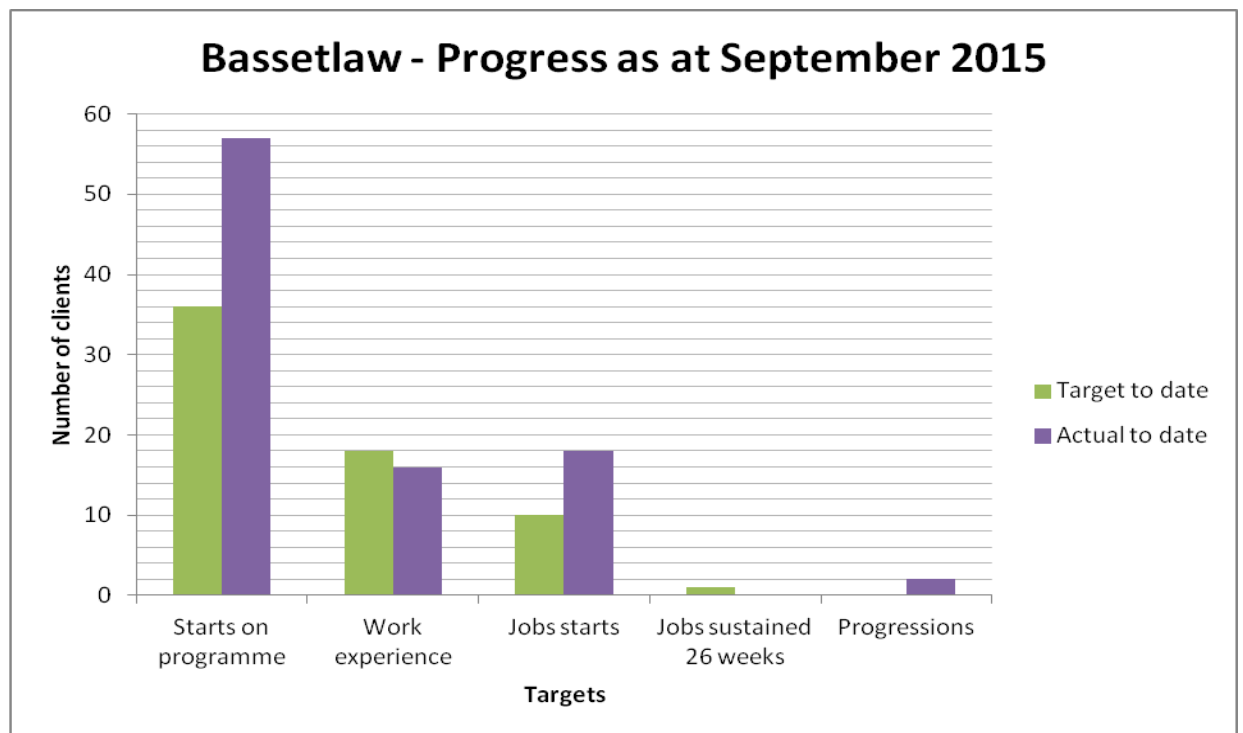
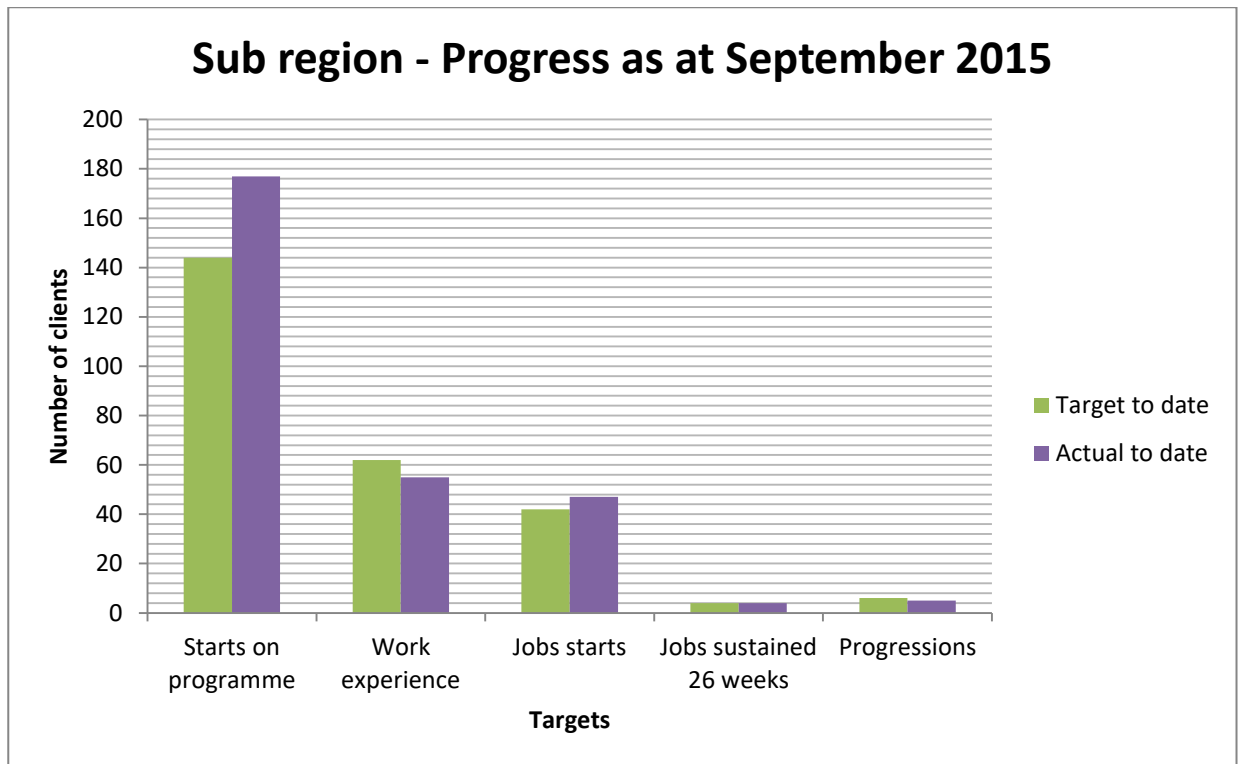
- 155 young people have moved into work
- 115 have remained in work for at least 4 weeks
- 184 Work Experience placements

*Ref: Data Source for page 7: Presentation by Eve Waite. Head of Employment & Skills. Sheffield City Council. Sept 2015.*

## Appendix 2

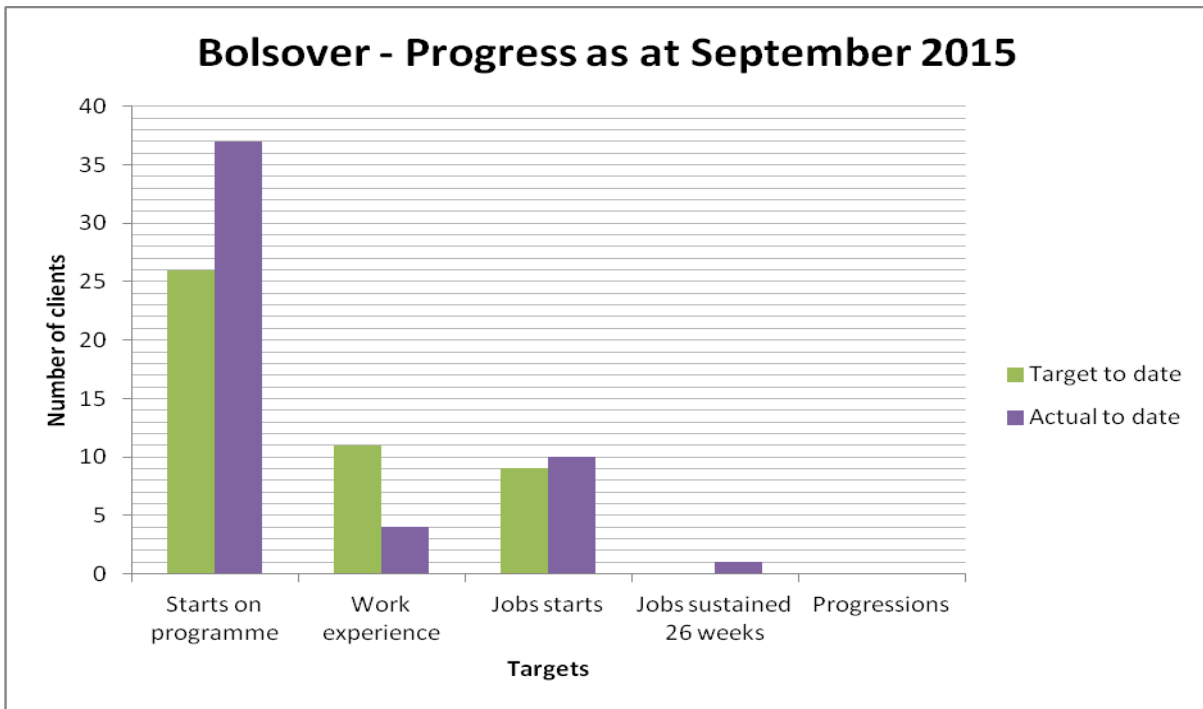
Sub Regional Performance (East Midlands) Update.

*The performance below relates to the NEDDC run Ambition project*



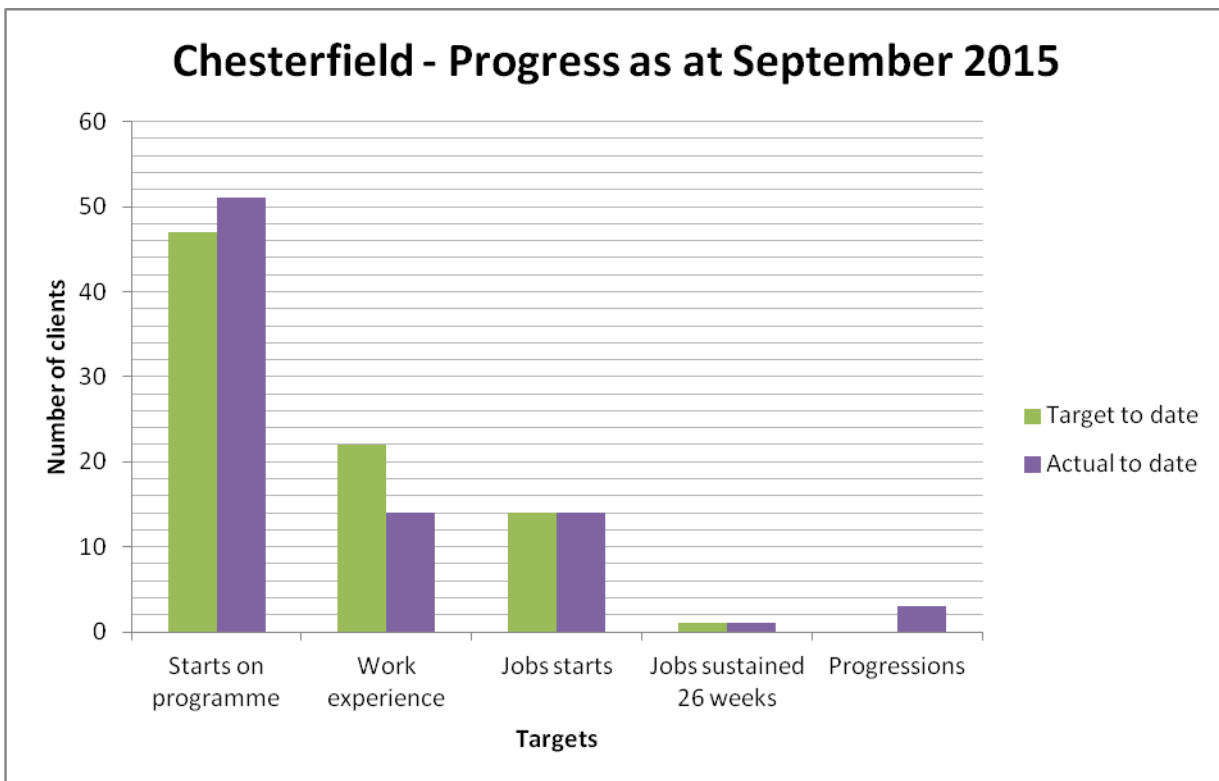
Note: There are no actual jobs sustained for Bassetlaw as at September 2015.

The target for progressions for Bassetlaw is 0.



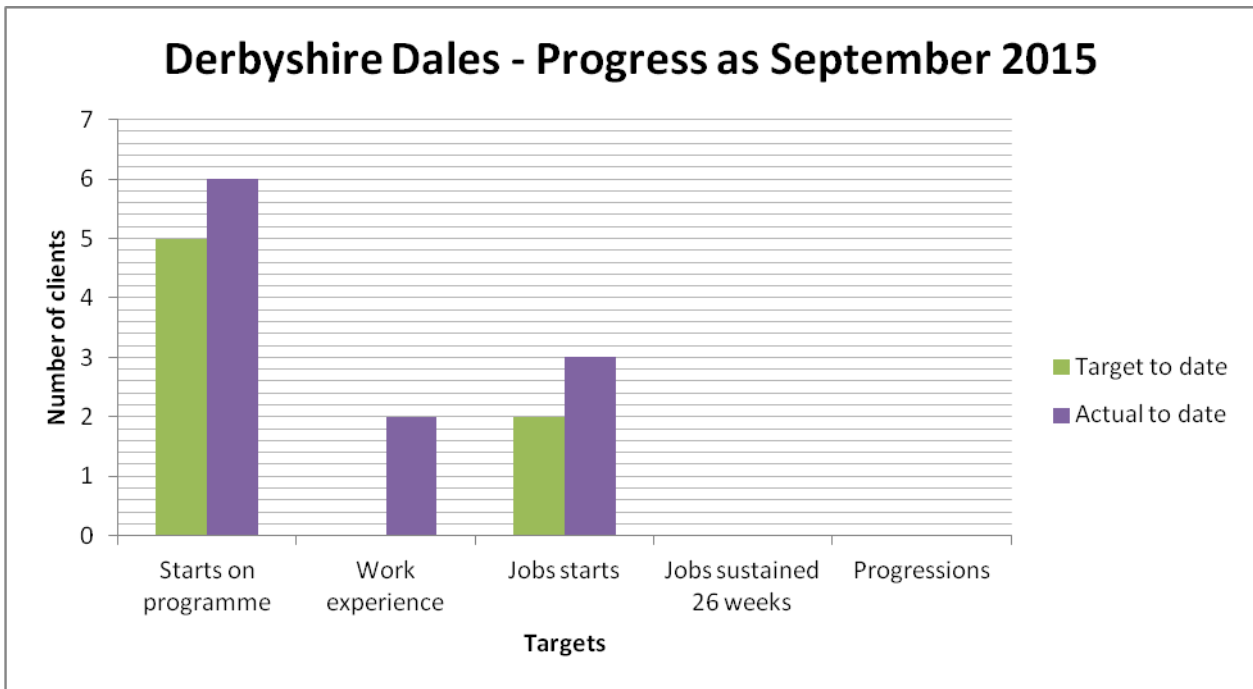
Note: The target for jobs sustained at 26 weeks for Bolsover is 0.

The target and actual for progressions for Bolsover is 0.



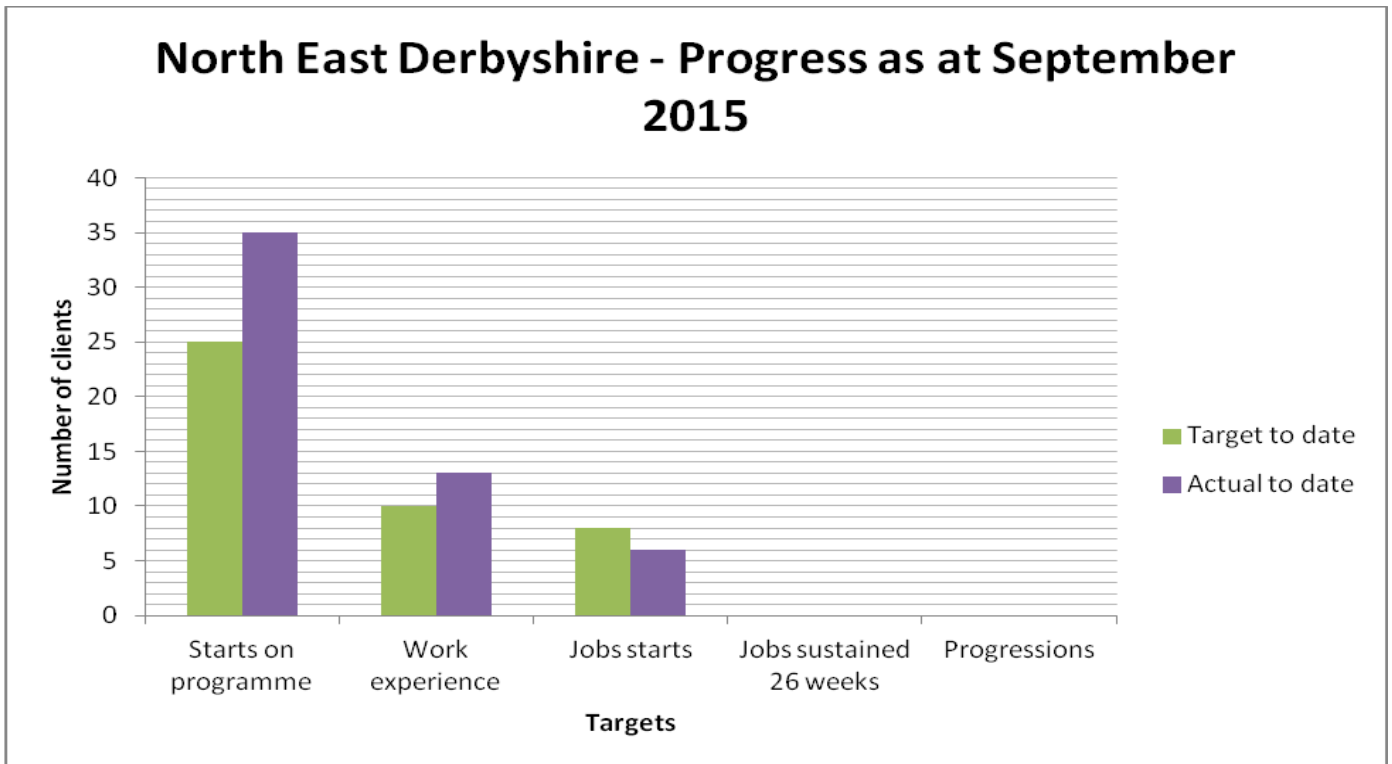
Note: The target for progressions for Chesterfield is 0.





Note: The target and actual for jobs sustained at 26 weeks for Derbyshire Dales is 0.

The target and actual for progressions for Derbyshire Dales is 0.



Note: The target and actual for jobs sustained at 26 weeks for North East Derbyshire is 0.

The target and actual for progressions for North East Derbyshire is 0.