



Coventry Partnership Household Survey 2007

SCS Theme Group Report – Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment

April 2008

FINAL Report



Contents

	Page(s)
Position Statement – Key Point Summary	3-4
Summary of evidence on key issues	
1. Learning and Training	5-9
2. Jobs and the Local Economy	10-14

Position Statement – Key Point Summary

- ◆ Approaching two-thirds (64%) of working age respondents say they have undertaken some form of learning or training since leaving school. This is some 12% lower in priority neighbourhoods (57%) than in the rest of city (69%). Younger respondents are more likely to have taken part than older respondents.
- ◆ The headline figure appears to have fallen by 7% since the 2006 survey, although the tracking data on this indicator have proved highly volatile; no clear long term trend is evident.
- ◆ The relative popularity of the types and purposes of courses and training undertaken does not differ much between priority neighbourhood and rest of city. Most prominent are 'taught courses designed for use in a job' closely followed by 'taught courses to gain a qualification'. This is followed by 'learning on one's own' and 'attending evening classes'. A higher proportion of respondents in priority neighbourhoods have undertaken none of the training or learning options.
- ◆ The biggest barriers given for not taking up learning or training are 'can't afford the time' (15% priority neighbourhood, 11% rest of city), followed by 'caring responsibilities (9% priority neighbourhood, 5% rest of city) and being too expensive (3% priority neighbourhood, 6% rest of city). Illness /disability and lack of awareness were also factors for around 4% across the city. Two-thirds across the city (equally between priority neighbourhood and rest of city) give no particular barrier.
- ◆ On average two-thirds (66%) have some form of academic qualification – this ranges from 60% in priority neighbourhoods to 71% in the rest of city.
- ◆ Exactly two-thirds (67%) of working age respondents in the survey were in employment (49% in full time employment, 14% part time and 4% self-employed), the headline rate ranging from 63% employed in priority neighbourhoods to 70% employed in the rest of city. This compares favourably with actual employment rate of 72.4% for the city (Nov 2007)
- ◆ Although marginally lower than in the previous year, the general trend over the five surveys has been for this figure to increase, specifically in priority neighbourhood where the percentage of survey respondents in work has risen from 49% in 2003 to 63% in 2007. Correspondingly, the economically inactive proportion of survey participants has gone down in priority neighbourhoods from 37% in 2003 to 30% in 2007. This is now not significantly higher than the 27% economically inactive in the rest of city.
- ◆ In priority neighbourhoods however, 7% were unemployed actively seeking work, compared to 3% in the rest of city. The rates are highest amongst those respondents aged under 35. The sample of respondents contains a representative sample of unemployment residents, as official statistics indicate a 5% unemployment rate for Coventry (5%).
- ◆ In priority neighbourhoods 9% of working age people are at home not seeking work and a further 6% are long term sick or disabled. In the rest of city the corresponding figures are 6% and 3% respectively.
- ◆ For respondents of working age and not seeking work, the biggest barrier is having child care responsibilities (19%, a figure identical in priority neighbourhoods and the rest of city).
- ◆ A lack of available suitable jobs is quoted by exactly the same proportion (19%) in priority neighbourhoods, but for the rest of city this barrier falls to 8%. The theme group felt it would be important to explore this further and identify what jobs people do want to go into, as often this is an excuse not confirmed by any evidence – an issue

of perception? Other barriers are not having the right skills, experience or qualifications (8% in priority neighbourhoods, 1% in rest of city), and illness or infirmity (14% in priority neighbourhoods, 9% in rest of city). No respondents felt their ethnic origin was a barrier, neither did any respondents quote problems with, or lack of transport.

- ◆ One respondent in 6 (16%) say there is no-one in their household earning an income. This rises to 21% in priority neighbourhoods and falls to 12% in rest of city.
- ◆ By contrast, over half on average (53%) of respondents live in a household where at least two people earn an income. This is lower in priority neighbourhoods (43%) and higher in the rest of city (60%).
- ◆ Representatives of the theme group highlighted the need to further assess the results in light of employers views and needs. There is a need for a city-wide employer engagement strategy to review continuity and why so many people aren't completing training programmes.
- ◆ It was highlighted that there is a mis-match between peoples needs and what agencies can deliver and more in-depth work is required to explore this further.
- ◆ Representatives of the theme group noted that many of the results reflect perceptions people have about jobs and training and what is available rather than what actually is. More should be done to promote services themselves rather than schemes, which are numerous and can be confusing to both employers and employees.

Summary of evidence on key issues

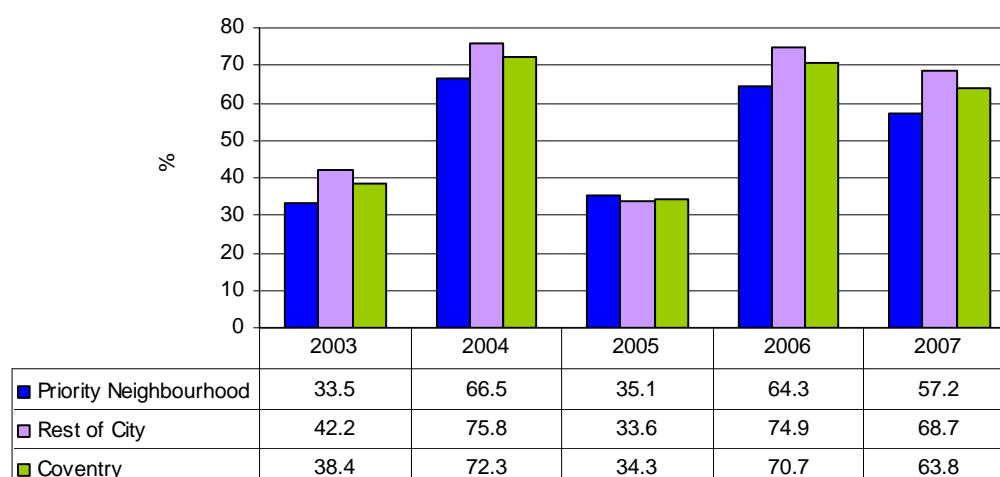
1. Learning and Training

All data presented in the Learning and Training section is based on working age population (16-64)

64% of 16-64 year olds have undertaken some form of learning activity since leaving school. Respondents living in the rest of the city are more likely than those living in priority neighbourhoods to have undertaken learning activity (69% and 57% respectively). Since 2003 the percentage of respondents undertaking learning activities appear to have fluctuated, participation in learning activities was lowest in 2003 and 2005 and highest in 2004. Comparing results from 2004, 2006 and 2007 shows a decline in participation in learning activities.

Please note a change in the way the question was worded in 2004. In 2003 respondents were asked to say whether or not they had undertaken learning activities, whereas from 2004 onwards respondents were asked to specify which learning activities they had undertaken, with an option to chose 'none' if they hadn't participated in any.

Figure 1. Percentage of respondents aged 16-64 who have undertaken learning activity since leaving school



Interestingly, 40% of respondents over the age of 64 have also undertaken some learning activities since leaving school. The percentage of participants is much higher in the rest of the city than it is in priority neighbourhoods (51% and 19% respectively).

The most popular type of learning activities that respondents aged 16-64 have undertaken since leaving school are courses to help develop skills for use in a job (39%), followed by taught courses which lead to a qualification (37%). In all cases, respondents living in the rest of the city are more likely to have undertaken learning activities than respondents living in priority neighbourhoods. The biggest difference of 11% is between those respondents living in the rest of city who have undertaken taught courses to help them develop skills for use in a job and those living in priority neighbourhoods.

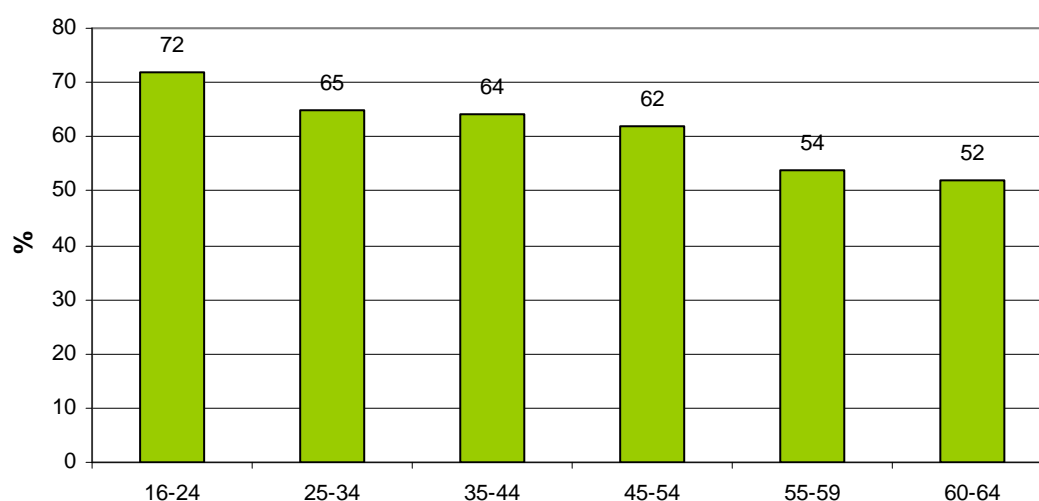
Table 1. Learning Activities undertaken since leaving school

Learning Activities	Priority N'hood %	Rest of City %	Total %
Taught courses designed to lead to a qualification	32.0	41.6	37.4
Taught courses designed to help you develop skills for use in a job	32.5	43.8	39.0
Leisure Courses, Instruction or Tuition	6.9	10.5	9.0
Evening Classes (Leisure and Learning)	6.2	11.7	9.4
Daytime Classes (Leisure and Learning)	4.6	8.3	6.7
Learning that has involved working mainly on your own	12.7	20.8	17.3
Any other taught course	8.8	16.2	13.0
None of these	42.8	31.3	36.2
Total (n)	424	565	989

The options in this list are not mutually exclusive and deal with both purpose of training and how this was delivered. In future it might be helpful to distinguish these into two separate questions therefore getting more detail on both the drivers and motivators for learning, and the associated methods and sources associated with this learning.

There is a correlation between age and participation in learning activities, as age increases participation decreases. Respondents aged 16-24 are most likely to participate in learning activities, decreasing gradually with age to just over half (52%) of those aged 60-64.

Figure 2. Percentage of respondents participating in learning activities by age



Not surprisingly respondents aged 16-24 are most likely to be undertaking learning activities designed to lead to a qualification (52%), whereas other age groups are more likely to undertake learning activities which help them to develop skills for a job – especially those aged 25-34 (47%). In terms of evening classes for leisure purposes, respondents aged 60-64 are the most likely to have undertaken these (16%) whereas respondents aged 16-24 are least likely (5%).

Nearly half (47%) of all economically active respondents have participated in learning activities designed to help them develop skills for use in a job, whereas economically inactive respondents are more likely to have undertaken learning activities which lead to a qualification (43%). Surprisingly there is no significant difference in economically active and inactive respondents undertaking learning activities for leisure.

Table 2. Learning Activities undertaken since leaving school

Learning Activities	Economically Active %	Economically Inactive %
Taught courses designed to lead to a qualification	35.8	42.9
Taught courses designed to help you develop skills for use in a job	47.0	20.1
Leisure Courses, Instruction or Tuition	9.8	7.3
Evening Classes (Leisure and Learning)	9.9	8.5
Daytime Classes (Leisure and Learning)	6.1	7.6
Learning that has involved working mainly on your own	20.0	11.1
Any other taught course	14.2	10.4
None of these	32.2	44.3
Total (n)	697	278

Respondents in higher managerial and professional occupations are most likely to undertake learning activities for a job (60%), in comparison to respondents in other occupations, for example 39% of respondents working in routine occupations have undertaken learning activities to develop skills in a job.

Barriers to learning and training

The biggest barrier facing respondents aged 16-64 in both areas of the city is a lack of time, although this is a bigger barrier to those living in the rest of the city (15%) than it is to those living in priority neighbourhoods (11%). However, in the rest of the city the second biggest barrier is cost (6%) whereas in priority neighbourhoods it is caring responsibilities (9%). Across the city, most respondents give no particular reason preventing them from taking part in learning or training activities (66%). From this one might infer a basic lack of interest, reason or motivation as underlying their lack of activity. The theme group felt that young people often don't see the point of training. With such a large percentage, the theme group suggested further work be undertaken to identify what would encourage people to participate in learning and/or training

In 2006, the two biggest barriers to participating in learning and training in both areas of the city were a lack of time and caring responsibilities – similar to 2007. In 2006 the third biggest barrier in the rest of the city was age whereas in priority neighbourhoods it was a lack of confidence.

Table 3. Barriers to Learning

Barriers to Learning	Priority N'hood %	Rest of City %	Total %
Lack of awareness of what is available	4.9	3.4	4.0
Lack of awareness of where to go	2.1	1.9	2.0
Too expensive	3.5	5.6	4.7
Unable to get to the course location	1.2	1.5	1.3
Caring responsibilities	8.5	5.2	6.6
Lack of confidence	0.8	0.7	0.8
Can't afford the time	10.5	15.4	13.3
Courses run at inappropriate times	2.9	3.9	3.5
Attitude of employer	0.6	1.0	0.9
Fear of losing my benefit payments	0.3	0.1	0.2
I am too old/too young	1.4	1.4	1.4
I already have enough skills/qualifications/knowledge	1.2	3.1	2.3
I do not have the experience/qualifications needed	0.7	0.3	0.5
Illness/disability prevents me	4.5	3.1	3.7
Other	1.3	2.0	1.7
Nothing is preventing me from participating in learning or training	66.2	65.6	65.8
Total (n)	419	562	981

When analysing the responses of students, nearly all (92%) said nothing was preventing them from taking part in learning or training. All other respondents said the main barriers were a lack of time, caring responsibilities and cost, in line with the findings above.

Academic Qualifications

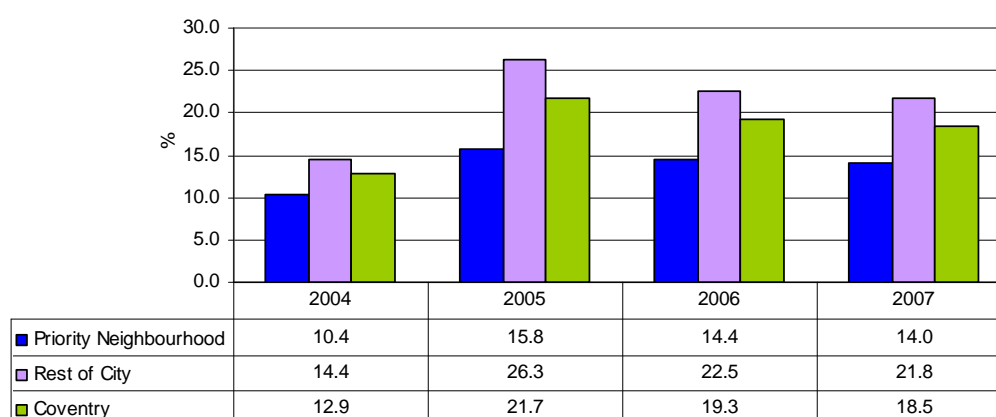
66% of respondents living in Coventry had some academic qualifications (A Levels, GCSE's, O Levels, CSE's, Scottish Highers, A/S Levels, School Leaving Certificate). In priority neighbourhoods there are less respondents with academic qualifications (60%) and in the rest of the city there are more (71%).

Around 1 in 5 (19%) working age respondents have a degree. Respondents living in the rest of the city are more likely to have a degree in comparison to those living in priority neighbourhoods (22% and 14% respectively).

There is no significant difference between the percentage of males and females who have a degree, however by age, respondents in the age group 25-34 are most likely to have a degree (24%). The percentage of respondents with a degree decreases from the age of 34 to just 3% of those aged 65 or over. By ethnicity, a third (33%) of Asian respondents have a degree, the highest percentage across all ethnic groups. Respondents currently working in higher managerial and professional occupations are not surprisingly, the most likely to have a degree.

Since 2004, the percentage of working age respondents with a degree has increased in both priority neighbourhoods and in the rest of the city. However, the percentage has increased at a faster rate in 2007, resulting in a widening of the gap between the two areas from 4% in 2004 to 8% in 2007. The percentage of respondents with a degree peaked in 2005, and has stabilised in 2006 and 2007.

Figure 3. The percentage of working age respondents who have a degree/higher degree



Apprenticeships

In addition to academic qualifications, respondents living in the rest of the city are more likely to have a recognised trade or modern apprenticeship (10% compared to 4% of respondents living in priority neighbourhoods).

There is a significant difference between male and female respondents who have completed an apprenticeship (13% and 1% respectively). By age, respondents in the age group 60-64 are the most likely to have completed an apprenticeship (15%), whereas respondents aged 16-24 are the least likely (4%). Around 7% of respondents aged 25-34 and 35-44 have completed an apprenticeship.

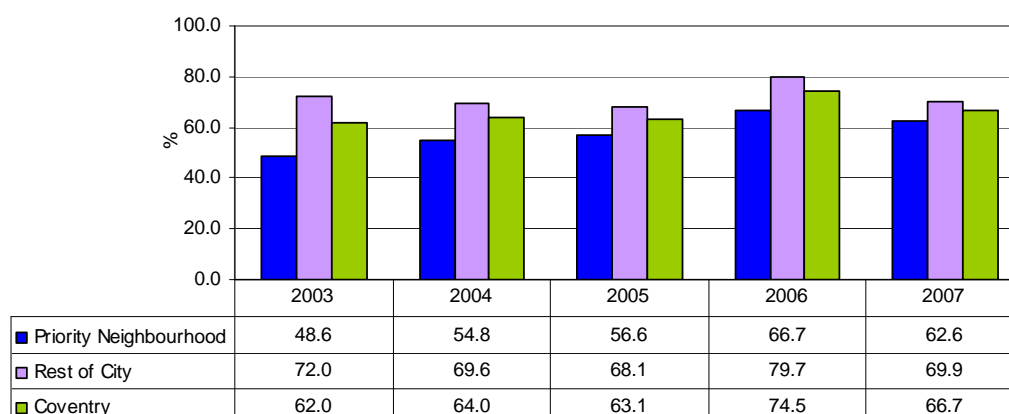
2. Jobs and the Local Economy

All data presented in the Jobs and Local Economy section is based on working age population (16-64)

Economic Status

The majority of working age respondents in the survey (67%) are employed in paid work; full time, part time or self employed. There is a gap of 7% between those employed in paid work in the rest of the city (70%) and in priority neighbourhoods (63%). The 2006 survey year saw the highest percentage of respondents in both areas of the city in paid work. In priority neighbourhoods the percentage of respondents in paid work has increased from 49% in 2003, it peaked in 2006 at 67% and then slightly fell to 63% in 2007. In the rest of the city, the percentage of respondents in paid work has fluctuated from 68% in 2005 to 80% in 2006. Since 2003 the gap between the percentage of respondents in paid work in priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the city has reduced from 23% to 7%.

Figure 4. The proportion of respondents aged 16-64 in paid work



Respondents aged 60-64 and 16-24 are the least likely to be in paid work (45% and 51% respectively). In comparison respondents aged between 45-54 are the most likely to be in paid work (79%). In addition, male respondents are also more likely to be in paid work in comparison to female respondents (75% and 57% respectively).

The proportion of unemployed respondents remains higher in priority neighbourhoods in comparison to the rest of the city. 5% of priority neighbourhood respondents are registered unemployed and actively seeking work, compared to 2% in the rest of the city. Unemployment is higher amongst respondents under the age of 35, this may partly explain the higher rate of unemployment in priority neighbourhoods, which have a younger age profile than the rest of the city.

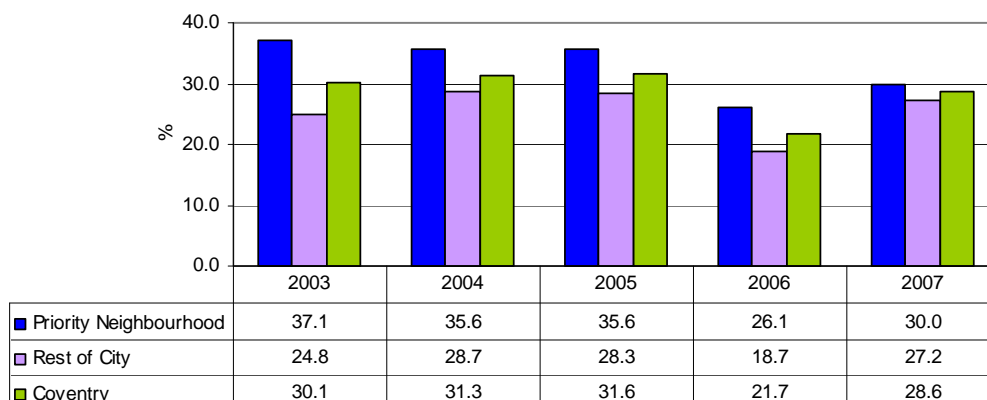
The proportion of economically inactive respondents is marginally higher in priority neighbourhoods than it is in the rest of the city (30% and 27% respectively). There are a higher proportion of people in priority neighbourhoods who are at home not seeking work, or who are long term sick or disabled. By age, economic inactivity rates are highest amongst respondents aged 16-24 and 60-64. The majority of economically inactive 16-24 are in full time education, whereas the majority of economically inactive 60-64 year olds are retired.

Table 4 Economic Status

	Economic Status	Priority Neighbourhood		Rest of City		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Economically Active	In full time paid work	202	47.7	276	49.3	478	48.6
	In part time paid work	50	11.8	88	15.8	138	14.1
	Self employed	13	3.1	27	4.8	40	4.0
	IN PAID WORK	265	62.6	391	69.9	655	66.7
	Taking part in a government training programme	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Registered unemployed/signing on for Job Seekers Allowance	19	4.5	12	2.1	31	3.1
	Not registered unemployed but actively seeking work	12	2.8	4	0.7	16	1.6
Economically Inactive	At home/not seeking work	36	8.5	35	6.3	71	7.3
	Long-term sick or disabled	25	6.0	18	3.2	43	4.4
	Retired	14	3.4	38	6.8	53	5.4
	Full-time education	45	10.5	53	9.4	97	9.9
	Doing unpaid/voluntary work	1	0.3	2	0.4	4	0.4
	Carer	6	1.3	6	1.1	12	1.2
	ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE	127	30.1	153	27.3	280	28.5
	Total	423	100.0	559	100.0	982	100.0

Since 2003, economically inactive rates amongst respondents to the survey have declined in priority neighbourhoods from 37% to 30% in 2007. However in the rest of the city they have slightly increased from 25% to 27%. The 2006 survey year saw the lowest percentage of economically inactive survey respondents in both areas.

Figure 5. Proportion of economically inactive respondents



Barriers to work

For those respondents who are of working age, and not in paid work, the most significant barrier to employment is child care responsibilities (19%). There is a small difference in the proportions citing this barrier in priority neighbourhoods and in the rest of the city (19% and 18% respectively). A similar 19% of respondents in priority neighbourhoods also cite a lack of available jobs as a barrier to employment, in comparison to just 8% of respondents living in the rest of the city. Illness or infirmity also prevents 14% of respondents in priority neighbourhoods and 9% of rest of city respondents from finding employment. It should however be noted that nearly a half of respondents (46%) in the rest of the city provide no specific reason for not being in work, compared to 30% in priority neighbourhoods.

Table 5

Barrier to employment (for those not working, aged 16-64)	Priority Neighbourhood %	Rest of City %	Total %
Lack of available jobs	19.4	7.7	13.7
A lack of access to advice and guidance	5.7	2.0	3.9
Employers think I am too old or too young for the jobs I want to do	1.9	1.8	1.8
I do not have the required skills and experience	4.4	0.0	2.3
I do not have the required qualifications	3.3	1.0	2.2
Child caring responsibilities (looking after children)	19.2	18.2	18.7
I cannot find suitable childcare	0.7	2.1	1.4
I cannot afford childcare	0.8	2.1	1.4
Other caring responsibilities (looking after adults/older people)	1.3	5.8	3.5
Inflexible working hours	0.0	2.5	1.2
Language difficulties	0.9	0.0	0.5
My ethnic origin	0.0	0.0	0.0
Problems with transport/lack of transport	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unable to move to find a (new) job	0.0	1.2	0.6
An address in this area makes it difficult for people to get job interviews	0.0	0.0	0.0
Illness or infirmity	14.4	9.0	11.7
Disability	3.4	5.7	4.5
I am better off on benefits	2.3	0.0	1.2
Other	9.8	11.3	10.5
No reason	30.2	46.3	38.1
Total (n)	142	137	279

Looking at the skill set of those respondents who stated 'a lack of available jobs' as a barrier to employment implies that respondents may have meant a lack of available jobs to suit their skills. The majority of the respondents stating a lack of available jobs have no academic qualifications. For example, 68% have no GCSE's Grade A* - C and 90% have no A Level qualifications.

Analysis by age shows that barriers to employment vary by age. Those aged 16-24 believe that a lack of available jobs is the biggest barrier to employment (19%). Respondents aged 25-34 and 35-44 who are probably the most likely to have young families state that childcare

responsibilities prevent them from finding employment (19% and 28% respectively). Interestingly respondents aged 45-64 state that illness or infirmity is the biggest barrier to employment.

Income

16% of working age respondents said that no one in their household was earning an income, this was higher in priority neighbourhoods in comparison to the rest of the city (21% and 12% respectively).

Over half (53%) of respondents live in a household with 2 or more people in employment, however respondents living in priority neighbourhoods are less likely to live in a household with 2 or more people earning an income, in comparison to respondents living in the rest of the city (43% and 60% respectively).

Table 6

People in household earning an income	Priority Neighbourhood %	Rest of City %	Total %
None	20.9	12.2	15.9
1	35.7	27.8	31.2
2	31.5	45.9	39.7
3 or more	11.9	14.0	13.1
Total (n)	410	548	958



**M-E-L Research
Limited
8 Holt Court
Aston Science Park
Birmingham
B7 4AX**

tel: 0121 604 4664
fax: 0121 604 6776

Measurement ♦ Evaluation ♦ Learning
Helping you deliver better public services