Integrated Employment and Skills Policy

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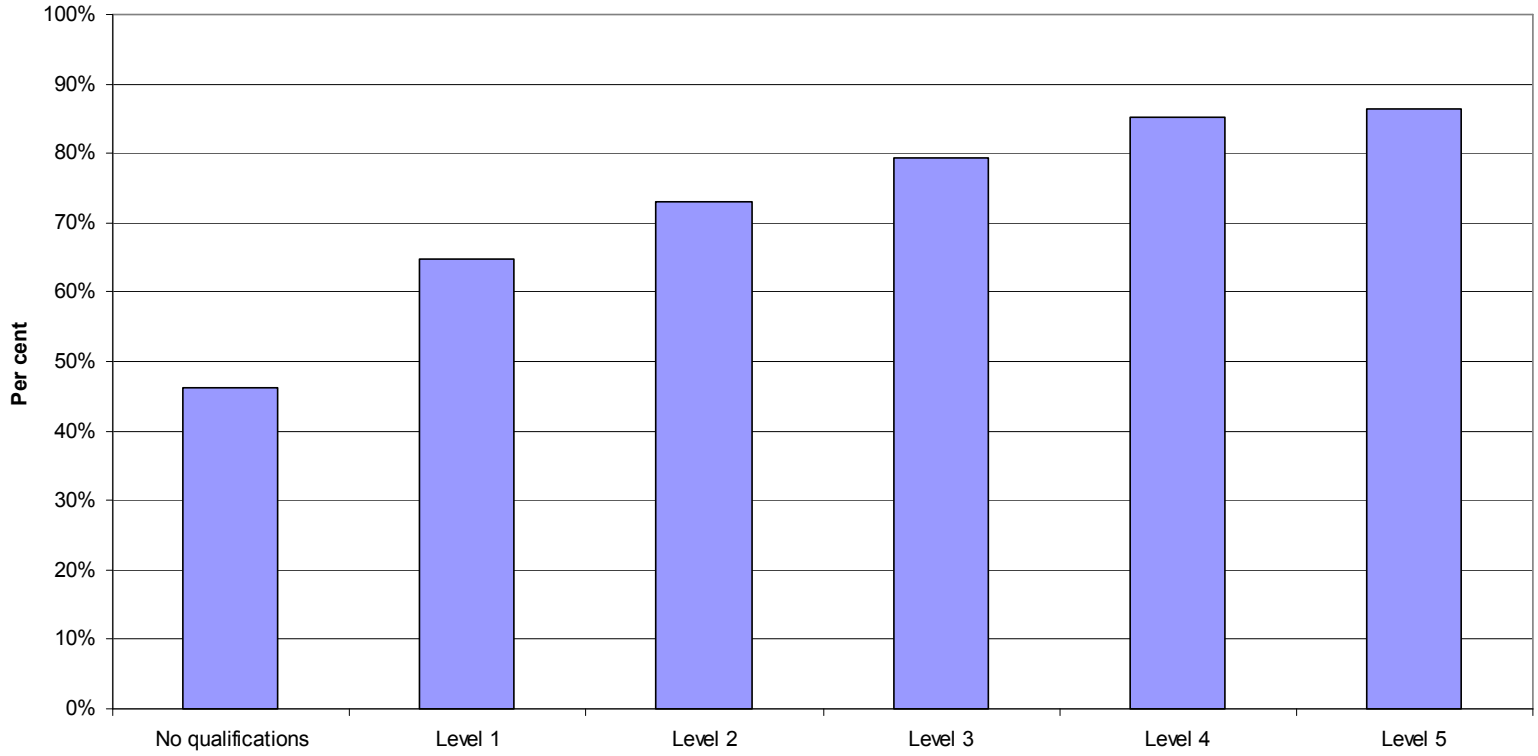
Welfare and skills – why?

- 80% employment aspiration
- Leitch - 95% of adults with good functional literacy/numeracy skills by 2020
- Retention and progression, not just job entry
- Increasing social inclusion and improving global economic competitiveness
- Tackling poverty – healthier lives

Employment Rate by highest level of qualification - UK Working Age Population



Source: LFS Q3 2008

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

Progress to date

- Command Papers – 'Work Skills'
- Integrated Employment and Skills Service
- UK Commission for Employment and Skills – April 2008
- IES trial launched in West Midlands on 29th September and in Cambridge and Suffolk on 1 December.
- 2010 review to be led by UK Commission
- Measures introduced in response to economic downturn

Integrated employment and skills service

- A universal service - for those in work and out of work
- A new Adult Careers & Advancement service in England
- 2010/11- over 100,000 people into sustainable employment and gained a qualification.

Integrated employment and skills service trials

- First trial in West Midlands
- 7 further trials rolled from December 2008
- National rollout by autumn 2010.

Trial evaluation

- Potential IES trial activity in Wales and Scotland during 2009

Skills Conditionality

- Prime Minister – “sign on for benefits, sign up for skills”
- Increased skills conditionality for benefit customers
- Will require primary legislation
- Mandation for JSA group - will be piloted from Summer 09

Employer engagement

- Government/employer deal
- Local Employment Partnerships – 250,000 into work by end 2010
- Employment and Skills Boards
- Integrated employer offer

Responding to the economic downturn

- Using ESF windfall (£158m in total, split 50/50 between DWP and DIUS) to provide skills support to the newly redundant or those facing redundancy
- Energy Efficiency Employment Initiative
- Flexing Train to Gain
- Accelerating roll-out of IES
- Future proposals include possibility of a ‘skills guarantee’
- Employment Summit on 12 January announced further support package including jobs subsidy, help with self employment and training for work

The Future

- Joint DWP/DIUS employment and skills PSA
- Operational data share
- Co-commissioning trials
- Devolved Administrations
- Development of Skills Funding Agency

What we need from you

- Views and ideas – good practice
- Spreading the message of IES
- Continued involvement in planning and developing responses to the downturn