

MID AND EAST ANTRIM

Labour Market Partnership

Working Together



Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership

2025-2026 and 2026-2027
Action Plans



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**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

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1. Executive Summary

Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership (LMP) was established in March 2022, working in partnership with employers and stakeholders to support those seeking employment, provide upskilling support for better employment, improve access to the labour market for those with disabilities and promote skills pathways. The Labour Market Partnership is funded by the Department for Communities.

The partnership has been built on key principles of partnership, personalisation, inclusivity, skills enhancement and sharing best practice which are embedded in the design and delivery of interventions to address local labour market challenges in Mid and East Antrim.

In October 2024 a review of the 2024/27 Strategic Assessment was carried out by Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership LMP to review employability outcomes and local labour market conditions in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area. This exercise was undertaken to ensure that the priorities identified continue to reflect priority employability and labour market issues in the area and was informed by analysis of information provided by statutory partners, as well as the results of ongoing engagement and consultation across the council area.

The 2025-2027 LMP Action Plans provide an opportunity to build on the lessons learnt to date and to explore solutions to address issues in an ever-changing labour market. These plans have been developed with support from Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and a wide number of stakeholders who have contributed to the assessment of the local labour market and in generating ideas for interventions to be delivered in 2025-2027.

MEA LMP is cognisant of the ever-evolving strategic landscape and has shown its ability to flex delivery to meet strategic outcomes and the requirements of the local labour market. These local and national strategic plans include:

1.1 Programme for Government 'Doing What Matters Most'

The draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' has been published by The Executive and is currently subject to an equality screening exercise. The Plan sets out an ambitious agenda of change for Northern Ireland set around three key Missions:

- People: Working to support everyone at all stages of their life to ensure they have the chance to succeed by improving life opportunities.
- Planet: Harnessing the potential of a green growth economy while ensuring an equitable transition to a sustainable and affordable society as we take responsibility for decarbonising our economy and society.
- Prosperity: Improving our economic productivity while making sure that the economy that works for everyone.
- In addition to the Missions, there is a cross-cutting commitment to: Peace, to make sure that everyone feels the benefit of a growing economy, improved environment, and a fairer society.

1.2 Mid and East Antrim Community Plan: a Council focused on Putting People First

The Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership is central to the delivery of the Borough's Community Plan – Putting People First. Through four central themes, the plan seeks to achieve the vision of “Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all”.

Figure 1 – Updated MEA Community Plan themes (2022)



The theme “Progress in education and employment”, focuses on the following outcomes:

- We have a skilled workforce able to adapt to a changing economy.
- Our Borough provides opportunities for all and supports people to achieve their potential.

Five strategic priorities have been identified:

- We have skills development programmes targeting areas of high growth or need.
- We provide a range of education pathways to employment.
- We reduce or remove the barriers to our people achieving their potential.
- We value lifelong learning.
- We encourage entrepreneurship and vocational training.

The Labour Market Action Plan supports these outcomes, and the four cross-cutting themes which underpin the Community Plan, as evident in Council's own strategies and policies:

- Tackling poverty.
- Prioritising the most vulnerable.
- Addressing inequalities in our Borough.
- Valuing the views and contributions of our residents.
- Valuing our environment.

Figure 2: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan (2024-2028)



The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-2028) fully supports the vision of the Community Plan, and 'Progress in education and employment' theme through the 'People' pillar, which focuses on:

- Working in partnership with employers and stakeholders to support those seeking employment, providing upskilling support, improving access to the labour market for those with disabilities, and promoting skills pathways.
- Promoting the benefits of offering apprenticeships and work experience opportunities to enhance skills development and bridge the gap between education and employment.
- Leading by example to improve equality, accessibility, and inclusion across the borough by embedding it into everything we do.

1.3 Department for Communities

Department for Communities (DfC) lead the Labour Market Partnerships to design, procure and implement a fresh suite of employability provisions/initiatives to support people into meaningful employment.

The DfC is the lead department for a number of indicators, through which progress on these outcomes will be measured:

- Indicator 17: Economic inactivity rates excluding students.
- Indicator 32: Employment rate of 16–64-year-olds by deprivation quintile.
- Indicator 33: % of people working part-time who would like to work more hours; and
- Indicator 19: % of population living in absolute and relative poverty.

1.4 DFE Sub-Regional Economic Plan

The Plan notes that disparities across the region in economic performance have been getting worse, with the economy facing key challenges around employment, productivity, disposable income and economic inactivity, all areas

where we perform poorly compared to our nearest neighbours. The Plan aims to see employment providing better rewards, people benefitting from better jobs wherever they live and that those jobs and the lifestyles they support to be greener.

Skills underpins the four priorities outlined in the plan, namely: Increased Productivity, More Good Jobs, Regional Balance, Decarbonisation. These disparities are even more pronounced at a sub-regional level. Despite the lowest tertiary attainment rates, Mid and East Antrim ranks among the highest areas for people in work, the lowest economic inactivity level, and more employees earning above the real living wage and who feel more secure in their job. The LMP hope to support the newly formed Local Economic Partnership in pursuit of its goals to ensure a more inclusive economy for all.

1.5 10 X ECONOMY: ECONOMIC VISION FOR A DECADE OF INNOVATION

The Department for the Economy has outlined its economic ambitions for a '10x Economy', a concept to deliver a ten times better economy with benefits for everyone in Northern Ireland. The strategy aims to make a significant impact on the economic, societal, and environmental wellbeing of the population with a Decade of Innovation designed to unlock the unique opportunity to drive growth and inclusion. The aim of the strategy is to see a tenfold increase in innovation while also achieving a fairer distribution of opportunities for people to participate in and benefit from our economic growth.

The MEA LMP Action Plan hopes to contribute to the positive outcomes detailed in the 10x strategy by supporting more people to enter the labour market, providing opportunities to reskill and upskill, increasing access to better jobs and supporting entrepreneurs.

The 10x Vision is guided by the 10x objectives, grouped into three pillars of activity: innovation, inclusive growth and sustainability. MEA LMP hope to closely align the LMP Action Plans to this as we move towards 2030.

1.6 Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was previously managed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Northern Ireland Office, providing £126,854,145 of new funding across Northern Ireland up to the end of March 2025. The new Labour administration's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is currently reviewing the plans for the levelling up agenda post March 2025. MEA LMP will continue to engage with the department via SOLACE and with stakeholder organisations to keep abreast of developments to ensure no duplication of delivery particularly around economic inactivity.

1.7 Belfast Regional City Deal

The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) is a significant programme of investment with up to £1bn expected to be invested over the next 10–15-year period. Job creation is one of the primary benefits expected across both the construction and operational phases of project delivery.

As a key partner to the Deal, MEA is committed to its success as the potential benefits from these investments will have significant impact on the borough. We are keen to maximise the impact of the Deal by ensuring the skills are in place to meet the demand created and that the benefit reaches across the region to all communities.

The MEA Labour Market Partnership is well placed to help inform and deliver the interventions needed to prepare the market for new jobs and ensure that the local workforce is appropriately prepared. Council, college, and university partners have already committed to this through both the overall Deal and in the Memorandum of Understanding to better understand and respond to the employment opportunities arising through the BRCD investment and to improve access to and awareness of existing provision through enhanced co-ordination and joint working. MEA LMP will work with these partners around key and emerging areas including construction, advanced manufacturing, tourism and digital.

A range of partnership and project opportunities have been identified as the City Deal projects progress into construction phases over the next number of years in two key areas:

- Carrickfergus Regeneration - The concept design proposals are nearing completion, and three of the six public engagement sessions have taken place.
- The Integrated Consultancy Team for the i4C Innovation Centre in Ballymena was appointed in June 2024 and the concept design phase for the project has begun. The Operator for the i4C is expected to be appointed in February 2025 to commence pre-operations activities.
- Gobbins Phase II - The Integrated Consultancy Team was appointed to develop the designs for The Gobbins Phase II in March 2024. The concept design phase is closing in on completion. Public engagement events are planned for the near future. Council are progressing with the review of options for the Post Project Operating model.

1.8 PeacePlus

The PEACEPLUS Programme has 6 themes, which encompass 21 individual investment areas. MEA developed a programme of activities, co-designed with the local community over a lengthy period, and submitted the Mid and East Antrim PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan to SEUPB in June 2024. This Action Plan falls under Investment Area 1.1 of Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities of the PEACEPLUS Programme.

The co-designed Action Plan when approved, will enable the MEA PEACEPLUS Partnership to establish and deliver priority actions for the borough to make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation in the area. The Action Plan will also complement existing Council strategies including Community Planning and Good Relations strategies.

The Action Plan is centred around 3 core themes falling under Investment Area:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation.
2. Thriving and peaceful communities.

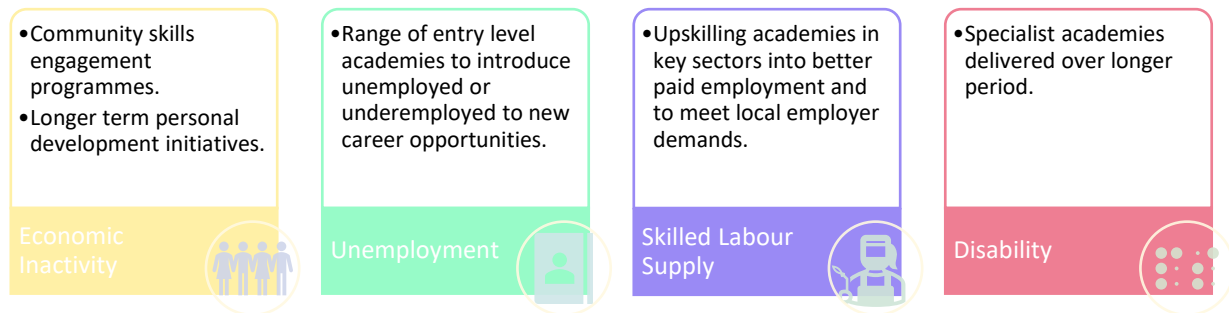
3. Building respect for all cultural identities.

The Action Plan will also enable and empower the MEA PEACEPLUS Partnership to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross-community basis, which will result in improved, shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation. The Action Plan is currently under consideration by SEUPB, with an outcome expected before the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

1.9 MEA LMP Themes:

The following themes have been identified as local priority:

- Economic Inactivity
- Unemployment
- Disability
- Skilled Labour Supply



The plans also include provision to meet the following priorities:

- Supporting action on climate change by enabling green jobs
- Addressing the disability employment gap
- Utilising opportunities arising from City & Growth deals
- Supporting the aims and implementation of the Skills Strategy; and
- Promoting diversity and inclusion.

2. MEA Labour Market Partnership 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Action Plans

Subject to approval by the Council and DfC, this Action Plan will be implemented by LMP officers and appointed delivery partners under the oversight of the MEA LMP. Discussions with partners and other councils has also identified a range of key areas where there are opportunities for joint delivery to ensure better clarity in the local labour market, ensuring good value for money and increasing opportunities across the region.

2.1. Strategic Priority 1 – To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area by:

- Reviewing available statistical information and engaging key stakeholders to identify employability or the labour market issues locally and addressing those issues;
- Preparing the LMP's plans and organising the work of the partnership to meet priority needs;
- Putting in place implementation structures and delivery mechanisms that will contribute towards improved employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions. This may be achieved directly through the collaborative working of partnership members, through the work of its delivery groups or through working in partnership with, or supporting the work of others; and
- Increasing LMP awareness with the public and key stakeholders by planning communications activity to more proactively inform and promote the work of LMPs.

2.2. Strategic Priority 2 – To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally by:

- Working in partnership with stakeholders including local statutory bodies/agencies, businesses, the voluntary sector and the community to address locally identified issues;
- Ensuring that local statutory bodies and agencies address employability and labour market conditions locally in their area, and where possible in collaboration with other key stakeholders;
- Providing comprehensive input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived barriers or negative impacts on employability or labour market conditions locally and giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes;
- Identifying and implementing ways to educate communities and the local work force about employment opportunities or local labour market conditions; and
- Contributing to delivery of LMP Partnership Plans and initiatives that improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally.

2.3. Strategic Priority 3 – To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally through:

- Promotion of relevant existing projects/initiatives, including building confidence and awareness through locality based engagement;

- Inclusion of initiatives/projects within local LMP Partnership Plans aimed at meeting the relevant objectives of the PfG and/or local Community Plan;
- Contribute to development of and/or make participant referrals to regional or other relevant local initiatives/projects aimed at improving employability and labour market conditions;
- Escalation of relevant issues and/or identifying priorities to be considered by the Regional LMP; and
- Contributing to public facing events and supporting effective engagement with an emphasis on improving employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions.

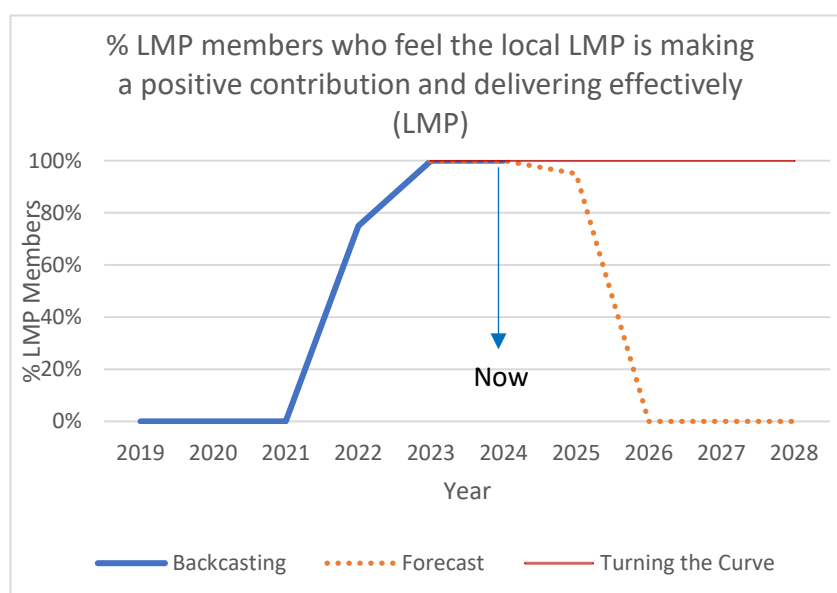
2.4 Turning the Curve: LMP Delivery and Development

To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area, the MEA LMP must ensure members feel the local LMP is making a positive contribution and delivering effectively.

Understanding the baseline.

INDICATOR: Percentage of LMP members who feel the local LMP is making a positive contribution and delivering effectively (LMP)

Source: Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership



What factors are causing the problem?

- Reduced number of Members attending LMP meetings or events due to other commitments.

What can be done?

Support LMP members in their role through case study visits, guest speakers, attendance at events and awareness raising of LMP activity.

Share the learning and best practice with LMP members and others.

Further enhance relationships built with employers and training providers.

How do we measure success?

LMP member feedback via surveys.

2.5 Turning the Curve: Economic Inactivity

To encourage participants back to work, the MEA LMP must support actions that endorse inclusive access to employability programmes, focusing on a community/employer partnership approach. From the work undertaken by the LMP to date there is a recognition that sufficient time needs to be devoted to working with the economic inactive group and that is a small steps approach. Increasing confidence, addressing barriers and providing insights into the world of work can take significant time and investment.

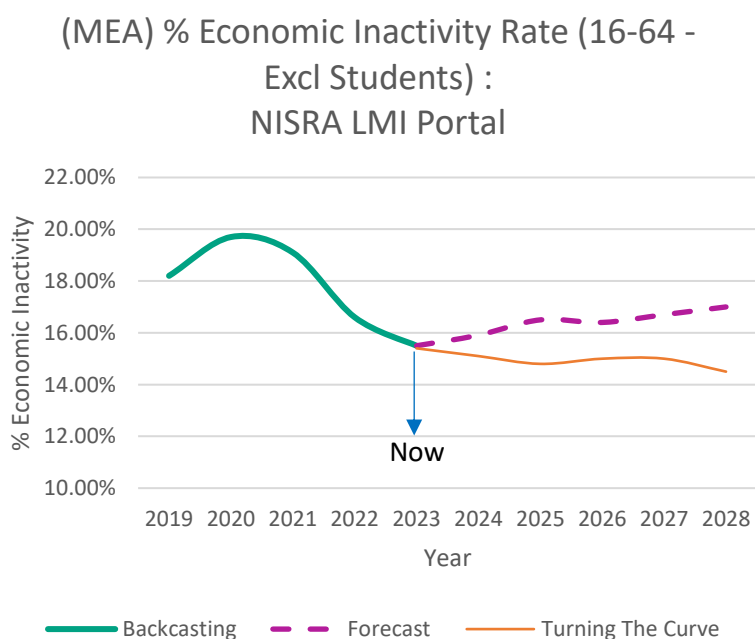
Understanding the baseline.

INDICATOR: MEA Percentage of Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64)

Ex Students

The economic inactivity in Mid and East Antrim is 15.5% excluding students which is lower than the NI economic inactivity rate within the working age population of 18.3% with some council areas over 25%. Within the working age population, Mid & East Antrim account for 6% of the overall inactive within NI, a share that is smaller than the overall proportion of the size of the population.

Source: NISRA (LMI Portal)



What factors are causing the problem?

- Those who are economically inactive face a range of complex needs which cannot be solved through short range interventions.
- Disabilities and long-term health conditions are a significant factor as well as stress, anxiety, addiction, financial and personal issues.
- Navigating the support available can be challenging
- New residents and ethnic minorities are often not aware of the networks and support available to them.

What can be done?

LMP investment in initiatives that target the economically inactive and in turn promote diversity in the labour market:

- Develop the Do It Herself umbrella to include other skills areas to engage women on the skills ladder.
- Community Skills Programmes to engage residents on the learning ladder including, older residents and ethnic minorities.
- Insight Youth to engage with young people within MEA to increase awareness of support projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council have met with the UKSPF projects who are delivering in the MEA area to ensure there is no duplication in delivery. • MEA will meet regularly with these organisations to ensure complementary delivery opportunities. <p>How do we measure success? Improvement in economic inactivity rates.</p>
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2.6 Turning the curve: Unemployment

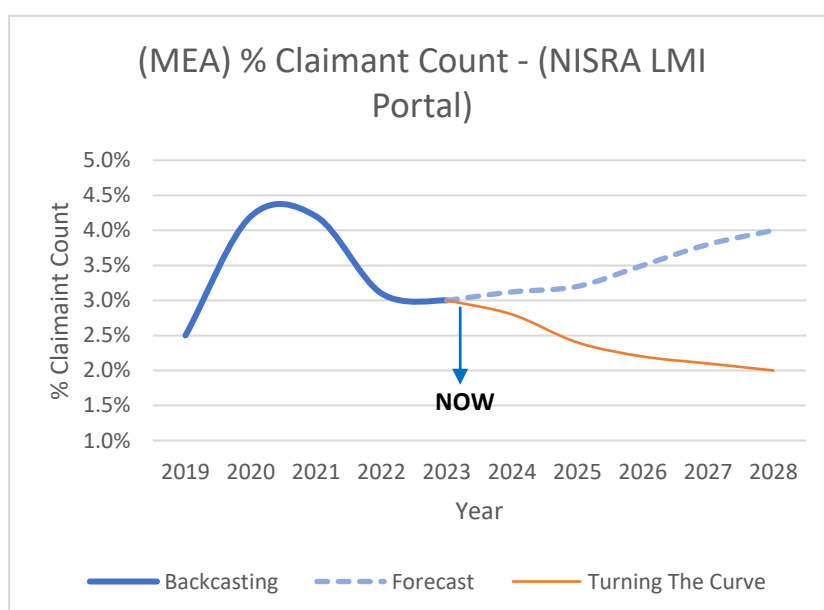
In terms of claimant count, in November 2023, 6.9% of all claimants in NI (2,605 individuals) were from Mid & Antrim. The council area ranks joint fourth highest in terms of the claimant count rate (3%) in comparison to other councils and Mid & East Antrim is in line with the NI average claimant count rate (3.2%).

Understanding the baseline

INDICATOR: % MEA Claimant Count

The baseline trend prior to Covid-19 was an average job claimant number of 2,000. Covid-19 created a significant economic shock that caused a spike in job claimant numbers to a peak of 4,235 (4.2%) This has been slow to reduce despite strong industry demand, however, in November 2023 this had reduced to 2605 (3%) individuals.

Source: NISRA (LMI Portal)



What factors are causing the problem?

- Existing vacancies may be perceived as unattractive by potential applicants.
- Claimants may not have the skills to meet vacancy requisites.
- Claimants may face a range of social and personal barriers including lack of confidence, poor mental health, access to transport and childcare.

What can be done?

- Promote collaboration between employers and labour market partners.
- Provide wrap around support throughout academy and into work.
- Invest in initiatives that support increased employment:
 - Enterprise Pathways

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demand-led entry level employment academies including ▪ Health and Social Care, Childminding and Engineering ▪ Sector Attractiveness work in partnership with employers and Manufacturing Task Force and care sector. ▪ Additional support for care sector entrants to gain employment and gain additional skills.
	<p>How do we measure success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in long term unemployed job claimants • Council has liaised with NRC and other providers to ensure there is no duplication.

2.7 Turning the curve: Disability

Of the employed within Mid and East Antrim, people with a disability made up 13.5% of the total which is at a higher level than the NI average of 12%. The employment rate of people with disabilities is estimated to be a lot higher than the NI rate and in terms of disparities between those who do and do not have a disability, there is a 25.6 percentage point gap in the employment rate, the lowest in NI.

<p>Understanding the baseline.</p> <p>INDICATOR: MEA Percentage of Employment rate of people with disabilities</p> <p>Within Mid and East Antrim residents with disabilities have an employment rate of 53.9% vs 79.5% of those without. This is lower than the average gap across NI (41.3pp) but still leaves a significant population to support into employment and skills pathways.</p> <p>Source: NISRA (LMI Portal)</p>	<p>What factors are causing the problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult for any job seeker to access a central information point. • Employers have a lack of awareness around recruiting those with disabilities/long term health conditions. • Current Academy models generally too short for a person with disability and extra support required. • SPF projects not targeting or providing suitable
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<p style="text-align: center;">MEA % Employment Rate for People with Disabilities (LMI Portal)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Backcasting Forecast Turning The Curve</p>	<p>training support for people with disabilities who have higher qualification levels.</p> <p>What can be done?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Build Academy to support those with disabilities and long-term health conditions access employment opportunities in key sectors. • Work Connections – Scaffold programme to support individuals with disabilities through stages in Personal Development, Employability, Mentoring and Placements. • Start Out Programme - bitesize employability support and intro to the world of work for young people with disabilities and long-term health conditions. • Work with charities to support those with long term health conditions to stay engaged in the labour market including Dementia NI and MEA Age Well Partnership. <p>How do we measure success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of working age adults with disabilities in employment
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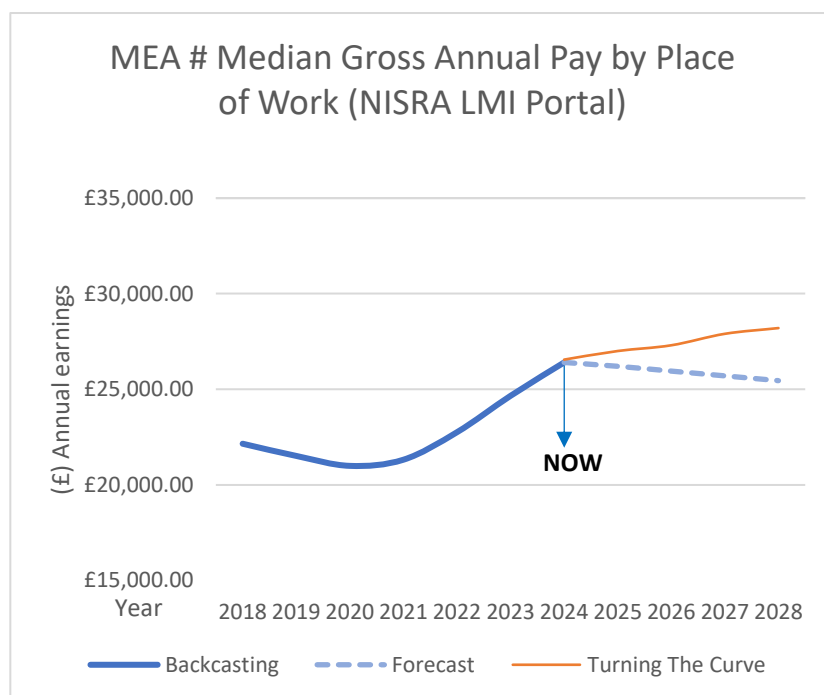
2.8 Turning the curve: Skilled Labour Supply

To support economic recovery and prosperity in the region, the MEA LMP must continue to support actions that will rapidly turn the curve on the MEA pay gap by investing in skills to deliver better quality jobs. The MEA LMP have explored a range of employer-led higher skills academies to support participants to further develop industry skills to increase employee retention and reduce employee turnover.

Understanding the baseline.

INDICATORS: MEA # Median Gross Pay by Place of Work Static MEA median pay rates whilst NI median pay rates have risen by over 10% has resulted in a growing pay gap in MEA.

Source: NISRA LMI Portal

**What factors are causing the problem?**

- Economic shock – loss of well-paid jobs in recent years
- A low number of qualified workers with specialised skills
- New technology or changes to the structure of the economy
- Hi-tech Foreign Direct Investment favouring Belfast and surrounding regions with higher paid jobs
- Growing recognition of MEA as Cleantech hub
- A high proportion of rural MEA jobs in lower paid sectors e.g. agriculture

What can be done?

Support higher paid jobs by investing in a range of employer-led higher skills academies to support participants to further develop industry skills to increase employee retention, reduce employee turnover. Also continuing to invest in new and emerging technologies to support MEA's reputation as a leading region for cleantech and as a hydrogen hub economy:

- Interventions to encourage a skilled labour supply in key sector including higher skills academies:
 - Classroom Upskilling
 - Transport Academy
 - Health & Social Care
 - Engineering
 - Cleantech

How do we measure success?

- MEA Median Gross Pay by Place of Work

2.9 Turning the curve: Increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)

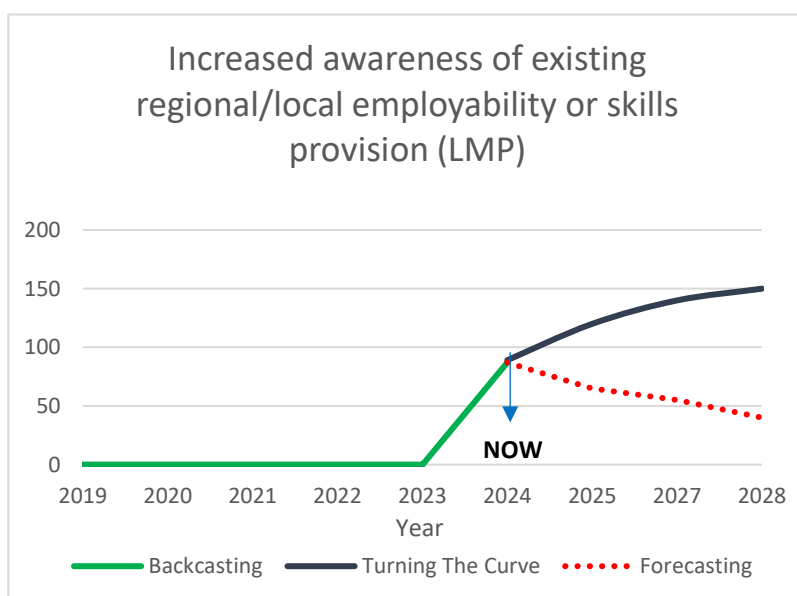
To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally.

Understanding the baseline.

INDICATORS:

Increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)

Source: Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership



What factors are causing the problem?

Individuals unaware of the local employability and skills provision available.

What can be done?

Events used to support the objective of the LMP with the overall aim to support those seeking work to move into education, employment, or training through direct engagement with local employers training providers and support organisations, for example:

- Employability and well-being events
- MEA Science School - schools and employer engagement activities
- Takeover Days
- NI Apprenticeship Week 2026 and 2027
- Placement Insights Programme for young people with additional barriers
- Employer Advisory Service

How do we measure success?

- referrals to existing regional or local employability and skills provision (LMP)

3. Baseline

The MEA LMP Action Plan will impact on the following set of indicators from the baseline position stated below.

Strategic Priorities	Indicators to which Local LMP makes a contribution (Source)	2024-2025 Baseline	
Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area	LMP Delivery and Development Indicator: % LMP members who feel the local LMP is making a positive contribution and delivering effectively (LMP)	Baseline: LMP members who feel the local LMP is making a positive contribution and delivering effectively as of December 2022: (Source: Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership)	
		2022	75%
		2023	100%
		2024	100%
Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally	Economic Inactivity INDICATOR: MEA % of Economic Inactivity 16-64 excluding students (Source NISRA, LMI Portal):	MEA economic inactivity rate (Source NISRA):	
		2016	18.20%
		2017	15.90%
		2018	20.50%
		2019	18.20%
		2020	19.70%
		2021	19.10%
		2022	16.60%
	2023	15.50%	
	Latest available figure is 2023		
	Unemployment INDICATOR: % of Claimant Count in MEA (Source: NISRA, LMI Portal)	MEA Claimant Count as of November 2023: (Source: NISRA, LMI Portal)	
		2017	2.4%
		2018	2.3%
2019		2.5%	
2020		4.2%	
2021		4.2%	
2022		3.1%	
2023	3.0%		
Disability INDICATOR: MEA % of Employment rate of people with disabilities	Percentage of working age adults with disabilities in employment: (Source: NISRA, LMI Portal)		
	2017	32.9%	

Strategic Priorities	Indicators to which Local LMP makes a contribution (Source)	2024-2025 Baseline	
	(Source: NISRA, LMI Portal)	2018	41.1%
		2019	41.2%
		2020	42.1%
		2021	38.8%
		2022	46.9%
		2023	53.9%
	Skilled Labour Supply Indicator: MEA # Median Gross Annual Pay by Place of Work (NISRA LMI Portal)	MEA Full Time All Persons Median Annual Pay (Source: NISRA)	
		2016	£21,724.00
		2017	£20,845.00
		2018	£22,150.00
2019		£21,512.00	
2020		£20,991.00	
2021		£21,303.00	
2022		£22,752.00	
2023		£24,655.00	
2024	£26,402 NOTE: this is for all types of working patterns and not just Full Time (which is £31,578). These figures are for Workplace wages not those of residents which are a little higher.		
Strategic Priority 3: To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally	Indicator: Increased Awareness # of Participants with increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)	Participants who have increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)	
		2019	0
		2020	0
		2021	0
		2022	0
		2023	0
		2024	87

4. Action Plan 2025-2026

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area						
Indicators	% LMP members who feel the local LMP is making a positive contribution and delivering effectively (LMP)					
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures	Delivery Quarter
LMP Development and Delivery	SP1.1 LMP delivery and development Effective delivery of the LMP through the Members, appropriate structures and mechanisms	Key Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and delivery of MEA LMP • Action Plan development and delivery • Secretariat for LMP • Capacity Building and knowledge sharing with LMP Members and Stakeholder • Collaboration with other LMPs • MTF Skills Sub Group • Enterprise and Employability in the Community Sub Group 	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 6 x LMP Meetings <u>How well did we do it?</u> Overall total 72/96 and 75% attendance of LMP members at meetings <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 14/16 and 88% of LMP members feel that they are contributing to the delivery of the LMP 14/16 and 88% of LMP members who think that the LMP is making a positive difference.	1, 2, 3, 4

Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally						
Indicators	% of MEA Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64 - Excl Students) % of Claimant Count in MEA % of MEA Employment rate of people with disabilities # MEA Median Gross Annual Pay by Place of Work					
Theme	Aims & Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures	Delivery Quarter
Economic Inactivity Deliver a suite of activities to encourage greater participation in the labour market.	SP2.1 Community Skills - To encourage the economically inactive back to work, MEA LMP will support inclusive access to employability programmes, focusing on a community/ employer partnership approach.	Local skills engagement across targeted groups to get participants on the 'learning ladder' which may include Gardening/Green-keeping, Train the Trainer, Security Industry Training, Forklift Training.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 45 participants enrolled on the project <u>How well did we do it?</u> 40/45 and 89% of participants completed the project 35/40 and 88% of participants reported satisfaction with the LMP project <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 30/40 and 75% of completers gained a qualification as a result of participation on the project. 15/40 and 38% of participants gaining new employment 15/40 and 38% of participants who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.	1,2,3,4
	SP2.3 Insight Youth – Aims to equip young people with the seven key employability skills employers	Long-term personal development and employability programme includes: 18 - 20 hours of skill-building workshops	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 10 participants enrolled on the project <u>How well did we do it?</u> 7/10 and 70% of participants completed the project	1,2,3,4

	regard as essential to making a successful start in the workplace, retaining employment and building a career.	20 hours employability skills training 80 hours of work experience with a local business			7/10 and 70% of participants reported satisfaction with the LMP project <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 6/7 and 86% of completers gained a qualification as a result of participation on the project. 5/7 and 71% of participants who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.	
Unemployment MEA LMP have designed a range of academies with small target numbers to facilitate the breadth of skills demands locally. We will collaborate with neighbouring councils to ensure economies of scale and access to opportunity. To reduce job claimant numbers within the borough, through a range or	SP2.4 Classroom Assistant (Entry Level) Demand-led entry level employment academies to provide access to and support to sustain employment.	An introduction to the sector and insight into the range of job roles available with support to apply for live, local vacancies within schools. Participants will have opportunities throughout the academy to improve their employability skills as well as access to a range of personal development training including communication and teamwork. Guaranteed interviews with local employers and one to one mentoring support for	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 8 participants enrolled <u>How well did we do it?</u> 7/8 and 88% participants completed the project. 7/ and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project. <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 6/8 and 75% commenced employment. 4/6 and 67% of participants reported still in employment 6 months after finishing participation on the project	2,3,4

bespoke interventions designed to meet the needs of participants and employers.		the duration of the programme				
	2.5 Childminding – partnership project with NICMA and NHSCT to support new self-employed childminders	<p>Participants will complete qualification in Paediatric First Aid Safeguarding Children and Health & Safety.</p> <p>Undertake training to include Business Development and marketing.</p> <p>Participants will have one to one mentoring support throughout the 6 months duration.</p>	01/04/25	31/03/26	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 Participants enrolled on the project</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% of participants enrolled who completed the project.</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers who reported satisfaction with project</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/8 and 100% of completers gained a qualification as a result of participation on the project</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of participants reported they felt more confident about becoming self-employed</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers commenced self-employment /employment</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of completers still in employment 6 months after finishing participation on the programme</p>	1, 2, 3, 4
	SP2.9 Health Support Services (Care, Catering, Driving) Training interventions in Support Service for roles including catering	Participants will attend weekly classes to gain skills and knowledge to support them to complete agreed vocational related qualifications.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed the project.</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p>	2,3,4

	assistants, care assistants and support assistants with driving duties	<p>Employability workshops will include CV Building, Interview Techniques, Personal Presentation and Transferable Skills.</p> <p>One to One mentoring and progress reviews. Integrated package of 5 driving lessons and engagement and completion support.</p> <p>Participants will take part in have a go days/Site visits and employer talks. Guaranteed interview on completion.</p>			<p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers commenced employment</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of completers still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	
<p>Skilled Labour Supply</p> <p>The MEA LMP have explored a range of employer-led higher skills academies to support participants to further develop industry skills to increase employee retention and</p>	<p>SP2.10 Health and Social Care Upskilling Academy</p> <p>Improve the job satisfaction of healthcare and social care professionals through opportunities for career progression and contribute to better retention</p>	<p>Offer pathways for career development through training and qualifications, allowing workers to take on more advanced roles or specialise in specific areas of care such as Residential Management or Phlebotomy)</p>	01/04/25	31/03/26	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>12 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>10/12 and 83% participants completed the project.</p> <p>8/10 and 80% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p>	1,2,3,4

reduce employee turnover.	rates in the sector.				6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment	
Skilling-up interventions will focus on the under-employed and those who want to obtain qualifications to progress to a higher level.	SP2.11 Classroom Assistant Upskilling Academy with support to apply for live, local vacancies. The academy will support candidates currently employed as temporary classroom assistants.	The Academy aims to build confidence within classroom support teams by focusing on the development of the child or young person's wellbeing and social learning skills. Understanding how to mentor the individual with needs, while working with the teacher or tutor to develop new cognitive skills, is a core part of the course. Throughout the duration of the academy participants will be working towards a Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools which will be delivered through a series of workshops as well as one to one mentoring.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>15 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>12/15 and 80% completing the programme.</p> <p>12/15 and 80% completers reporting satisfaction with the project</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>11/12 and 92% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p> <p>8/12 and 67% commenced permanent employment.</p>	2,3,4
	SP2.12 Cleantech The Cleantech Academy will be	The Cleantech Academy - skilling up programme to raise skills levels in the emerging cleantech	01/04/25	31/03/26	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>8 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p>	2,3,4

	shaped due to employer needs and include training to support staff upskilling	and green technology sector. Hydrogen, Renewable Energy Electric/Hybrid Vehicle repair Small Scale Solar Photovoltaic Systems Electrical Energy Storage Systems Domestic and small commercial electric vehicle charging installations			7/8 and 88% participants completed the project. 7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project. <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 7/8 and 88% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project 6/7 and 86% of completers moved into higher paid employment	
	SP2.13 Employer Led Skills Development to provide support for employees in sectors not covered through academies.	Workplace training initiative to support employers in upskilling their employees with the aim of improving employment opportunities in upskilling	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 10 participants enrolled <u>How well did we do it?</u> 8/10 and 80% completing the programme. 8/10 and 80% completers reporting satisfaction with the project <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project 6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment	1,2,3,4

	SP2.15 City Deal Bespoke academy with a menu of upskilling courses and insights.	This academy will offer training in a range skills pathways to meet gaps in the local labour market. Pathways include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Operations • Specialist Skills • Retrofit 	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 10 participants enrolled <u>How well did we do it?</u> 8/10 and 80% participants completed the project. 7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project. <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project 6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment	1,2,3,4
Disability Tailored initiatives to support people with disabilities to enter the labour market which will focus on skills development job placement assistance, and partnerships with employers willing to prioritise diversity to help bridge the employment gap.	SP2.16 Work Connections To provide participants with intensive one-to-one scaffolded approach to support the development of the individual with increasing focus on progressing to employment as they move through each phase.	The programme will offer 1:2:1 personal development mentoring, accredited training, work placements and employability support. Additionally, Work Connections will support local employers who wish to provide placements, work tasters and employment to programme participants.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 17 participants enrolled 9 employers engaged <u>How well did we do it?</u> 14/17 and 82% participants completed programme. 12/14 and 86% of completers reported satisfaction with the LMP project. 6/9 and 67% of employers reported satisfaction with the project. <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 12/14 and 86% of completers reported feeling more confident regarding their	1,2,3,4

					employability as a result of participation on the project. 8/12 and 67% of completers gaining new employment.	
	SP2.18 Start Out 19-24 – To provide individual tailored support, further education, training and employment opportunities for young people with SEN	The project will provide post 19 participants with interactive bitesize employability support and introduction to the world of work to support them to develop and move into further training, volunteering or employment.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<p><u>How much did we do?</u> 10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u> 8/10 and 80% participants completed programme.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u> 7/8 and 88% of completers reported feeling more confident regarding their employability because of participation on the project. 6/8 and 75% of completers who reported developing skills because of participation on the project 5/8 and 63% of completers who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.</p>	1,2,3,4

Priority 3: To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally.						
Indicators	Increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)					
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures	Delivery Quarter
Increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)	SP3.1 Employability and Well-being Events To support those seeking to move into education, employment, or training through direct engagement with local employers training providers. Working with DfC colleagues on and other appropriate delivery agents Also working with local Shared Prosperity Funded employability provision to ensure comprehensive support.	4 Employer Connection or well-being and employability events to support jobseekers move closer to employment whilst improving their knowledge of health, wellbeing, and support services available.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 150 attendees at events 25 employability/skills providers engaged <u>How well did we do it?</u> 65/95 and 68% of attendees rated the events as helpful for finding work/training opportunities 20/25 and 80% of employability/skills providers reporting satisfaction with event <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 65/95 and 68% of attendees feel more informed of career opportunities	1,2,3,4
	SP3.2 MEA Science School aims to inspire young people to become the next generation of scientists with an inspirational programme that mixes the best of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths)	MEA Science School Over the year we will deliver a range of events including - employer site visits, practical workshops, competitions, careers fairs & work experience for local	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 650 attendees at events 10 employers engaged <u>How well did we do it?</u> 9/10 and 90% of employers reporting satisfaction with event 135/200 and 68% of attendees surveyed reporting satisfaction with event	1,2,3,4

		secondary schools with the main. Science School taking place in 2026.			<u>Is anyone better off</u> 135/200 and 68% of attendees surveyed feel more informed of career opportunities	
	SP3.3 Takeover Days Working in partnership with key employers to raise awareness of the variety of careers available in these sectors to youth/ secondary school pupils	Takeover Days LMP will work with local organisations to deliver 3 Industry Takeover Days with local Secondary Schools to provide immersive events that raise awareness of events and career pathway opportunities. Includes small workshop and insight days for young people who are 'Education other than at School'.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 180 attendees at 3 events <u>How well did we do it?</u> 115/180 and 64% of attendees reporting satisfaction with event <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 115/180 and 64% of attendees feel more informed of career opportunities	1,2,3,4
	SP3.4 NI Apprenticeship Week 2025 Raise awareness of Apprenticeship Programmes	NIAW 2026 Plan and organise 4, schools and stakeholder events and campaign to encourage greater uptake of apprenticeships.	01/04/25	31/03/26	<u>How much did we do?</u> 100 attendees at events <u>How well did we do it?</u> 65/100 and 65% of attendees reporting satisfaction with event <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 65/100 and 65% of attendees feel more informed of career opportunities	3, 4

5. Action Plan 2026-2027

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area						
Indicators	% LMP members who feel the local LMP is making a positive contribution and delivering effectively (LMP)					
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures	Delivery Quarter
LMP Development and Delivery	SP1.1 LMP delivery and development Effective delivery of the LMP through the Members, appropriate structures and mechanisms	Key Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and delivery of MEA LMP • Action Plan development and delivery • Secretariat for LMP • Capacity Building and knowledge sharing with LMP Members and Stakeholder • Collaboration with other LMPs • MTF Skills Sub Group • Enterprise and Employability in the Community Sub Group 	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 6 x LMP Meetings How well did we do it? Overall total 72/96 and 75% attendance of LMP members at meetings Is anyone better off? 14/16 and 88% of LMP members feel that they are contributing to the delivery of the LMP 14/16 and 88% of LMP members who think that the LMP is making a positive difference.	1, 2, 3, 4

Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally

Indicators	% of MEA Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64 - Excl Students) % of Claimant Count in MEA % of MEA Employment rate of people with disabilities # MEA Median Gross Annual Pay by Place of Work					
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures	Delivery Quarter
Economic Inactivity Deliver a suite of activities to encourage greater participation in the labour market.	SP2.1 Community Skills - To encourage the economically inactive back to work, MEA LMP will support inclusive access to employability programmes, focusing on a community/ employer partnership approach.	Local skills engagement across targeted groups to get participants on the 'learning ladder' which may include Gardening/Green-keeping, Train the Trainer, Security Industry Training, Forklift Training.	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 38 participants enrolled on the project <u>How well did we do it?</u> 30/38 and 79% of participants completed the project 25/30 and 83% of participants reported satisfaction with the LMP project <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 25/30 and 83% of completers gained a qualification because of participation on the project. 10/25 and 40% of completers gaining new employment 10/25 and 40% of completers who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.	1,2,3,4
	SP2.2 – ReSkill- ReStart Dedicated returnership project to support the over 50's progress into meaningful employment	Holistic coaching to support individuals reach their goals by focusing on the whole person approach, by helping individuals to consider not just their	01/04/26	31/03/27	How much did we do? 10 participants enrolled on the project How well did we do it? 7/10 and 70% of participants completed the project	2,3

		<p>work goals but also their physical health, emotional wellbeing, family and social life.</p> <p>Participants will agree a tailored pathway for development which may:</p> <p>Digital Skills Training Employability Skills Sector Skills Development</p>			<p>7/10 and 70% of completers reported satisfaction with the LMP project</p> <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <p>6/7 and 86% of completers gained a qualification as a result of participation on the project.</p> <p>5/7 and 71% of completers who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.</p>	
	<p>SP2.3 Insight Youth – Aims to equip young people with the seven key employability skills employers regard as essential to making a successful start in the workplace, retaining employment and building a career.</p>	<p>Long-term personal development and employability programme includes:</p> <p>18 - 20 hours of skill-building workshops</p> <p>10 - 20 hours of community service</p> <p>80 hours of work experience with a local business</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p>How much did we do?</p> <p>10 participants enrolled on the project</p> <p>How well did we do it?</p> <p>7/10 and 70% of participants completed the project</p> <p>7/10 and 70% of completers reported satisfaction with the LMP project</p> <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <p>6/7 and 86% of completers gained a qualification as a result of participation on the project.</p> <p>5/7 and 71% of completers who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.</p>	1,2,3,4,
<p>Unemployment</p> <p>MEA LMP have designed a range of academies with small target</p>	<p>SP2.4 Classroom Assistant (Entry Level)</p> <p>Demand-led entry level employment academies to</p>	<p>An introduction to the sector and insight into the range of job roles available with support to apply for live, local</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>13 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>12/13 and 92% participants completed the project.</p>	1,2,3,4

<p>numbers to facilitate the breadth of skills demands locally. We will collaborate with neighbouring councils to ensure economies of scale and access to opportunity.</p> <p>To reduce job claimant numbers within the borough, through a range of bespoke interventions designed to meet the needs of participants and employers.</p>	<p>provide access to and support to sustain employment.</p>	<p>vacancies within schools.</p> <p>Participants will have opportunities throughout the academy to improve their employability skills as well as access to a range of personal development training including communication and teamwork.</p> <p>Guaranteed interviews with local employers and one to one mentoring support for the duration of the programme</p>			<p>12/13 and 92% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>9/12 (75%) commenced employment.</p> <p>6/9 and 67% of participants reported still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	
	<p>SP 2.5 Childminding partnership project with NICMA and NHSCT to support new self-employed childminders/ approved homecare providers</p>	<p>Participants will complete qualification in Paediatric First Aid Safeguarding Children and Health & Safety. Undertake training to include Business Development and marketing.</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 Participants enrolled on the project</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% of participants enrolled who completed the project.</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers who reported satisfaction with project</p>	1,2,3,4

		Participants will have one to one mentoring support throughout the duration. Of the programme			<p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/8 and 100% of completers gained a qualification as a result of participation on the project</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of participants reported they felt more confident about becoming self-employed</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers commenced self-employment/employment</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of completers still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	
	<p>SP2.6</p> <p>Dispensing Assistant - Comprehensive training and support employment academy aims to enhance the employability and career readiness of participants.</p>	<p>Combined skills and knowledge programme to prepare participants for a career within Pharmacy Dispensing.</p> <p>The academy will include</p> <p>Classroom based learning, work placements, employability skills development and participants will have the opportunity to progress onto complete Level 2 in Pharmacy Services</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed the project.</p> <p>7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers commenced employment</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of completers still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	1,2,3,4

	<p>SP2.7 Engineering (Welding, Coachbuilding)</p> <p>Bespoke 'work ready' training programme designed to equip participants with the skills, knowledge, experience, and confidence to begin a new career within manufacturing/engineering</p>	<p>The Engineering Academy will include various pathways that will be shaped due to employer needs with relevant training identified offered to participants. Initial demands are around welding/fabrication electrician's assistant and electronics</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed the project.</p> <p>7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers commenced employment</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of completers still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	2,3,4
	<p>SP2.8 Hospitality & Tourism Academy</p> <p>Training interventions to support participants to progress into roles within Hospitality & Tourism</p>	<p>The academy will introduce the sector and insight into the range of job roles available. Participants will be able to explore a range of training options geared towards careers in outdoor pursuits, indoor leisure or visitor attractions.</p> <p>Participants will attend weekly classes to gain skills and knowledge to support them to complete agreed vocational related qualifications.</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>13 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>12/13 and 92% participants completed the project.</p> <p>12/13 and 92% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>9/12 (75%) commenced employment.</p> <p>6/9 and 67% of participants reported still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	2,3,4

	<p>SP2.9 Health and Social Care Upskilling Academy</p> <p>Improve the job satisfaction of healthcare and social care professionals through opportunities for career progression and contribute to better retention rates in the sector.</p>	<p>Offer pathways for career development through training and qualifications, allowing workers to take on more advanced roles or specialise in specific areas of care such as Residential Management or Phlebotomy.</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed the project.</p> <p>7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment</p>	1,2,3,4
	<p>SP2.10 Classroom Assistant Upskilling Academy</p> <p>with support to apply for live, local vacancies. The academy will support candidates currently employed as temporary classroom assistants.</p>	<p>The Academy aims to build confidence within classroom support teams by focusing on the development of the child or young person's wellbeing and social learning skills. Understanding how to mentor the individual with needs, while working with the teacher or tutor to develop new cognitive skills, is a core part of the course. Throughout the duration of the academy participants will be working towards a Level</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>15 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>12/15 and 80% completing the programme.</p> <p>12/15 and 80% completers reporting satisfaction with the project</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>11/12 and 92% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p> <p>8/12 and (67%) commenced permanent employment.</p>	2,3,4

		3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools which will be delivered through a series of workshops as well as one to one mentoring.				
	SP2.11 Cleantech The Cleantech Academy will be shaped due to employer needs and include training to support staff upskilling	The Cleantech Academy - skilling up programme to raise skills levels in the emerging cleantech and green technology sector. Hydrogen, Renewable Energy Electric/Hybrid Vehicle repair Small Scale Solar Photovoltaic Systems Electrical Energy Storage Systems Domestic and small commercial electric vehicle charging installations	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 10 participants enrolled <u>How well did we do it?</u> 8/10 and 80% participants completed the project. 7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project. <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project 6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment	2,3,4
	SP2.12 Employer Led Skills Development to provide support for employees in sectors not covered through academies.	Workplace training initiative to support employers in upskilling their employees with the aim of improving employment opportunities in upskilling	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 10 participants enrolled <u>How well did we do it?</u> 8/10 and 80% completing the programme.	1,2,3,4

					<p>8/10 and 80% completers reporting satisfaction with the project</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment</p>	
	<p>SP2.13</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Participants will have the option of completing training in HGV or PCV</p>	<p>The Transport Academy will provide training and support to enable participants to achieve either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category C (HGV Class 2) or PCV (bus / coach) licences and secure employment. 	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% completing the programme.</p> <p>8/10 and 80% completers reporting satisfaction with the project</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment</p>	1,2,3,4
	<p>SP2.14</p> <p>City Deal</p> <p>Bespoke academy with a menu of upskilling courses and insights.</p>	<p>This academy will offer training in a range skills pathways to meet gaps in the local labour market.</p> <p>Pathways include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Operations • Specialist Skills • Retrofit 	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed the project.</p> <p>7/8 and 88% of completers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p>	1,2,3,4

					<p>8/8 and 100% of completers who gained a qualification because of participation on the project</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers moved into higher paid employment</p>	
<p>Disability</p> <p>Tailored initiatives to support people with disabilities to enter the labour market which will focus on skills development job placement assistance, and partnerships with employers willing to prioritise diversity to help bridge the employment gap.</p>	<p>SP2.15 Work Connections</p> <p>To provide participants with intensive one-to-one scaffolded approach to support the development of the individual with increasing focus on progressing to employment as they move through each phase.</p>	<p>The programme will offer 1:2:1 personal development mentoring, accredited training, work placements and employability support.</p> <p>Additionally, Work Connections will support local employers who wish to provide placements, work tasters and employment to programme participants.</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>11 participants enrolled</p> <p>6 employers engaged</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>9/11 and 82% participants completed programme.</p> <p>8/9 and 89% of completers reported satisfaction with the LMP project.</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of employers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>8/9 and 89% of completers reported feeling more confident regarding their employability as a result of participation on the project.</p> <p>8/9 and 89% of completers gaining new employment.</p> <p>5/8 and 63% of participants reported still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	1,2,3,4

	<p>SP2.16 Graduate Build</p> <p>Tailored training and employment support for graduates with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed, economically inactive or not suited to existing provision</p> <p>Programme will include a range of personalised supports and qualifications to support graduates move into employment</p>	<p>A comprehensive training and support program for graduates with disabilities which will significantly enhance their employment prospects. The programme will include</p> <p>Job Exploration</p> <p>Work-Based Learning:</p> <p>Workplace Readiness Training</p> <p>Self-Advocacy Training</p> <p>Mentoring</p> <p>Inclusive Employer Partnerships</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p>6 employers engaged</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed programme.</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers reported satisfaction with the LMP project.</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of employers reported satisfaction with the project.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers reported feeling more confident regarding their employability as a result of participation on the project.</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers gaining new employment.</p> <p>4/6 and 67% of participants reported still in employment 6 months after finishing participation</p>	1,2,3,4
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	<p>SP2.17 Start Out 19-24 – To provide individual tailored support, further education, training and employment opportunities for young people with SEN</p>	<p>The project will provide post 19 participants with interactive bitesize employability support and introduction to the world of work to support them to develop and move into further training, volunteering or employment.</p>	01/04/26	31/03/27	<p><u>How much did we do?</u></p> <p>10 participants enrolled</p> <p><u>How well did we do it?</u></p> <p>8/10 and 80% participants completed programme.</p> <p><u>Is anyone better off?</u></p> <p>7/8 and 88% of completers reported feeling more confident regarding their employability because of participation on the project.</p> <p>6/8 and 75% of completers who reported developing skills because of participation on the project</p> <p>5/8 and 63% of completers who undertake further education or training following completion of the project.</p>	1,2,3,4
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Priority 3: To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally.						
Indicators	Increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)					
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures	Delivery Quarter
Increased awareness of existing regional/local employability or skills provision (LMP)	SP3.1 Employability and Well-being Events To support those seeking to move into education, employment, or training through direct engagement with local employers training providers and support. Working with DfC colleagues on JobStart and other appropriate delivery. Also working with local Shared Prosperity Funded employability provision to ensure comprehensive support.	4 Employer Connection or well-being and employability events to support jobseekers move closer to employment whilst improving their knowledge of health, wellbeing, and support services available.	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 150 attendees at events 25 employability/skills providers engaged <u>How well did we do it?</u> 65/95 and 68% of attendees rated the events as helpful for finding work/training opportunities 20/25 and 80% of employability/skills providers reporting satisfaction with event <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 65/95 and 68% of attendees feel more informed of career opportunities	1,2,3,4
	SP3.2 MEA Science School aims to inspire young people to become the next generation of scientists with an inspirational programme that mixes the best of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths)	MEA Science School Over the year we will deliver a range of events including - employer site visits, practical workshops, competitions, careers fairs & work experience for local secondary schools with the main. Science School taking place in 2027.	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 650 attendees at events 10 employers engaged <u>How well did we do it?</u> 9/10 and 90% of employers reporting satisfaction with event 135/200 and 68% of attendees surveyed reporting satisfaction with event	1,2,3,4

					<u>Is anyone better off</u> 135/200 and 68% of attendees surveyed feel more informed of career opportunities	
	SP3.3 Takeover Days Working in partnership with key employers to raise awareness of the variety of careers available in these sectors to youth/ secondary school pupils	Takeover Days LMP will work with local organisations to deliver 3 Industry Takeover Days with local Secondary Schools to provide immersive events that raise awareness of events and career pathway opportunities. Includes small workshop and insight days for young people who are 'Education other than at School'.	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 180 attendees at 3 events <u>How well did we do it?</u> 115/180 and 64% of attendees reporting satisfaction with event <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 115/180 and 64% of attendees feel more informed of career opportunities	1,2,3,4
	SP3.4 NI Apprenticeship Week 2025 Raise awareness of Apprenticeship Programmes	NIAW 2027 Plan and organise 4, schools and stakeholder events and campaign to encourage greater uptake of apprenticeships.	01/04/26	31/03/27	<u>How much did we do?</u> 100 attendees at events <u>How well did we do it?</u> 65/100 and 65% of attendees reporting satisfaction with event <u>Is anyone better off?</u> 65/100 and 65% of attendees feel more informed of career opportunities	3, 4

MID AND EAST ANTRIM

Labour Market Partnership

Working Together



Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership

2025-2026 and 2026-2027
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