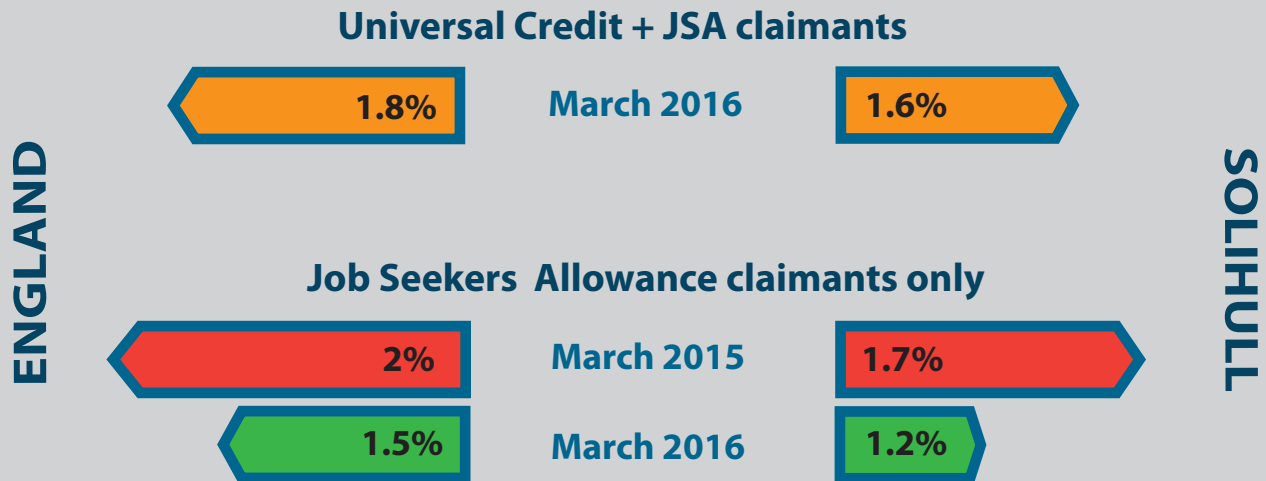


### Overall Unemployment



### Youth Unemployment in Solihull

**Universal Credit  
+ JSA claimants**



**Job Seekers Allowance  
claimants only**



### **Employment and Skills**

#### **Team outcomes**

March 15-April 16

Working directly with Solihull residents, the team have achieved the following:



People supported into work - 10% above target



Young people supported into work - 19% above target

This briefing introduces a new headline measure for claimant unemployment in Solihull, which is more representative of the true level of benefit related unemployment than Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). Since June 2015 there has been a phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Solihull which has replaced a number of existing benefits, including JSA for new claimants. These new claimants would probably be receiving JSA in the absence of UC; therefore focusing only on JSA figures does not give a wholly representative view on the current level of unemployment. Headline claimant unemployment will therefore combine JSA claimants and those UC claimants not in work.

The new headline measure of claimant is available down to ward level on an age and gender basis.








It should be noted that these figures are new and are considered as experimental. Most significantly they are likely to include a small number of UC claimants who are not in employment, but not required to seek work to be eligible for benefits and would therefore not meet the required claimant unemployment definition. The ONS has indicated that it is working to resolve these issues and that the figures are liable to retrospective revision.

### Headline Claimant Unemployment


In March 2016 there were 1,506 individuals in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 499 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 2,005 claimants represents 1.6% of the working age population.

On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is below those for England (1.8%), West Midlands (2.3%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (2.9%), but above the average for our CIPFA comparator Local Authorities (1.3%)<sup>1</sup>. Solihull has the lowest claimant unemployment rate among the 36 Metropolitan Councils in England.

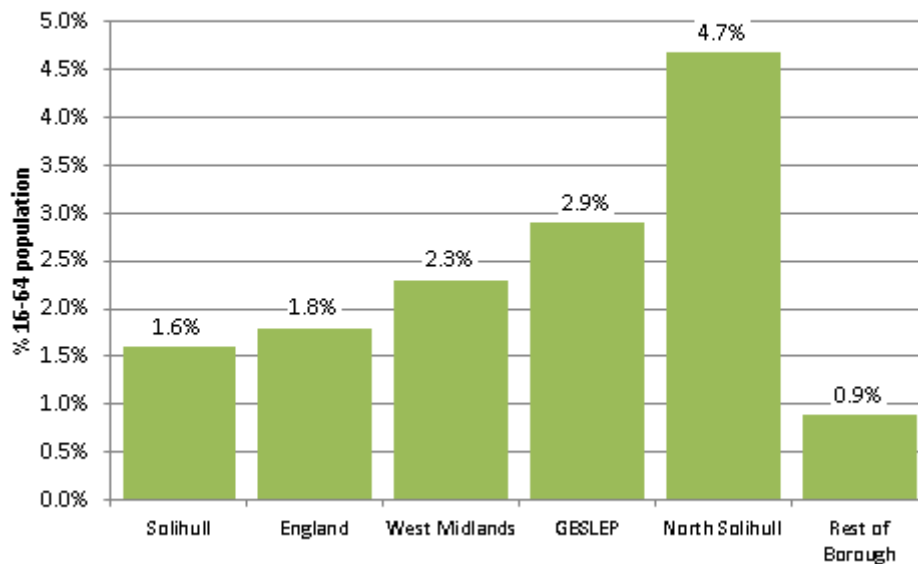
Around 54% of claimants in Solihull (1,085 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 4.7% compared with 0.9% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – March 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Mar 2016 <sup>^</sup>	% 16-64		Annual Change (Mar 2015-2016)		
		Mar 2015	Mar 2016 <sup>^</sup>	Count <sup>^</sup>	% <sup>^</sup>	Trend
Solihull	2,005 (1,506)	1.7%	1.6% (1.2%)	-165 (-669)	-8% (-31%)	
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,085 (854)	5.2%	4.7% (3.7%)	-125 (-354)	-10% (-29%)	
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	920 (652)	0.9%	0.9% (0.6%)	-45 (-315)	-5% (-33%)	
England	622,910	2.0%	1.8% (1.5%)	53,520	-8% (-22%)	
West Midlands	80,355	2.5%	2.3% (1.9%)	-7,255	-8% (-23%)	
GBSLEP	36,210	3.1%	2.9% (2.3%)	-2,345	-6% (-24%)	
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	212,190	3.1%	2.8% (2.1%)	-16,130	-7% (-23%)	

<sup>1</sup> For explanation of comparator areas see methodology notes at end of this briefing

CIPFA Comparator Councils	30,525	1.4%	1.3% (0.9%)	-2,220	-4% (-25%)	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis ^ Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

## Headline Claimant Unemployment March 2016

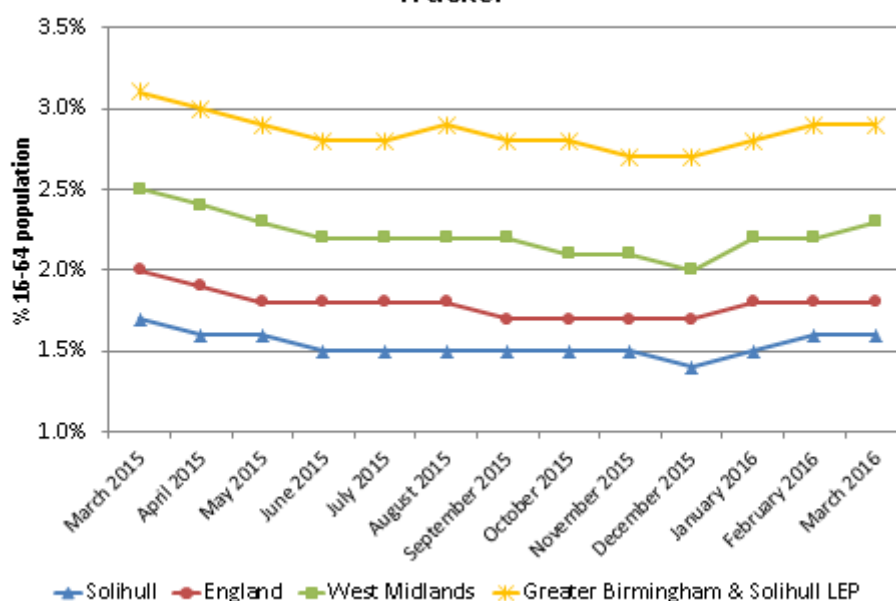


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

The combined number of JSA and UC claimants in Solihull increased by just over 1% (+30 individuals) between February and March 2016. However, compared with the same month last year Solihull recorded a fall in claimant unemployment of -8% (-165 individuals), in-line with the England average. The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -10% (-125 individuals) over this period compared to a fall of -5% (-45) in the rest of the borough.

The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull fell by -0.1 percentage points between March 2015 and 2016 (from 1.7% to 1.6%).

## Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

### Gender Breakdown

Around 62% of Solihull claimants are male (1,245 individuals) and 38% female (760 individuals), which is consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is below the national average for both males and females.

	Claimant Unemployment by Gender - March 2016					
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,245	760	62%	38%	2.0%	1.2%
England	395,240	227,670	63%	37%	2.3%	1.3%
West Midlands	51,790	28,565	64%	36%	2.9%	1.6%
GBSLEP	23,630	12,580	65%	35%	3.8%	2.0%
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

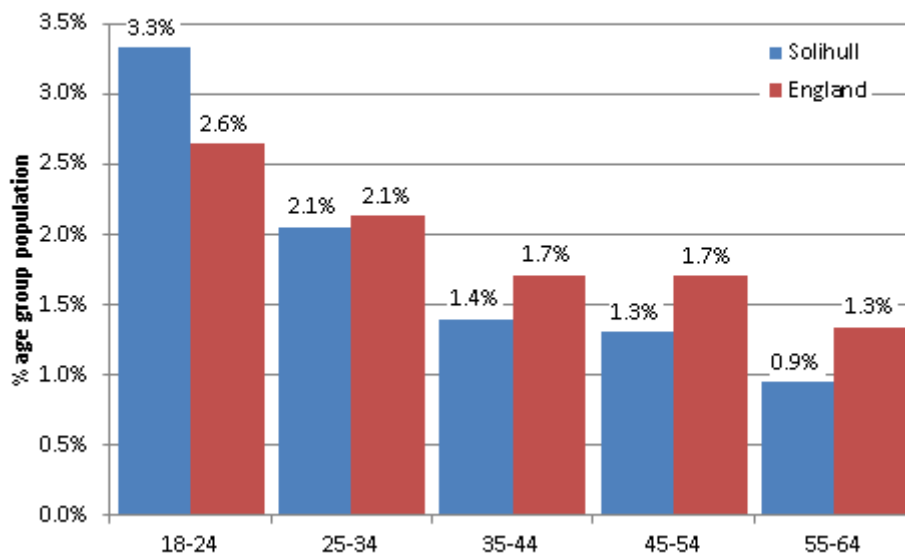
### Age Breakdown

In March 2016 around a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (535 individuals, 27% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, particularly sickness benefits such as Employment Support Allowance, among older age groups as increasing employment rates.

18-24 year olds are the only age group in Solihull where the claimant unemployment rate is above the England average.

	Solihull Claimants March 2016				Rates (% age group)	
	JSA	UC	Total (JSA+UC)	% Solihull Total	Solihull	England
18-24	270	265	535	27%	3.3%	2.6%
25-34	355	115	470	23%	2.1%	2.1%
35-44	305	50	355	18%	1.4%	1.7%
45-54	355	60	415	21%	1.3%	1.7%
55-64	215	20	235	12%	0.9%	1.3%
Total	1,506	499	2,005		1.6%	1.8%
<b>JSA claimants:</b> ONS/Nomis						
<b>UC claimants:</b> DWP/Stat Xplore						
<b>16-64 population:</b> ONS mid year population estimates 2014						

## Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group March 2016



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

### Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

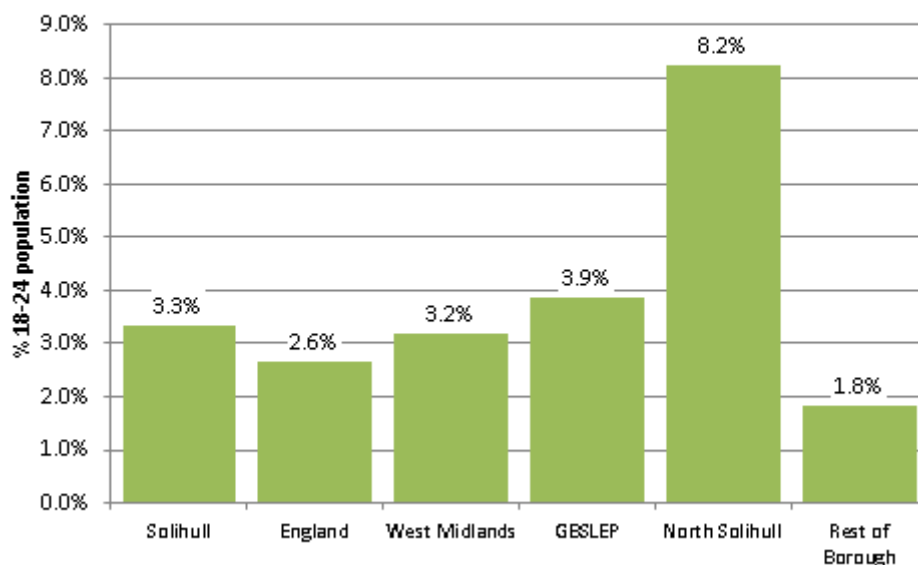
In March 2016 there were 270 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a further 265 not in work and receiving Universal Credit. The combined total of 535 claimants represents 3.3% of the 18-24 population.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than both the England (2.6%) and West Midlands (3.2%) averages.

Around 58% (310 individuals) of 18-24 year old claimants live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood), where the rate is more than four times higher than across the rest of the Borough (8.2% compared to 1.8%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – March 2016						
Area	Claimant Count Mar 2016 <sup>^</sup>	% 18-24		Annual Change (Mar 2015-2016)		
		Mar 2015	Mar 2016 <sup>^</sup>	Count <sup>^</sup>	% <sup>^</sup>	Trend
Solihull	535 (270)	3.9%	3.3% (1.7%)	-90 (-355)	-14% (-57%)	↓
<i>North Solihull</i>	310 (180)	10.6%	8.2% (4.8%)	-90 (-220)	-23% (-55%)	↓
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	225 (90)	1.9%	1.8% (0.7%)	-5 (-140)	-2% (-61%)	↓
England	130,260	3.2%	2.6% (1.7%)	-26,000	-17% (-43%)	↓
West Midlands	17,160	3.8%	3.2% (2.0%)	-3,445	-17% (-48%)	↓
GBSLEP	7,805	4.3%	3.9% (2.2%)	-975	-11% (-50%)	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	47,420	4.6%	3.9% (2.3%)	-8,370	-15% (-44%)	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,880	2.6%	2.2% (0.9%)	-680	-9% (-45%)	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						
<sup>^</sup> Jobseekers Allowance only in brackets						

## 18-24 Claimant Unemployment March 2016

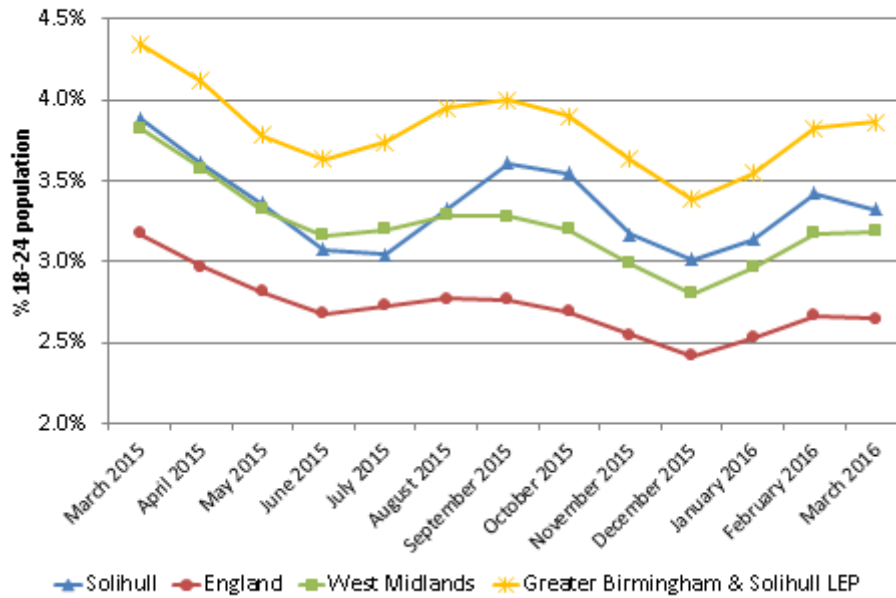


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

The number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull increased by 3% (-15 individuals) in March and the number of claimants is now -14% (-90 individuals) lower than the same month last year. As a result the 18-24 claimant rate has fallen by -0.6 percentage points over this period (from 3.9% to 3.3%).

The number of claimants in North Solihull fell by -23% in the year to March 2016 (-90 individuals), compared with a fall across the rest of the Borough of -2%, (-5 individuals).

### Youth Claimant Unemployment Rates (18-24 Year olds): 12 Month Tracker

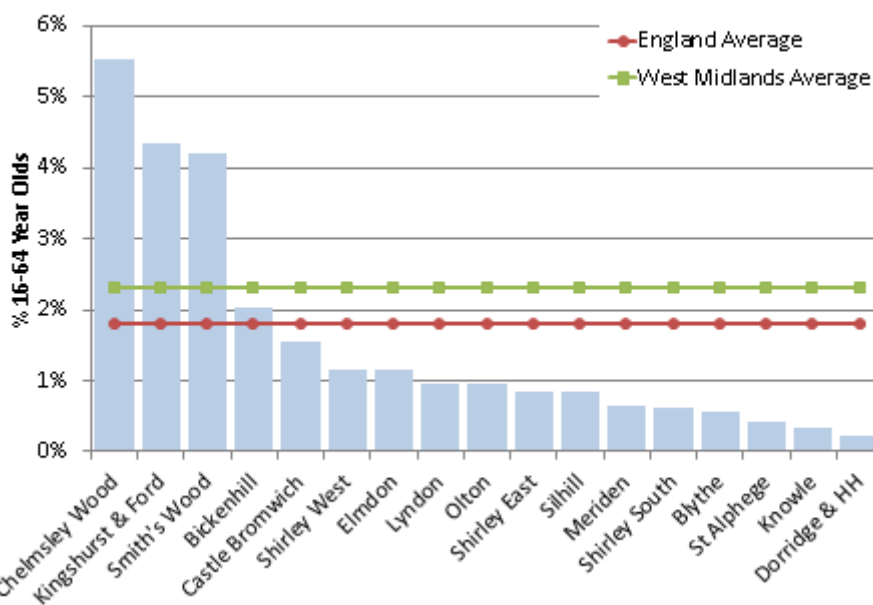


Source: DNS/Nomis and DWP/StatXplore

### Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only three wards in Solihull have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (5.5%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (4.3%) and Smith's Wood (4.2%).

### Ward Claimant Unemployment March 2016



Source: DNS/NOMIS

Between March 2015 and 2016 claimant unemployment fell in 10 out of Solihull's 17 wards, with small increases in four.

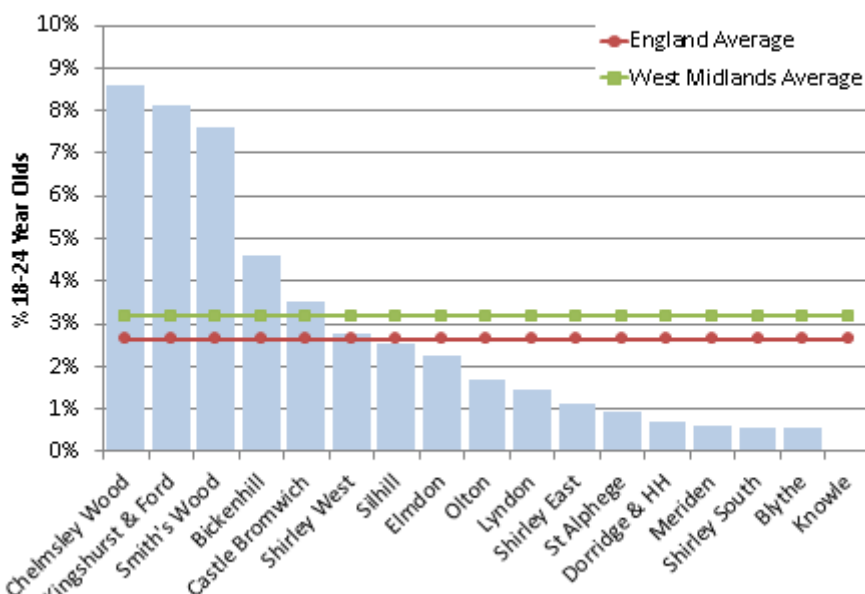
Claimant Unemployment – March 2016						
	Count Mar2016	% 16-64		Annual Change (Mar 2015-2016)		
		Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	155	2.4%	2.0%	-30	-16%	
Blythe	50	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	
Castle Bromwich	110	1.3%	1.6%	+15	+16%	
Chelmsley Wood	415	5.9%	5.5%	-30	-7%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	15	0.4%	0.2%	-10	-40%	
Elmdon	85	1.2%	1.2%	0	0%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	345	4.5%	4.3%	-15	-4%	
Knowle	20	0.4%	0.3%	-5	-20%	
Lyndon	80	1.2%	1.0%	-20	-20%	
Meriden	45	0.6%	0.6%	+5	+13%	
Olton	70	1.0%	0.9%	-5	-7%	
Shirley East	60	1.0%	0.8%	-10	-14%	
Shirley South	45	0.5%	0.6%	+5	+13%	
Shirley West	85	1.2%	1.2%	-5	-6%	
Silhill	60	0.8%	0.8%	+5	+9%	
Smith's Wood	325	5.2%	4.2%	-75	-19%	
St Alphege	35	0.4%	0.4%	0	0%	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

#### Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

Five wards in Solihull have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (8.6%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (8.1%), Smith's Wood (7.6%), Bickenhill (4.6%) and Castle Bromwich (3.5%).







## Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment March 2016



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between March 2015 and 2016 the number of 18-24 year old claimants fell in six out of Solihull's 17 wards, with the three North Solihull wards accounting for the majority of the fall in the borough (Smith's Wood -45 claimants, Kingshurst & Fordbridge -25 claimants, Chelmsley Wood -20 claimants). There were increases in three wards, although the increase amounted to just 5 claimants in each ward.

18-24 Claimant Unemployment – March 2016						
	Count Mar2016	% 18-24		Annual Change (Mar 2015-2016)		
		Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	45	4.6%	4.6%	0	0%	↔
Blythe	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	35	3.0%	3.5%	+5	+17%	↑
Chelmsley Wood	105	10.2%	8.6%	-20	-16%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmdon	20	2.3%	2.3%	0	0%	↔
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	105	10.1%	8.1%	-25	-19%	↓
Knowle	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0%	↔
Lyndon	15	2.4%	1.4%	-10	-40%	↓
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	15	2.2%	1.7%	-5	-25%	↓
Shirley East	10	1.7%	1.1%	-5	-33%	↓
Shirley South	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔

Shirley West	25	2.8%	2.8%	0	0%	
Silhill	20	1.9%	2.5%	+5	+33%	
Smith's Wood	95	11.2%	7.6%	-45	-32%	
St Alphege	10	0.5%	0.9%	+5	+100%	
Source: Claimant Count, ONS/Nomis						

## Methodology Notes

### Universal Credit

From May 2015 onwards there has been a phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Solihull which will replace a number existing benefits including (means tested) Job Seekers Allowance for new claimants.

The Pathfinder for UC started on 29 April 2013 and the programme is being gradually rolled out across the country. At the moment UC is only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents (hence why more than half of current UC claimants in Solihull are under the age of 35 years).

In response to the growing number of areas introducing UC the ONS have announced a change to the definition of the measurement of the Claimant Count. From May 2015 the ONS headline measure of the Claimant Count will include out of work claimants of Universal Credit. It should be noted that these figures are new and are considered as experimental, therefore may be subject to revision.

### Comparator Areas

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP): Birmingham, Solihull, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Wyre Forest

Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) nearest neighbour comparator Local Authorities: Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Bury, Chester East, Chester West & Chester, Stockport, Trafford, Warrington, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, Poole, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire, York

Metropolitan Councils: Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton.