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Just over a third of Solihull's Claimant Count total are in receipt of UC which is in-line with the England average. However, proportionally more 18-24 year olds in Solihull are in receipt of UC than nationally (71% of the Claimant Count total compared to 64%).

Overall Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

Youth Unemployment

Universal Credit + JSA claimants

ENGLAND



SOLIHULL

*Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and the previous month's figures are retrospectively revised.

Since the summer of 2015 Claimant Count unemployment has combined Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants and those Universal Credit (UC) claimants who are required to be available for and actively seeking work. UC is designed so that a broader span of claimants is required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance, meaning that once UC is fully rolled out, the Claimant Count is likely to be higher than it would otherwise be under Jobseeker's Allowance.

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Headline Claimant Unemployment

In February 2017 there were 2,335 individuals in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents a claimant unemployment rate of 1.8%.

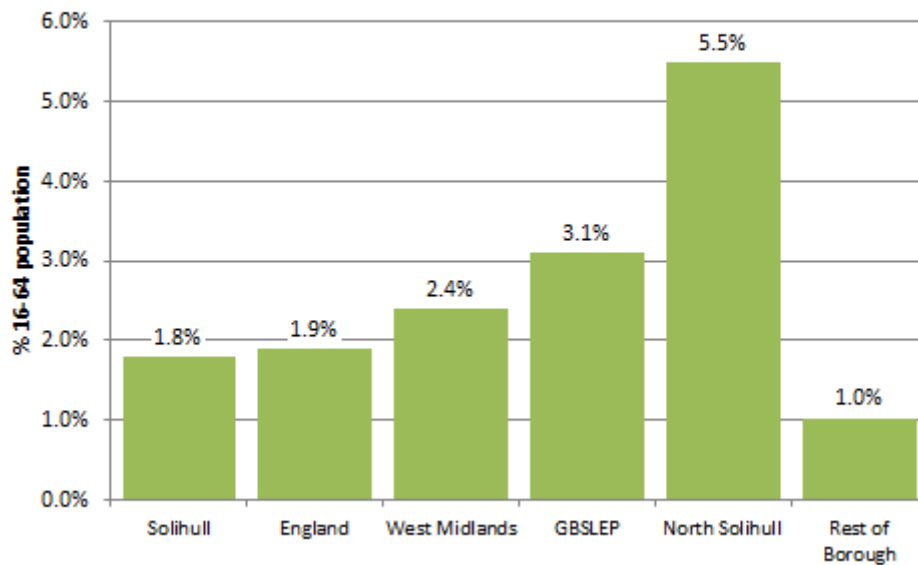
On this basis the headline claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is lower than each of the England (1.9%), West Midlands (2.4%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (3.1%) averages.

Around 55% of claimants in Solihull (1,275 individuals) live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood) where the rate is 5.5% compared with 1.0% across the rest of the Borough.

Working Age Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – February 2017						
Area	Claimant Count Feb 2017	% 16-64		Annual Change (Feb 2016-2017)		
		Feb 2016	Feb 2017	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	2,335	1.6%	1.8%	+250	+12%	↑
<i>North Solihull</i>	1,275	4.8%	5.5%	+155	+14%	↑
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	1,065	0.9%	1.0%	+100	+10%	↑
England	646,370	1.8%	1.9%	+10,915	+2%	↑
West Midlands	85,800	2.3%	2.4%	+4,200	+5%	↑
GBSLEP	38,765	2.9%	3.1%	+2,000	+5%	↑
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	214,485	2.8%	2.9%	+1,275	+1%	↑
CIPFA Comparator Councils	30,995	1.3%	1.3%	-295	-1%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Headline Claimant Unemployment

February 2017

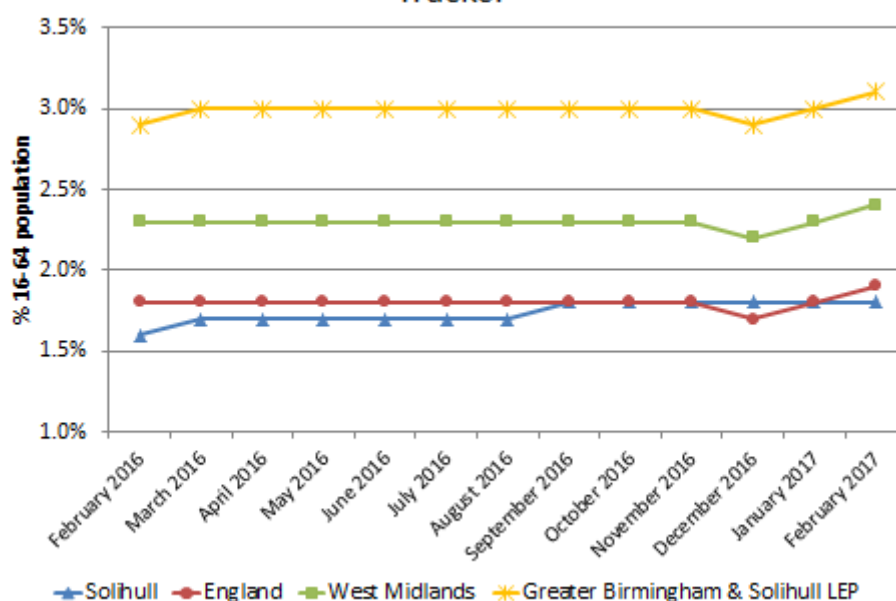


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

A seasonal post-Christmas effect contributed to a second consecutive monthly rise in the Solihull claimant unemployment count in Solihull in February 2017 (+65 claimants), although this is consistent with previous years. The number of claimants in Solihull is 12% higher than in February 2016 (+250 individuals). This rise in Solihull is consistent with, albeit more pronounced than national and regional trends (England +2%, West Midlands +5%). The number of claimants in North Solihull increased by +14% (+155 individuals) over the last year, mirroring a rise across the rest of the borough (+10%, +100 individuals).

The rise in the number of claimants in Solihull between February 2016 and 2017 resulted in an increase in the claimant unemployment rate of 20 basis points (from 1.6% to 1.8%). The rate increased in both North Solihull (from 4.8% to 5.5%) and across the rest of the Borough (from 0.9% to 1.0%) over this period.

Headline Claimant Unemployment Rates: 12 Month Tracker



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Gender Breakdown

Around 61% of Solihull claimants are male (1,430 individuals) and 39% female (905 individuals), which is consistent with the gender split nationally. The claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is in-line with the national average for both males and females.

	Claimant Unemployment by Gender - February 2017					
	Count		% all claimants		Rate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Solihull	1,430	905	61%	39%	2.3%	1.4%
England	405,805	240,565	63%	37%	2.3%	1.4%
West Midlands	54,375	31,425	63%	37%	3.0%	1.8%
GBSLEP	24,805	13,960	64%	36%	4.0%	2.2%

Data Source: ONS/Nomis

Age Breakdown

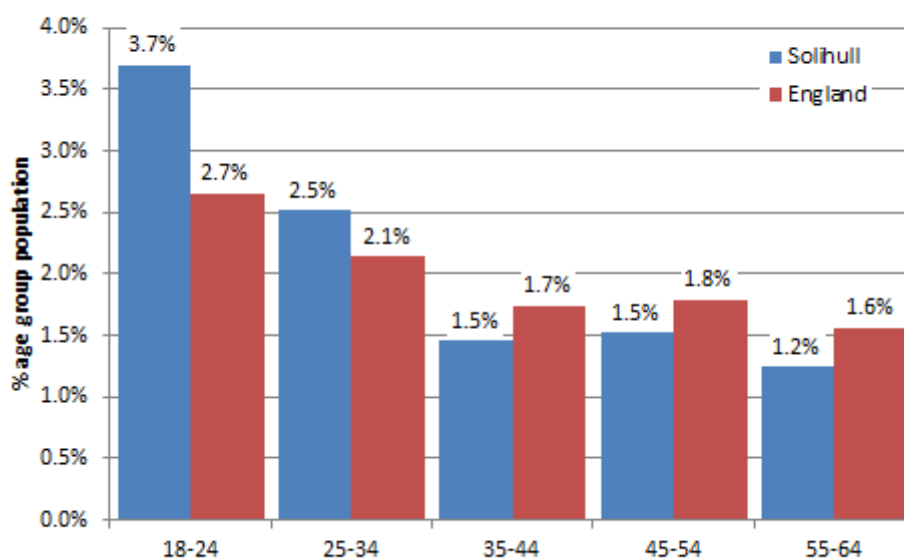
In February 2017 a half of all claimants in Solihull were under the age of 35, with 18-24 year olds the largest single group (595 individuals, 25% of all claimants). This is consistent with the distribution of claimants nationally and is as much due to increasing take up of other benefits, particularly sickness benefits such as Employment Support Allowance, among older age groups as increasing employment rates.

Solihull's claimant unemployment rate is above the England average among both 18-24 year olds and those aged 25-34 years. However, it is below average among older age groups.

	Solihull Claimants February 2017		Rates (% Age Group)	
	Claimant Count	% Total	Solihull	England
Age 18-24	595	25%	3.7%	2.7%
Age 25-34	575	25%	2.5%	2.1%
Age 35-44	370	16%	1.5%	1.7%
Age 45-54	485	21%	1.5%	1.8%
Age 55-64	310	13%	1.2%	1.6%
Total	2,335		1.8%	1.9%

Source: ONS/Nomis

Headline Unemployment Rates by Age Group February 2017



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Youth Unemployment (18-24 year olds)

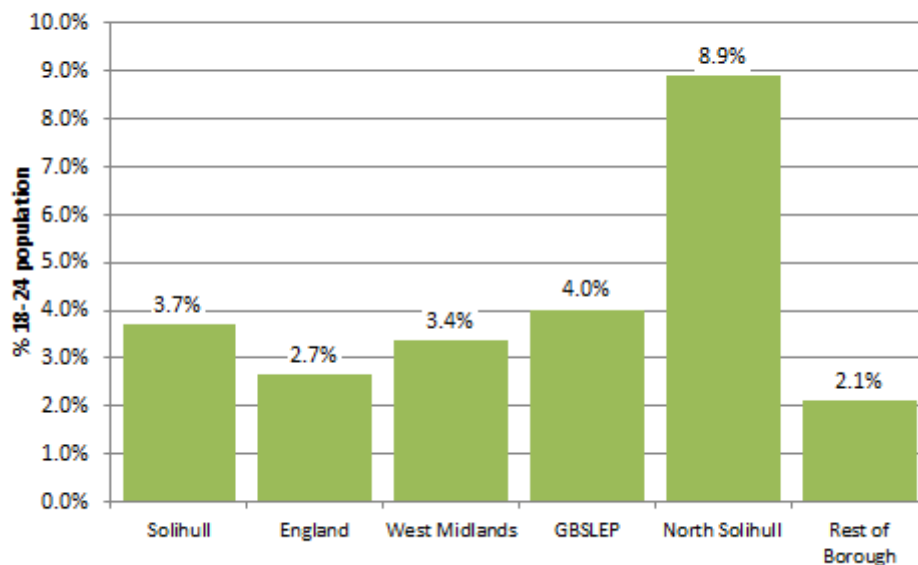
In February 2017 there were 595 18-24 year olds in Solihull claiming either Job Seekers Allowance or receiving Universal Credit and actively seeking work. This represents an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate of 3.7%.

On this basis the 18-24 claimant unemployment rate in Solihull is higher than the England average (2.7%) and that for the West Midlands (3.4%). In order to match the England average rate the number of 18-24 year old claimants in Solihull would have to fall by 168 individuals.

Around 56% (335 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 (8.9% compared to 2.1%).

18-24 Claimant Unemployment (JSA+UC claimants) – February 2017						
Area	Claimant Count Feb 2017	% 18-24		Annual Change (Feb 2016-2017)		
		Feb 2016	Feb 2017	Count	%	Trend
Solihull	595	3.7%	3.7%	-5	-1%	↓
<i>North Solihull</i>	335	8.9%	8.9%	0	0%	↔
<i>Rest of Borough</i>	260	2.2%	2.1%	-5	-2%	↓
England	130,575	2.8%	2.7%	-5,320	-4%	↓
West Midlands	18,200	3.4%	3.4%	+115	+1%	↑
GBSLEP	8,110	4.1%	4.0%	-135	-2%	↓
Other Comparators						
Met Councils	45,860	4.0%	3.8%	-2,715	-6%	↓
CIPFA Comparator Councils	6,335	2.3%	2.0%	-780	-11%	↓
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

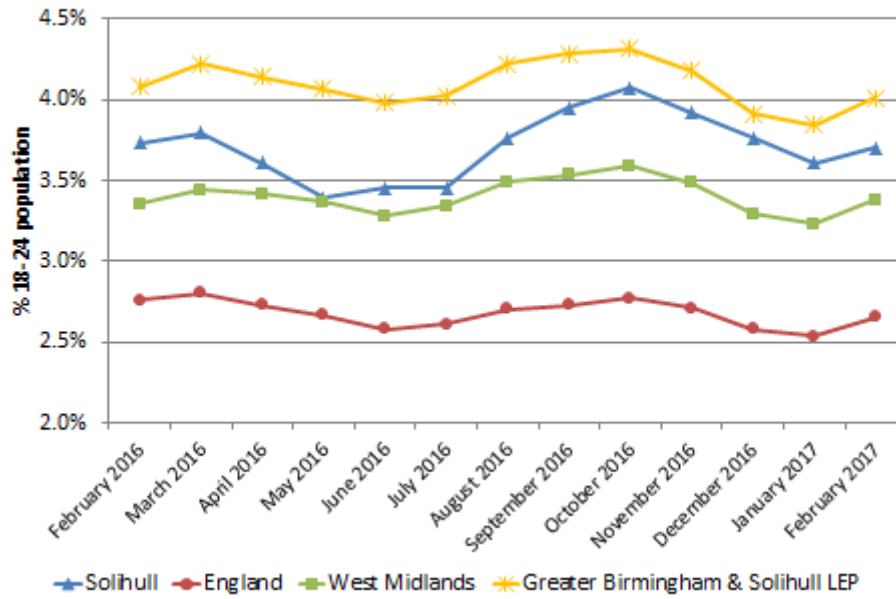
18-24 Claimant Unemployment February 2017



Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

18-24 year olds in Solihull have been less affected by the usual post-Christmas seasonal rise in unemployment, although there was a small rise in the number of claimants in February (+15 individuals). The number of 18-24 year old claimants is slightly lower (-1%, -5 individuals) lower than in February 2016. The claimant rate among this group has remained unchanged at 3.7% as a result, although there have been substantial seasonal fluctuations during this period. The number of claimants in North Solihull is unchanged compared with February 2017, with the number in the rest of the borough falling slightly over this period (-2%, -5 individuals).

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

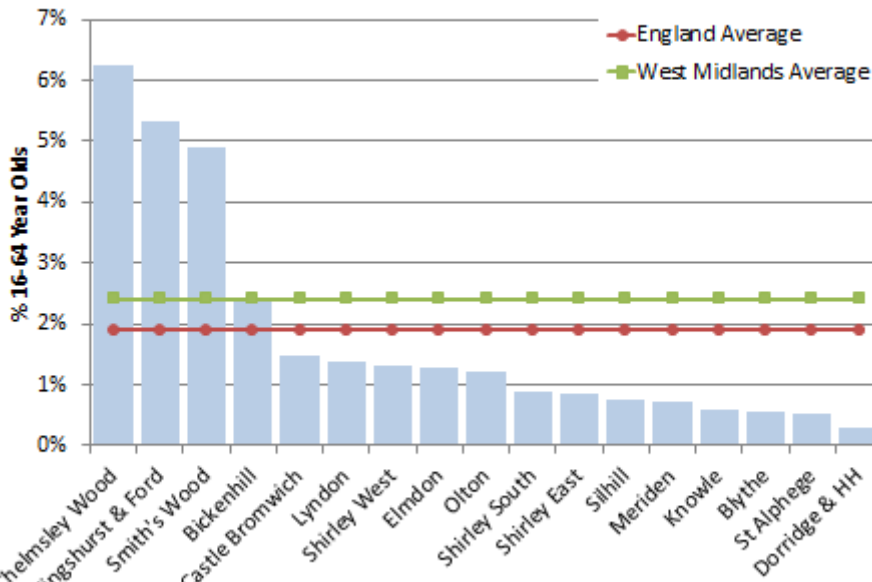


Source: ONS/Nomis and DWP/Stat Xplore

Ward Claimant Unemployment


















Only the three wards in the North Solihull regeneration area have a claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Chelmsley Wood (6.3%), Kingshurst & Fordbridge (5.3%) and Smith's Wood (4.9%).

Ward Claimant Unemployment February 2017



Source: ONS/NOMIS

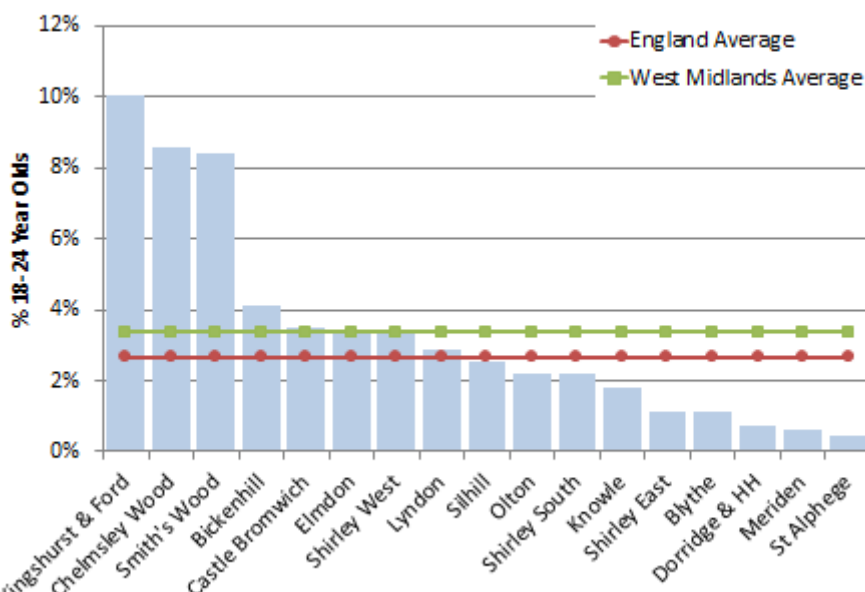
Between February 2016 and 2017 claimant unemployment increased in all except four of Solihull's 17 wards.

Claimant Unemployment – February 2017						
	Count Feb 2017	% 16-64		Annual Change (Feb 2016-2017)		
		Feb 2016	Feb 2017	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	185	2.2%	2.4%	+15	+9%	
Blythe	50	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	
Castle Bromwich	105	1.6%	1.5%	-10	-9%	
Chelmsley Wood	470	5.7%	6.3%	+40	+9%	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	20	0.2%	0.3%	+5	+33%	
Elmdon	95	1.2%	1.3%	+5	+6%	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	425	4.3%	5.3%	+80	+23%	
Knowle	35	0.3%	0.6%	+15	+75%	
Lyndon	115	1.2%	1.4%	+15	+15%	
Meriden	50	0.6%	0.7%	+5	+11%	
Olton	90	1.1%	1.2%	+10	+13%	
Shirley East	60	0.8%	0.8%	0	0%	
Shirley South	65	0.6%	0.9%	+20	+44%	
Shirley West	95	1.2%	1.3%	+10	+12%	
Silhill	55	0.8%	0.8%	-5	-8%	
Smith's Wood	380	4.4%	4.9%	+35	+10%	
St Alphege	45	0.4%	0.5%	+10	+29%	
Data Source: ONS/Nomis						

Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment

There are five Solihull wards that have an 18-24 year old claimant unemployment rate higher than the West Midlands average: Kingshurst & Fordbridge (10.1%), Chelmsley Wood (8.6%), Smith's Wood (8.4%), Bickenhill (4.1%) and Castle Bromwich (3.5%).



Ward 18-24 Claimant Unemployment February 2017



Source: ONS/NOMIS

Between February 2016 and 2017 the number of 18-24 year old claimants increased in six out of Solihull's 17 wards and fell in five.

18-24 Claimant Unemployment – February 2017						
	Count Feb 2017	% 18-24		Annual Change (Feb 2016-2017)		
		Feb 2016	Feb 2017	Count	%	Trend
Bickenhill	40	5.1%	4.1%	-10	-20%	↓
Blythe	10	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	↔
Castle Bromwich	35	4.5%	3.5%	-10	-22%	↓
Chelmsley Wood	105	9.0%	8.6%	-5	-5%	↓
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0.7%	0.7%	0	0%	↔
Elmdon	30	2.8%	3.4%	+5	+20%	↑
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	130	8.5%	10.1%	+20	+18%	↑
Knowle	10	0.9%	1.8%	+5	+100%	↑
Lyndon	30	2.9%	2.9%	0	0%	↔
Meriden	5	0.6%	0.6%	0	0%	↔
Olton	20	1.7%	2.2%	+5	+33%	↑
Shirley East	10	1.1%	1.1%	0	0%	↔
Shirley South	20	1.1%	2.2%	+10	+100%	↑
Shirley West	30	2.8%	3.3%	+5	+20%	↑
Silhill	20	2.5%	2.5%	0	0%	↔

Smith's Wood	105	8.8%	8.4%	-5	-5%	
St Alphege	5	0.9%	0.5%	-5	-50%	
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 was changed to include out of work claimants of Universal Credit. In July 2016 this definition was again changed so that only those Universal Credit claimants who are required to be available for and actively seeking work are included. This change resulted in the ONS retrospectively revising figures dating back to April 2015

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.