

## **MOVING ON UP**

### **Improving employment outcomes for young black men in London**

#### **BRIEFING PAPER No 7      MARCH 2017**

Moving on Up is an exciting employment initiative helping young black men to find jobs and careers in London's competitive labour market. The Moving on Up ambition is to increase the employment rate for economically active young black men in London from 64% in 2014 to 84% by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

#### **ONE:      DATA HEADLINES**

##### **Population**

- More than 83,000 young men in London are from black and mixed black ethnic groups. Young black men (YBM) make up around 20%, or 1 in 5, of all young men in London.

##### **Employment**

- 71% of the YBM in London who are available for work are in employment, compared with 85% of young white men (YWM) (October 2015 to September 2016)
- The employment rate for YBM in London who are available for and actively seeking work has continued to increase from the 64% baseline for 2014.
- The gap in employment rates for YBM and YWM is continuing to decrease, from 20 percentage points in 2014 to 14 percentage points in the 12 month period October 2015 to September 2016.

##### **Unemployment**

- The unemployment rate for YBM in London who are actively seeking work is currently 29%, compared with 15% for YWM.
- The unemployment rate for YBM in London who have a degree-level qualification is 18%, compared with 10% for YWM with a degree-level qualification.

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<sup>1</sup> *Within the Moving on Up programme, and in this paper, by 'young' we mean people aged 16 to 24 and within the term 'black' we include people from black British, black African, black Caribbean, other black and mixed black ethnic groups. There are some variations in the age range and ethnic groups within the data presented in the following sections. Please refer to the notes on page 6 for further information about definitions and sources of data.*

## **JSA claimants**

- In December 2016, 1,335 YBM in London were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. YBM made up 35% of all young male JSA claimants in London
- Approximately 1.5% of all YBM in London are claiming JSA, compared with approximately 0.6% of all YWM in London.

## **TWO: EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

### **Economic activity rate**

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of all YBM who are economically active, from 49% in the baseline period to 50% in the 12 month period to September 2016.

The proportion of YWM who are economically active was 66% in the baseline period and remains at 66% in the 12 month period to September 2016.

The difference in economic activity rates between YBM and YWM is mainly accounted for by the greater proportion of YBM who are in education and not looking for work.

### **Employment rate**

The number and proportion of economically active YBM in employment have **increased**. At the baseline stage (Jan to Dec 2014) **64%** of economically active YBM were in employment. The rate for the most recent 12 month period (October 2015 to September 2016) is **71%**.

### **Unemployment rate**

The unemployment rate for YBM in London who are actively seeking work is currently 29%, compared with 15% for YWM.

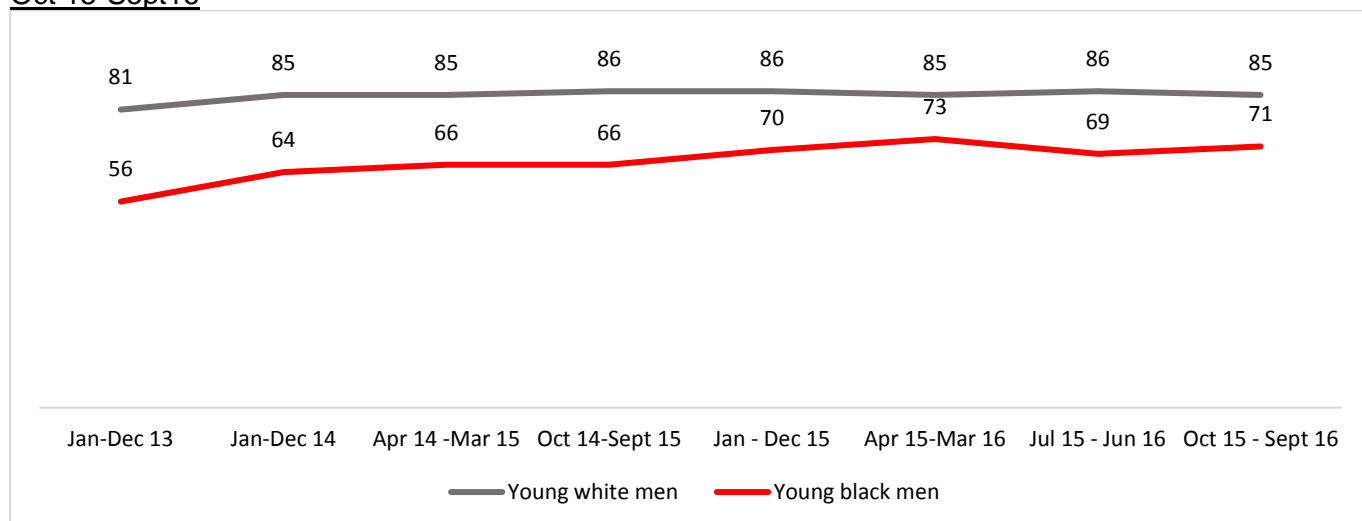
### **Graduate unemployment**

The unemployment rate for YBM in London with a degree (or equivalent qualification) is currently 18%, compared with 10% for YWM with this level of qualification, in the 12 month period ending October 2016.

This is a big decrease from the previous 12 month period (ending July 2016) when the unemployment rate for YBM in London with a degree (or equivalent qualification) was 27% compared with 8%.

Because the population of interest within this survey data is very small, large fluctuations in the data are to be expected. It is too early to say whether the decrease in the YBM graduate unemployment rate represents a downward trend.

Employment rates (% of economically active population in employment) Jan-Dec 2013 to Oct 15-Sept16



nb The time periods shown in this graph are those for which employment rates have been reported in previous Briefing Papers in this series

### THREE: JOBSEEKERS ALLOWANCE CLAIMANTS

Briefing Paper 6 reported on JSA claimant rates for September 2016. The most recent figures available are for December 2016.

Between June and September 2016, the number of YBM JSA claimants in London decreased, from 1,740 to 1,335. This is a decrease of 405 YBM over the three month period, or around 23%. This continues the decrease of 20% in the previous quarter.

Across London, the proportion of young male JSA claimants who are black is unchanged since June 2016 at around 35%. That is, 35% of all male JSA claimants age 16 to 24 in London are black. By comparison, around 16% of all males age 16 to 24 in London are black.

Table I shows the number of YBM JSA claimants in the London boroughs which are covered by the MoU projects. The JSA figures for December 2016 are compared with those for September 2016. This comparison shows that:

- The number of YBM JSA claimants decreased in all the MoU target boroughs other than Brent where the number is unchanged
- The proportion of all young male JSA claimants who are black increased in Croydon, Hackney and Haringey.

Table I: Young black male JSA claimants in London and selected London boroughs

Borough	Number of YBM claimants	Sept 2016	Dec 2016	Change in <b>percentage</b> of young male claimants who are black
	<i>% of young male claimants who are black</i>			
<b>BRENT</b>	Number	70	<b>70</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	42%	<b>41%</b>	-1 percentage point
<b>CROYDON</b>	Number	60	<b>30</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	41%	<b>46%</b>	+5 percentage points
<b>EALING</b>	Number	70	<b>60</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	35%	<b>34%</b>	-1 percentage point
<b>HACKNEY</b>	Number	120	<b>100</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	53%	<b>54%</b>	+1 percentage point
<b>HARINGEY</b>	Number	135	<b>105</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	51	<b>54%</b>	+3 percentage points
<b>LAMBETH</b>	Number	175	<b>125</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	67%	<b>63%</b>	-4 percentage points
<b>LEWISHAM</b>	Number	140	<b>95</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	48%	<b>45%</b>	-3 percentage points
<b>NEWHAM</b>	Number	95	<b>65</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	38%	<b>37%</b>	-1 percentage points
<b>SOUTHWARK</b>	Number	100	<b>40</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	51%	<b>40%</b>	-11 percentage points
<b>LONDON</b>	Number	1,740	<b>1,335</b>	
	<i>Percentage</i>	36%	<b>35%</b>	-1 percentage points

## Reducing the number of YBM claimants in key London boroughs

Table II shows the claimant rate for YBM and YWM as at December 2016 and what this represents as a percentage of all YBM and YWM in London. This table shows the number of YBM per borough who would need to come off JSA in order to bring the YBM claimant rate down to the YWM rate.

Table II: Number of young black men who need to come off JSA to reduce the YBM claimant rate to the YWM claimant rate (December 2016)

	YOUNG BLACK MEN			YOUNG WHITE MEN			No of YBM claimants if rate was same as for YWM	Number of YBM who need to come off JSA to get to this
	Pop	Number on JSA	% of pop on JSA	Pop	Number on JSA	% of pop on JSA		
Brent	4,710	70	1.5	6,030	25	0.4	20	50
Croydon	6,220	30	0.5	8,710	20	0.2	14	16
Ealing	3,260	60	1.8	8,680	45	0.5	17	43
Hackney	3,630	100	2.8	7,780	50	0.6	23	77
Haringey	3,750	105	2.8	8,060	50	0.6	23	82
Lambeth	4,920	125	2.5	10,410	45	0.4	21	104
Lewisham	4,980	95	1.9	7,570	75	1.0	49	46
Newham	4,380	65	1.5	6,680	45	0.7	30	35
Southwark	5,120	40	0.8	10,180	35	0.3	18	22
<b>London</b>	<b>86,530</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>252,900</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>851</b>

Pop = GLA population projection data for young men age 16 to 24 in London in 2016.

### CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS

### Employment and unemployment rates

Source: Annual Population Survey. Office for National Statistics. Social Survey Division, *Annual Population Survey, October 2015 to September 2016*, Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor],

Young: people aged 16 to 24

Black: Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other

Employment rate: The employment rate is shown as the proportion of economically active people who are in employment. The economically active population comprises those in employment plus those meeting the International Labour Organisation definition of unemployed (a person who has actively sought work within the last 4 weeks and is available to start work in the next 2 weeks, or has found a job and is waiting to start in the next 2 weeks). The employment rate is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{employed}}{\text{employed} + \text{unemployed}}$$

Please note that the employment and unemployment rates are derived from survey samples and are subject to error. When the population of interest is very small (e.g. young black men in London) the margin of error increases. The statistics in this section indicate trends and are useful for comparisons between groups but should not be read as an exact measure of the unemployment or employment rates or numbers for young black men.

### Jobseeker's Allowance claimants

Claimant count source: NOMIS

Population data source: Greater London Authority GLA trend based population projections for 2016  
<http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-population-projections-custom-age-tables>

Young: people aged 18 to 24