Q-Step Internship: Analysing GM / NW economic trends at New Economy

Calum Simmons, BSocSc Politics and International Relations

The University of Manchester
MANCHESTER 1824

During the summer of 2016, I was given the opportunity to work within the research team on a number of projects, including an analysis of the over 50's skill gaps within the region.

A comparative analysis of the related capital spending programmes of the areas Local Authorities required the creation of a spreadsheet solution to collate the data submissions.

Objectives

The primary aim of my work was to compile data on over 50's skills, evaluate the findings and produce a strong evidence based report. This would then be used to influence public policy measures within the region ensuring older workers are prepared for the future job market .

After collecting this data, I was then tasked with creating professional and presentable outputs, in the forms of graphs and tables, to be embedded within the report.
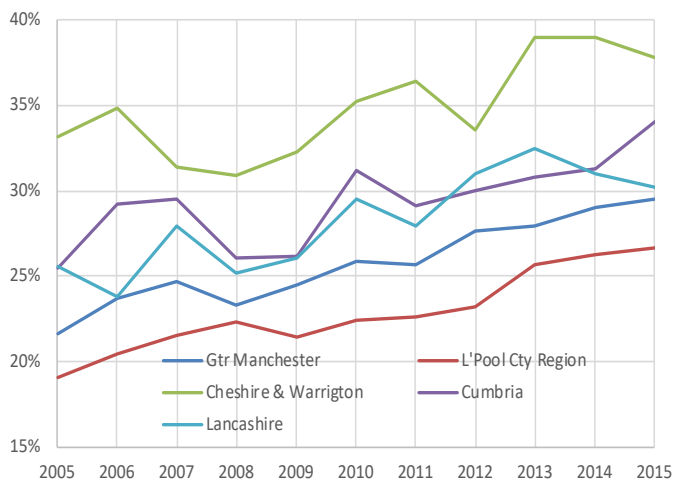
This was the case for a variety of projects that I was involved with during my time at New Economy, with tailored evidence bases and outputs being created based upon the needs of the task.
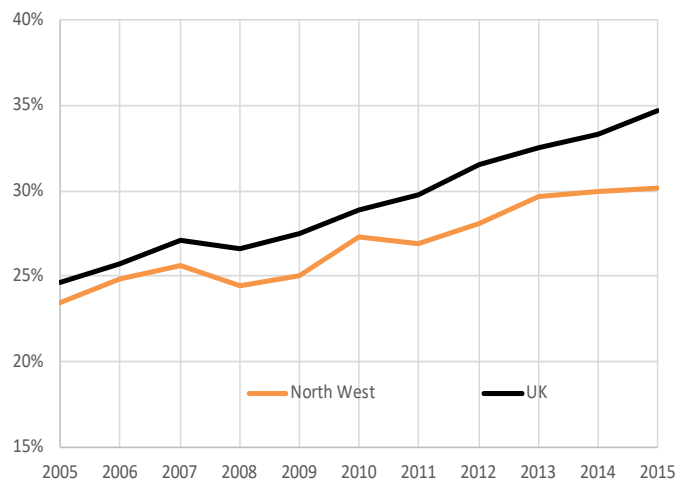
Skills Achieved

During my time at New Economy I underwent mapping training with this then being used on inputting development sites onto the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework development sites map. Similarly, I was given training on how Cost-Benefit analysis can be used to evaluate projects, or plan future ones.

In creating the evidence bases for the various tasks within the role I had to interact with data sources such as NOMIS and utilise tools such as the DWP's Stat-Xplore. IBM'S SPSS and Microsoft Excel were used to conduct the data analysis after its collection, with this requiring good awareness over problems of sample size issues and data accuracy. My report style and analysis of data improved throughout the process.

Time series graph of NVQ4+ attainment within the 50-64 age band

Legend: Gtr Manchester, L'Pool Cty Region, Cheshire & Warrigton, Cumbria, Lancashire

Time series graph of NVQ4+ attainment within the 50-64 age band

Legend: North West, UK

Key Findings

One of the key findings of my work in relation to the over 50's skill gap report was that Greater Manchester is consistently in line with the North West average in both inactivity rates and qualification levels for older residents. However, when comparing the North West to the UK the region has work to do to reduce gaps.

Whilst working in comparatively analysing the capital investment programmes of Local Authorities I was able to see how different areas within Greater Manchester have diversified their economic policy to target inclusive growth. Working as part of the research team within New Economy showed me the value of a strong evidence base to any piece of work, with the placement giving me the confidence to implement quantitative methods within my dissertation.

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Contact:
calum.simmons@student.manchester.ac.uk

Q-Step

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