

Real Help for Communities:
Volunteers, Charities and
Social Enterprises



Real help now

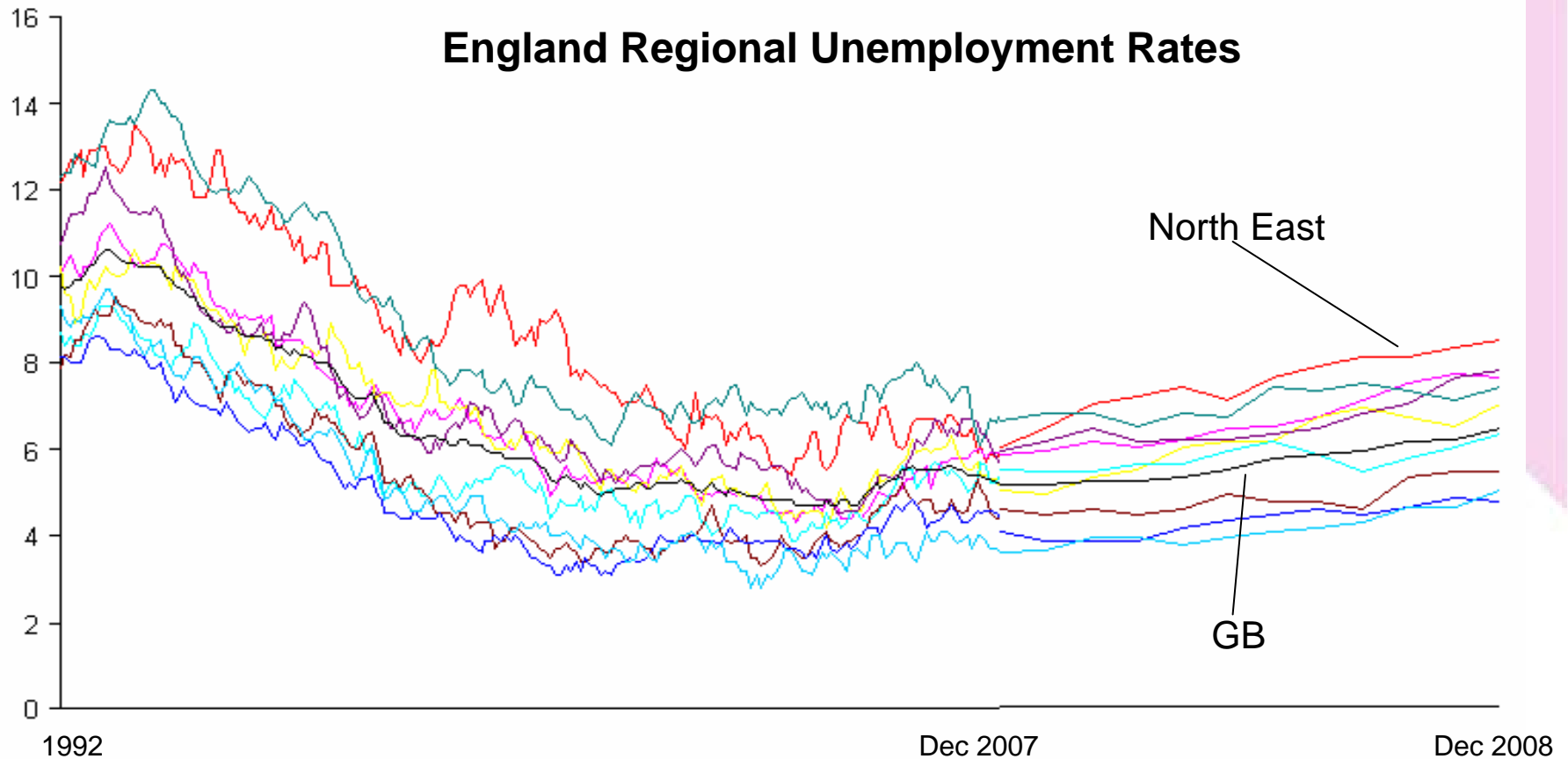
Real Help Now: The North East

Jonathan Blackie

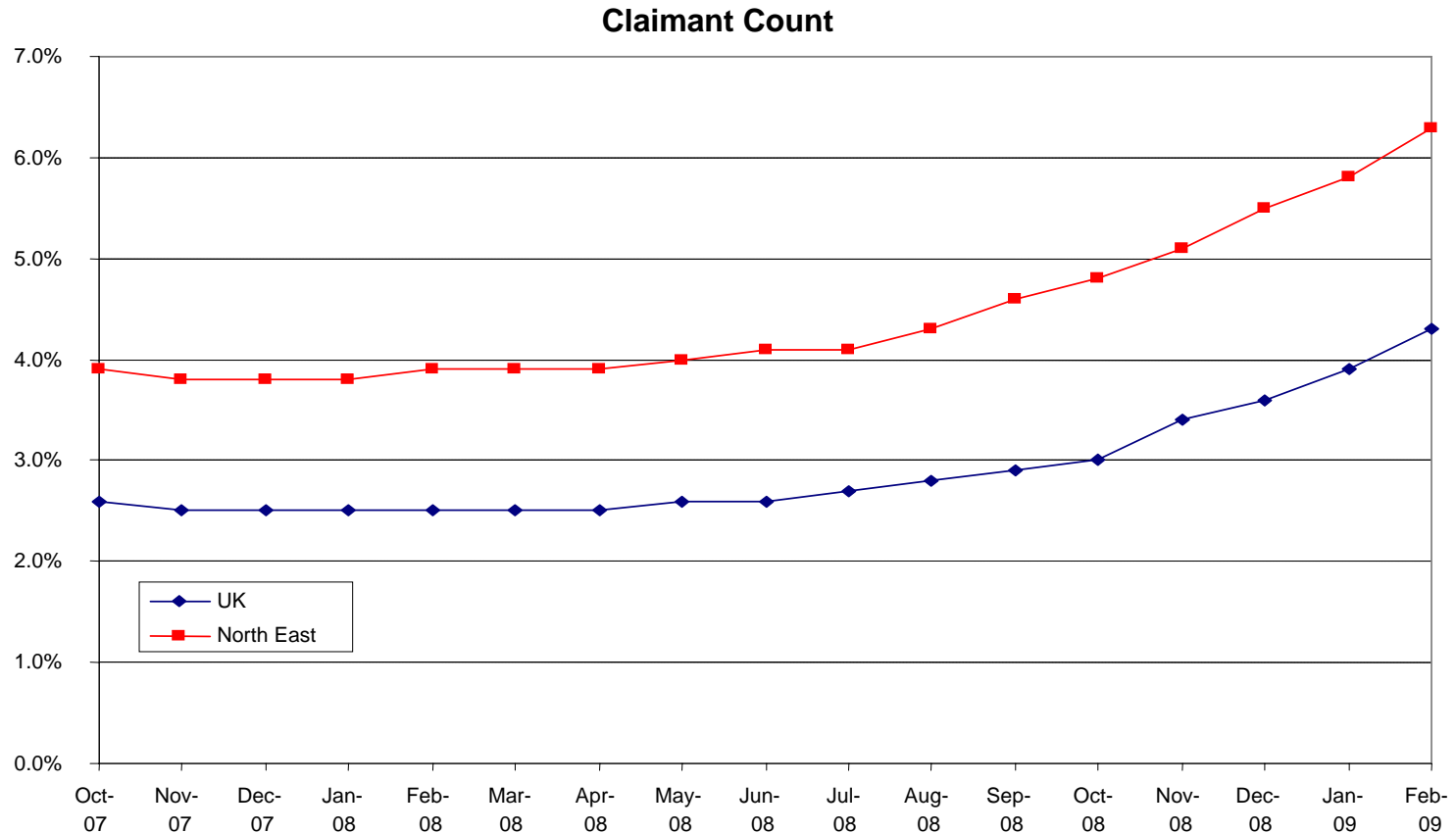
Regional Director

Government Office for the North East

The Impact of the Recession in the North East



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The Impact of the Recession on Third Sector Services in the North East

Citizens Advice Bureaux across the region have experienced:

- A 35% rise in enquiries concerning debt, as compared to the England and Wales average increase of 8%;
- A 134% increase in enquiries concerning mortgage and lone arrears;
- A 199% increase in enquiries concerning rent arrears;
- A 107% increase in enquiries about how to declare bankruptcy

The Impact of the Recession on Third Sector Services in the North East

We are also seeing significant increases in:

- Demand for services around anxiety and depression;
- Demand for domestic violence, family relationship, drug and alcohol services;
- Demand for housing and homelessness support services
- The possibility of those individuals who find it harder to be heard to be even more marginalised

Surviving or Thriving? The Impact of the Recession on the North East Third Sector

- 55% of organisations have experienced a negative impact on their funding as a result of the recession.
- 44% of organisations are experiencing increased demand from funders and other partners to renegotiate contracts, amend targets etc.
- Of these, 58% of organisations do not feel they have the capacity to cope with this increased demand.
- 42% of organisations are predicting an increase in beneficiary numbers over the next year
- 76% of organisations rate their beneficiaries' current ability to cope with the impact of the recession as weak or very weak.

The Office of the Third Sector Action Plan

Volunteer brokerage scheme for unemployed people

- Region currently has lowest level of formal volunteering in England
- Impact of increased demand on the Third Sector?

Targeted Support Fund

- Benefits for organisations in 10 of the Region's 12 Local Authority Areas

Modernisation Fund

- Opportunities to consider restructuring to become more resilient

Next Steps in the North East

- Regional Response to the Office of the Third Sector Action Plan
- Work with the North East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership around commissioning and procurement of services from Third Sector organisations
- Work with Business Enterprise North East to support Third Sector access to “Real Help with Finance” – a package of measures for small businesses
- ONE North East’s Third Sector Capacity Fund – a fund of £6 million over 4 years to build the capacity of the sector to engage with, and deliver, sustainable economic development activities.

Panel Session

- Jonathan Blackie
Government Office for the North East
- Tim Pain
ONE North East
- Jo Curry
Voluntary Organisations Network North East
- David Carr
Business Enterprise North East
- Steven Martin
Job Centre Plus