

**Real Help for Communities:**  
Volunteers, Charities and  
Social Enterprises



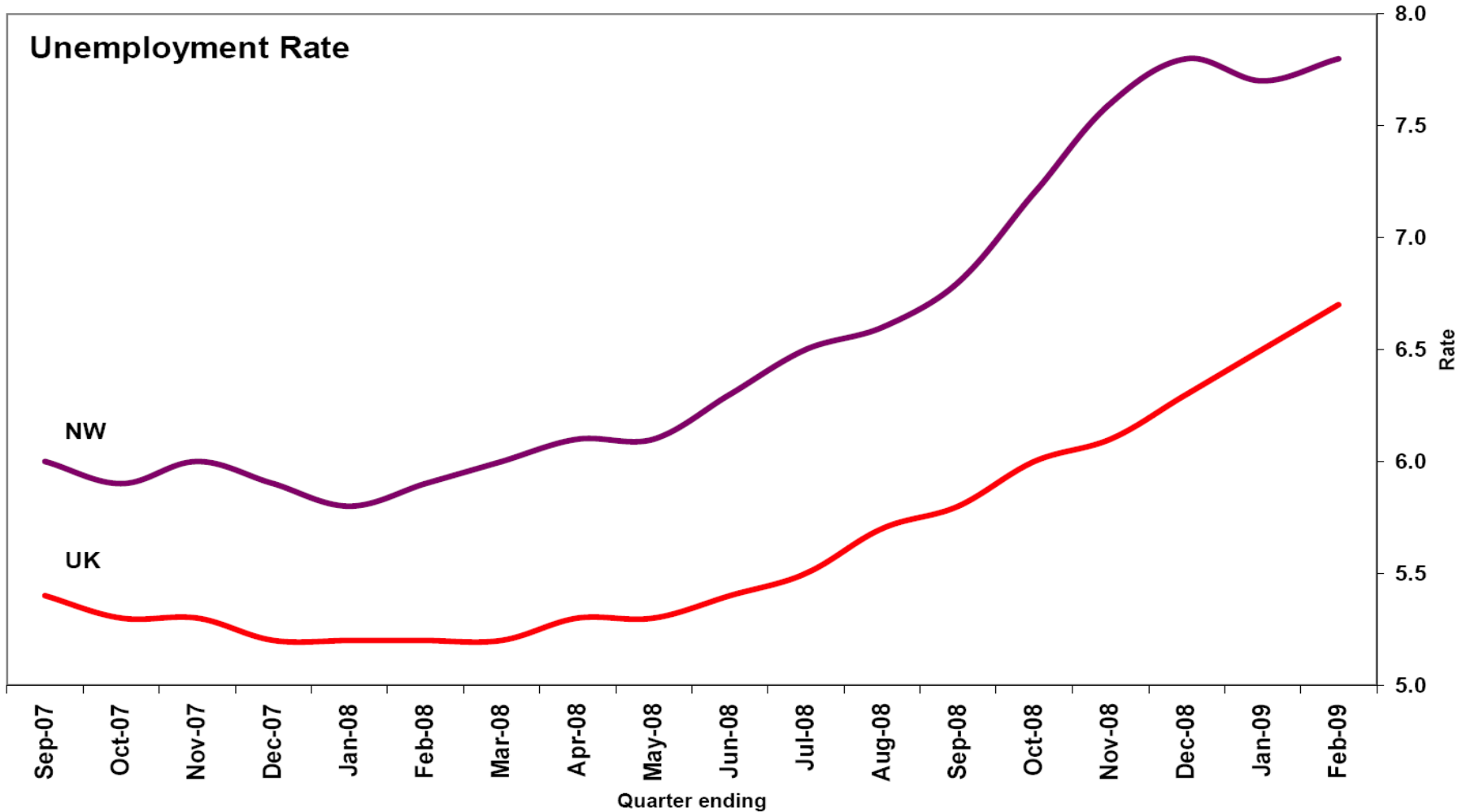
**Real help now**

# Real Help Now: The North West

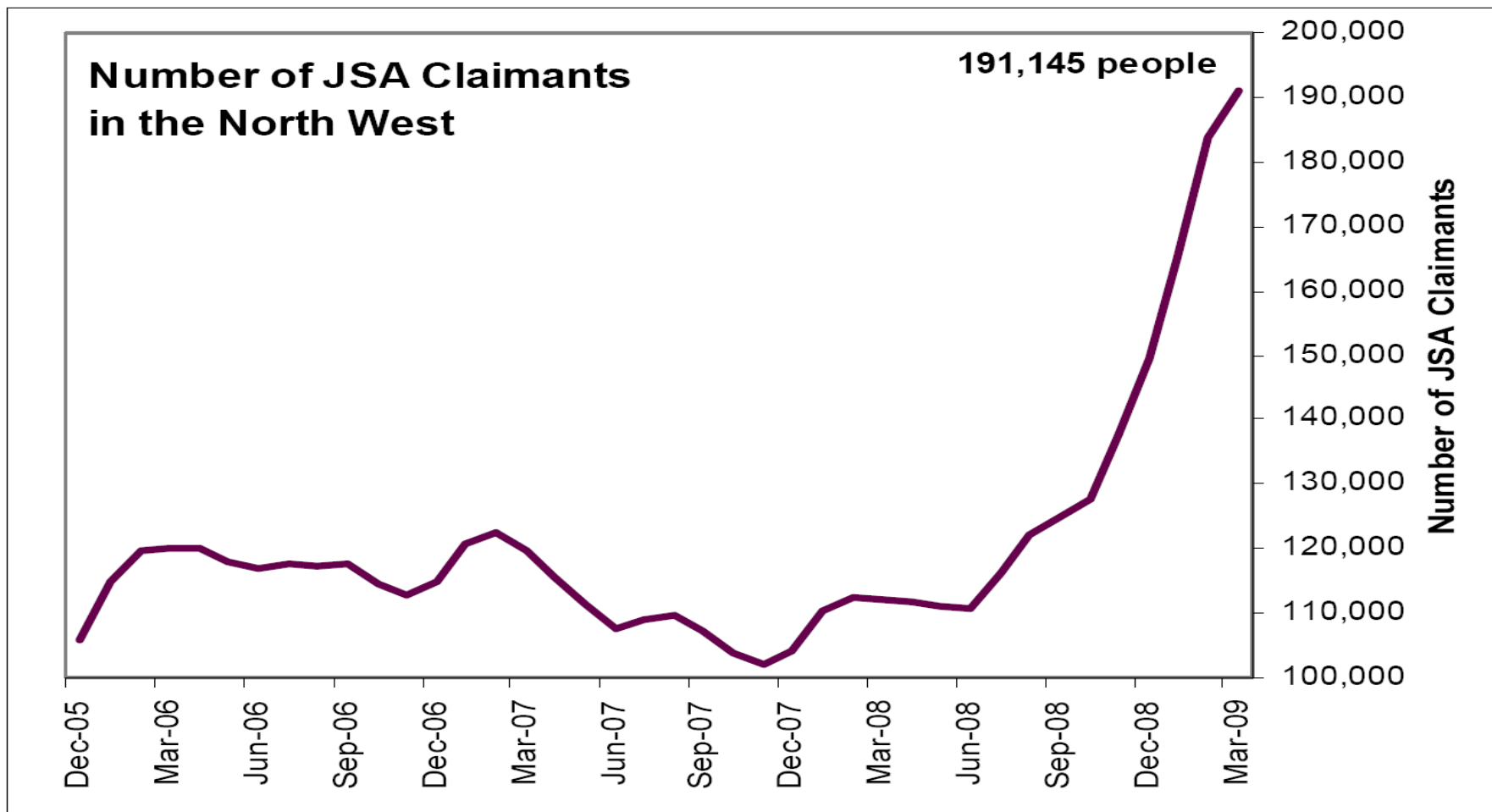
Dominic Brankin  
Deputy Regional Director

Government Office for the North West

# Impact of the Recession in the North West



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# Impact of the Recession on Third Sector Services in the North West

- CAB Statistics demonstrate a significant increase in caseload
- One NW local authority reports a 52% increase in complex debt cases
- Debt advice agencies in Manchester are reporting a 100% increase in debt presentations, a 69% increase in rent arrear enquiries and a 123% increase in fuel debt cases
- Housing repossessions hit 40,000 (compared to 25,000 in 1997)

# Impact of the Recession on Third Sector Services in the North West

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

# **Impact of the recession on the North West – Third Sector & Volunteering**

- Increasing reports of organisations unaware of their funding allocations for 09/10**
- Concerns about organisations core funding**
- Liverpool Volunteer Centre has seen an increase of 95% in volunteers describing themselves as unemployed and 147% who describe themselves as non-employed or unable to work when comparing Jan 08 and 09.**
- RDA is funding a good practice project on working with unemployed volunteers across the NW – this is being directed by Voluntary Sector North West**

# The Office of the Third Sector Action Plan

## **Volunteer brokerage scheme for unemployed people**

- Region needs to increase the numbers of formal volunteers
- Impact of increased demand on the Third Sector?

## **Targeted Support Fund**

- Benefits for organisations in 14 of the Region's Local Authority Areas

## **Modernisation Fund**

- Opportunities to consider restructuring to become more resilient

# Next Steps in the North West

**Work with partners to ensure that “real help” is targeted**  
**Regional Compact – Volunteering**  
**Third Sector Conference**

# Q & A Panel

Juliet Mountford

Office of the Third Sector

Dominic Brankin

GONW

Richard Caulfield

Vol Sector NW

Emile Pinel

North West Network

Mark Reading

Capacitybuilders

Malcolm Kennedy

NW Dvlp Agency