



TOWER HAMLETS

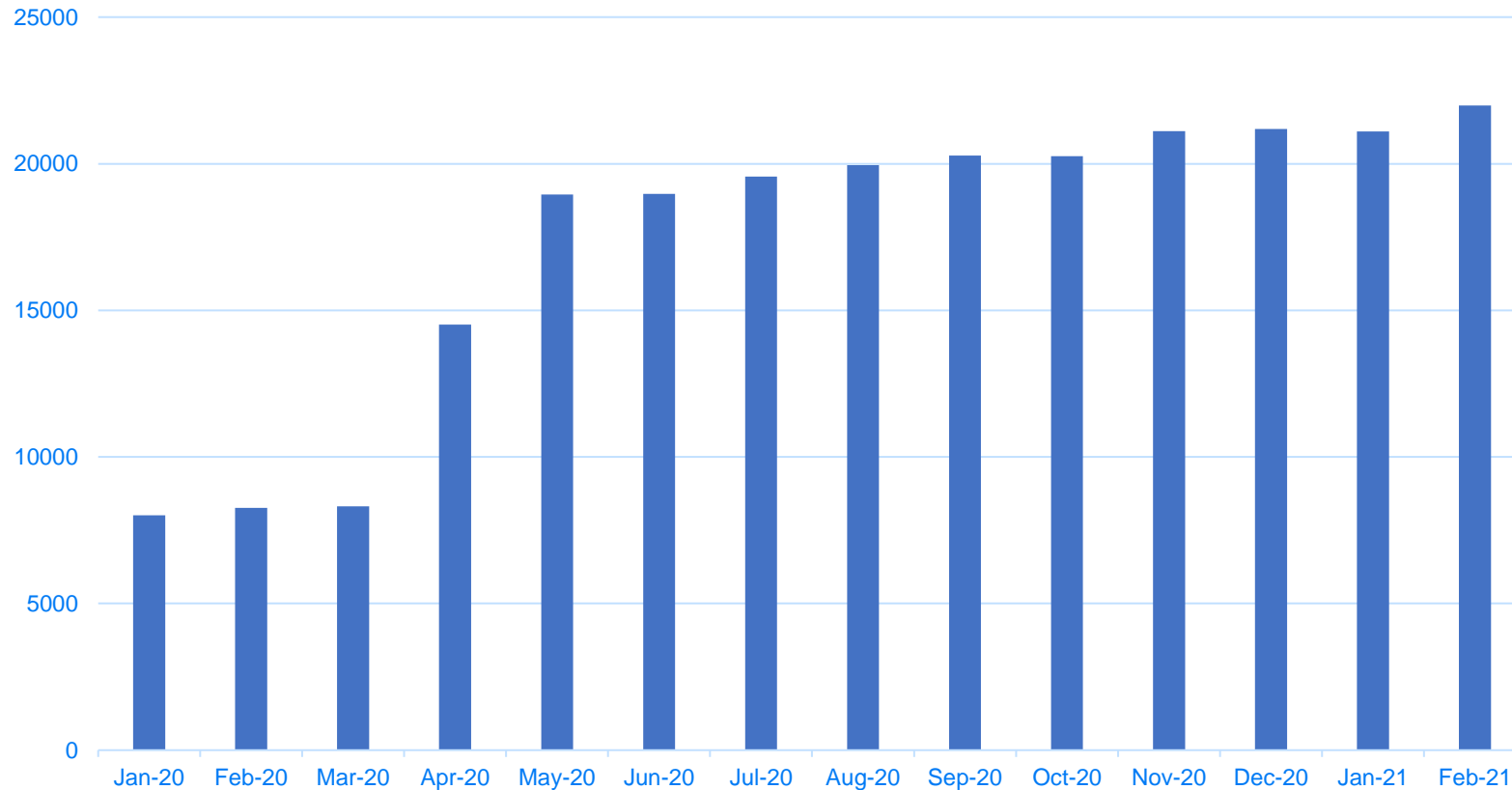
# Covid: Responding to the employment challenge



# The Toll on the Benefits System



Local Claimant Count



- 13,000 additional claims for UC/JSA

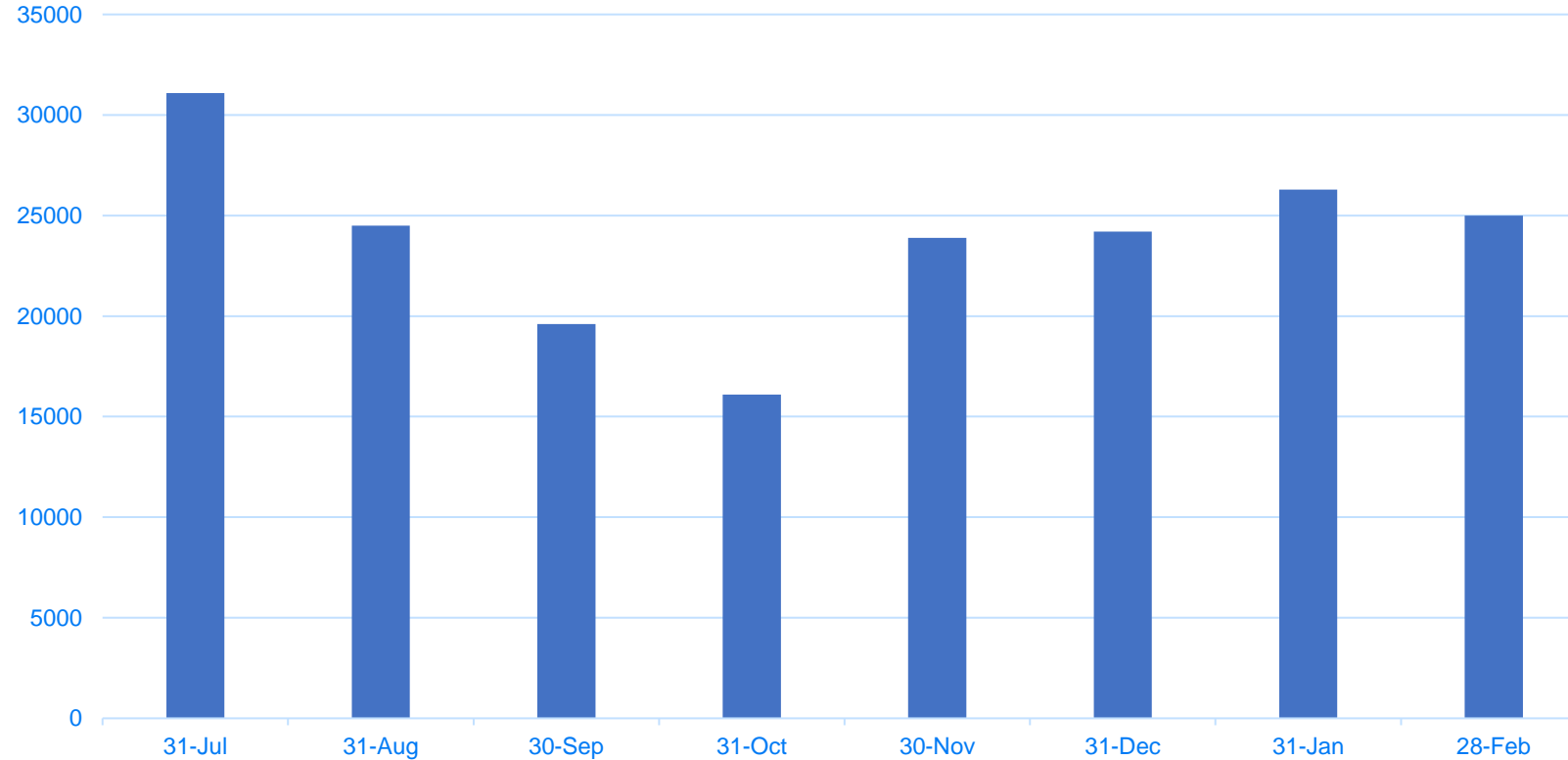
Source: ONS



# Furlough Scheme



Total local employments furloughed



- 25 thousand local residents on furlough scheme

Source: HMRC



# The Challenge in a Nutshell



- Estimate of number currently displaced due to Covid is 13k + 25k = 38k
- True figure will probably be less given that some new UC or furlough claimants will still be working some hours
- Many will return to work when the economy fully reopens
- The unknown is how many people will not return to work – depends on the macroeconomy



# The Past Year



- The hiring environment has been incredibly weak
- Focus on maintaining clients' contact with advisers
- Move to virtual training on soft skills, digital skills, to maintain a foundation of work-readiness
- Pandemic-related recruitment opportunities (Mass Vaccination Programme, HMRC roles)
- Work on digital inclusion



# The Past Year (2)



- Secured 573 opportunities so far as a Kickstart gateway
- A strengthened relationship with DWP programmes:
  - JETS
  - Restart (spring launch)
- JCP co-location at UBS to deliver 18-24 Youth Hub.
- Innovation Fund – expansion of ESOL/functional skills/ICT learning programme for Workpath clients



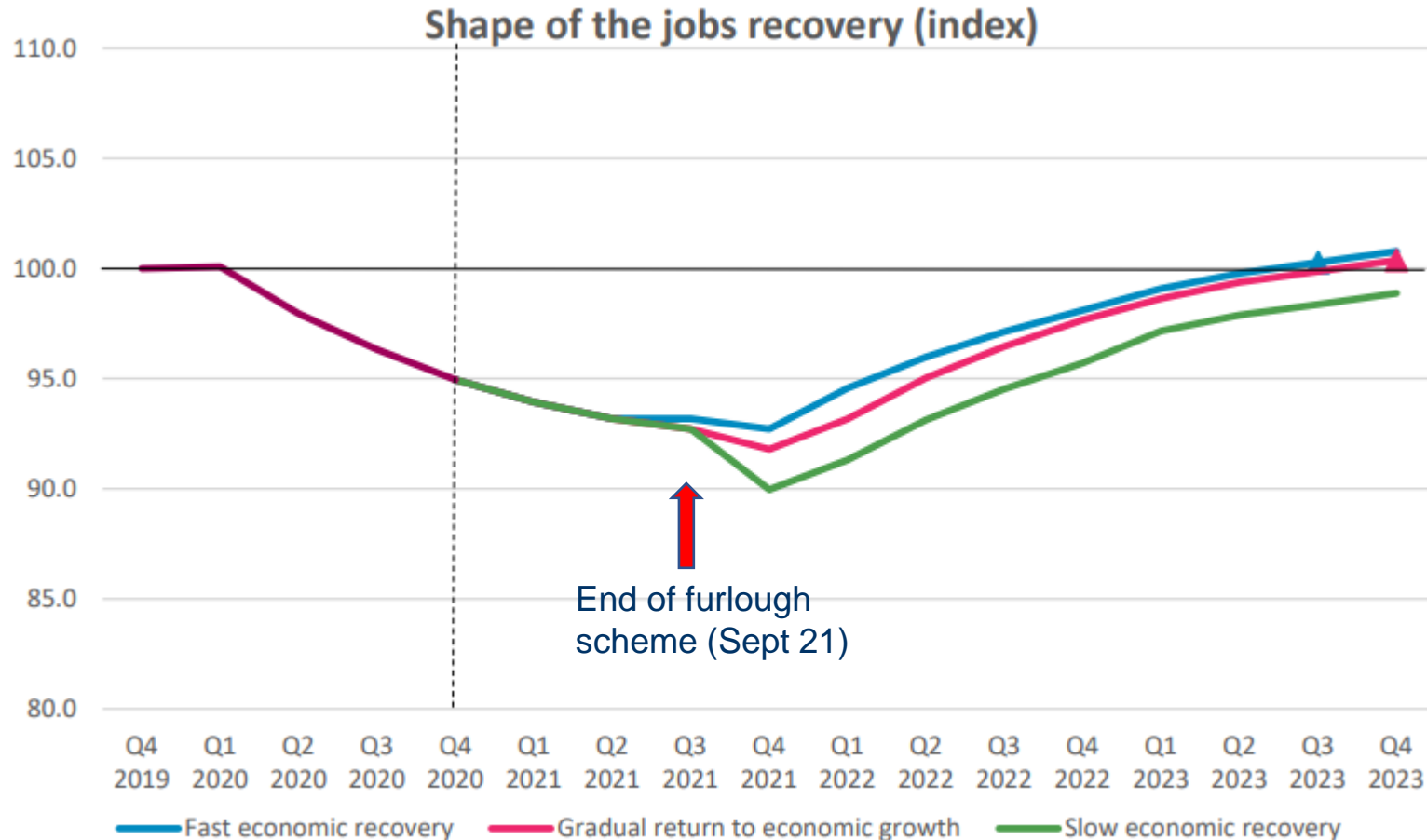
# Looking to the Future



- Hiring environment is likely to remain challenging
- Continued focus on building the employability of our existing client group
- Delivery of intensive support as well as funded placements (where funding allows)
- Creative use of funds from government as well as other training budgets
- Key sectors: H&SC, Construction



# Scenario Projections for London



- Jobs picture likely to deteriorate for the rest of 2021
- Recovery expected in 2022
- Number of workforce jobs unlikely to recover to pre-pandemic levels until mid 2023 at the earliest

Source: GLA Economics





# Emerging work



- Working with the subregion around green skills and opportunities – CLF-commissioned shared definition and analysis due later this year
- Potential for working better with JCP on preparing local people for mid- and higher-level roles
- ‘No Wrong Door’ approach



# Threats



- Variants of c-19 and intermittent lockdowns damaging confidence
- Core client group being pushed further away from labour market by more 'work-ready' recently unemployed jobseekers
- Recruitment for entry-level service jobs weakening if offices restructure around widespread WfH
- Rising long-term unemployment

