



November 2025

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## National news

### Independent investigation to be launched to tackle rising youth inactivity



An independent investigation, led by former Health Secretary Alan Milburn, will take place into the reasons behind the rise in young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Nearly one million young people, which is around one in eight young people aged 16 - 24, are NEET in the UK.

Over a quarter of NEET young people mention long-term sickness or a disability as a barrier. The number of young people claiming UC health and Employment Support Allowance has also increased by more than 50% in the last five years, with 80% of young people on the UC Health element currently citing mental health reasons or a neurodevelopmental condition.

[Read more](#)

### Government convenes expert group to secure future of water industry workforce



The Water Skills Strategic Group has been created by the government to make sure the water sector has the skills needed for the future, how to attract new talent and that the right training and qualifications are in place.

The Group will be looking at the skills needed to deliver huge infrastructure projects including nine new reservoirs, nine large-scale water transfer schemes and reducing leaks from water pipes. This will include roles such as bioresources technicians, hydraulics specialists, engineers, construction workers, and surveyors.

[Read more](#)

### **Side hustles and surveillance feature in future workplace trends report**

In a recent report on workplace trends in 2026, employee engagement specialist Culture Amp found that more employers will be using tools such as app-usage dashboards and keystroke trackers to monitor employees.

The company analysed data from 1.4bn responses across more than 8,000 companies globally and found that, when it comes to considering leadership positions, many employees are opting out of management career paths. Job security will also continue to feel fragile for employees into 2026, according to CultureAmp, and this will lead to a rise in "side hustles", particularly as AI increases individual productivity.

[Read more](#)

### **AI to power national renewal as government announces billions of additional investment and new plans to boost UK businesses, jobs and innovation**



A package of new reforms and investment in AI has been announced by the government. These include:

- AI growth zones will help transform local economies and create high-skilled jobs. The government will offer more free compute to British researchers and British startups so they can train new AI models and deliver scientific breakthroughs. Current growth zones are in South Wales, North Wales, North East and Oxfordshire.
- A new AI for Science Strategy looks at how the UK will benefit from the transformation of scientific research by AI. Its first mission will look at how AI can speed up the research

of new drugs and treatments - giving patients a new lease of life and fresh hope that their conditions can be better managed.

[Read more](#)

### **Co-op commits to £70m to create 7,000 apprenticeships by 2030 through its Levy Share**



Co-op has committed £70m to create 7,000 apprenticeships by 2030 through its Levy Share scheme. The scheme allows levy paying employers to transfer unused apprenticeship levy funds to businesses, charities and community organisations. In just four years, the scheme has matched over 3,800 apprenticeships, with two-thirds in the most deprived communities and a third in the care sector.

[Read more](#)

### **New campaign to 'demystify' creative jobs for young people**



The government has launched the [Discover! Creative Careers](#) campaign to increase awareness of creative careers among young people aged 13 - 17 years old, as well as their parents and carers.

A report from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport suggests a lack of information, understanding and support is preventing young people from working in creative sectors including film and TV, music, visual arts, advertising and video games.

The campaign will also be targeting young people from working class backgrounds and underrepresented communities outside London.

[Read more](#)

### Offering work experience 'too time consuming', some businesses claim



The Careers & Enterprise Company has found that 41% of businesses do not offer work experience to students because it is too time consuming. Around 33% do not have the staff capacity to supervise work experience, or 34% say they lack suitable tasks for young people.

More than half of the business leaders surveyed said the traditional two-week work experience block is too time consuming. This comes after the Government's post-16 education and skills white paper promised to deliver at least two weeks of work experience for all secondary school students, with a goal of splitting this into at least one week's worth of experience in Years seven to nine, and the other in Years 10 to 11.

[Read more](#)

## Sutton Trust report shows no improvement in social mobility



The Sutton Trust has recently published a report entitled 'Degrees of Difference,' which compares rates of social mobility across 20 countries. The report showed that in the UK, whilst graduates have a 32% chance of becoming top earners, compared to 12% for non-graduates, and in spite of there being more graduates, graduates from non-graduate families are less likely to become top earners and social mobility is flat or declining across the 20 countries studied.

[Read more](#)

## What do graduates do? 2025/26



Research by Prospects Luminate, What do graduates do? 2025/26, shows a detailed picture of the employment outcomes for UK graduates who completed their studies in 2022/23. Findings include:

- The majority of graduates (56.4%) were in full-time work 15 months after graduating, while 12% were in part-time employment.
- Of those graduates in work, 71.9% were in professional-level employment, down from 75.1% last year.

The top 5 professional jobs held by graduates are:

- Other registered nursing professionals
- Programmers and software development professionals
- General medical practitioners
- Primary education teaching professionals
- Advertising and marketing associate professionals

[Read more](#)

## London news

### **Hounslow Council teams up with Heathrow to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities**



Hounslow Council has partnered with Heathrow Employment and Skills Academy to help young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) gain vital skills and work experience.

The Academy is one of 17 local organisations who form the Inclusive Employment Forum in the borough, a business-led network that seeks to create more accessible career paths for young people with SEND aged 16-25.

[Read more](#)



## West London expands mental health support for teens through NHS talking therapies



Young people aged 16 and 17 across West London now have access to NHS Talking Therapies. Previously restricted to those aged 18 and over, the expansion now allows younger people to access support during a critical life stage, often marked by emotional vulnerability and major transitions such as leaving school.

Since the rollout began across West London NHS Trust in 2025, over 200 GP referrals have already been made, highlighting strong demand and the immediate impact of the change.

[Read more](#)

## One of West London's biggest industrial estates to be totally demolished and regenerated



One of West London's largest industrial estates, the Southall International Trading Estate, will be demolished with a redevelopment that could create over 1,120 permanent new jobs. Additionally, around 460 new construction jobs per year will be provided during the construction phase.

Ealing Council will see through the entire redevelopment process.



[Read more](#)

## **Barnet Council launches new five-year plans to boost the local economy and enhance town centres**



Barnet Council has revealed two major plans to strengthen the borough's economy and support for local businesses.

The Economic Development Framework 2025-2030 focuses on Barnet's key sectors such as construction, creative industries, professional services, health and social care and hospitality and retail, encouraging innovation and expanding opportunities across the borough.

The Placemaking Framework 2025-2030 looks at ways to shape the future of Barnet's town centres and growth area.

[Read more](#)

## **New jobs and skills service in Ealing**



The Ealing Borough Apprenticeship Scheme (EBAS) has launched, which will help local businesses find apprentices.

EBAS was set up by Ealing Council following the growing demand for apprenticeships and a rise in youth unemployment. It also supports the council's commitment to help secure 10,000 new jobs in the borough by 2026.

[Read more](#)

### City firms can help care-experienced young Londoners through mentoring



The City of London Corporation has launched Step Up Mentoring, which is a Square Mile Futures Programme aimed at transforming the life chances of young people who have been in care.

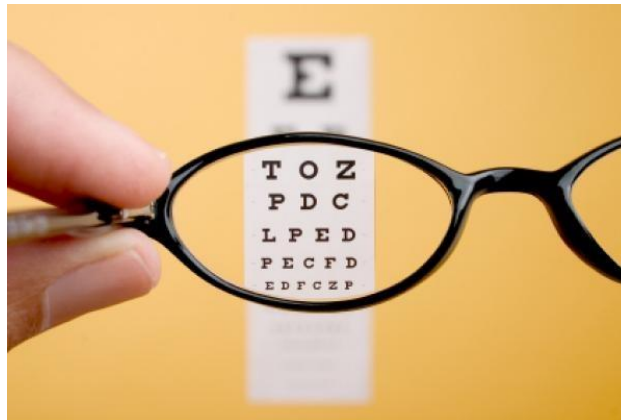
Young people will be matched with trained mentors who can offer encouragement, practical guidance, and career insights, helping them to break down barriers to employment and independent living.

[Read more](#)



## North East news

### Teesside University expanding optometry facilities



Teesside University has announced a major expansion of its optometry facilities, which will allow more students to pursue careers in optometry while providing high-quality eye care to the local community.

The new £2.2m state-of-the-art facility being constructed at the heart of its Middlesbrough campus will significantly increase the available optometry teaching space at the University for students studying the MOptom (Hons) Optometry course which has been fully accredited by the General Optical Council.

The new building is expected to open its doors to students starting optometry courses in September 2026.

[Read more](#)

### Search is on to find Sunderland's Young Achievers



Nominations for Sunderland's Young Achievers' Awards are now open. Organisers, Together for Children, are calling on people across the city to nominate young people and groups (aged 8-18, or 8-25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in their community or excelled in an area.

Nominations close on Friday 12 December, with the awards presentation taking place on Friday 20 March at the Fire Station in Sunderland city centre.

[Read more](#)

### **£469,000 of funding allocated to youth services**



The Newcastle Youth Fund will distribute more than £469,000 to 22 organisations across the region.

The aim of The Newcastle Youth Fund is to support a range of projects for 13 to 19 year olds, or up to 25 years old if people have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The current round of funding will support projects between April 2026 - March 2027. Successful projects include

- Creative arts and music groups in Walker,
- A project focused on improving mental health whilst providing a SEND-friendly space in West Denton,
- A nature based wellbeing and life skills project in Scotswood

[Read more](#)

**North East Festival of Languages, the UK's largest festival of languages for schools, which returns bigger than ever**



[Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages](#), the UK's largest celebration of languages for schools, returns from January 6 to March 31 2026. Designed for children and young people aged 3 - 18, the Festival showcases multilingual art, dance and writing workshops to language and career sessions.

The full festival programme is free and open to all schools and community schools across Newcastle, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Gateshead, Sunderland and Durham. Schools across the UK can join a range of online events and activities.

[Read more](#)

### **New Northern Cluster Aiming To Shape UK's Bio-Industrial Future**



Tees Valley Combined Authority, York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, the University of York, Teesside University and CPI have announced a partnership which aims to create around 5,000 skilled jobs across the two regions.

The authorities have developed a bio-industrial cluster of cross-sector partners across academia, industry and local government. Plans include launching 100 innovative bio-based start-ups and equipping 5,000 people with future-ready skills through apprenticeships, reskilling programmes, and higher education pathways tailored to the bioeconomy.

[Read more](#)



## Council celebrates impact of 951 apprentices in County Durham



Durham County Council has announced its ambition to continue recruiting and supporting apprentices over the next three years. It is currently celebrating the success of its apprenticeship strategy after employing 951 people in six years.

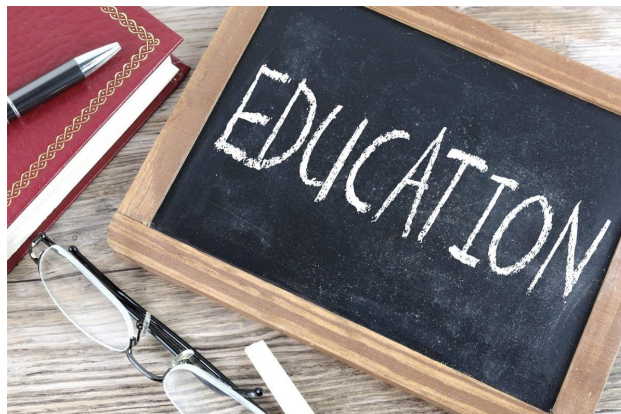
Councillor Darren Grimes said: "Apprenticeships are key to helping us to attract, develop and retain the very best talent within our workforce - from young people first starting out in their careers to adults looking to retrain."

[Read more](#)



## South East news

### New SEND facility a 'significant step forward'





A new £1.8m learning centre in Kent for young people with complex special educational needs and disabilities has officially opened.

The Point is on the site of The Oaks Specialist College in Tonbridge.

Councillor Beverley Fordham, cabinet member for education and skills, said the new facility marked "a significant step forward" for young people with SEND in Kent.

[Read more](#)

## Surrey County Council develops the first-ever EHCP Apprenticeship for staff to meet rising SEND demand



Surrey County Council has developed the first nationally recognised apprenticeship targeted at EHCP coordinators. The apprenticeship, which is designed to meet the needs of all councils in England, officially launched on November 1, with a pilot cohort of 30 special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) professionals. It is estimated that up to 4,000 EHCP coordinators nationwide could benefit from this qualification in the coming years.

[Read more](#)

## Glyndebourne launches new apprenticeships in East Sussex



Opera house and country estate Glyndebourne is launching an apprenticeship programme, with applications opening in 2026.

There will be four apprenticeship opportunities:

- Technical theatre
- Wigs, hair, makeup and prosthetics technician
- Assistant production manager
- Audio visual technician

[Read more](#)

### **Costain begins talent search for early careers programme**



Construction company Costain has launched its early careers applications process for 2026. It is recruiting for graduates, apprenticeships, internships and university placements, with up to 170 positions available.

There are currently several apprenticeship vacancies open now, based in East Sussex.

[Read more](#)

### **Portsmouth championed as defence "engine for growth" with thousands of jobs maintained supporting Royal Navy**



A recent Ministry of Defence policy paper has singled out Portsmouth's "naval excellence" and the regions push towards maintaining high-skilled jobs.

Thousands of jobs in the defence sector are supported in the Portsmouth area across a variety of disciplines, from maritime support contracts to aerospace. More than 1,000 people in the

city are employed by Airbus. Its Anchorage Park site is one of Portsmouth's largest employers, producing high-tech satellites.

[Read more](#)[Read more](#)



## South West news

### Bristol tech company plan to create 100 jobs in the coming year



Bristol defence tech company Rowden Technologies is working with a London-based manufacturer to increase the production of advanced sensing systems to help national security and are planning to create 100 jobs in the South West in the coming year.

Rowden Technologies was named on the Sunday Times list of fastest growing companies and was set up by a former Army corporal to help the UK government become less reliant on overseas defence contactors.

[Read more](#)

### Shop supporting young people into work opens



A charity shop, Bold and Brave, has opened in Bridgwater, Somerset, to help young people who face barriers getting into employment. The shop is run by charity, Young Somerset, and will help train 14 - 25 year olds in retail, hospitality and entrepreneurship.

Young Somerset CEO, Nik Harwood, said the charity allows young people to pick up qualifications and "absolutely transform their lives."

[Read more](#)

### Truro and Falmouth MP supporting creative careers programme



Young people in Truro and Falmouth are being encouraged to take part in a Creative Futures Programme, which looks at career pathways in music, theatre and broadcasting for 16 to 30 year olds.

Creative Futures offers hands-on training, mentoring, and direct routes into employment for young people who have faced barriers to accessing creative careers.

[Read more](#)[Read more](#)

## Number of jobless young people soars in Cornwall



The number of jobless young people has increased across Cornwall since the previous election.

In October 2025, there were 1,915 young adult claimants in Cornwall, 355 more than at the last election in July 2024. Young adult unemployment has risen across all six Cornwall parliamentary constituencies. North Cornwall saw the largest rise in unemployment, with 110 more young adults claiming benefits than in July 2024. Unemployment also increased by 37% among 18-24 year olds in South East Cornwall, and by 29% in Truro and Falmouth.

[Read more](#)

## Supported employment programme launching across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay



A new employment scheme is being launched in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to help support almost 6,000 people into work over the next five years.

Connect to Work will improve access to employment, health and skills support, and help reduce economic inactivity across the region.

[Read more](#)



## Yorkshire and the Humber news

### Leeds charity awarded grant to boost local creative industry careers



Two West Yorkshire charities have been awarded £25,000 in grants to expand their programmes that helps those interested in creative careers.

MAP Charity (Music and Arts Production Leeds) supports young people aged 11-16 who are having difficulties engaging in mainstream education. The charity offers music and arts qualifications alongside maths and English support.

Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield has a year-round programme from drama and contemporary dance to circus and pantomime.

[Read more](#)

### Over 3,100 young people given vital work experience



Bradford Council's SkillsHouse Xperience team found over 3,100 local students in Years 10 and 12 work experience placements during the 2024 - 25 school year.

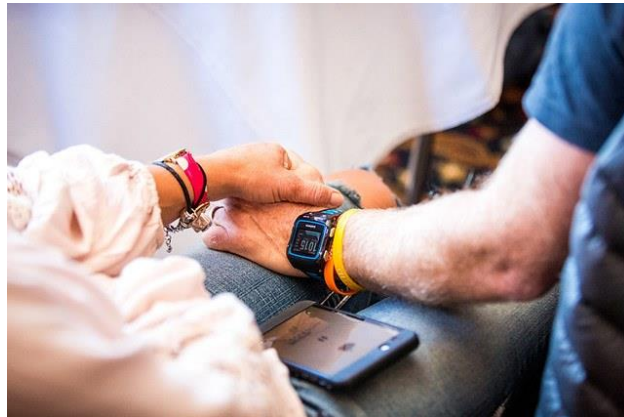


Councillor Imran Khan said: "It is important that the young people of the Bradford district are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in a working environment. High-quality work experience helps students feel more confident and ready for their future."

The Xperience team is made up of specialist advisers who work with schools and employers to match students to work experience placements that suit their interests and career goals.

[Read more](#)

### **Sheffield Early Support Hub warns hundreds of young people could lose vital help as government funding ends**



Sheffield Futures' Early Support Hub will lose its funding in March 2026, which will leave hundreds of young people in the region without mental health and wellbeing support and advice. Since it launched last year, the charity has helped more than 400 young people aged between 11 and 25.

[Read more](#)

### **Young Futures Panels launch in West Yorkshire**



A new early intervention initiative is helping young people aged 10 - 17 who may be at risk of being drawn into crime. The Young Futures Panels identify those who may be falling through the gaps and connect them with tailored support services.

Located in Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees, and Wakefield, the multi-agency panels will be supported by the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership. It forms part of the government's Plan for Change and Safer Streets plan.

[Read more](#)

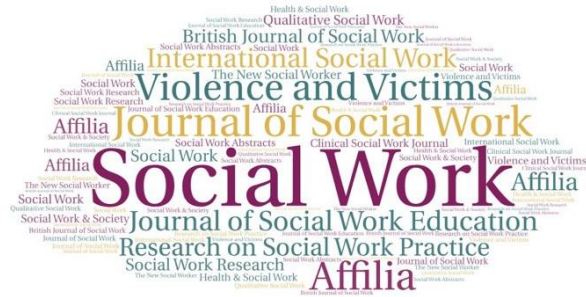
### **South Yorkshire Combined Authority to tackle ill health and keep Britain working**



The South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority is joining forces with the government to tackle the rising tide of ill-health which is pushing people away from work and restricting growth. With the percentage of disabled people who are economically inactive in South Yorkshire being higher than the national average, the need for urgent reform is stark.

The government will partner with employers to reshape how health issues and disabilities are managed in the workplace with the launch of employer-led 'vanguards.' The vanguards - including South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, together with names such as British Airways, Google, Sainsbury's and Holland and Barrett are early adopters who will develop and refine workplace health approaches over the next three years to build the evidence base for what works.

[Read more](#)



Following an assessment by Social Work England, the University Centre Grimsby has received official confirmation that they are now an accredited social work education institute, paving the way for a new degree course in the subject which will in turn open the door to more people in the area looking to take up social work as a career. From September 2026, University Centre Grimsby will offer a full-time BA (Hons) Social Work degree and a BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship.

[Read more](#)

## Useful resources and websites



## Step into the NHS competition for secondary schools

Running until 30 April 2026, the Step into the NHS competition introduces students to the more than 350 NHS careers so they are inspired and motivated to fulfil their potential, no matter their

interests and skills. As part of the national competition, KS3 pupils are challenged to create a job advertisement showcasing one NHS role of their choice.

### [Futures for All](#)

Fully funded work experience and Speakers for Schools Programme. Work experience opportunities include remote and in-person experience and range from science and engineering to travel and tourism, insurance to film and defence and security.

### [The STEM Hub](#)

The STEM Hub offer a diverse range of FREE STEM related resources and services to help you inspire young people in your education setting. Resources are available online and for use in your classroom.

### [Apprentice snapshots](#)

Overviews of apprenticeships by subject and posters, such as Apprenticeships in the Arts and Apprenticeships in sports exercise.

### [CareersVerse](#)

An interactive platform that transforms how young people discover and explore career paths through immersive metaverse experiences and AI-powered guidance. Free demo available about aviation careers.

### [Into Film](#)

Free resources about careers in the screen industries, that shows what is happening in the UK in the world of film, TV, animation, VFX and games careers.

### [Not Just Lab Coats](#)

A careers website for young people aged 14 – 25 interested in science, manufacturing and technology.

### [Navigating Post-16 Pathways](#)

This infographic breaks down the UK education pathways from age 16 onwards into clear, simple stages.

## Dates for your diary



### National

- [IGD free employability workshops](#) online for students in Years 8 - 13. Several dates in early December.
- [British Army Apprenticeships Explained](#) - webinar - 3rd February, 4pm - 5pm
- [National Apprenticeship Week 2026](#) - 9th - 15th February
- [National Careers Week 2026](#) - 3rd - 8th March

### London

- [National Apprenticeship Show London and South East](#) - Sandown Park Racecourse- 10th and 11th February
- [London Careers Festival](#), various events at different locations across London and online - March 2026
- [National Career Guidance Show](#) - Royal National Hotel, London - 26th March
- [Imperial College, London](#) - virtual campus tour - online on demand

### North East

- [National Apprenticeship Show North East](#) - Vertu Motors Arena, Newcastle - 3rd and 4th February
- [English Taster Day for Year 11s](#) - Newcastle University - 19th January, 10am - 2pm
- [Teesside University Open Day](#) - Middlesbrough - 10th January

### **South East**

- [National Apprenticeship Show London and South East](#) - Sandown Park Racecourse - 10th and 11th February
- [UCAS Discovery Farnborough 2026](#) - Farnborough International Conference Centre - 22nd and 23rd April , 9.30am - 3pm
- [Get Inspired Portsmouth](#) - Portsmouth Guildhall - 15th January, 9.30am - 3pm

### **South West**

- [Bristol Jobs Fair](#) - The Bristol Pavilion - 23rd January, 10am - 1pm
- [Bournemouth Jobs Fair](#) - Bournemouth Pavilion - 28th January, 10am - 1pm
- [UCAS Discovery Exeter 2026](#) - Westpoint Centre, Exeter - 16th and 17th March
- [National Apprenticeship Show West of England](#) - Ashton Gate Stadium - 17th and 18th March

### **Yorkshire and the Humber**

- [CATCH Apprenticeships Open Evening](#) - Stallingborough - 15th January 2026
- [UCAS Discovery York 2026](#) - York St John University, Haxby Road Sport Campus - 25th March - 9.30am - 3pm
- [Bishop Burton College Open Event](#) - Bishop Burton - 10th January, 10am - 1pm





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