



News Bulletin

LATEST EDITION

Prepared by colleagues of the
Northern Skills Network

www.northernskillsnetwork.co.uk

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Introduction

The Northern Skills Network (NSN) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to representing and advocating for training and education providers across the North of England. We work to amplify the voice of our members, ensuring that FE and skills remain at the forefront of regional and national policy discussions.

Focus North has been at the forefront of our efforts for several months now, serving as the primary hub for research, analysis, and reporting on various challenges related to Further Education and skills. This includes NEET rates, unemployment, devolution, careers, tutor shortages, trailblazer programs, and employment connectivity. By bringing together key stakeholders, policymakers, and industry experts, Focus North continues to inspire and drive substantial change in skills provision throughout the region.

This bulletin brings key updates on regional developments, funding opportunities, and upcoming events. We remain committed to ensuring that regional perspectives shape national conversations, and we look forward to working with all of you to strengthen education and training across the North.

We welcome your input, insights, and success stories. If you have updates to share or wish to be involved in our initiatives, please reach out—we'd love to feature your work in future bulletins.

Thank you for your continued support in shaping a stronger skills and employment landscape in the North.

NSN Co-chairs

Alex Miles & Charlotte Jones



Green & Sustainable Development Showcase

On the 29th of September, from 9:30am–12pm on MS Teams, this showcase focused on sustainability, green skills, and practical approaches to embedding environmental responsibility across education and skills. The morning brought together organisations from across the sector to share insight, good practice, and examples of how sustainability can be embedded into provision and workforce development.

Our agenda included:

- Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability – The Manchester Metropolitan University
- Sustainability, Green Skills and Emerging Workforce Needs – Learning Curve Group
- Supporting Education Professionals – EAUC (The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges)
- Green Doctor Academy – Groundwork
- Green Changemakers and Learner Showcase – Green Changemakers

The session offered practical ideas, examples, and inspiration for providers looking to strengthen their approach to sustainability and green development.

Tuesday 29 September

MS Teams

9:30am–12pm

<https://lnkd.in/ezsxKEq4>

CEIAG Connect: Collaboration, Insight and Innovation in CEIAG in further education across the North of England

CEIAG Connect will take place on Thursday 12 November, bringing together FE providers from across the North for an online morning of collaboration, shared learning, and discussion around careers education, information, advice, and guidance (CEIAG).

The session will provide an opportunity to share best practice, explore innovative approaches, and consider how careers support can be strengthened across all areas of FE provision.

CEIAG Connect is designed to help providers connect with peers, learn from practice across the sector, and contribute to shaping the future of careers support in further education.

Agenda and speakers to be released soon

Thursday 12 November

MS Teams

9:30am–12pm GMT

<https://lnkd.in/eBKNgG5H>

Creating Post-16 Cultures Where Every Learner Belongs

Taking place at the Royal Armouries, on the 26th of January 2027 at 10am–2pm

The Northern Summit on Inclusion, Relationships and Trauma-Informed Practice will bring together post-16 educators to explore practical approaches to belonging, behaviour, restorative practice and inclusive culture.

Sessions include Polly Harrow on Belonging, Behaviour and Success, sharing experiences of embedding trauma-informed practice, and a workshop introducing the RSE Toolkit to support work tackling misogyny and reducing gender-based violence. The programme will also explore the Ofsted focus on inclusion.

Buy one ticket, get one FREE.

Book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creating-post-16-cultures-where-every-learner-belongs-tickets-2002120536420>

FE Futures: Recruitment & Retention Blueprint

The Northern Skills Network, in partnership with Dovetail & Slate, has published a practical blueprint to help Further Education and skills providers strengthen recruitment, onboarding and staff retention. It calls for a shift from reactive hiring to longer-term workforce planning, with a focus on attracting talent from industry, improving the candidate experience and supporting new starters effectively. Northern Skills Network

The guide also highlights the importance of positive workplace culture, wellbeing, clear career pathways, CPD, recognition and strong links with industry. It includes practical actions and sector examples to help providers build a skilled, engaged and sustainable workforce -

<https://www.northernskillsnetwork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FE-Futures-Recruitment-Retention-Blueprint-2.pdf>

Focus North

This single, unified hub will drive forward critical discussions and action on skills development, employment, and education across the North.

ADDRESSING POLICY
& IMPACT REVIEWS

THOUGHT
LEADERSHIP



LOBBYING &
ADVOCACY

UNIFIED VOICE

Northern Skills Network Reach & Impact

www.northernskillsnetwork.co.uk/reachandimpact

PROVIDER REPRESENTATION

OVER 500 FE & SKILLS ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED
PAN-NORTHERN

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

THE NORTHERN SKILLS NETWORKS HOLDS
CONFERENCES ANNUALLY
(INTERCHANGING ACROSS THE PENNINES
EVERY YEAR) FOR OUR MEMBERS AND OUR
MEMBERS' MEMBERS.

COMBINED AUTHORITY ALIGNMENT

THE NORTHERN SKILLS NETWORK MANIFESTO
OUTLINES STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AIMED AT
ENHANCING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE
NORTH OF ENGLAND. THESE PRIORITIES ALIGN
CLOSELY WITH THE NORTHERN COMBINED
AUTHORITY'S OBJECTIVES.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

THE APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT & KNOWLEDGE FOR
SCHOOLS PROGRAMME (ASK), IS A NATIONAL
SCHEME. FOUR OF THE REGIONAL NSN NETWORKS
DELIVER ASK ACROSS THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS.

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

THE CO-CHAIR NETWORKS OF THE NSN WERE BOTH
CONTRACTED AN SME ENGAGEMENT PROJECT FROM
THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION FROM OCTOBER
2022 - OCTOBER 2024.



Update from our Regional Networks



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In January 2026, GMLPN launched GMLPN25, a year-long campaign of celebration, reflection, and future focused activity across 2026, marking 25 years of championing learning, skills, and collaboration across Greater Manchester. Founded in 2001, GMLPN has spent a quarter of a century supporting training providers, strengthening partnerships, and amplifying the collective voice of the Further Education and skills sector. GMLPN25 will celebrate this legacy while looking ahead to the future of skills, workforce development, and inclusive growth in the city region. GMLPN25 aims to bring together members, partners, policymakers, and stakeholders through a series of events, strategic moments, and storytelling activities across 2026.

These will highlight the people, places, and partnerships that have shaped GMLPN's journey and continue to drive impact across Greater Manchester.

As part of our yearlong celebration, we've launched two mini campaigns as part of GMLPN25 – "Where it all began" and "Impact & Collaboration" celebrating the long standing GMLPN members.

We've gone live with:

- [Where it all began - Mantra Learning - GMLPN](#)
- [Where it all began - Damar Training - GMLPN](#)
- [Where it all began - Rochdale Training - GMLPN](#)
- [Where it all began - Tracey Wood - GMLPN](#)
- [Where it all began - Tameside College - GMLPN](#)
- [Where It All Began - Michaeljohn Training School - GMLPN](#)
- [Where It All Began - Bolton College - GMLPN](#)
- [Where It All Began - WORKS4U - GMLPN](#)
- [Where It All Began - LTE Group - GMLPN](#)
- [Where It All Began - Wigan & Leigh College - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Donna Graham \(Positive Steps\) - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - NCFE - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Anthony Turner \(Manchester City Council\) - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Emma Lowe-Hewitt \(Rochdale Training\) - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Kate Day \(DH Associates\) - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Zack Grimes - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Gateway Qualifications - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Cognisoft - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Institute of Employability Professionals \(IEP\) - GMLPN](#)
- [GMLPN25: Impact & Collaboration - Manchester City Council - GMLPN](#)

With more coming soon as we look forward for the final phase of this year's celebrations!

GM Skills Awards 2027

We launched nominations for GM Skills Awards 2027 on the 16th September! Following the success of GM Skills Awards 2026 ([recap can be found here](#)) we are busy with our plans for GM Skills Awards 2027 and are pleased to confirm several sponsors have already confirmed their support for the Awards!

With the success of the 2026 Awards, we welcomed over 450 guests to our ceremony on the 3rd July at The Sheridan. Weve also added a brand-new T-Level learner of the Year category to the 15 categories – celebrating excellence across FE & Skills across GM! See all the categories here: <https://gm-skillsawards.co.uk/categories-2027/>

You can also view the Winners & Highly Commended Individuals, teams and organisations here: [Winners 2026](#) | [GM Skills Awards](#)

And the amazing Learner Showcase for 2026 here: [Learner Showcase 2026](#) | [GM Skills Awards](#)

Letter from the new Mayor of Greater Manchester

We were pleased to receive a letter and welcome the Mayor's recognition of the important role that skills and lifelong learning continue to play within both the Mayor's manifesto and Greater Manchester's wider ambitions.

We are also encouraged by the commitment to strengthening relationships with the sector and look forward to continuing our positive partnership with Bev Craig and colleagues across GMCA.

As the representative network for a diverse range of learning providers and partners across Greater Manchester, GMLPN will continue to champion the collective contribution of our membership, including Independent Training Providers, colleges, universities, local authorities, and VCSFE organisations. We look forward to working together to ensure that the expertise and impact of the whole network helps shape and deliver an inclusive skills system that meets the needs of residents, communities and employers across the city-region.

"We are delighted to have heard so quickly from Bev Craig, the new Mayor of Greater Manchester, and welcome her recognition of the important role that skills play in the future success of the city-region. It is encouraging to see skills featuring so prominently within the Mayor's priorities, and we look forward to working closely with the Mayor and colleagues across GMCA to ensure that the collective voice, expertise, impact and breadth of our membership continues to support the development of an inclusive and responsive skills system across Greater Manchester."

– Mark Currie, Chair of GMLPN



GMLPN Exchanges

GMLPN Exchanges bring together our members in peer forums to discuss challenges, share best practice and collaborate and are pleased to be supported by Manchester City Council – a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning!

Over the past 4 months we have brought members together on a range of themes including:

- Safeguarding
- SEND
- Quality
- CEIAG
- Business Development
- AI Exchange (in partnership with ALPS, as part of the Provider Networks Community of Practice)

GMLPN Post-16 Hub

We recently Launched a Post-16 Resources Hub. This page has been designed for schools, careers leaders, advisers, parents/carers, and young people to access information, resources, opportunities, and support relating to post-16 education, training, and employment pathways.

The purpose of this resource bank is to:

- Support informed post-16 progression decisions.
- Provide impartial information on all available pathways.
- Signpost to trusted local and national resources.
- Promote events, training, and engagement opportunities.
- Support young people who may be at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Member Dashboard Refresh

We've been working diligently behind the scenes to enhance our GMLPN Member Dashboard, creating an even better experience for our members.

The dashboard is the go-to hub for accessing a wealth of exclusive resources, including slides and summaries from our Network Meetings, Member KITs, and Exchanges. Members can also discover exclusive events and offers, advertise and explore sector vacancies, access available event spaces, and much more.

Designed to support collaboration, professional development, and sector-wide connectivity, the dashboard continues to evolve to ensure our members get the very best value from their GMLPN membership.



..... **Supporting Apprenticeships & T Levels**

GMLPN continues to champion high-quality technical education pathways across Greater Manchester, strengthening support for both Apprenticeships and T Levels. We are proud to be a T Level Ambassador, promoting awareness and engagement among providers, employers, and learners. We were pleased to have welcomed Amaya, a Business T Level student from Oldham College, earlier this year. She was an amazing help to the team and a great advocate of how T Level placements can work in an SME. Amaya has moved on to her next adventure, and we wish her every success in the future!

Greater Manchester LSIP

We're proud to be supporting GMCC and GMCA as they have been approved for the next phase of the Local Skills Improvement Plan, which will run till 2029. We have ran a number of sessions in partnership with GMCC this year, engaging GMLPN members to share their views on skills needs across GM to inform the LSIP. Learn more here: [Local Skills Improvement Plan](#) | [GM Chamber](#)

- **CTEC Construction Skills Directory and Analysis:** Commissioned by Leeds College of Building to support the Yorkshire & Humber CTEC. Using the Yorkshire Apprenticeship Service Construction Search Directory and our mapping work, we've produced a full analysis of the construction skills offer across the region. It identifies key strengths, areas of underrepresentation, and where curriculum is focused and growing. The directory will keep developing, and analysis reports will be shared regularly with members, CITB, the combined authorities, chambers and industry partners, including through our Construction Skills Forum. View the directory: <https://lnkd.in/eqNB7nm8>
- **West Yorkshire Education and Training Provider Directory:** Launched at a dedicated workshop for DWP, Jobcentre Plus and Jobs & Careers Service colleagues. It maps 67 providers across apprenticeships, study programmes, T Levels and Adult Skills Fund provision. It gives frontline teams a clear view of the West Yorkshire offer to support Youth Guarantee referrals and signposting, ahead of the new Jobs & Careers Service launching later this year. A series of DWP and provider "speed dating" events across the districts will bring the directory to life. York & North Yorkshire, Hull & East Yorkshire and South Yorkshire directories are coming next.
- **Leeds 16–18 Provision Directory and Summer Campaign:** A city-wide organic campaign that ran through summer 2026, built around the directory's 27 providers. It led with people rather than data, using 29 learner success stories and six filmed provider visits.
 1. It generated 31,814 impressions and views across LinkedIn, TikTok and Instagram, 590 interactions and 301 new followers.
 2. LinkedIn engagement was 2.94%, above the 2.1% benchmark for company pages.
 3. 45% of Instagram views came from non-followers, so the campaign reached new audiences, not just existing ones.
 4. It was delivered unfunded, by one person, from existing assets.
- **LSIP Analysis – Yorkshire:** A combined analysis of all four Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plans, bringing together shared themes, regional differences and the insights most relevant to providers. Themes include: ageing workforce challenges, Digital and AI skills, Green and Net Zero, economic inactivity, productivity, the role of SMEs. The analysis also highlights YLP's formal named role in the West Yorkshire and York & North Yorkshire plans. The full report is available exclusively to members via the member portal.

- **NCFE Partnership – Devolution in Reality:** A joint programme of research, engagement and activity with NCFE, exploring "The Changing Landscape of Regional Education & Skills and Its Local Impact". It looks at how skills devolution is actually working across Yorkshire, and whether it's delivering for providers, employers, communities and local priorities. The aim is to turn policy into practice, making sure devolved decision-making leads to real, employer-led opportunities and better outcomes for learners.
- **YLP Website Refresh:** The full rebuild of wylp.org.uk is nearly finished, with every main page now complete: Homepage, About Us, Meet the Team and Board, Membership and Network Members, Offers & Sponsorship, and Initiatives & Social Value, Forums and YorksTalks, Contracts, Research & Projects, Directories & Campaigns, Contact Us and News. Final checks and fixes are under way before go-live. The new site gives members, partners and sponsors a clearer, more up-to-date view of YLP's work, from forums and research to directories and sponsorship opportunities.
- **The YLP FE Jobs Board is back** - Created to connect Further Education providers with talented tutors, industry professionals and skilled candidates, the Jobs Board gives YLP provider members an additional way to promote vacancies across our network. Whether you're recruiting for teaching, quality, curriculum, learner support or apprenticeship roles, we can help give your opportunities greater visibility with people already interested in working across FE.
- **Misogyny in Apprenticeships Research:** In collaboration with Occupational Awards Limited, contributing evidence to tackle gender-based barriers and improve inclusion across apprenticeship programmes. The report has been expanded beyond the original 51 survey responses with focus groups: engineering apprentices at Appris and employers at Luminate Education Group. This adds triangulated findings, new recommendations and an updated methodology. It was followed by a Trauma Informed and Restorative Practice workshop in July.

Team NBC Steps Out to Support Forget Me Not Children's Hospice

Team NBC proudly completed a fundraising walk in support of Forget Me Not Children's Hospice on 15th September, raising awareness and funds for the incredible work the charity does for children with life-shortening conditions and their families.

A group of our fabulous admin apprentices, along with staff (...and dogs!) came together to take on the challenge as part of their CSR studies, demonstrating teamwork, determination and a shared commitment to supporting a cause that makes a real difference within our local community. The circular walk from Elland to Brighouse, provided an opportunity not only to raise funds but also to reflect on the invaluable support that Forget Me Not Children's Hospice offers to families across West Yorkshire.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts, whether through donations, words of encouragement or by helping to spread awareness of the campaign. Every contribution helps support the vital services provided by the hospice and will have a lasting impact on the children and families who rely on them. The day was a fantastic success, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part. Together, we have shown how small steps can make a big difference. If you would still like to support our fundraising efforts, donations can be made via our fundraising page.

https://www.justgiving.com/team/nbcteam?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=CL. Our final total is not yet in but so far we have raised an amazing £660!!!!

Thank you for helping us support Forget Me Not Children's Hospice and the amazing work they do every day.





Over the past 12 months, The Skills Network has heard a consistent message from colleges: growing learner demand in key technical areas is becoming harder to meet because of shortages of specialist tutors.

Blended learning offers a practical response, helping colleges improve consistency, protect staff capacity and maintain quality. The Skills Network works with providers to combine high-quality online content and structured knowledge delivery with college-led practical teaching and assessment, allowing valuable classroom time to focus on practical, high-impact learning.

A recent example is the new online Principles of Electrical Science unit, co-designed with Leeds College of Building. Colleges can use the resource flexibly, from independent learning and classroom delivery to tutorials, revision and additional learner support.

This approach can help colleges:

- maintain provision in specialist areas despite recruitment challenges
- deliver more consistent learning across campuses and cohorts
- reduce reliance on scarce subject specialists
- scale provision while protecting quality and staff capacity

The same model extends beyond technical qualifications. Through The Skills Network's EQUAL platform, 16–19 providers can access more than 250 short online courses covering employability, life skills, wellbeing and personal development. This allows colleges to build flexible pathways around different learner needs while supporting progression, personal development and preparation for work or further study.

Used strategically, blended learning can help colleges create a more flexible, measurable and resilient curriculum while responding to both workforce pressures and changing learner needs.



Update from our Northern Combined Authorities



Bev Craig elected Mayor of Greater Manchester

Bev Craig has been elected as the new Mayor of Greater Manchester, securing 309,525 first and second preference votes. A total of 538,659 ballot papers were verified, representing a turnout of 25.14%.

The Mayor leads the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) alongside the leaders of the ten Greater Manchester councils. The role covers major areas including transport, housing and regeneration, policing, fire and rescue, economic growth and devolved investment, while also representing Greater Manchester nationally and internationally.

The election used the Supplementary Voting system, allowing residents to select a first and second-choice candidate. Bev Craig and Sian Astley progressed to the second round, with Craig elected after second-preference votes were added.

Craig officially took office on 3 August 2026 and now chairs the GMCA as its eleventh member.



READ MORE



Mayor extends business support to help Hull and East Yorkshire firms grow

Small businesses across Hull and East Yorkshire will continue to receive dedicated support to grow, invest and create jobs, following a decision by Mayor Luke Campbell MBE.

The Mayor has extended the Local Growth Fund business support programme for a further six months, providing continuity for businesses across the region and building on strong early demand.

Between April and June 2026, 488 established businesses and 155 aspiring entrepreneurs engaged with the programme — a total of 643 enquiries in just three months.

During this period, 180 businesses received non-financial growth support, while 60 potential entrepreneurs were supported to become enterprise-ready and develop new business ideas.



643
enquiries

180
businesses
supported

60
potential
entrepreneurs
supported

35
workshops
and events

277
attendees

87%

of enquiries progressed
to further support

83%

of businesses would
recommend our
support

READ MORE



How AI can improve lives and drive prosperity in Liverpool City Region

Nicola Hodson is chairing the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's new AI Task Force, bringing together leaders from academia, industry, the public sector and civil society to guide the responsible adoption of AI across the region.

The Task Force will focus on using AI for good — supporting economic growth, improving public services and creating better outcomes for residents, while addressing risks around jobs, skills, trust, governance and accountability.

Priority areas include transport, health and social care, education and public sector innovation, with the ambition for Liverpool City Region to become a testbed for responsible and inclusive AI.

Alongside innovation, the Task Force will focus on ensuring people have the skills to benefit from emerging opportunities and that AI adoption is fair, trusted and accessible across the region.

The long-term aim is simple: to use AI in ways that make everyday services work better, widen opportunities and deliver meaningful benefits for communities across Liverpool City Region.



[READ MORE](#)



Free travel scheme extended to help care experienced young people cope with rising costs by Mayor Kim

Care-experienced young people aged 18–25 across the North East will continue to receive free, unlimited travel on buses, the Metro and Shields Ferry through the Mayor's Care Experienced Scheme.

Backed by Mayor Kim McGuinness, the scheme is designed to reduce cost-of-living pressures and help young people access college, training, work and job opportunities without worrying about transport costs.

Since launching in 2023, the scheme has supported more than 122,000 journeys across the region's seven local authority areas.

The scheme forms part of the North East Child Poverty Action Plan and aims to help care leavers build greater independence and improve their long-term opportunities.

Eligible young people can apply through their local authority.



[READ MORE](#)



Public Invited to Join Discussion tackling serious violence & knife crime

The next South Yorkshire Community Confidence Board will take place in Doncaster on Wednesday 30 September, 5pm–7pm, chaired by Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Kilvinder Vigurs.

The public meeting will focus on serious violence and knife crime, including current trends, police activity, partnership working, early intervention and support for vulnerable young people.

Residents, community groups and partner organisations will be able to hear directly from South Yorkshire Police, SYMCA and other agencies, ask questions and help shape future priorities for community safety.

The meeting will be held at the Doncaster Corn Exchange and will also be webcast, with opportunities to submit questions and take part via live chat.

Attendance is by registration of interest, with questions also welcomed in advance.



READ MORE



TEES VALLEY

Fresh Call For Donors As Levy Gathers £1.8million To Help Local Apprentices Kickstart Careers

The Tees Valley Apprenticeship Levy Matching Service has secured around £1.8 million in pledges from 11 businesses, helping 26 employers take on 89 apprentices.

The scheme, coordinated by the Tees Valley Combined Authority, matches larger employers with unspent Apprenticeship Levy funds to local businesses that need support with apprenticeship training and assessment costs.

Major employers including BBC, Amazon and bp have contributed, with around £600,000 currently available for businesses looking to recruit apprentices.

The Combined Authority is now encouraging more large employers to donate unused levy funds, while also urging smaller businesses to explore how the scheme could help them recruit, upskill staff and grow.

The programme supports apprenticeships across a wide range of sectors, from engineering and construction to digital, creative, professional and health industries.

Find out more about Tees Valley levy opportunities through the Apprenticeship Levy Matching Service.



READ MORE





West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Cheaper bus journeys for 19-25 year olds in West Yorkshire as new academic year starts, thanks to MCard

New longer-term MCard bus tickets are now available for 19–25-year-olds and full-time students over 25, offering cheaper and more flexible travel across West Yorkshire.

Students can choose from termly, academic year and calendar year bus-only tickets, with unlimited travel on weekdays and weekends. A first-term ticket could save more than £50 compared with buying weekly tickets.

The new options build on existing discounted fares and aim to give young people more choice and greater control over travel costs. Between August 2025 and July 2026, 19–25-year-olds and full-time students made more than 3 million bus journeys across West Yorkshire.

The changes also support the Mayor's Weaver Network, which aims to create a more connected, affordable and seamless public transport system across the region. More information is available through MCard.



READ MORE





YORK
& NORTH
YORKSHIRE
COMBINED AUTHORITY

DAVID
SKAITH
MAYOR

Data and research shaping employment support across York and North Yorkshire

New data tools and research are helping organisations across York and North Yorkshire design more effective support for people facing barriers to work.

As the Get Britain Working Economic Inactivity Trailblazer enters its second year, the programme continues to invest in data and evidence to improve employment, health and skills services.

A key resource is the People Story dashboard, developed with NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. It brings together workforce, health and socioeconomic data, helping partners identify local needs, understand inequalities and target support more effectively.

In its first year, the Trailblazer supported 1,945 people through direct interventions and partnership activity.

Further research has explored issues including economic inactivity among young people, women, carers, students, early retirees and coastal communities. These findings are now helping shape second-year delivery.

Resources, research webinars and labour market intelligence are available through the Work and Skills Interchange website.



READ MORE





Upcoming Events from our Regional Networks



Upcoming Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network Meetings

FUNCTIONAL BY DESIGN - IMPROVING LEARNER EXPERIENCE IN
FUNCTIONAL SKILLS WITH TQK

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

ONLINE EVENT

MEMBER ONLY

HOW AI CAN BE USED TO REDUCE WORKLOAD AND IMPROVE QUALITY
AND RESPONSIVENESS IN ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

25 NOVEMBER 2026

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ONLINE EVENT

MEMBER ONLY

GMLPN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

28 SEPTEMBER 2026

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ONLINE EVENT

MEMBER ONLY

SAFEGUARDING EXCHANGE

26 NOVEMBER 2026

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

ONLINE EVENT

MEMBER ONLY

QUALITY EXCHANGE

7 OCTOBER 2026

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

ONLINE EVENT

MEMBER ONLY

CEIAG EXCHANGE

12 OCTOBER 2026

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

ONLINE EVENT

CEIAG

PREPARING FOR AND MANAGING INSPECTION

26 OCTOBER 2026

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ONLINE EVENT

UNDERSTANDING AND EVIDENCING INCLUSION FOR OFSTED

16 NOVEMBER 2026

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ONLINE EVENT

GMLPN / ALPS: AI EXCHANGE

20 NOVEMBER 2026

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

ONLINE EVENT

Upcoming Yorkshire Learning Providers meetings



QUALITY FORUM
29TH SEPTEMBER 2026
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

LSIP DISSEMINATION
30TH SEPTEMBER 2026
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

WOMEN IN SKILLS & EDUCATION (WISE) FORUM
28TH NOVEMBER 2026
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

AI & DIGITAL FORUM
1ST DECEMBER 2026
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

DEPARTMENT FOR WORK & PENSIONS SPEED NETWORKING EVENT - KIRKLEES
7TH OCTOBER 2026
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

PRISON SUPPORT FORUM
7TH DECEMBER 2026
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

YORKSHIRE LEARNING PROVIDERS SAFEGUARDING & PREVENT FORUM
8TH OCTOBER 2026
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

END OF YEAR ROUNDUP CONFERENCE
10TH DECEMBER 2026
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
[HOLY TRINITY](#)

DATA & COMPLIANCE FORUM
12TH OCTOBER 2026
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
[ONLINE EVENT](#)

WY (WEST YORKSHIRE) REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
2ND NOVEMBER 2026
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
[TEXTILE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE](#)

YNY (YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE) REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
4TH NOVEMBER 2026
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
[ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE](#)

HEY (HULL & EAST YORKSHIRE) REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
11TH NOVEMBER 2026
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

HETA (HUMBERSIDE ENGINEERING TRAINING ASSOCIATION LTD)

NEET YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE
17TH NOVEMBER 2026
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
[YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK](#)



Contact Us!

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Tees Valley Learning Provider Network:

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