

GMLPN 25
Greater Manchester
Learning Provider Network
25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

NETWORK MEETING



Wednesday 25th February 2026



**Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Rd
Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 9DD**



9.00-15.00

Sponsored by:



Agenda

- Open – **Mark Currie** - GMLPN
- **John Myers** – DWP
- **Paul Cocker** – Ofsted
- **Mark Thomas** – TfGM
- **Sharon Broady** – GMCA
- Refreshment Break
- **John Hamilton** – Gateway Qualifications
- **Ruth Hanson & Riza Aparici** – Institute of Employability Professionals
- **Carol Halford** – GM Good Employment Charter
- **Danny Parrot & Richard Lloyd** – GoToCo
- GMLPN Updates
- Close – **Mark Currie** - GMLPN
- Lunch & Networking

Event Supporters

Headline Sponsor:



Exhibitors:



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Special Resolution

That, in connection with the proposed re-registration of the Company as a community interest company:

- The Company's name shall be changed to "Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network Limited CIC".
- The Company shall be a community interest company.
- The articles of association shall be altered so as to comply with requirements in connection with becoming a community interest company. The articles of association shall be altered so as to take the form of the articles of association attached to this resolution which are in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, any articles of association of the Company previously registered with the Registrar of Companies.



Welcome

Mark Currie

GMLPN Chair



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Welcome to the GMLPN Board!

ANDY TURNER

WBL SKILLS & PARTICIPATION
DEVT OFFICER

Rochdale Borough Council



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ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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John Myers

Head of Funding Delivery | Work Based
Skills Directorate | Policy Group



Department
for Work &
Pensions



DWP Feedback

Scan the QR to share
your feedback 🙌





Ofsted Q&A

Chaired by Allan Milne

Paul Cocker

Assistant Regional Director, North West



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Mark Thomas

Strategic Lead, Business Engagement



Transport for
Greater Manchester



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Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050 and Delivery Plan

Consultation



Part of Greater Manchester's Local Transport Plan



together
we are **GREATER
MANCHESTER**

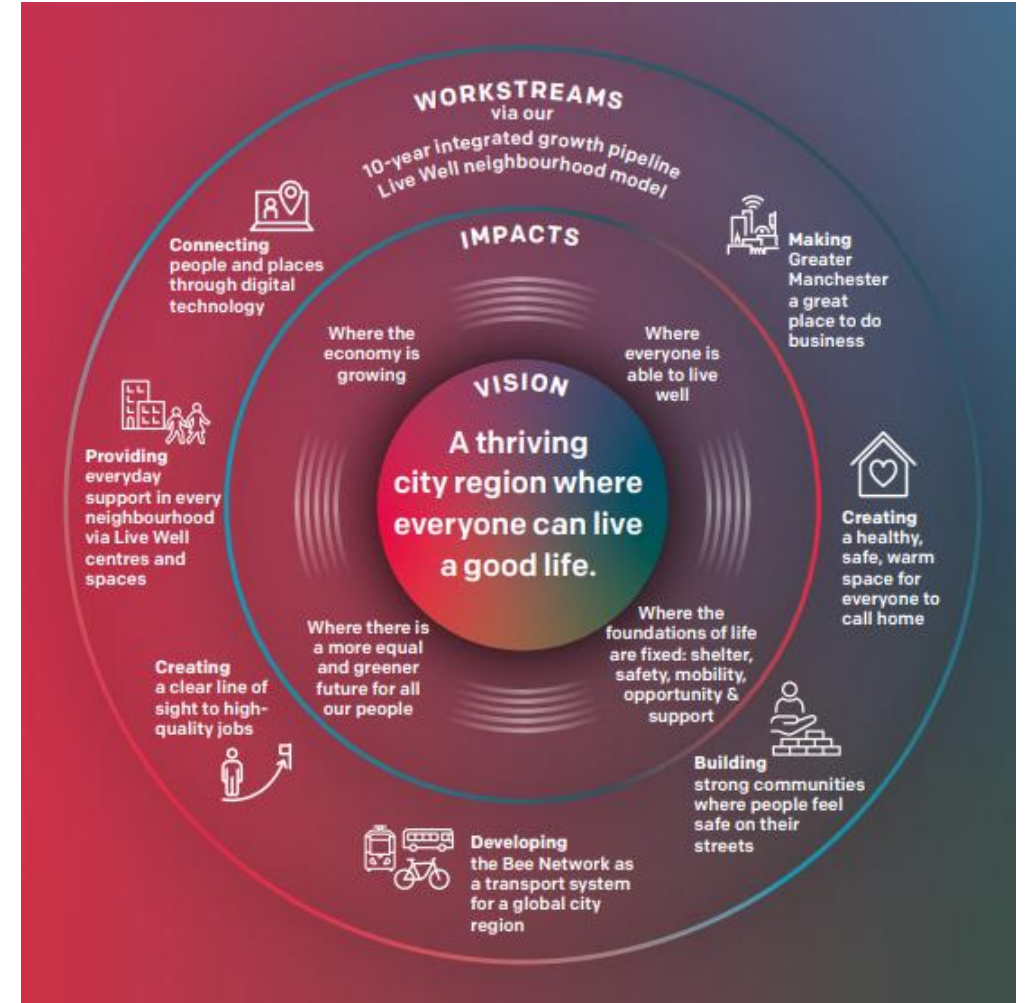
Greater Manchester Strategy vision

In Greater Manchester, we believe transport is about people, places, and the connections between them.

Great transport is at the heart of everything we want to achieve for our communities, our economy, and our environment. It has a key role to play in making the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) 2025-35 vision below a reality:

'A thriving city region where everyone can live a good life'

The transport vision is for: **"A transport system for a global city-region"**



GMS Pledges

Our new GM Transport Strategy 2050 and Delivery Plan will support us in delivering the GMS pledges, in particular the following pledges:



By 2030, 90% of people in Greater Manchester will be within a five-minute walk of a bus or tram that comes at least every 30 minutes.



By 2030, all local rail lines will be integrated with the Bee Network, with Greater Manchester communities the first outside London to be served by fully joined-up bike, bus, tram, and train travel. We will drive major improvements to stations, including making more of them fully accessible and introducing capped, tap-on tap-off fares.



We will keep the cost of travel on the Bee Network as low as possible, so everyone can afford to get where they need to go. We will only charge that we need to run a safe and comfortable service and to reinvest in the Bee Network, so that it keeps improving.



We will put equality goals at the heart of our plans, embedding inclusive practices across all public services



GM residents will live a healthy life for longer (relative to England as a whole) and we will reduce the gap in healthy life years between the richest and poorest communities.



By 2030, we will have the UK's first fully electric, integrated transport system across active travel, bus, and tram services, supporting carbon neutrality by 2038.



We will maintain our commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2038.

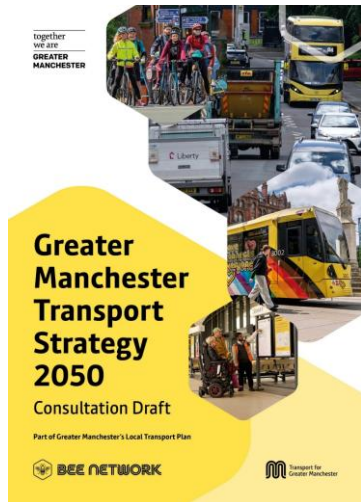


By 2030 95% of our residents will feel safe – we will make the Bee Network one of the safest transport systems in the world.



By 2040 we are aiming for no-one to be killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050



The new **Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050** and **Transport Delivery Plan (2027-37)** set out bold and exciting plans for future transport investment.

Aim is to sustain, grow and transform the Bee Network and our wider transport network through to 2050.

We are already leading the way in creating a transport system that helps people live better lives, supports local communities and powers the economy.

We have already made good progress, but there is still more to be done...

... and Greater Manchester continues to change.

People travel differently, we have greater local powers and control over funding and we have the Integrated Pipeline supported by the GM Good Growth Fund.



Consultation

The consultation is open from Tuesday 9 December 2025 to Monday 9 March 2026, 11.59pm.

Get involved



BEE NETWORK



Transport for
Greater Manchester



Take the survey



BEE NETWORK



Sharon Broady

Senior Principal Skills Manager (Adult Skills)
Education, Skills and Work Directorate



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**GMLPN – 24th February
2026**

**GMCA – ADULT SKILLS
UPDATE**

Sharon Broady
Senior Principal Skills Manager

Collaborating

Empowering

Delivering

Greater Manchester Strategy

Everyday Support in Every Neighbourhood

By 2035, residents facing barriers progress into sustained, good work via Live Well's integrated "no wrong door" pathway; All localities operate health-work-skills routes with reductions in economic inactivity and uplift toward an 80% employment rate.

Clear Line of Sight

We will narrow the gap between the GM Employment rate and national rate with good sustainable jobs that pay well and provide equal opportunities for all.

Live Well Journey to Employment: defining the principles and practice our residents can expect on their journey to work

Get GM Working Plan: our system wide plan for HOW we will achieve our ambitions

Prevention:

Community-powered, early intervention, Live Well model.

Growth:

Align skills with growth sectors, expand good work.

Health:

Full integration of health and employment support

System Conditions:

Use devolved powers, data, and governance to drive change.

Our System Model for the future of Employment Support and Skills Development

Engage and Inspire

Support for residents facing significant barriers to work

Outcome: People engaged and feeling inspired to look for work

Pathways into Good Work and Better Skills

Support for residents ready to look for work or develop their skills

Outcome: People entering work or achieving new skills / qualifications

Sustain and progress

Support for residents at risk of falling out of work or looking to progress / develop

Outcome: People sustaining their job and / or progressing in work

Integrated Settlement Outcome: More residents moving towards, into and progressing within good work, underpinned by the skills and support they need for life and further learning

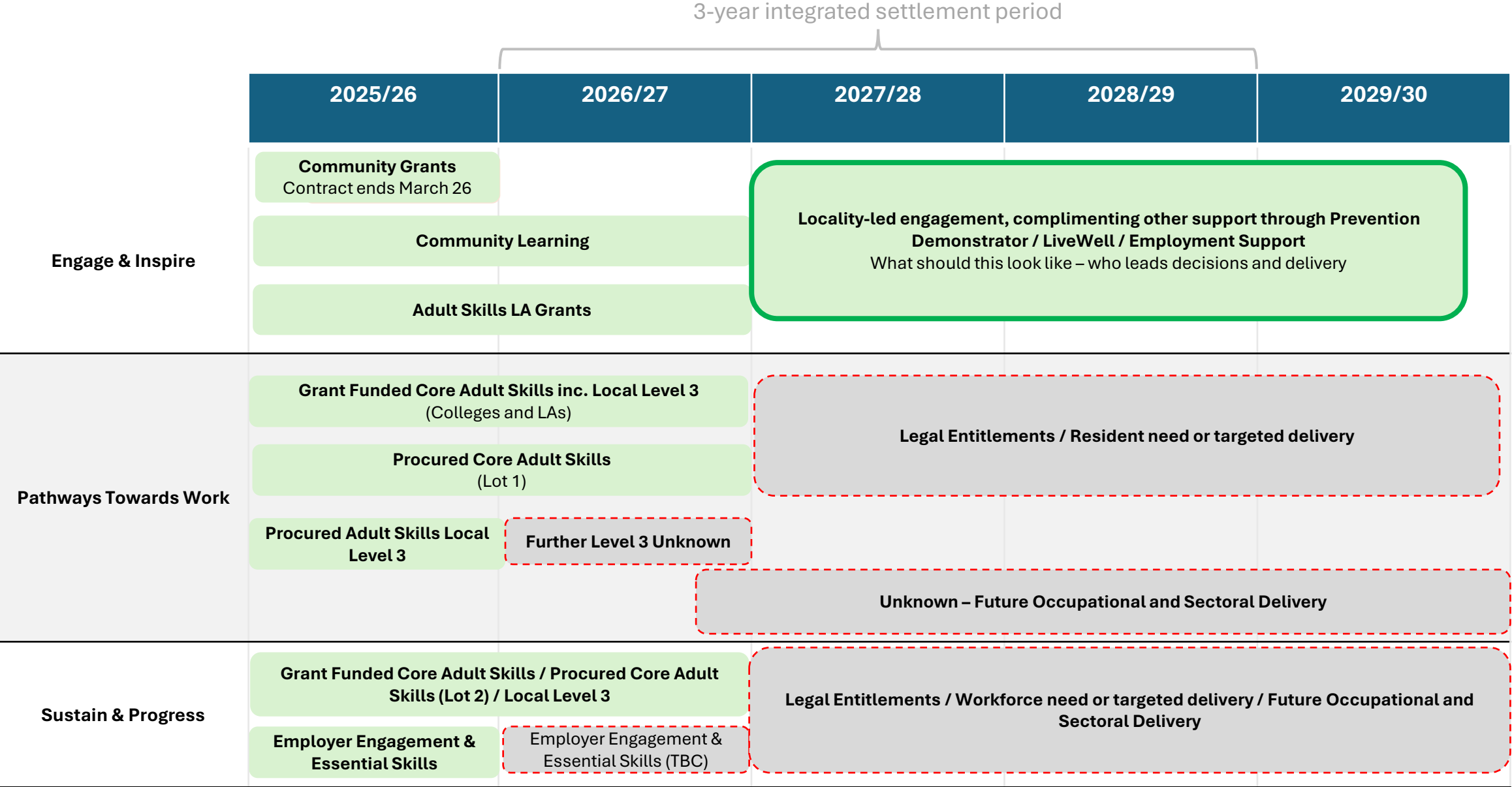
Number of MSA funded residents achieving a Level 1 qualification.

MSA funded residents achieving a L1 who are from a LSOA in the worst 10%, with the highest levels of low or no skills

Number of MSA funded residents achieving a Level 2 qualification.

Number of MSA funded enrolments (starts in year) on a Level 3 or employer tailored / specific skills delivery learning aims for the GM priority sectors.

Adult Skills delivery



Vision for an Integrated Adult Skills and employment support system that works seamlessly to enable every resident build skills, access meaningful opportunities, good jobs and live well

Majority of adult training providers run alongside the academic year; we need more flexibility in this and the ability to run adult learning throughout the year

Build a system anyone can access e.g remove age parameters such as 19+

Achieving the right balance in delivery of 'skills for life' and formal qualifications – Integrate holistic support in wider offers; this could allow work with the VCFSE sector and reduce pressure on frontline services

Our vision for adult skills system is that is responsible to all residents from the start of their journey to the end of their journey – Skills system that is fit for purpose to meet residents' needs from the start of their journey to the end

Cohesive system that also removed systematic barriers for providers

Consult with stakeholders

- GMCA working with Local Authorities to outline the vision and what is offered locally etc.
- Initial meeting with a group of skills providers and key representatives
- Next steps and way forward will include working with LAs and Skills Providers, regular steering group
- Enable local authorities to engage with provision more directly and the planning process
- Currently reviewing the capture of outcomes (not destinations) for residents who access skills delivery
- Encourage providers to use flexibilities to continue to test ways of delivery provision and also ways of working
- Agree strategies for certain areas e.g. community learning; ESOL etc.
- Sharing more of the data with all stakeholders – not about performance, and help providers and LAs to see what is happening in real time

Key points 2026 / 2027 Academic Years

- Adult Skills paper is now scheduled for the May GMCA meeting due to a full March agenda and no April meeting.
- Means a wider, strategically framed skills package. This timing aligns with previous years when decisions have also moved to May.
- Work towards sharing proposed indicative allocations by the end of April to individual skills providers.
- For the existing procured delivery, there is a final plus 1 year for the contracting.
- We're keen to hear your views, any concerns, or things you think we should be particularly mindful of as we move through this next phase.
- Team changes - New staff in post from April
- Opportunity to review the Funding and Performance Management Rules for Adult Skills in GM – move to 'Provider Guidance and Handbooks' – easier to follow

**Do expect changes in how we want to do things – we are keen to transition in a sensible way – no sudden changes
– not doing it to you, with you**



QUESTIONS?

sharon.broadly@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk



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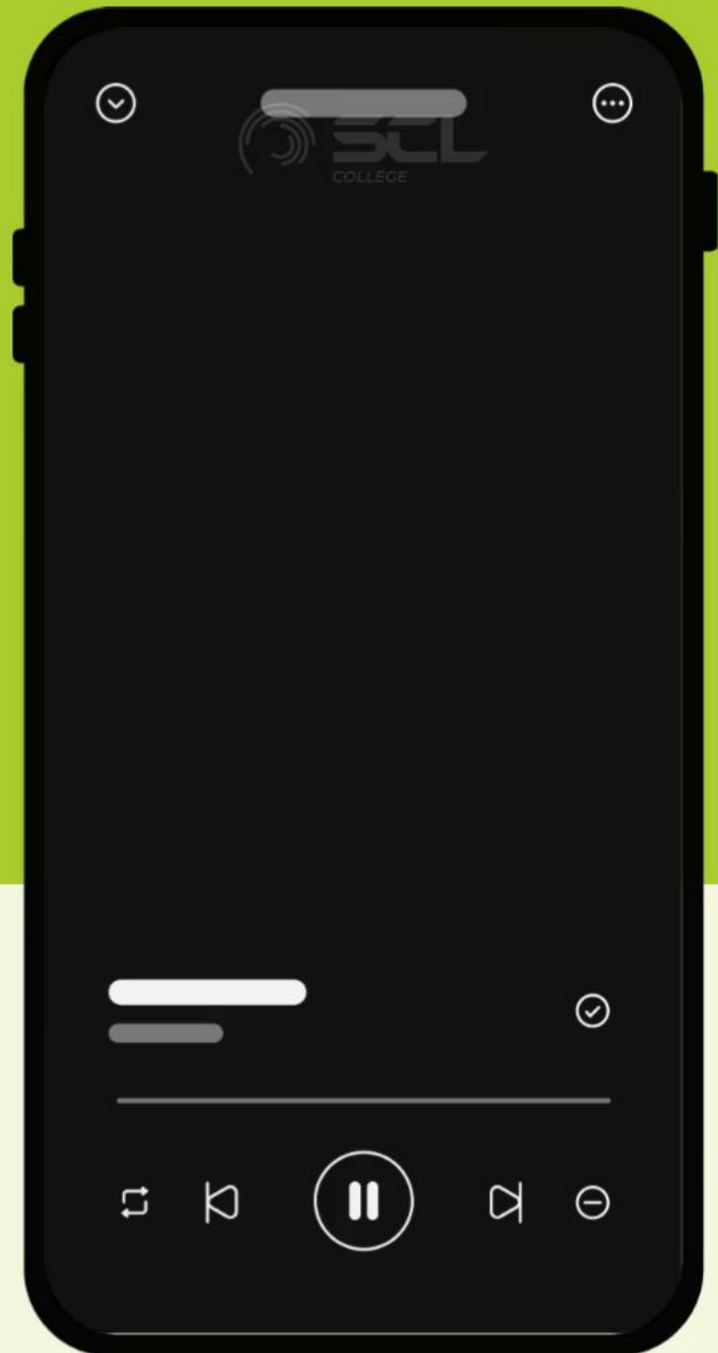
REFRESHMENT BREAK

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WHAT DOES A GOOD JOB MEAN TO YOU?

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John Hamilton

Head of Business Development



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Apprenticeship Reform – Where are we?

John Hamilton



01206 911 211



@GatewayQuals



www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk



enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk





- Where are we are now - snapshot
- Outline of the process
- Understanding of who does what
- Takeaways and Next steps for all
- Update on Units and IEP

The Process



The Numbers



Announced for
revision

164



Assessment
Plan Published
by Skills
England



15/20 day
consultation
per standard

20



Confirmation &
final sign off to
AAOs

Integrated
Qualification with
no assessment
required – Good to
go!

6-month period
from point of
confirmation before
starts can happen
on revised plan
(AO's work here)

29

Apprenticeships
yet to entre
revision

576

Construction
Standards

7 Foundation
Apprenticeships



40

The Construction Feedback

The construction sector has given us a clear message during the assessment reforms pilot about the need to review the content of apprenticeships, and to implement policy in ways that take account of evolving industry requirements. This has shown us that more work is needed to make sure we can deliver positive change for employers and learners.

To tackle that, we are bringing together a task force including representatives of industry, regulators and others. This will help us to make sure important construction industry requirements and changes within the sector, such as the Building Safety Act, are fully reflected in the underlying occupational standards, and the task force will also help determine any further solutions that support the successful implementation of improvements to assessment in Construction & the Built Environment. This expert group will also support us to set a timetable for assessment changes that work for the construction sector.

As a result, we are not expecting to commence any immediate work to apply apprenticeship assessment reforms to the construction apprenticeships at this stage. However, we are publishing this list now, to give an indication of which apprenticeship assessments will potentially be prioritised for reform, once the task force's work is complete.

The Next Steps



Announced for revision
by August 2026

576



The Take Aways

- Skills England have a lot on their plate and are working at pace.
- Important to remember they also have new V Levels and New L2 qualifications to outline structure and content for. First teach (currently) in 2027
- This process has concerned employers and delays are very possible
- Many standards just need tweaks. Possibility end result for many standards similar to what we have currently, with minor revisions
- The commercials still don't make sense and have not been tested
- This could take a while. Keep note of your standards that are in revision and feedback during the short consultation window – make your voice heard
- Keep calm, keep close to your trusted AO and carry on as best you can

Apprenticeship Units

- Will be linked to a standard
- AOs are working with Skills England on this
- Next 4 weeks will be an announcement
- ATC – there are workshops about this from DWP
- We will know more very soon.

IEP Collaboration




gateway
 qualifications

LEVEL 1
CERTIFICATE IN
EMPLOYABILITY

Credits: 11
 Qualification No: 6034/02274

LEVEL 2
CERTIFICATE IN
EMPLOYABILITY

Credits: 11
 Qualification No: 6034/02258

Essentials

Units could include:

- Career Planning
- Searching for a Job
- Interview Skills
- Working Safely

Units could include:

- Introduction to Self-Employment
- Applying for a Job
- Exploring Entrepreneurship
- Customer service skills

Behaviours

Units could include:

- Conduct at Work
- Time Management
- Communication Skills for Work
- Working with Colleagues
- Self-management skills for work

Units could include:

- Leadership Skills
- Negotiation Skills
- Solving Work-Related Problems
- Setting and Meeting Work-Related Targets

Environmental

Units could include:

- Taking Personal Responsibility for the Environment
- Community Environment Project
- Environmental Awareness

Units could include:

- Sustainability
- Improving Sustainability in the Workplace

Neurodiverse

Units could include:

- Skills for Creative Thinkers
- Skills for Reflective Learners
- Skills for Independent Enquirers
- Exploring and Presenting Enterprise Ideas

Units could include:

- Communication Skills for Work
- Working with Colleagues
- Self-management skills for work

Digital

Units could include:

- Digital Skills for Work
- Social Media for Job Prospecting
- Career Planning
- Exploring and Presenting Enterprise Ideas

Units could include:

- Digital Skills for Work
- Exploring and Presenting Enterprise Ideas
- Solving Work-related Problems

Youth

Units could include:

- Career Planning
- Digital Skills for Work
- Working with Colleagues
- Conduct at work
- Time Management

Units could include:

- Self-management skills for work
- Skills for Effective Participants
- Making the Most of Work Placement
- Working in a team

IEP TOP TIP



Develop pathway titles which aim to address the specific needs and concerns of each group, making the pathways more appealing and relevant.

Lone Parents:

- Balancing Parenthood and Career
- Empowered Parenting and Employment
- Work-Life Harmony for Parents

Youth Unemployment:

- Youth Career Kickstart
- Future Leaders Program
- Youth Employment Accelerator

Over 50's:

- Experienced Workforce Integration
- Golden Years Career Path
- Reinventing Your Career

Ex-Offenders:

- Second Chance Employment
- Rebuilding Careers
- Pathway to Redemption

Recovery / Addiction:

- Recovery and Employment
- New Beginnings in the Workplace
- Healing and Career Growth

Neurodiversity:

- Neurodiverse Talent Development
- Inclusive Employment Pathways
- Unlocking Neurodiverse Potential

Social Isolation:

- Connecting Through Employment
- Building Social Networks at Work
- Community and Career Integration

Finance / Budgeting / Money Management:

- Financial Independence Through Employment
- Money Management for Career Success
- Budgeting and Employment Skills

Health and Wellbeing:

- Healthy Work-Life Balance
- Wellbeing and Career Development
- Connecting Health and Employment



Chris Fletcher

Executive Director of Skills Policy



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce



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GMLPN NETWORK EVENT

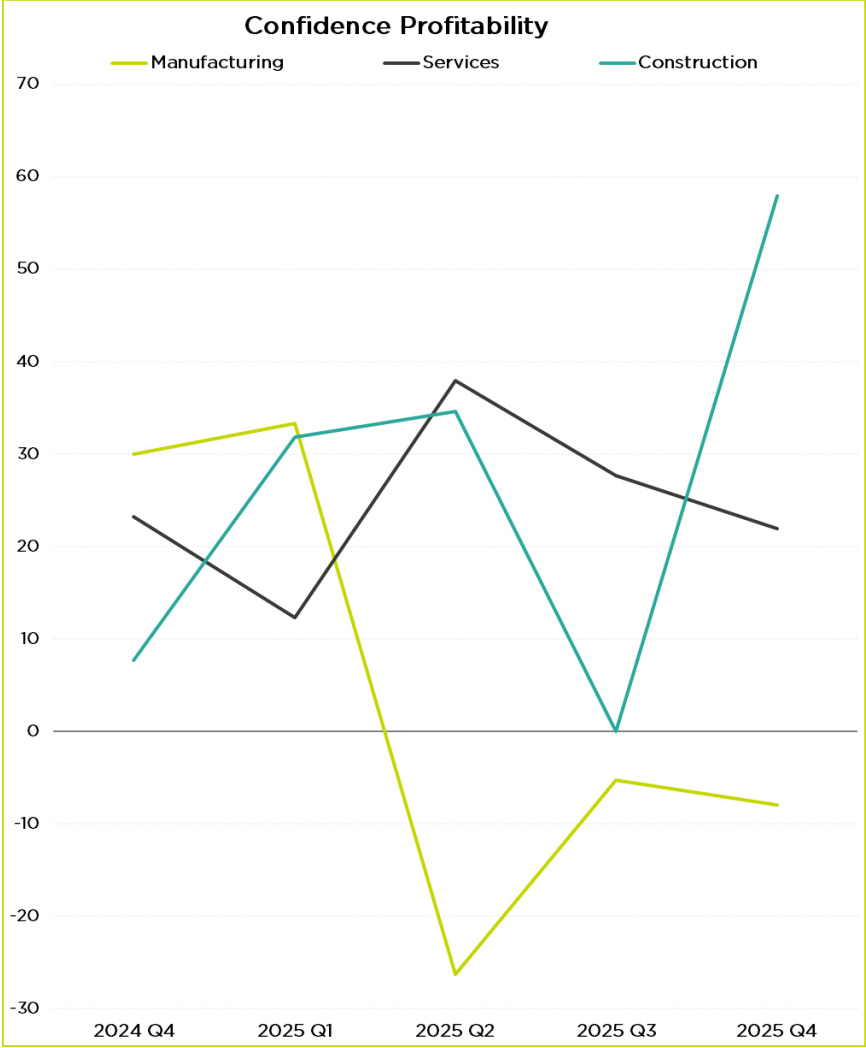
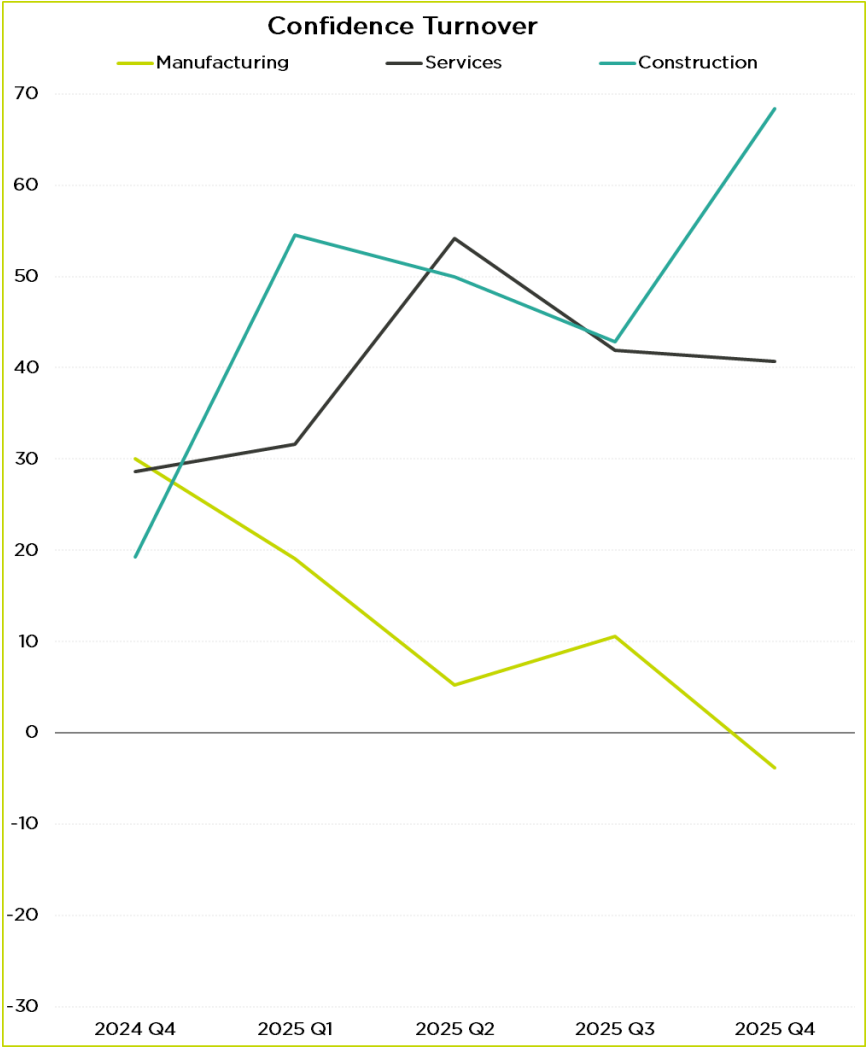
GMCC Update

25th February 2026

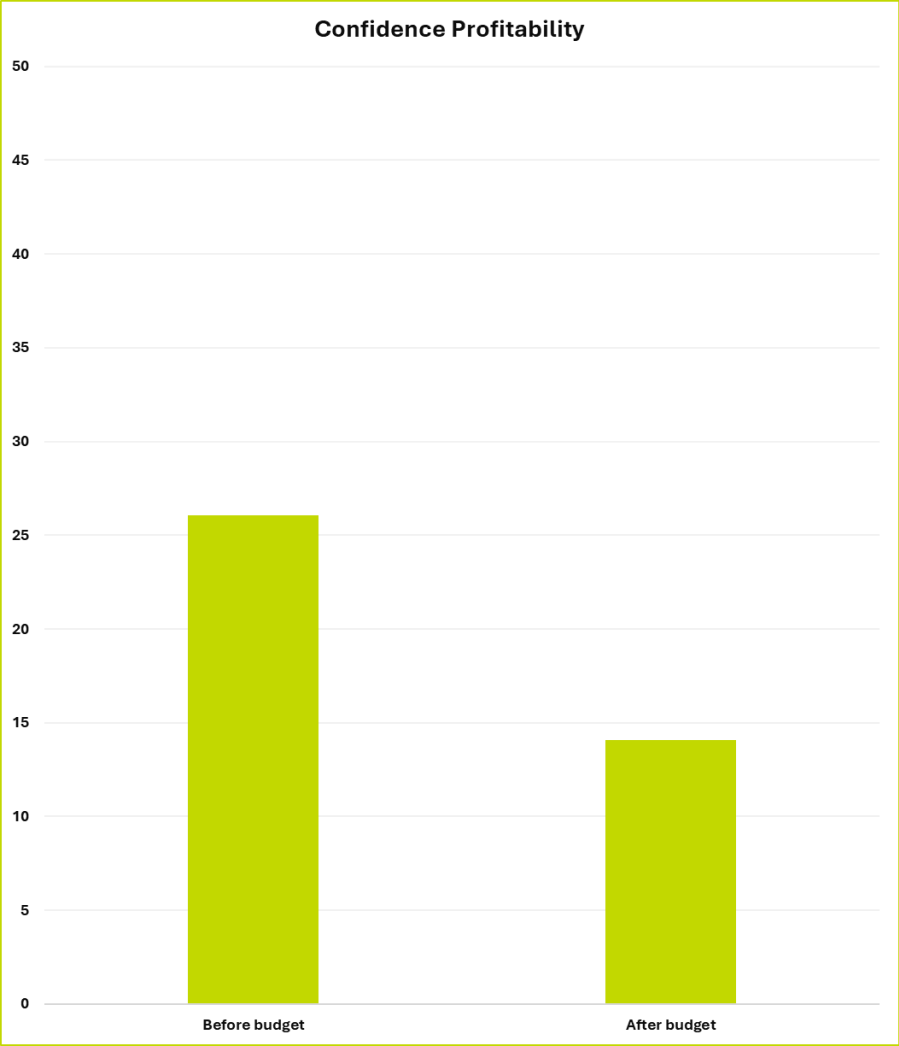
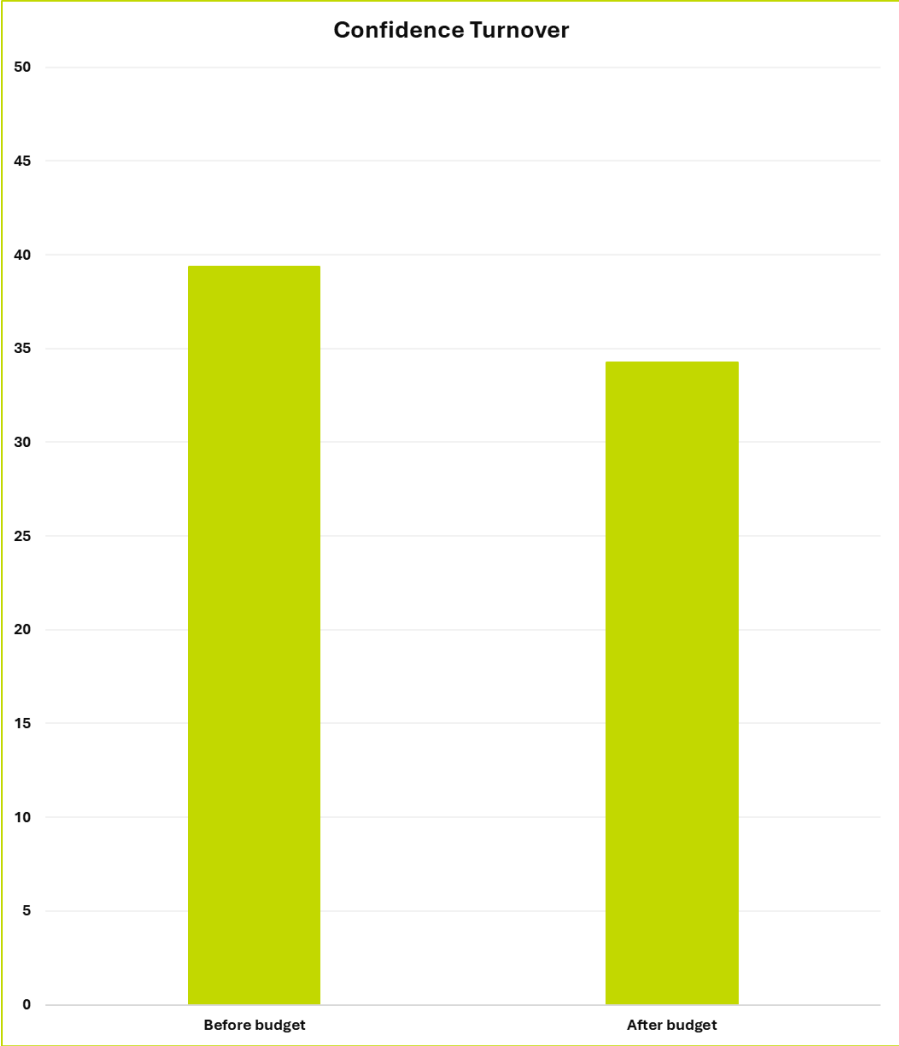
GMLPN NETWORK EVENT

QES Q4 2025

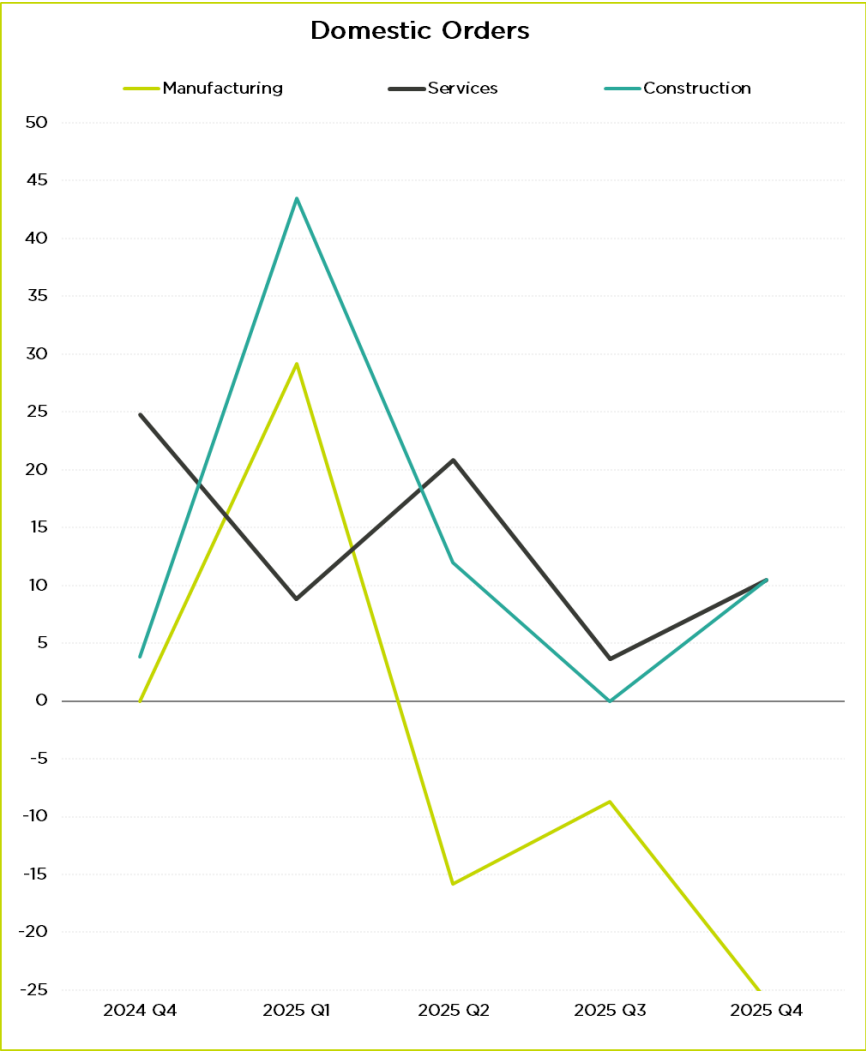
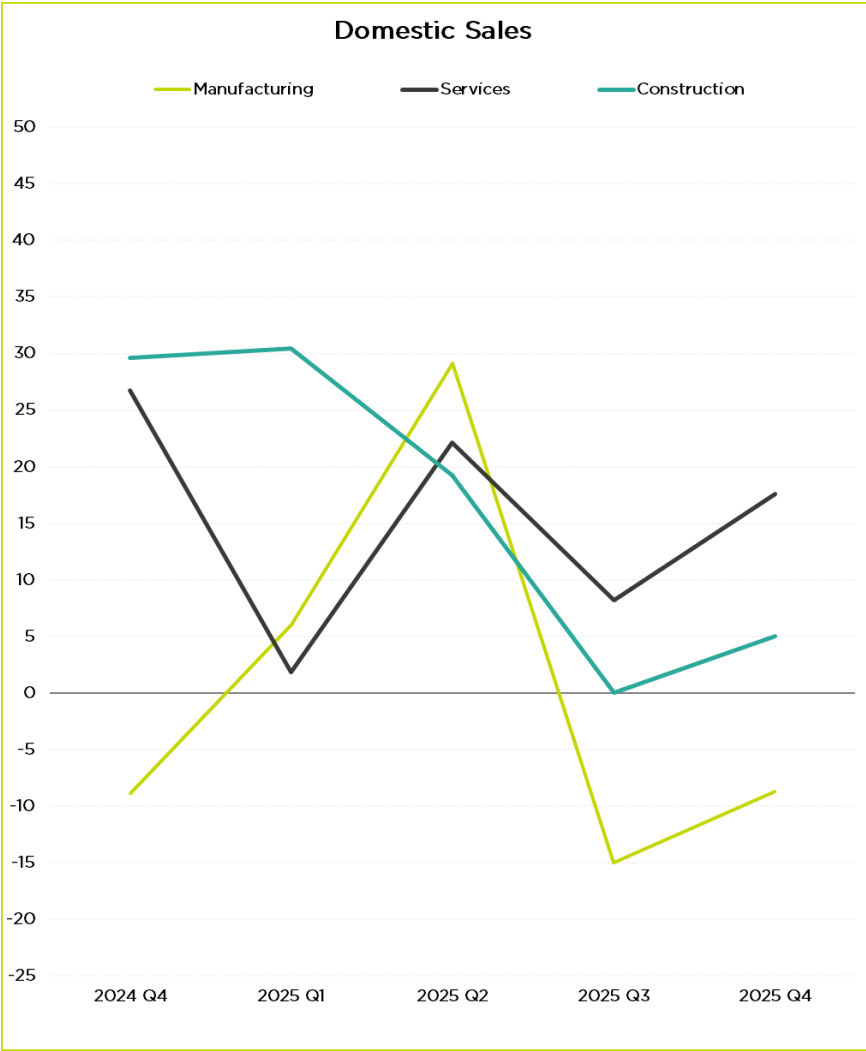
Business Confidence



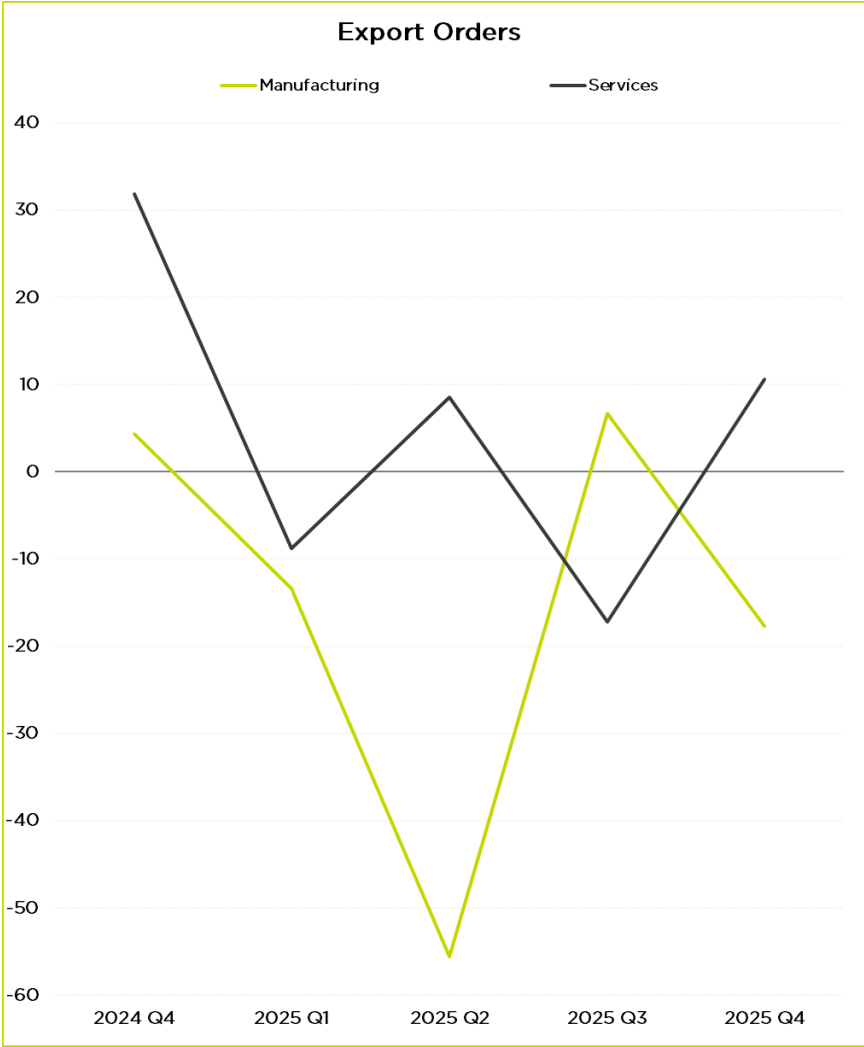
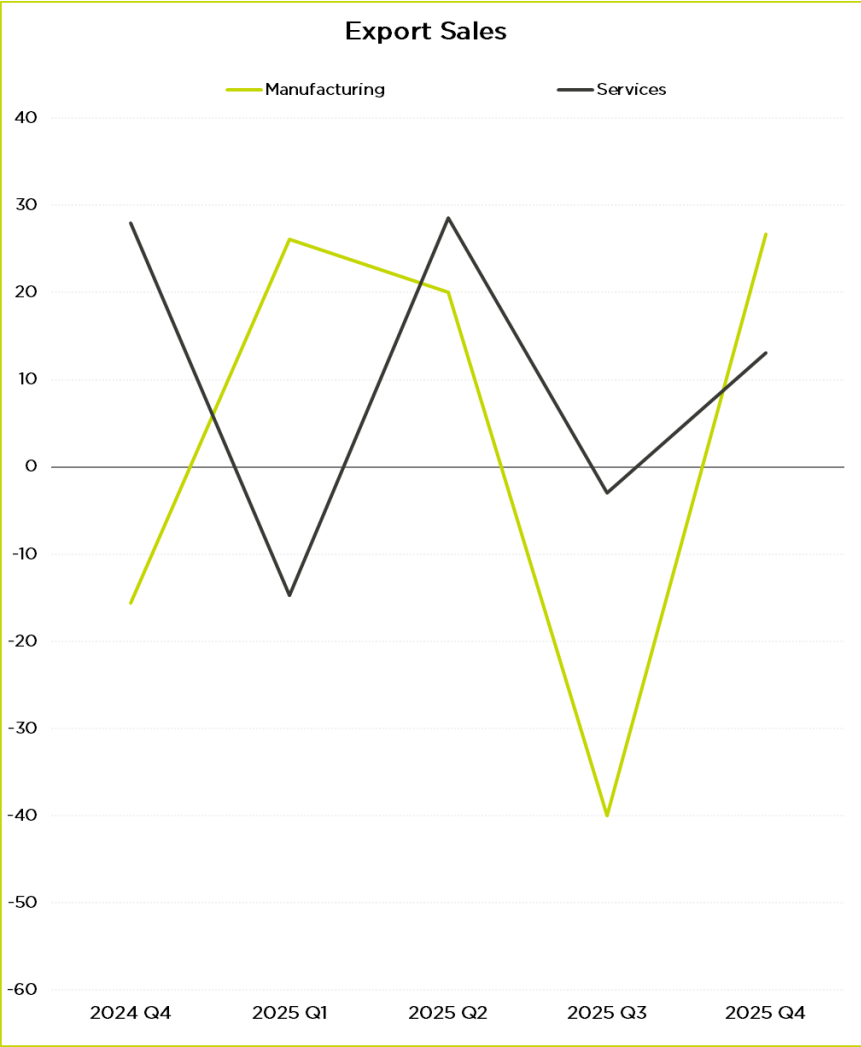
Business Confidence



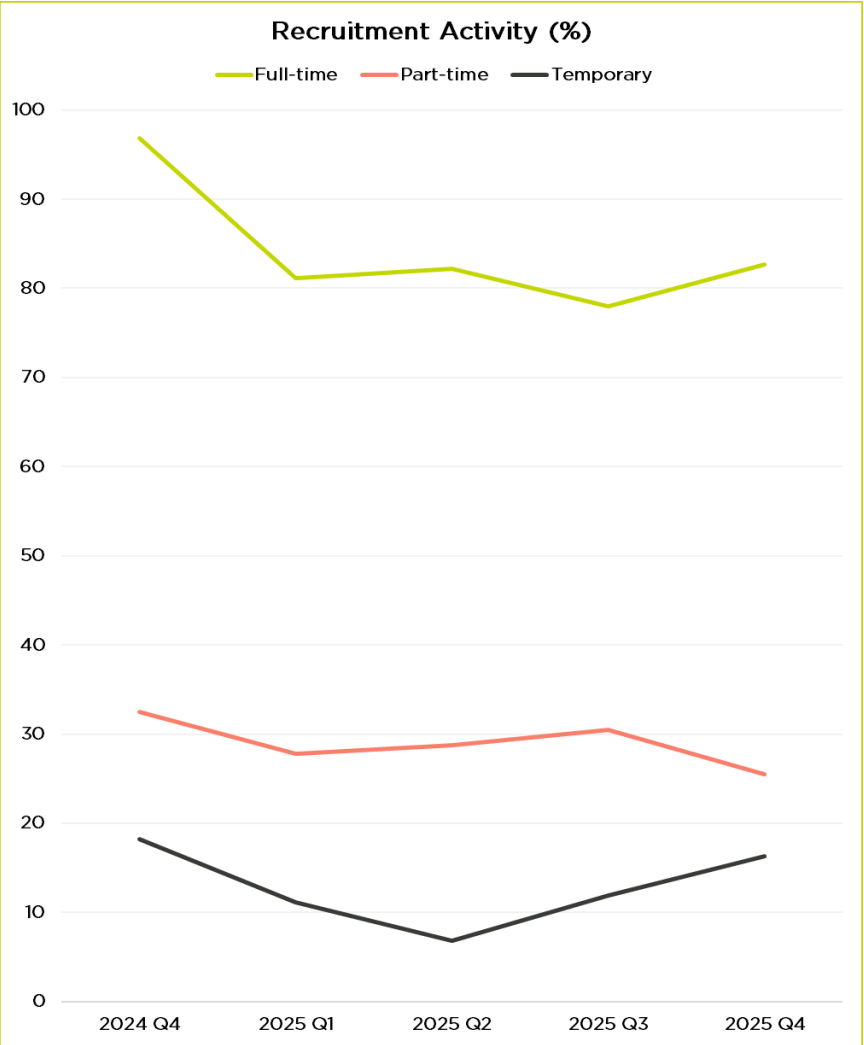
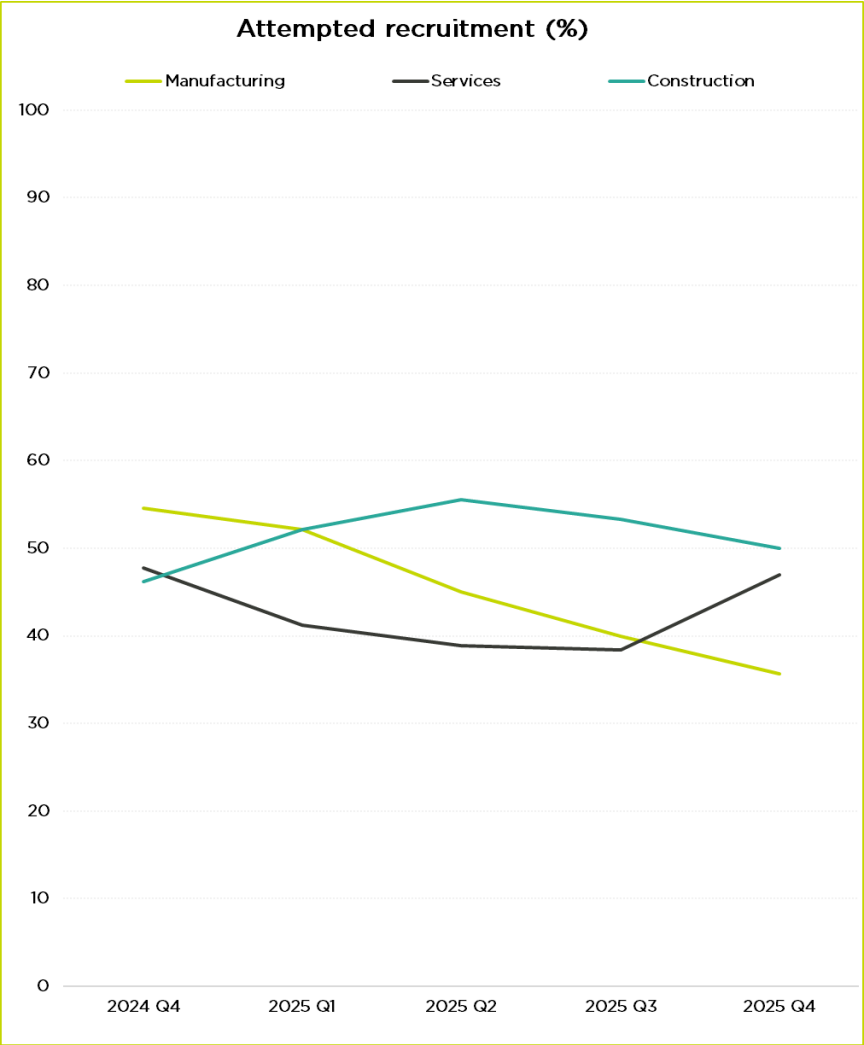
Domestic Demand



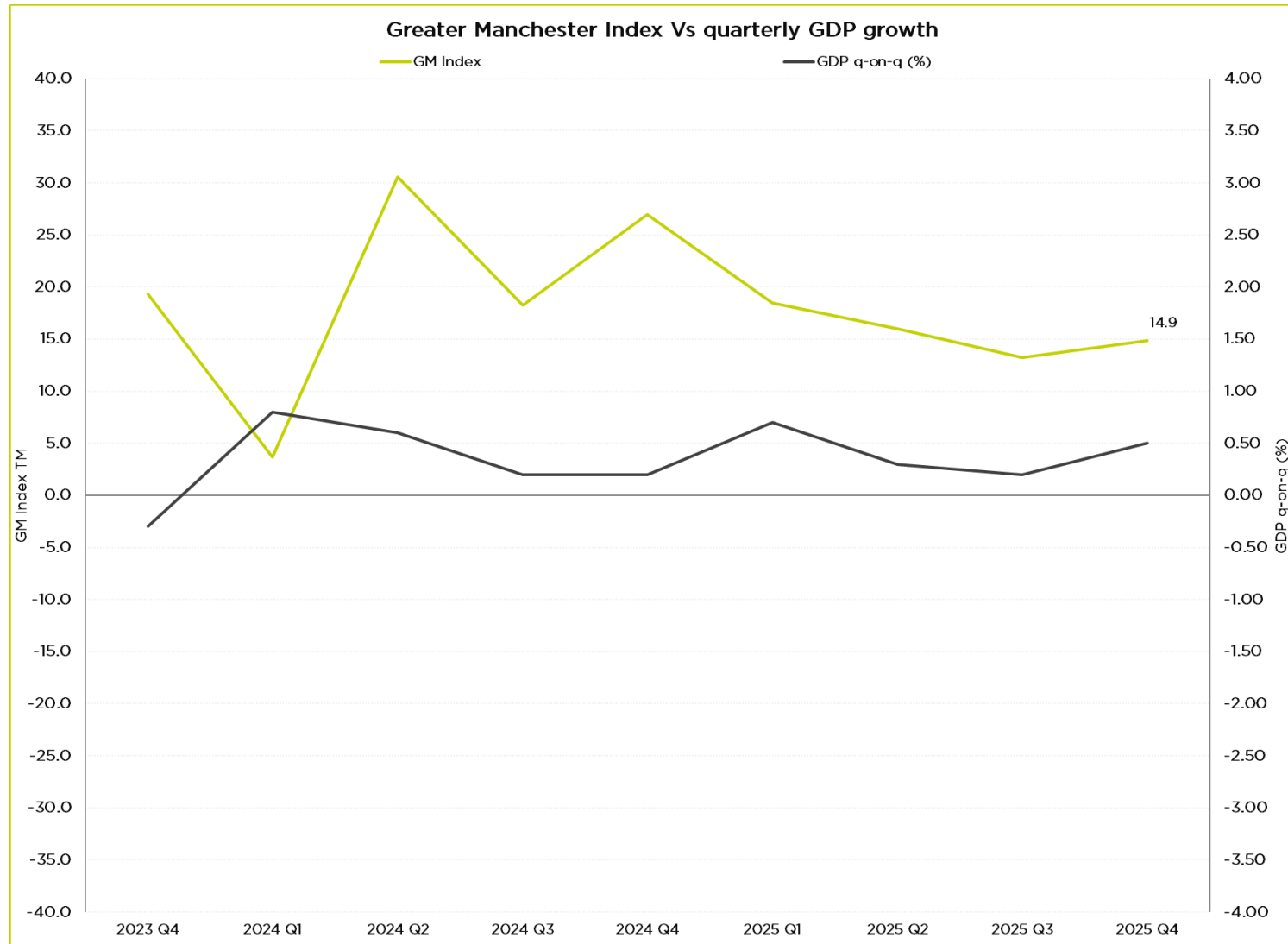
Export Demand



Recruitment



So, where are we now?



Business Environment

- Winter Assembly – 4th Feb
- Costs challenge
- Recruitment activity is taking place but costs are now impacting – NIC rise from April '25 and ahead of new minimum wage rates.
- Business rate rises also causing concern
- 45% expected to have to increase prices
- Spring Statement what impact if any?
- Employment Rights Act 2025
- Tariffs
- Export support for service providers



GMLPN NETWORK EVENT

LSIP



Early themes and findings:

Health Warning – not completed the analysis yet

Leadership and management skills: Many people become 'accidental managers' just because they are technically good at their jobs but lack the experience and skills to lead a team.

Increasing need for digital and AI skills: Employers are requiring more and more digital skills across roles, like digital literacy, ability to use AI tools and tech 'savviness'. AI being seen as more important than 'technical skills'.

Personal Skills vs Technical Skills: Consistent comments and feedback from employers around the importance of personal skills; communication, attitude, managing difficult conversations, customer service.

Challenges reflecting changes: Trade controls and understanding of new import/export duties/requirements

Costs





GM LSIP – the next stage

- 31st March 2026 produce a substantive draft for SE
- Local Skills Needs, Agreed changes/actions, background and methodology
- 15th May – ‘Final Draft’ to SE
- 29th June – Approved LSIP ready for publication between 30th June and 16th July
- Accountability Statements
- Local Area Reports – focus on producing the LSIP, June for next version of these
- Continued contact – ongoing engagement
- Ongoing, sustained employer involvement





Ruth Hanson & Riza Aparici

Head of Growth & Partnership Manager



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Aligning Employability & Skills Training



Ruth Hanson, FIEP
Head of Growth

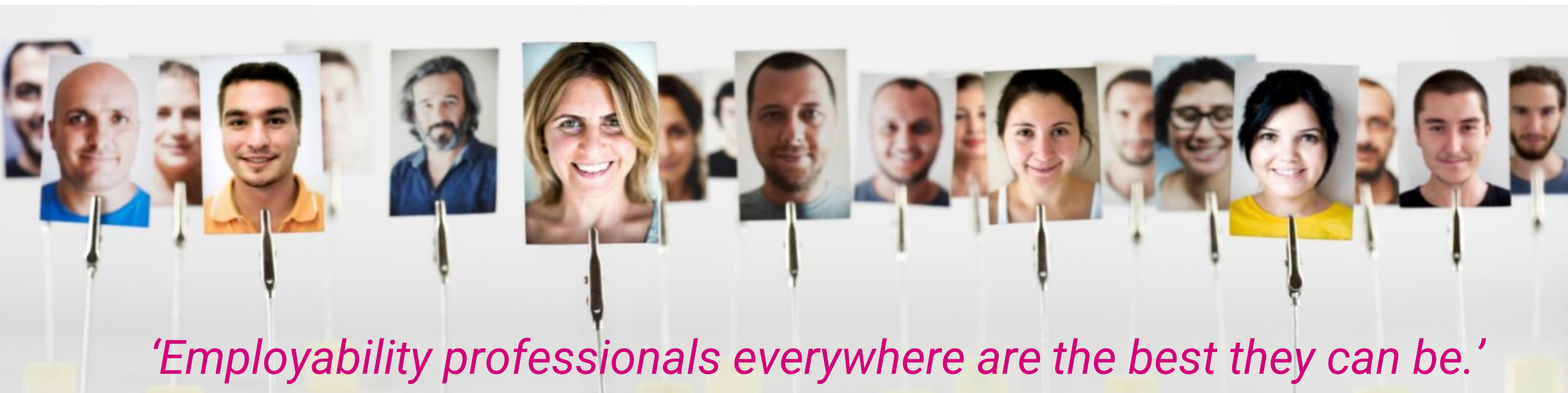


Riza Aparici, MAIEP
Partnership Manager

What We Do



The IEP is dedicated to supporting the people who support others gain work, progress in work and retain work.



'Employability professionals everywhere are the best they can be.'

Who We Are



- We are the only professional membership body for those working within the Employability profession.
- We represent our members to key influencers and set the standards for the profession.
- We have members across the UK, The Gulf, Canada, Australia and Sweden.
- Established in 2012 and has since grown to have over 11,000 members worldwide. Including over 130 Capability Partners globally and over 350 Fellows.
- Our community spans large employability providers, independent training providers, FE colleges, awarding organisations, local authorities, housing associations, charities, and community providers



The Challenge



February 2026 Unemployment Data

5.1% unemployment (16-64)

21% Economically Inactive (16-64)

16.1% 16-24 unemployed

12.7% NEET

Common issues ...

Lack of Experience: Entry level jobs are highly competitive and demand experience

Mental health: Making the employment Search Harder

Low Pay: Median pay is significantly lower than for older employees

Key Strategies for aligning employability and skills include:



Integrating Core Employability Skills

A mix of technical ability and soft skills, specifically communication, problem solving, planning, negotiating and a positive attitude

Curriculum Updates

Adapting to include emerging skills like AI, Cybersecurity and sustainability

Employer Partnerships & Work Based Learning

Industry partnerships, internships , and placements to provide real-world insights and practical experience

Developing Personal Leadership

Focus on resilience, self management, and personal development. Preparing for the modern workplace

Learning Academy



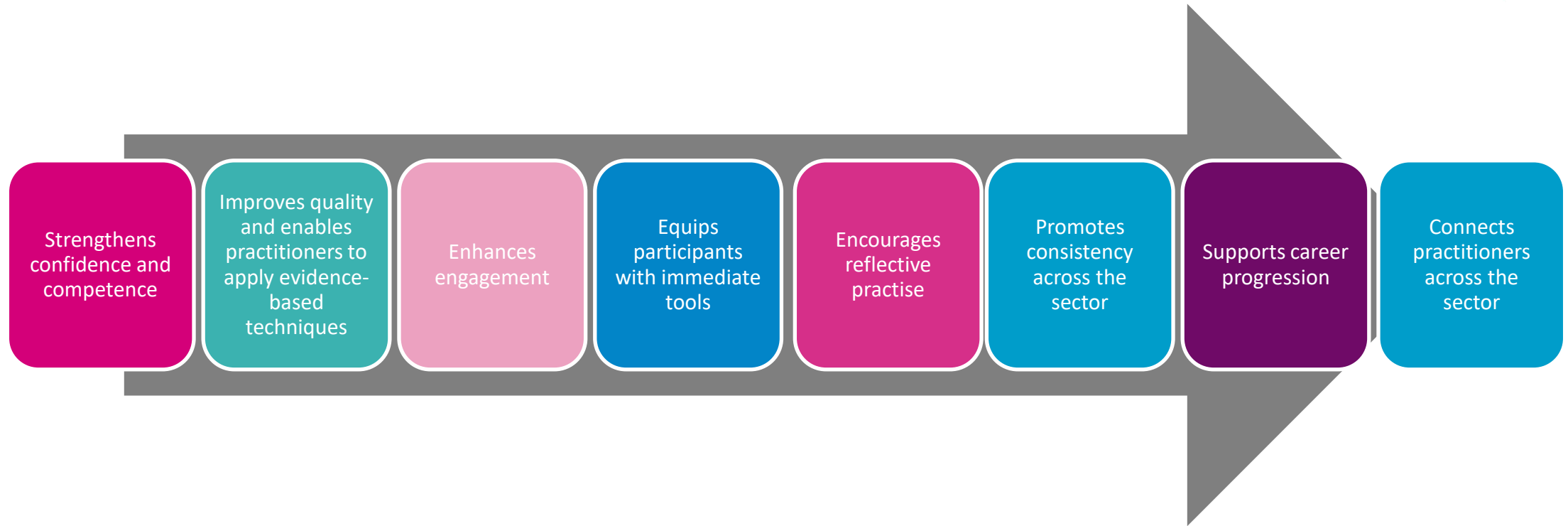
Employability Essentials e-Learning



An Introduction to the Sector
The Participant Journey
Participants and their Barriers
Caseload Management
Sensory Impairment
Learning Disabilities
Physical Disability
Issue-Specific Barriers
Reasonable Adjustments
An Introduction to Emotional Intelligence

Developing Coaching Skills
Writing an Effective CV
Increasing Personal Impact
Employer Engagement
Mental Health and Wellbeing
Building Self-Resilience
Self and Time Management
Disclosure
Employment Law Basics
Understanding Neurodiversity

How This Benefits Employability & Skills Practitioners



Accredited Awards



**Award in
Employer
Solutions**



**Award in
Employability
and IPS
Integration**



**Award in
Complex
Needs**



**Award in
Artificial
Intelligence
for
Employability**



**Award in
Coaching for
Growth**



**Certificate in
Employability
Practice**

What the Landscape Looks Like

- Pressure to be agile and responsive
- Skills gaps in key sectors
- Employers seeking value and partnership, not just placements
- Often: sporadic or tokenistic engagement

Why Employer Engagement Matters

- Aligns training with labour market needs
- Supports meaningful learner progression
- Strengthens partnerships with employers
- Enhances provider reputation and learner outcomes



Practical Tips for Providers



Map employer needs to your learner journey



Create employer panels/advisory groups



Train staff in employer liaison skills



Track employer satisfaction alongside learner outcomes



Share success stories to reinforce engagement

Common Pitfalls to Avoid



-  One-off engagement with no follow-up
-  Mismatched expectations
-  Ignoring employer feedback
-  Treating employers as customers, not collaborators

How to get involved with the IEP



- Access accredited CPD, webinars, and sector-specific training
- Connect with other professionals in the sector
- Earn professional recognition (AIEP, MIEP, MAIEP & FIEP)
- Join a supportive learning community of practice
- Stay current with tools, insights, and thought leadership



- Showcase your commitment to quality and professional excellence
- Be part of a professional community
- Support your team's development through IEP learning and mentoring
- Amplify your voice within the sector and help shape its future
- Raise your profile through events, collaboration, and knowledge sharing

Thank you!

Please contact us:

Ruth – ruth.hanson@iemployability.org

Riza - riza.aparici@iemployability.org





Carol Halford

Head of Charter Unit



25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

A wide-angle photograph of the Greater Manchester cityscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the city. The skyline is filled with various buildings, including modern skyscrapers and older structures. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with some clouds. In the foreground, there's a dense cluster of buildings, and in the background, hills are visible under the sunset sky.

GREATER MANCHESTER
GOOD
EMPLOYMENT
CHARTER

Charter Overview

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER

Carol Halford
Head of the Charter

What is the Charter?



The Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter is a voluntary membership and assessment scheme that aims to **raise employment standards across GM**, for all organisations of any size, sector or geography.

Characteristics of Good Employment



Pay



Secure Work



Engagement & Voice



Flexible Work



Recruitment



People Management



Health & Wellbeing

The Charter is now a GM 'foundation'



A thriving city
region where
everyone can
live a good life.

Bolton
Bury
Manchester
Oldham
Rochdale

Salford
Stockport
Tameside
Trafford
Wigan

together
we are

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**



2,000+ Employers

Employers engaged in the process



c.1,000+ Supporters

Employers signed up to the Charter

1,000,000+ Employees

Employees covered by Supporters

157 Members

Employers that have progressed from Supporter to Member

The Charter's Balanced Approach



Assessment

Network
Community
Movement



EMPLOYER 'BENEFITS'



Network of Employers



Network Events



Visible Commitment to Employees



Access to Resources



Performance Improvement – retention, recruitment,
productivity, reputation

Next Steps to Make Work Pay

October 2024



Employment Rights Bill

[AS BROUGHT FROM THE COMMONS]

CONTENTS

PART 1

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Zero hours workers, etc

- 1 Right to guaranteed hours
- 2 Shifts: rights to reasonable notice
- 3 Right to payment for cancelled, moved and curtailed shifts
- 4 Agency workers: guaranteed hours and rights relating to shifts
- 5 Collective agreements: contracting out
- 6 Amendments relating to sections 1 to 5
- 7 Repeal of Workers (Predictable Terms and Conditions) Act 2023
- 8 Exclusivity terms in zero hours arrangements

Flexible working

- 9 Right to request flexible working

Statutory sick pay

- 10 Statutory sick pay in Great Britain: removal of waiting period
- 11 Statutory sick pay in Great Britain: lower earnings limit etc
- 12 Statutory sick pay in Northern Ireland: removal of waiting period
- 13 Statutory sick pay in Northern Ireland: lower earnings limit etc

Tips and gratuities, etc

- 14 Policy about allocating tips etc: consultation and review

Entitlements to leave

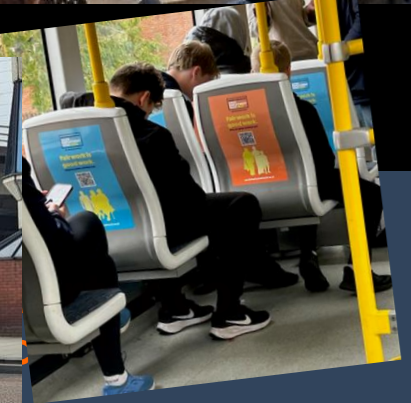
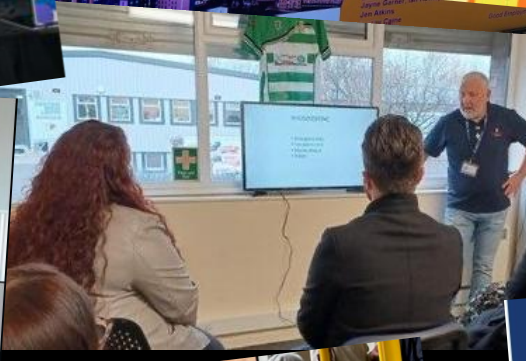
- 15 Parental leave: removal of qualifying period of employment
- 16 Paternity leave: removal of qualifying period of employment
- 17 Ability to take paternity leave following shared parental leave
- 18 Bereavement leave

GREATER MANCHESTER
**GOOD
EMPLOYMENT
CHARTER**

Procurement



Good Employment Charter – Content & Activities





Good Work is Life Changing

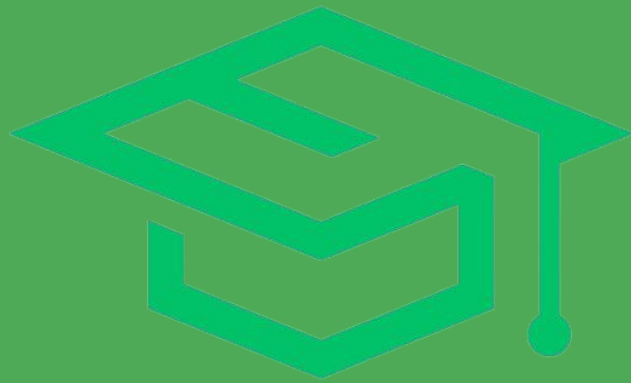
[GMgoodemploymentcharter.co.uk](https://gmgoodemploymentcharter.co.uk)

@GoodEmpCharter

#goodemployment

Danny Parrot & Richard Lloyd





TURING

SCHEME

Funded by the UK's global
programme to study and work abroad

Fully Funded Access to International
Placements with
Further Afield & Gotoco

The Turing Scheme

- The Turing Scheme is the UK government's programme to provide funding for international opportunities in education and training around the world. Focused on boosting employability and global links.
- In its 6th year now - funding is intended as a 'contribution to costs'. However, our model ensures 100% funding for all significant spend.
- Strong support for the FE sector, with thousands of participants from independent training providers, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and more.
- Eligibility: any organisation delivering FE programmes with government funding. ITPs, Colleges, AEB providers, Bootcamps, apprenticeship providers, and more.



Why offer a placement?

Learner benefits:

- **Career Progression:** Wider knowledge, skills and behaviour development, supporting learners' employability and skills beyond their course.
- **Personal Development:** Support learners to develop their confidence, independence, public speaking, and other transferable skills.
- **Culture and Global Citizenship:** Internationalise their perspectives, open their minds, open new pathways.
- **"Life-changing"** is the commonly occurring word in our reviews - change their horizons by showing them the world.
- **Support and safeguarding:** Our service suite covers end-to-end delivery, giving you and your learners full support.



Why offer a placement?

FE organisation benefits:

- **Boost enrollment:** if you'd like to get new enrolments, what better way than to offer a free trip to Thailand.
- **Support NEETs:** provide genuinely life-changing experiences and help them transform their prospects.
- **Reward committed learners?** This could be the incentive to complete a bootcamp - or even form part of the work experience requirement.
- **Progression routes, added value and off the job training hours and can complement your courses:** we can customise placements to adhere to subject specialisms. For example, beauticians can run beautician training in our school settings, early years learners can do work placements in a Thai kindergarten at the end of their training, care workers can deliver mental health awareness seminars etc!
- **Motivate your staff:** staff can join trips too!



Gotoco and Further Afield

Gotoco is an award-winning provider, delivering 5,000+ placements in over a dozen countries, mainly under the Turing Scheme. Further Afield is a membership org set up by Gotoco, making Turing Scheme placements accessible to the FE sector.

- **Real-World Work Experience:** hands-on placements to build learner's CV, give them global experience, and boost their employability and progression.
- **Impactful Training:** all learners are welcome to join our TEFL certification pathways. To learn skills and boost employability and work performance.
- **Community:** we arrange placements in groups, so all learners can go on an adventure with peers.
- **Accessible:** a diverse range of programmes delivered at a low price point, with dedicated support and funding options. Widening participation is at the core of programme design.



Gotoco and Further Afield

Award-winning provider, that has delivered 5,000+ placements in over a dozen countries. The majority of these under the Turing Scheme.

- **End-to-end support:** from bid-writing to programme delivery and reporting, we handle it all - and all funded!
- **Trusted:** we work across HE and FE.
FE: We work with FE organisations large and small - from LT&D in Witney to Learning Curve Group and Rotherham College!
HE: We are proud to be the only placement provider working with Oxford University - serving 100 students this summer. We work with 14 universities nationwide - including Bristol, York, Glasgow, Birmingham and Birmingham City University, Warwick, and more.
- Don't take our word for it: 5-star ratings on Trustpilot from hundreds of reviews and Gotoco'er stories on our blog and Instagram.



The funding covers:

- Flights to and from SE Asia / Europe
- Essential in-country travel, accommodation and meals provided
- Placement on English Camps or in schools
- Cultural activities and language support
- TEFL training and certification (optional)
- Travel/health insurance
- 24/7 emergency support from our in-country co-ordinators
- Pre-departure and post-programme support
- Lifelong memories!



Where can your learners go?

Gotoco offers placements in Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Europe for 2 to 8 weeks.

You can:

- select for your learners to join a pre-existing set of programme dates
- or, request a bespoke programme for your learners

Placement locations are focused on areas that give valuable work experience, pathways to jobs, and cultural experience.

Full support from an experienced team to assist learners going on their first trips abroad.

SE Asia Programme: Overview

- **Application:** Apply through the Further Afield website, and are guided through the application process.
- **Pre-departure:** prepare for the placement, following Gotoco's detailed pre-departure process and guidance (for flights, visas, packing, cultural preparation, etc.)
- **On arrival:** join an orientation in e.g. Ayutthaya, Thailand's ancient capital or Da Nang, coastal city in Central Vietnam.
- **On placement:**
 - teach English and lead activities in camps, universities, or kindergartens.
 - deliver sessions and attend workshops focused on your specialisms
- **End of placement:**
 - take time for reflection; visit organisations relevant to your specialisms
 - complete the TEFL to get certified (optional)
- **Throughout:** Receive support from Gotoco's coordinating team and the local host

Thailand

When?

- Start dates available every month - configurations of 2,4,8 weeks available.

What does the programme involve?

- Orientation and training
- Teach English in schools and summer camps, working with learners from kindergarten to adults
- Placements in small towns and rural areas, to provide a true cultural experience
- Become part of the local community and immerse in Thai culture
- Site visits and workshops for specialisms



Vietnam

When?

- 2-week programmes each month from January to May

What does the programme involve?

- Training and placements in Danang and Hoi An, coastal cities in Central Vietnam
- Join workshops at foreign language university
- Teach in kindergartens and primary schools
- Partnered with a local social enterprise focused on empowering disenfranchised women and children throughout Vietnam
- Site visits for subject or work specialisms
- Cultural and tourism activities



Gotoco Safeguarding Leads & Coordinators



On our programmes you will be provided with all-round general support by our team members.
Let's meet the team!



Morgan - Thailand



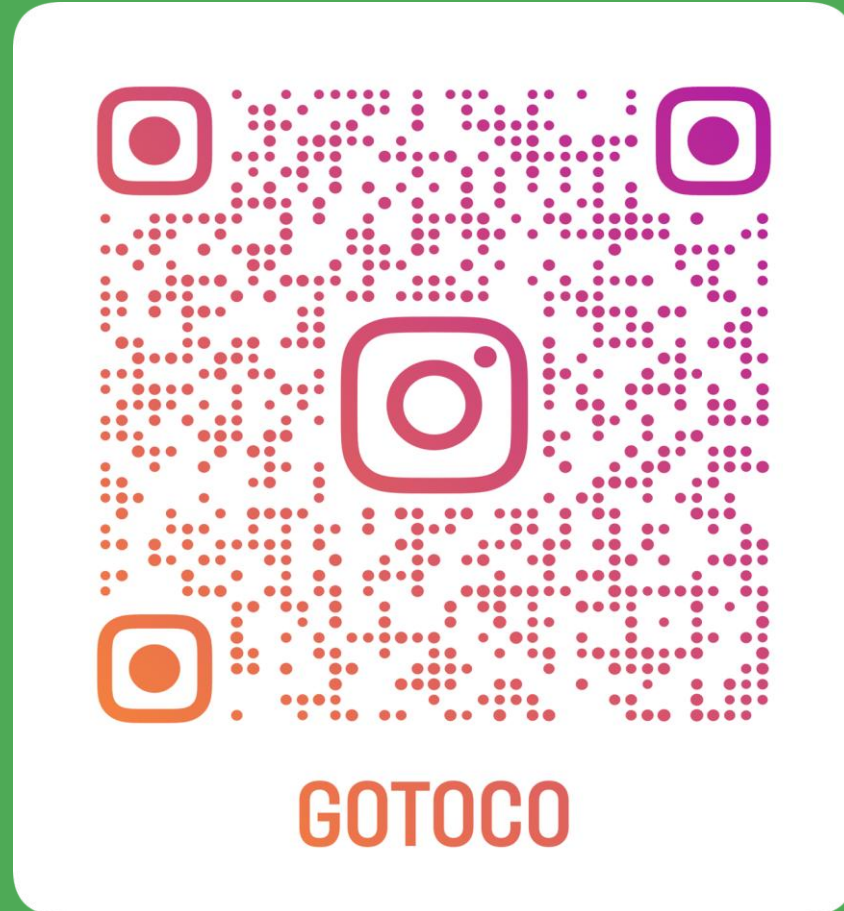
Hayley - Vietnam



Emma - Thailand



Jared - Thailand & China



See how the
programmes
work

See programme
updates

See learners'
experiences











GMLPN Updates

Charlotte Jones

Chloe Forrest



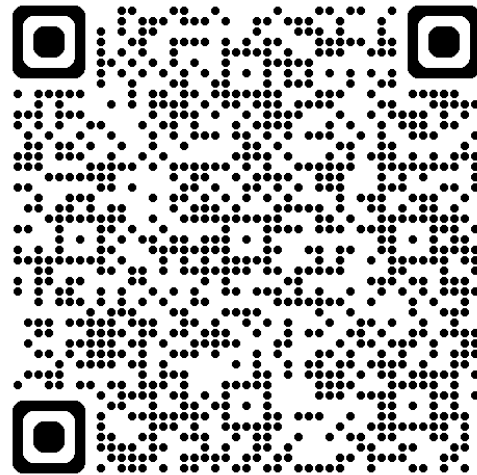
GMLPN25

You're invited!

GMLPN Network Meeting & Birthday Party

Wednesday 13th May 2026 | 9.00-16.00 | Voco, Manchester

Scan the QR code to
book your place 🙌



25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

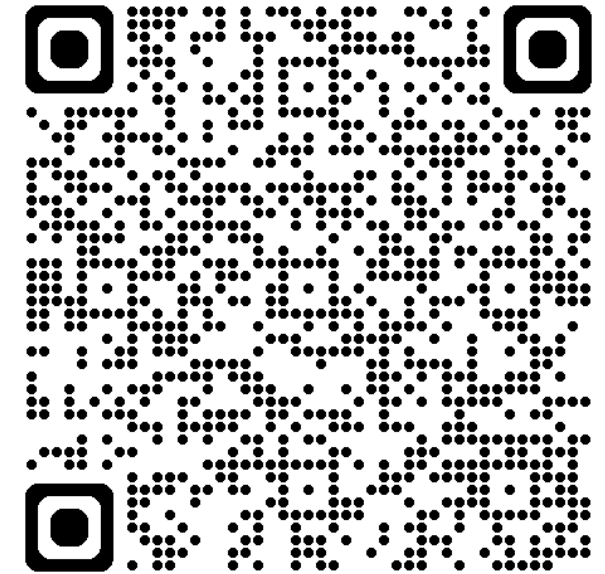
GM Local Skills Improvement Plan

Training Provider & Employer Event

Wednesday 25th March, 9.30-13.00, Mantra Learning

Opportunity to:

- Hear initial insights from GM's Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- Sense check the information being reported on key sectors across Greater Manchester and share your views.
- Explore collaborative approaches to address local skills needs.



Scan the QR code to book your place 👉

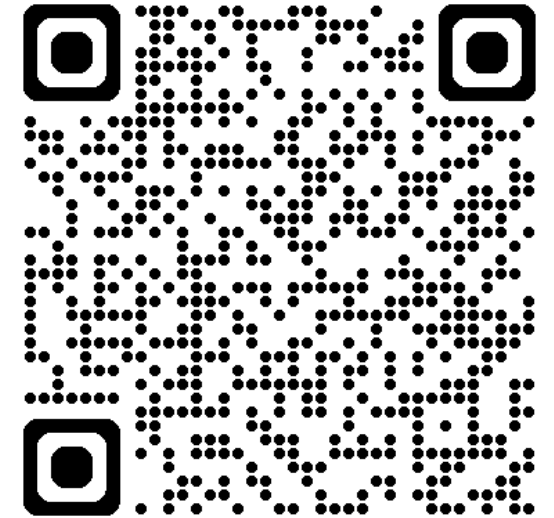


GM Local Skills Improvement Plan

GM LSIP Survey – Get Involved!

- Respond as a GM business
- Share with the GM businesses you work with

Scan the QR code to access the survey 📱



Welcome to our new members...



Community Membership

Aims:

- Build capacity, quality and confidence of Community Providers
- Facilitate partnerships to support progression between Community Providers and wider FE & Skills Providers
- Strengthen and champion the VCSFE voice across skills in GM

Next Steps

- Further development of GMLPN Community Membership
- Engaging with VCSFE Representatives
- Roundtables planned with Community Providers & VCFSE representatives



GM SKILLS AWARDS 2026

Nomination Deadline: 5pm, 27th Feb



GMLPN 25
Greater Manchester
Learning Provider Network
25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce



Award Categories



- **Intermediate Apprentice of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Pearson
- **Advanced Apprentice of the Year**
 - Sponsored by GMColleges
- **Higher Apprentice of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Rochdale Training
- **Degree Apprentice of the Year**
- **16-19 Learner of the Year**
 - Sponsored by NOCN
- **Adult Learner of the Year**
 - Sponsored by NCFE
- **Shining Star of the Year**
 - Sponsored by The Growth Company
- **Unsung Hero of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Gateway Qualifications
- **Team of the Year**
 - Sponsored by 1st2Achieve
- **SME of the Year**
 - Sponsored by The Edge Foundation
- **Large Employer of the Year**
 - Sponsored by the NW Apprenticeship Ambassador Network
- **Community Initiative of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Howarth Air Tech
- **Partnership Project of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Manchester, a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning
- **Outstanding Contribution to FE & Skills 2026**

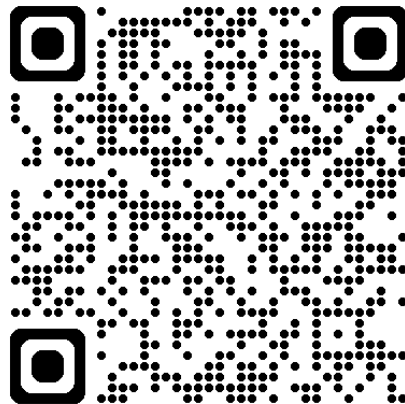
Sponsors



Youth Fed

Youth Fed is a youth charity that supports over 20,000 young people between the ages of 8 and 29, helping to improve the lives of young people through celebrating and delivering activities.

Donate today 🙌



THE PLEDGE

Brokering Opportunities for
Young People for over a Decade

Ready to inspire young people about your learning opportunities?

Join the Pledge programme which has over ten years of experience connecting young people with employers and educators. The Pledge is a partnership powered by youth charity Youth Fed (registered charity 1143231).



The Pledge was created to:

- Ensure all young people have the chance to connect with learning providers and employers, to help them explore their future options, to develop skills and qualities employers are looking for, and understand local progression routes;
- Help educators and employers to connect with young people from diverse backgrounds to inspire them about local opportunities.

How you can benefit from the Pledge Partnership:

- Create an impact and help young people choose their next steps for their future;
- Inform curriculum and learning approaches with the help of local labour market insights;
- Improve student engagement, outcomes and overall organisational performance;
- Connect with local employers who want to build talent pipelines by inspiring and informing the future workforce about skills and opportunities;
- A network to share practice with other educators and businesses;
- Get involved with local careers and employability events, either as a single provider or as a group;
- Demonstrate commitment to delivering social value in the community.



Scan the QR code to meet with a member of the team to find out more.

To donate to Youth Fed please visit
<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/youthfed>

Powered by



25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

Close

Mark Currie
GMLPN Chair



GMLPN 25
Greater Manchester
Learning Provider Network
25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

NETWORK MEETING

LUNCH & NETWORKING

Sponsored by:

