



NETWORK MEETING



Wednesday 18th June 2025



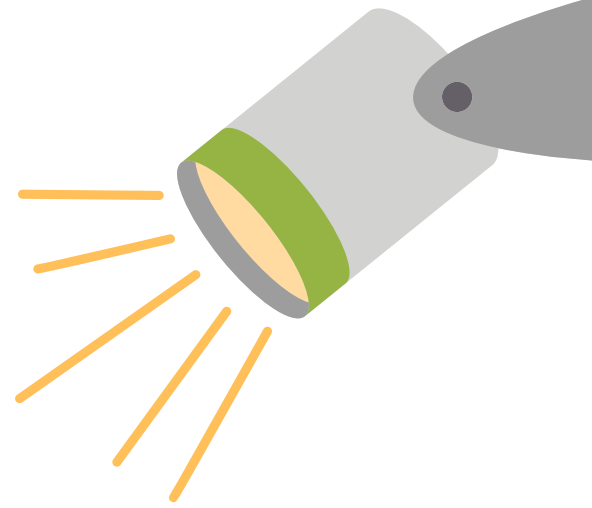
9.00–14.00



Toughsheet Community Stadium,
Burnden Way, Bolton, BL6 6JW



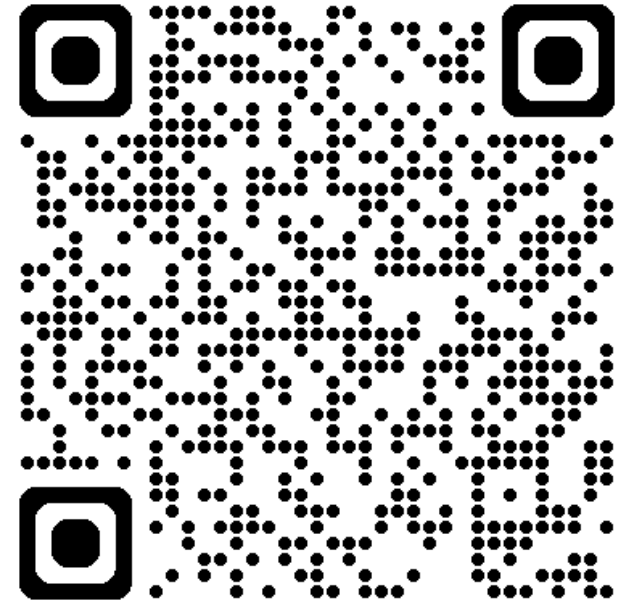
60 SECOND SPOTLIGHT



Opportunity for members to take the stage at today's Network Meeting, introduce themselves, pose a key question, or spark new partnerships.

3 members will have the opportunity to take part in the 60 Second Spotlight today!

Scan the QR code to enter the draw.



Only GMLPN Members can enter the draw

Exhibitors



Chosen Charity



We are supporting Bolton Lads and Girls Club at our June Network Meeting!

We will be accepting donations of hygiene products at the Network Meeting that we will donate on behalf of GMLPN Members.

Welcome

Mark Currie

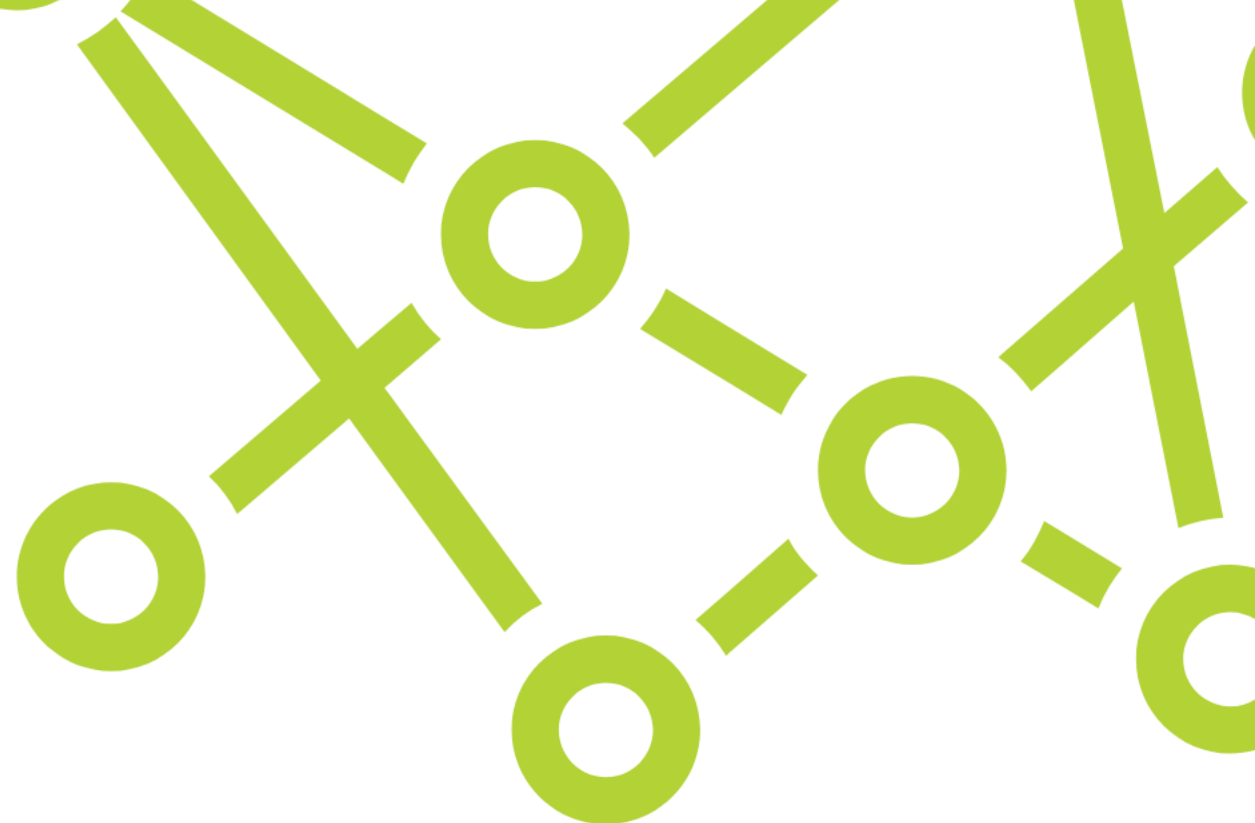
Chair | GMLPN



Department for Education

Claire Little

North-West Prevent Coordinator



Department
for Education



Greater Manchester Combined Authority

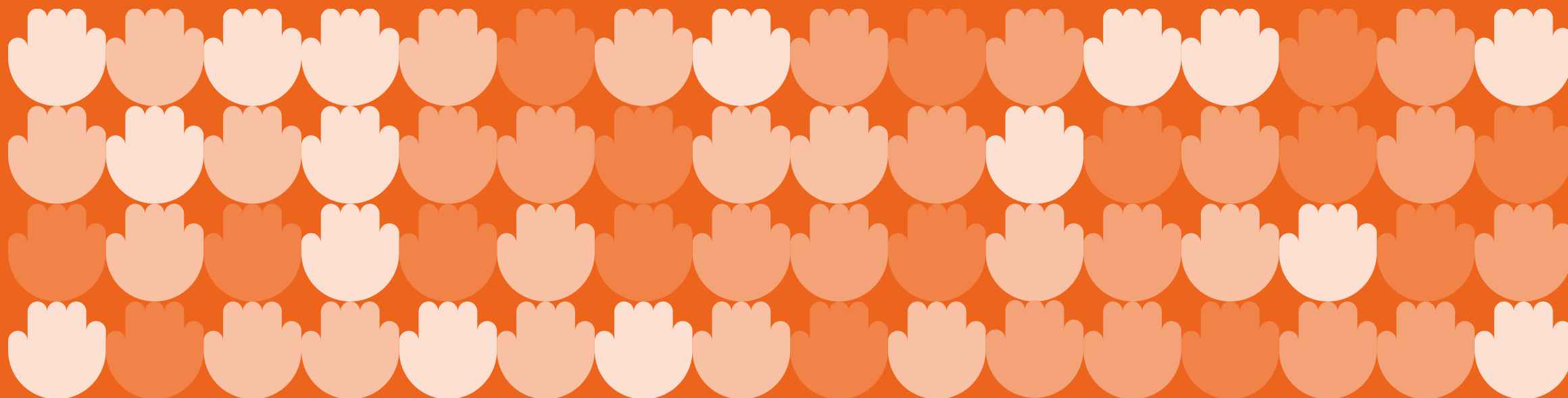
Sharon Weetman

Principal – Education, Skills & Work



GMCA Update

Sharon Weetman – Principal Manager – Education, Work and Skills



SR – Key/headline announcements cont.

Skills, Work and Employment Support

- **16–19 Education** - £1.2 billion in additional investment per year by 2028–29 to support over 1.3 million learners, with 65,000 additional places by 2028–29
- **Construction Skills (already announced)** - £625 million to train up to 60,000 skilled construction workers.
- **Employment Support** - Over £3.5 billion by 2028–29 to tackle economic inactivity and support people into better jobs.
- **Youth and Inactivity Trailblazers** - Continued funding for pilot programmes to support young people and inactive adults.
- **Connect to Work**- National rollout of supported employment for disabled people and those with complex barriers.

Fire – no specific detail

Youth Census 2025

- **Deadline extended – closes Friday 20th June**
- Over 1800 young people in GM have responded so far
- Young People aged 11-30
- Last year we had low response rates from Apprentices and T Level Learners
- Focus groups happening in July for deeper discussion

Can you promote to your learners, employees, family members?

Can you give you employees and learners an hour to complete – and help them?



Objectives- Festival of Technical Education



Connect more young people to rich experiences with businesses and providers that will shape their future decisions through the MBacc and offer a clearer line of sight.

Celebrating the broad technical offer across GM.

Galvanise partners behind the MBacc vision by sharing the green shoots from Year 1 delivery.

Our narrative for the week will be shaped around:



Bringing the **Gateways to life** with **100,000 young people** meeting role models, providers and businesses through a range of new **workplace experiences**



Delivering a “**wow**” **event to** celebrate year 1 progress and propose delivery for year 2



Strengthening the **line of sight to jobs** through Beeline **enhancements**



Ensuring MBacc is inclusive

Events in the core week

Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July

Greater Manchester's
**Festival of
Technical
Education**
2025

Monday 30th

Northern T Level Conference

The Education and Training
Foundation and AOC

Greater Manchester Mainstream Inclusive Education Conference

Hosted by GM SEND board

Tuesday 1st

Lesson with the Mayor At Wigan and Leigh College

Festival of Apprentices Exhibition of apprenticeships

Education Leader Celebration Event with Professor Brian Cox

Wednesday 2nd

MBacc Summit

The annual celebration of Greater
Manchester Baccalaureate
successes, bringing together
industry and education to shape
the future of technical education
in our city-region.

Morning Assembly with Professor Brian Cox With Oldham primary schools

Careers in STEM: Q&A with Professor Brian Cox For secondary and Oldham Sixth Form College students

Thursday 3rd

Technical Education Skills Awards Hosted by GMLPN

Friday 4th

Festival Roundup

Meet Your Futures

15-min bitesize session, 100,000 young people reached

What's on offer across the Festival?

Greater Manchester's

**Festival of
Technical
Education**
2025

Events for young people

Rochdale college year 10 masterclass x 4

Oldham college MEGA day x 3

Oldham college open day x 2

Oldham college student awards x 2

Oldham college year 10 taster day

Bolton college open day

18 Meet Your Future

Lesson with the Mayor at Wigan and Leigh College

Festival of Apprentices

Morning Assembly & STEM careers Q&A with Prof. Brian Cox

Stockport college new student day x 3

Trafford college new student day

Wigan and Leigh college new student day

GMLPN ITP webinar

Events for stakeholders

Northern T Level Conference

Apprenticeships roundtable with Employers and Providers

GM Mainstream Inclusive Education Conference

Mayor's visit to Laurus Trust

MBacc Roundtable with Mayor and Colleges

MBacc Summit

Leader Celebration Event in Oldham with Prof. Brian Cox

MBacc stakeholder workshop(s)

Tech Ed Skills Awards

Inclusive MBacc Symposium 2

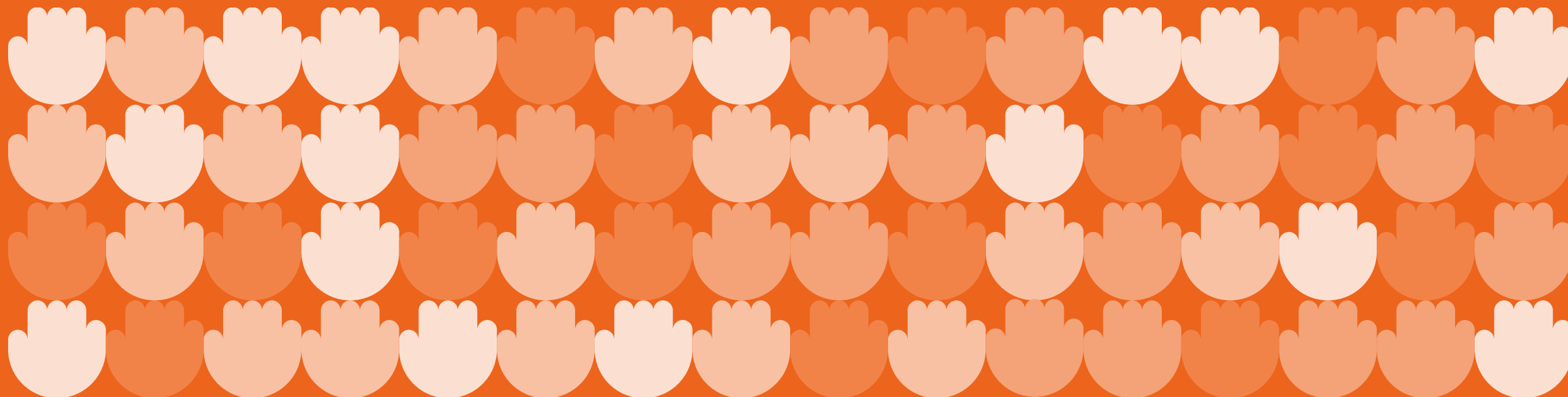
To be confirmed

Ada event

UA92 event

All Age Careers Trailblazer

Update



Joint government and CA ambition to address fragmentation in the careers landscape and bring together careers provision to facilitate a more place-based approach:

- A mandate for GMCA to **review** and **oversee the impact of all publicly funded careers education and guidance** services across the city region for young people and adults, working with publicly funded provision to capture effectiveness of meeting local need and priorities
 - **Government commitment** to Department for Education (**DfE**) working with GMCA in shaping the **design of future careers provision for all ages** and to ensure that **DWP**, Job Centre Plus activity and Greater Manchester activity works together to improve client outcomes
 - Offer a more **place-based approach** and develop joint governance arrangements, establishing **GMCA as the central convenor for careers provision in the region**
 - Ensuring future services **reflect local priorities** from the outset; improve value for money, deliver impactful KPIs and **tailor a more targeted offer**
-
-

The Evidence Review

1. Desktop Policy and Evidence Stocktake

- Conducted thorough examination of readily available online evidence for DfE-funded services
- Including National Careers Service (NCS), Careers Hubs, Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK), Uni Connect, and Jobcentre Plus: Support for schools
- Review of policy context community-based contracts, externally commissioned economic analyses, and internal progress reviews

2. GM Provider Insight

- Review of context provider contracts, externally commissioned economic analyses, and internal progress reviews
- Consultation meetings with each publicly funded provider
- Full careers provider meeting
- DfE trailblazer quarterly meetings
- NCS 6-week catch ups
- Careers and Enterprise Company CEC catch ups
- Discussions around funding models

3. GM Stakeholder Consultation

- Internal GMCA EWS socialisation
- Ten CEIAG system consultation events across Greater Manchester
- Policy update
- LA case impact case studies
- Analysis of findings (aligned to mandate of the trailblazer)
- Affirmation of GM direction of travel - Careers Hub, Primary Pilot, GM Strategic Community of Practice Forums, MBacc, Live Well, Employer Engagement, LMI, Adult Skills, Youth Participation/ Guarantee, Digital Tools

Evidence Review Headliner Findings

- **Fragmentation in the system** – currently services operate in silos rather than as an integrated system with inconsistent awareness and application of locality LMI, insight and locality priorities; there are gaps in provision and lack in continuity of provision hindering effective transition; access points for residents are unclear; duplication of services focusing typically on same/similar cohorts and individuals; lacking in systematic connectivity to education, work and skills and employer engagement
- **Siloed funding and commissioning streams** - evidence of KPI short term contracts driving behaviour and restricting organisational ability to deliver a universal life long aspirational careers service; inconsistent, often insufficient, measuring of outcomes and impact; disparity in careers guidance standards and quality assurance across YP and adult provision; insufficient strategic alignment and system integration; not tailored to individual or local priorities, short term funding contributing to destabilising the workforce
- **Accessibility and visibility** – careers provision not accessible or visible to all residents as a universal public service from school aged onwards; difficult to navigate and access quality information and advice in person and online; positioning of NCS in Job Centres could carry a perceived stigma which can deter participation; missed opportunities for accessing critical careers guidance exacerbating economic inequalities impacting on inclusive and economic growth
- **Workforce** - disparity in careers adviser resource and senior leader prioritisation in careers education; demotivated advisers, shortage of Level 6-qualified Careers Guidance Advisers and lack of access to specialised development opportunities and upskilling of an agile skills set to meet the diverse and often complex needs of individuals within a changing landscape
- **Wellbeing and good employment** - rising encounters with individuals with complex health and mental wellbeing needs; challenging for the system, careers guidance and employment support advisers, to provide timely effective and personalised IAG interventions; more emphasis needed on assessment of need and triaging support, career pathways into good work, career progression, job satisfaction and work-life balance to support sustained and healthy employment

All-age Careers Strategy (AACCS) Next Steps



Evidence review due to be released in June informing recommendations for strategy development.
A Greater Manchester AACCS driven by a cohesive integrated approach; informed by robust labour market intelligence, local insight and priorities; delivered by an upskilled and agile workforce and supported by accessible digital tools (Strategic alignment with the Get GM Working Plan – Live Well)



Convening GM publicly funded careers provider collaboration and prioritisation meetings
NCS and GM place-based priority focuses to be agreed
Explore integrated IAG support offer on the DWP mobile provision pilot - van in Bolton



Cessation of ASK programme - gap in provision and exploration of future possibilities
Primary Careers Pilot finished in May 2025 – explore with schools a continuity plan



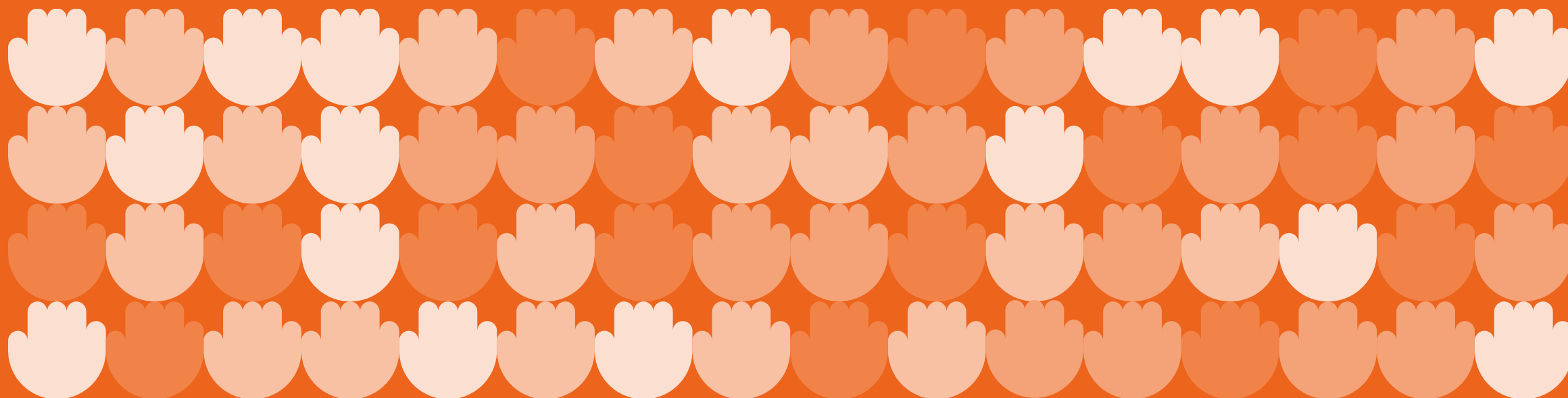
GMCA Careers Hub extending reach of membership
Careers Impact System driving continuous improvement
Modern Work Experience and MBacc and Sector Gateways



Ongoing collaboration with DfE and DWP on maximising the mandate, associated funding and flexibilities of the Careers Trailblazer
Proposition to be a CA NJCS trailblazer (National Jobs and Careers Service)

Get GM Working Plan

Summary Update



Get GM Working Plan



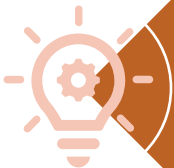
Whole system approach to tackling **labour market participation (employment, unemployment and economic inactivity*)** and **progression at work (earnings and job quality)** to achieve an **80% employment rate/grow the economy (GM 70.9%)**



This is a **GM system plan**, which sets out a shared vision of how partners will work together to address the challenges highlighted and review progress against their plan and outcome indicators such as the local employment rate. **Not just about GMCA programmes** but all provision across all partners. Links to the **GMS, LSIP** and other plans.



The plan is to cover a **10-year period** and needs to outline **priority actions for the next 18-24 months alongside steps towards achieving longer-term objectives**. The plan needs to be published by **September 2025** and is to be reviewed frequently (suggested annually).

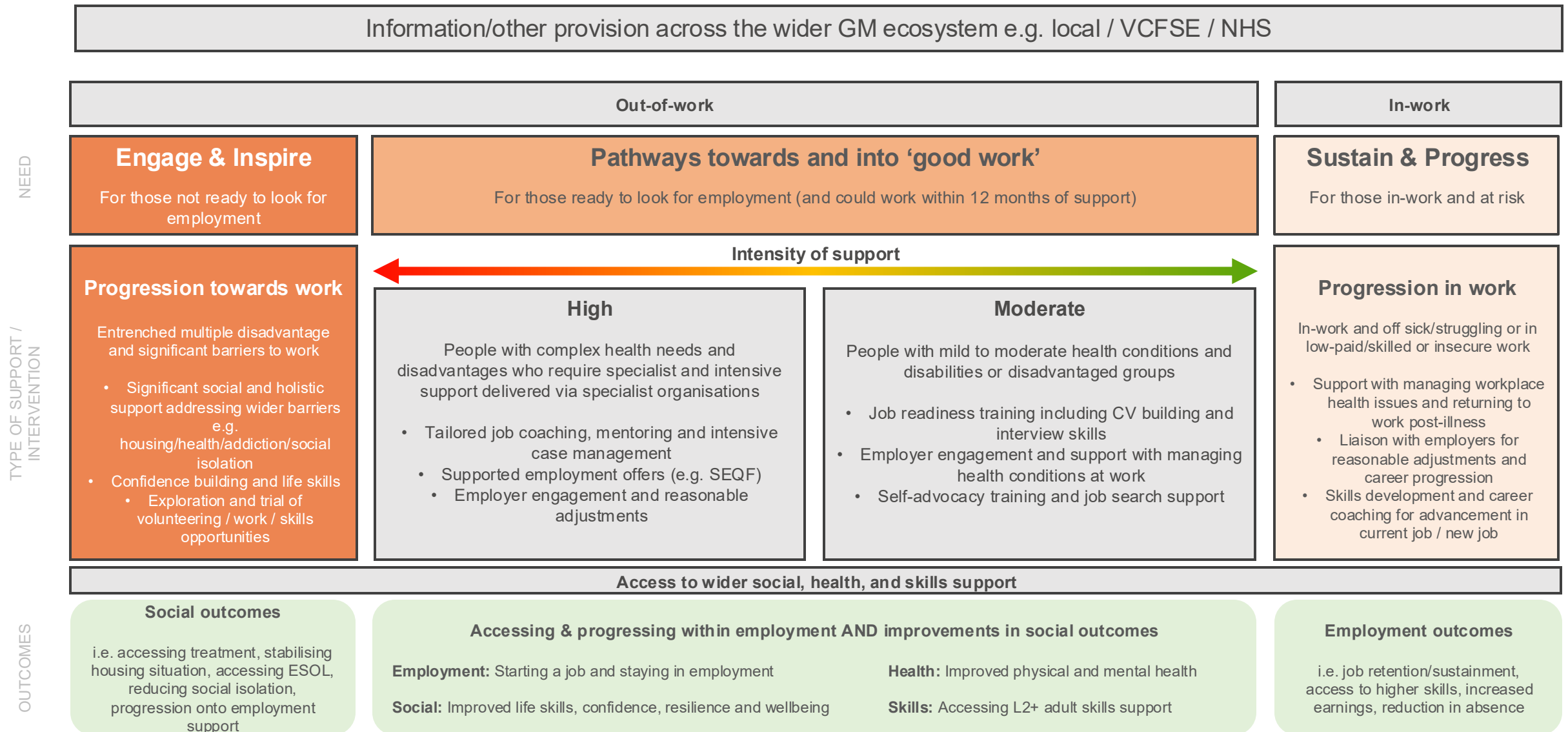


Purpose: to be used by the GM system to: develop **shared understanding** of issues, **manage and align** current provision, identify **collective action**, support better **integration of services** and set **longer term direction and strategy for future investments** targeting labour market challenges



National policy contextual factors that are important and impact this work but are **not in scope** of the Get GM working plan: **benefits and benefit reforms, employment rights bill and national insurance increases**

Whole System Approach



Personas and Guarantees

Persona	Goal	Pathway	Guarantee by 2030
 Paul, 56, Trafford Paul has never worked and relies on Universal Credit. He faces barriers like age, health issues, and lack of digital skills. He has Bipolar Disorder, a history of substance misuse, and disengagement with support services. These issues affect his relationships and job search. He has no formal qualifications.	<i>"My life is very complex, and I feel that although I would like to work one day there are lots of things in my way, but I am ready to explore support to move me closer to my goal."</i>	Engage & Inspire <i>Removing barriers to help residents move closer to learning and work</i>	There will be community-led support available via clear access points for those most in need to help them address barriers and move closer towards learning and work.
 Jasmine, 22, Tameside Jasmine has never worked and was diagnosed with Autism in her early teens. She left school with no formal qualifications. Jasmine loves baking and spends most of her time cooking for family and friends. She struggles with job interviews, which has affected her self-confidence.	<i>"I want to turn my passion for baking into a career, but I need tailored support to help me do this. I also need help navigating the workplace environment to ensure it accommodates my needs."</i>	Pathways into Work <i>Supporting residents to enter and sustain 'good work' through clear pathways</i>	There will be clear pathways of support available for all of those who need it to enter and sustain 'good work' which will result in more people entering the labour market
 Mike, 36, Bolton Mike has been unemployed for three years due to mobility issues after working as a plumber. This has affected his mental health, finances, and relationships, leaving him isolated and unmotivated.	<i>"My goal is to move into paid work, but I need the right support to get me there that acknowledges my health condition and helps me move into a job where I will be properly supported."</i>	Sustain & Progress <i>Supporting residents to sustain, progress and upskill within work</i>	There will be support available for all of those who need it to sustain, progress and upskill within work, and we will see an increase in residents who are retained within the labour market.
 Ali, 26, Manchester Ali has been a Healthcare Assistant for five years. He developed stress and anxiety due to staffing pressures and the pandemic, leading to depression. His GP has signed him off work.	<i>"I have always worked but my health is deteriorating therefore I want support to explore upskilling myself so I can remain in employment as well as managing my health needs."</i>	Youth Guarantee <i>Targeted support for 16-24-year-olds</i>	There will be a guaranteed job, apprenticeship, education place, or skills offer for every young person aged 16–24 in GM.
 David, 40, Bury David has worked since he was 16, mostly in low-paid jobs. He currently works on a zero-hours contract with a security agency, which offers little flexibility. His wife is out of work to care for their children, causing financial struggles. David lacks confidence in securing a new job.	<i>"I want to find a stable, better-paying job that offers more flexibility so I can support my family. I need help building my confidence and skills to secure a new job."</i>		
 Jade, 17, Rochdale Jade has struggled with school and college due to a difficult home life. She faces barriers like ongoing personal issues, lack of guidance, and mental health struggles. She experiences stress and anxiety, which affect her daily life and academic performance. She has limited support from family and friends.	<i>"I have always struggled with school and college as I have a lot of things going on in my personal life, I want my adult life to be fulfilling and need support to take my next steps."</i>		

Consistency and Efficiency

Guarantee: By 2030 there will be a streamlined multi-agency health, skills, work and social support offer which delivers pathways that work for residents and minimises duplication of efforts and resources.



Streamlined Offer

Minimising duplication of efforts and resources, making the system more efficient and easier to navigate for participants.



Standardised Processes

Reduces variability in offers, standardises approaches to outreach and triage, leading to a more effective support offer that maximises impact.

Tackling Inequalities

Guarantee: By 2030, geographic, demographic, and situational inequalities will be reduced by using granular neighbourhood data and equality impact assessments. This will shift the focus from equality to equity of impact across offers, ensuring all services are culturally aware, accessible, and supported by tailored, culturally appropriate provisions where needed.



Equalities Lens

Ensure an equalities lens is applied to all decisions to avoid increasing gaps in inequalities in line with the public sector equality duty.



Culturally Appropriate and Accessible

Recognising the diversity of our population and ensuring specialist provision is available.

Underpinning Principles

Person and Place Centred

Guarantee: By 2030 anyone in need of health, skills, work or wider social support will be able to access a holistic assessment of their individual needs and received tailored, tiered and flexible support via a keyworker model.



Tiered Approach

Tailored and place-based support based on individual needs, ensuring that everyone receives the right support at the right point in time and in turn reducing waste/driving value for money.

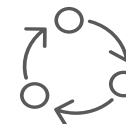


Holistic Assessment

Strengths-based approach which considers all aspects of a person's situation, through multi-agency collaboration in place leading to a more effective support offer.

Careers, Information, Advice & Guidance

Guarantee: By 2030 there will be a cohesive system-wide approach to high quality careers IAG embedded within all employment and skills provision, which is LMI informed enabling a clear line of sight for GM residents into the economy and supported by an appropriately skilled workforce.



Embedded into All Provision

High quality careers advice and guidance is a fundamental aspect of all employment and skills provision.



LMI informed

Ensuring the advice provided is LMI informed enabling a clear line of sight for GM residents into the economy, through education, skills and employment support.

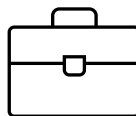
Good Employment

Guarantee: By 2030 GM employers will be supported to provide more inclusive, secure and high-quality employment opportunities. Through improved access to and understanding of the whole system, employers will be better equipped to recruit, retain and develop a resilient workforce, contributing to a higher overall employment rate across the city-region.



Support Offer

Employers can easily understand and navigate the skills and employment support system which will enable them to recruit, sustain and train their workforce.



Good Work

There is enough good work and inclusive opportunities available within GM employers to enable an 80% employment rate.

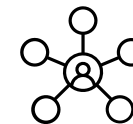
Health Integration

Guarantee: By 2030 the health of the local population will enable an 80% employment rate and health will be fully integrated into skills, work and wider social support.



Good Health

The health of the local population enables an 80% employment rate.



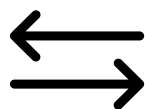
Integration

There is a fully integrated system which enables health to refer to employment and skills support and vice versa.

Enabling Factors

Devolution

Guarantee: By 2030 GM will be an equal partner working with national government to unlock the potential to deliver public services that meet the needs of our residents.



Equal Partner

GM are an equal partner working with national government to deliver public services that meet the needs of our residents.



Unlock Potential

Devolution unlocks potential to support our residents in an innovative and joined up way.

Research, Digital and Data

Guarantee: By 2030 there will be a seamless health, skills, work and wider social support system which is easy to navigate for our residents, is enabled by digital services and data rationalisation and integration, is outcome orientated, and research and insight led.



Outcome Oriented

Consistent criteria for measuring system wide outcomes, and comparable data across different offers, enhancing the ability to evaluate and improve services.



Insight Led

Intelligence and insight led approach to identifying priorities and designing and delivering services.

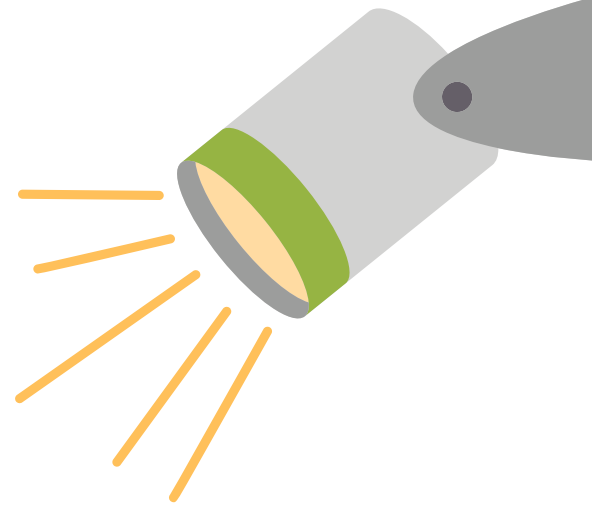
Systems Change

Systems change	Outcome	Underpinning Principles	Enabling Factors
Prevention: Working differently with our residents through developing a Live Well model to employment support.	Residents experience an integrated system which has a no wrong door approach, joins the dots and hides the wiring and ensures they can access the right support, in the right place at the right time which is personalised and tailored to their needs.	• Person and Place Centred • Tackling Inequalities • Careers Information, Advice and Guidance	• Devolution • Data, Digital and Research
Growth: Employers are equal and committed partners and co-create the design and shape of new activities.	Inclusive and sustainable economic growth that provides clear opportunities for all residents to connect to the economy and achieve meaningful employment.	• Careers Information, Advice and Guidance • Tackling Inequalities	• Good Employment
Health: Acknowledgement that good work and good health are interrelated.	Improved population health which is supported by a fully integrated system which addresses health, skills, work and wider social support issues.	• Person and place centred • Tackling Inequalities	• Health Integration
System Conditions: Improve ways of working with our stakeholders and maximise opportunities from devolution and our digital, data and research capabilities	Stronger and more effective partnerships, which enable shared ownership and accountability to deliver better outcomes for residents, supported by a streamlined system where funding and commissioning drive collective action, enhancing efficiency, stability and value for money whilst fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. Enhanced understanding of needs, leading to better-targeted, evidence-based interventions and fully integrated, person-centred services that improve overall impact and outcomes and expand and develop our research and evidence base to inform policy.	• Consistency and efficiency • Person and place centred	• Devolution • Data, Digital and Research

QUESTIONS



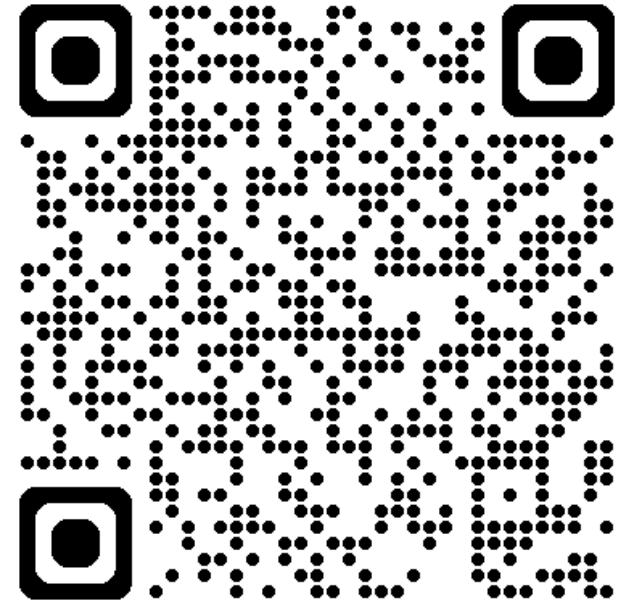
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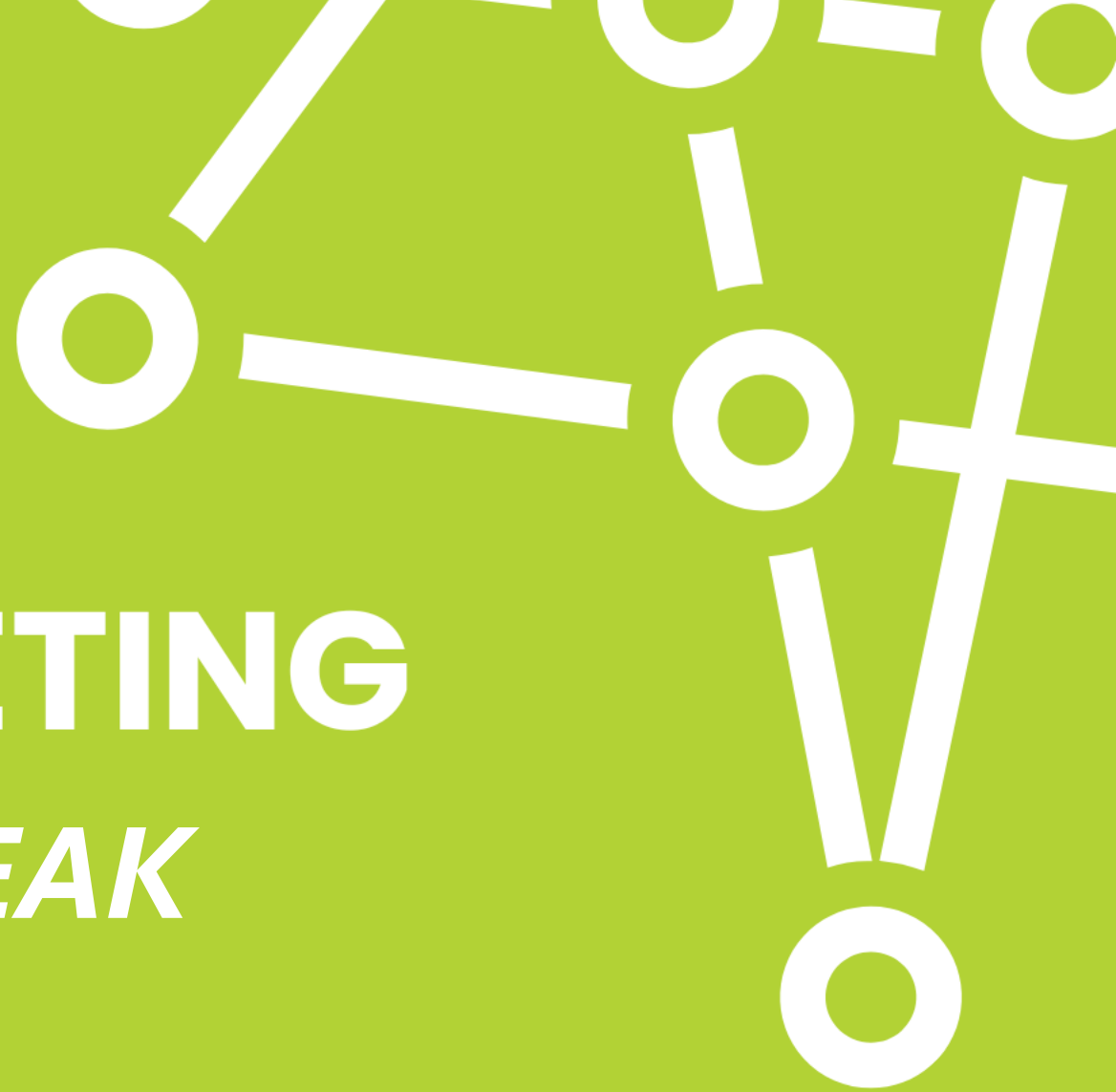


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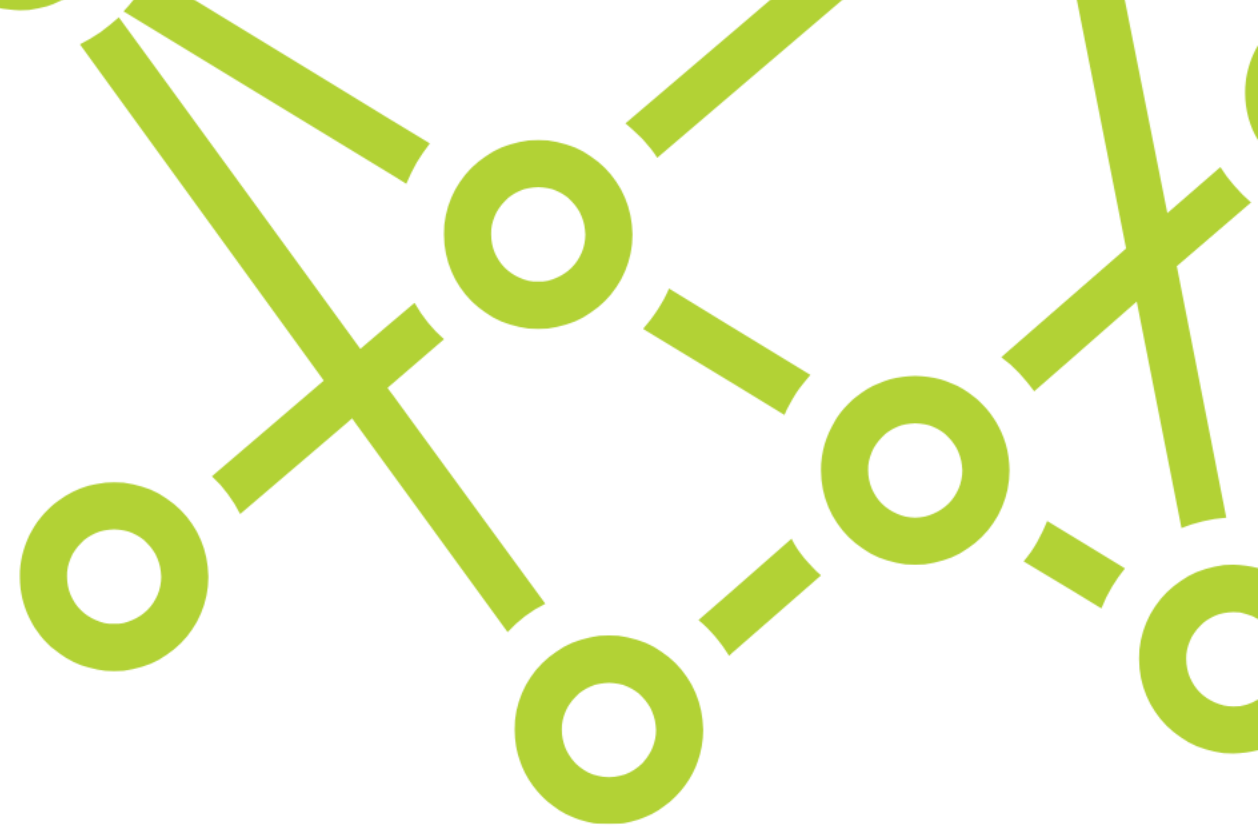
NETWORK MEETING

REFRESHMENT BREAK



GMLPN Update

Charlotte Jones
Chloe Ramsden



Updates

- DfE
 - Apprenticeship Accountability Framework Feedback
 - Skills & Growth Levy
 - FE White Paper
 - FE Recruitment
- Ofsted
 - Delayed consultation response – now due September
 - No plans to delay the roll out
 - Ruth Stammers – September Network Meeting
 - Roundtable and further test inspections
 - Priorities for Providers

Provider Networks CoP



**Provider
Networks
Community
of Practice**

*Championing Collaboration
Across Provider Networks*

Current Members



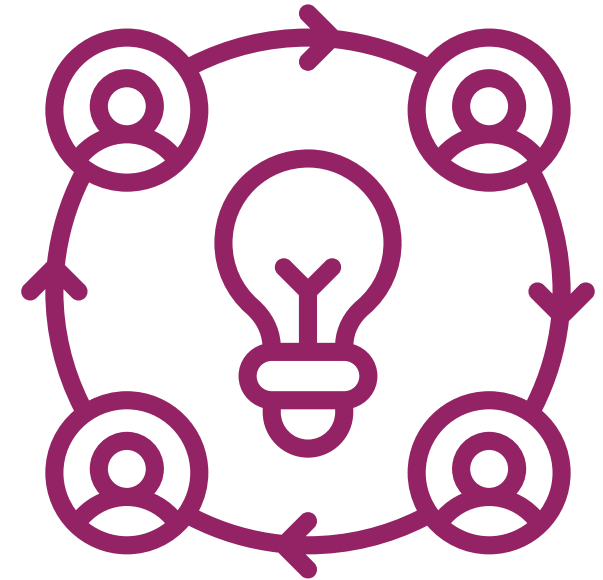
GMLPN Exchanges



SHARE GOOD
PRATICE



DISCUSS
CHALLENGES



COLLABORATE

Exchange Partnership

Between Manchester City Council (under the UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning) and the Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network (GMLPN)



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

**Manchester
City of Learning**



unesco

Member
Global Network of
Learning Cities

Joined in 2024



Current Exchanges

GMLPN Member Exclusive



QUALITY



SAFEGUARDING



SEND



**FE RECRUITMENT
& WORKFORCE**



**MENTAL HEALTH
& WELLBEING**

New Exchanges

Open to all providers



CEIAG

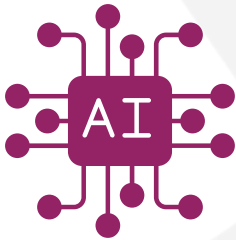


BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

People and Employer Engagement



**Provider
Networks**
Community
of Practice



AI

In partnership with ALPS Alphi (Surrey Provider Network)

Tackling the NEET Challenge Across GM

- Over 70 attendees including:
 - LAs
 - ITPs
 - FE Colleges
 - NEET specific providers
 - Support organisations
- Event Outcomes:
 - NEET Provision Directory – launched
 - GM Position Paper – underway
 - Summary of NEET challenges
 - Best Practice across GM
 - Potential Solutions
 - List of who we (collectively) are having discussions with



Sponsored by:

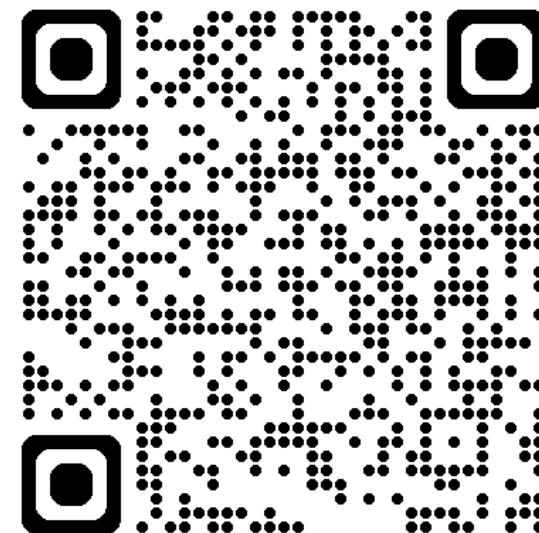


Hosted at:



GM NEET Directory

Submit your NEET Provision:



Padlet

GMLPN • 12d

GM NEET Provision

Work Experience Programmes

Catch 22



Hatch is a Work Experience Programme in Greater Manchester and is funded directly by KFC.

Overview of NEET Provision

Hatch has been created to support Young People aged 18 to 25 who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET), or are at risk of becoming so. Hatch aims to provide participants with the skills, confidence, and experience needed to get...

Interview Support



Smart Works Greater Manchester offer support for women 16+ who have an upcoming interview.

Overview of NEET Provision

Offering a two hour preparation session to women on this journey. Each client will have an hour to work with a volunteer stylist to choose a comfortable and professional interview outfit, this is theirs to keep and reuse. Following this they will then have a further hour with a volunteer work coach to work on...

Apprenticeships



Apprenticeship Hairdressing & Barbering 16+ years.

Local Authorities

GM Wide

Delivery Address(es)

2 New George Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 4AE

Eligibility

Apprenticeship requires Maths & English grade 3 or can be delivered in academy during course duration.

Length of Programme

Apprenticeship 18-24 months.

Contact Name

Tanya Beardwood

E-mail

tanyabeardwood@evolveacademy.org

Phone Number

[0161 820 2015](tel:01618202015)

Follow Up Event

Tackling the NEET Challenge **Across Greater Manchester**

SPONSORED BY

 10th July 2025

 9.30-11.00

 Microsoft Teams



Aims:

- Continue the conversation
- Launch the GM Position Paper
- Hear from Young People

[Click here to book](#)

Call for Evidence - Earning or Learning: A New Agenda for Youth NEET Reduction

Focus Areas

- Employment support and youth hiring
- Apprenticeships and vocational training
- Early intervention for at-risk youth (pre-16)
- Tackling health barriers
- Addressing additional barriers such as SEND and caring responsibilities
- Confronting discrimination in employment, education, and training
- Devolution, data sharing, and coordinated support

The Call for Evidence is open
until **12th September 2025**



Upcoming Events



Understanding the 25/26 Apprenticeship Funding Rules

Monday 23rd June 2025 | 13.00-14.30 | Microsoft Teams

[Click here to book](#)

**Coyne
Recruitment.**

Attracting and Retaining Talent in the FE Market

Tuesday 24th June 2025 | 10.00-11.00 | Microsoft Teams

[Click here to book](#)

GMLPN Network Meeting

17th September 2025 – F2F – Venue TBC – Network Meeting

- Ofsted – Ruth Stammers
- GM Chamber – Chris Fletcher
- Workshops – AI, Neurodiversity, + more

5th November 2025 – Online Member KIT

- UNESCO Best Practice
- IEP

3rd December 2025 – F2F – Venue TBC – Network Meeting & AGM

GM Skills Awards 2025

Celebrating Excellence in the Further Education & Skills sector across Greater Manchester!



HEADLINE SPONSOR:



THE AWARDS

- Apprentice of the Year (Level 2-3)
- Apprentice of the Year (Level 4, 5, 6, 7)
- 16-19 Learner of the Year
- Adult Learner of the Year
- Shining Star of the Year
- Unsung Hero of the Year
- Team of the Year
- SME of the Year
- Large Employer of the Year
- Community Initiative of the Year
- Outstanding Innovation of the Year
- Partnership Project of the Year

Almost
300
nominations!

3rd July
The Manchester
Monastery

IN PARTNERSHIP:



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

Sponsors



HEADLINE SPONSOR:



Coyne
Recruitment.



Joined in 2024

mesma



Awards Evening

GM
SKILLS
AWARDS 2025

HEADLINE SPONSOR:



Awards Host: Baasit Siddiqi



Welcome Address: Andy Burnham



Learner Entertainment & Support Provided by:



SALFORD CITY
COLLEGE GROUP

CITY SKILLS • ECCLES • FUTURESILLS • PENDLETON • WORSLEY



Welcome!



Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion



Shabir Siddiq
Director for Quality,
Compliance &
Safeguarding

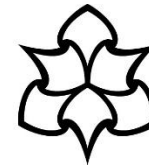


**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Kathryn Aylett
Training and
Development
Manager



Adam Williams
Director of
Apprenticeships



**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

Jonathan Lawson
Director of Strategic
Partnerships



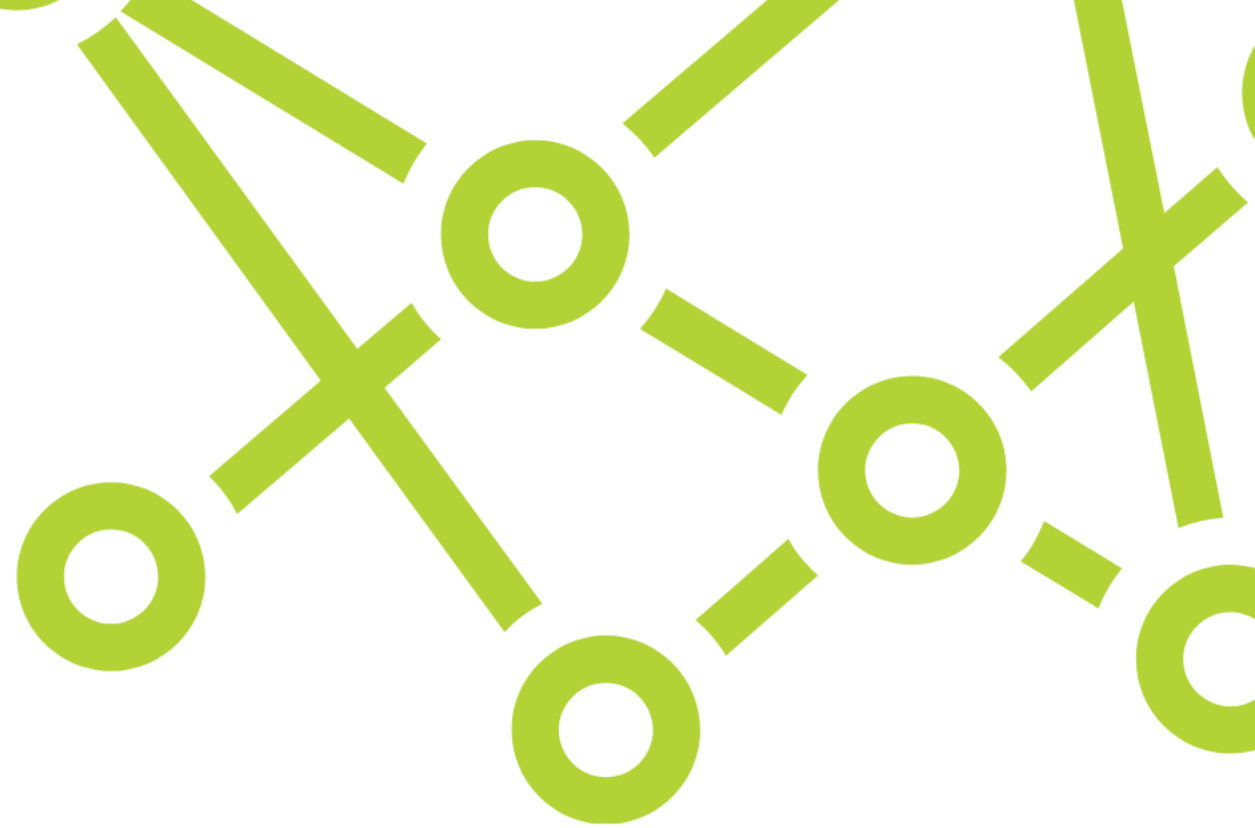
Robert Herriot
Head of Sales &
Marketing

Chaired by Tracey Wood

Chief Commercial Officer, The Trafford & Stockport College Group & GMLPN Board Member

Preparing for Potential Ofsted Changes – Priorities for Providers

Maureen Deary



Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- ☐ The Ofsted policy team will not be publishing the exact details of the new inspection framework until September 2025
- ☐ Inspections will continue until 31st August 2025. So, workplace learning providers, if you are in the current inspection window, do bear this in mind
- ☐ Inspections will re-commence from November 2025 with the new regime
- ☐ Currently, Ofsted are asking providers to step forward and volunteer to be a test inspection provider,
- ☐ **Recommendation, if you do volunteer for a test inspection: make sure that your evidence base is sound, your SAR is current and valid and your QIP is realistic and demonstrates outcomes and impact for your learners**
- ☐ Inspectors will be trained over two days in October 2025.

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- There is much speculation about the inspection grading, the score card and what the framework will look like in reality on social media; no one really knows apart from Ofsted senior team members and policy
- We only have two months to prepare for embedding the new framework into all that we do!

So what do we need to do?

- Make sure that no matter how large or small we are, this is a whole organisational approach to planning and preparation

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- My advice is carry on with you internal quality framework and infrastructure as normal, until we have the new inspection handbook in our hands
- Your SAR processes should be starting now,2 as a whole organisational approach.
- You can then update the 2024/25 SAR, at the end of ILR/ period 4 upload, with the final in-house data reporting as of mid-October 2025 and depict an accurate picture of your and your learners' performance
- Be prepared, start to consider our Quality Improvement planning, thinking about the 6 evaluation areas and 5 grading judgements

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- ❖ Both the SAR and QIP reporting are written to demonstrate the impact of your quality of provision, education and wider, cross-cutting themes for your curriculum, 2learners and apprentices, including progress at each update and most importantly, the impact for your learners, employers and partners.
- ❖ Tell the story of your learner provision types and the learner learning journey, including capturing your learning and working environment, safeguarding and prevent duty in your organisation inclusive community, culture and ethos, direction and curriculum priorities.
- ❖ **Your SAR is a mirror of your aspirations, if you grade too low, and if this is the actual position, then are your aspirations, strategic priorities and vision for your provision and learners too poor and therefore setting a too low benchmark?**

Your 2024/25 SAR and 2025/2026 QIP

Both your SAR and QIP are important features of telling your journey and story as an FES/HEI provider

Your QIP indicates how much work you might be engaging in for continued development or tells the story of how much you need to do to improve the quality of your provision!

- Explains how well learners learn, develop the required knowledge, skills and behaviours, (*KSB's*) and are prepared for their next step, providing sufficient but not undue detail
- Reports on the quality of provision for different groups of learners, including those in different provision types (*e.g. high needs/SEND*) where there is no separate provision-type report because numbers are small
- Uses the Ofsted inspection framework key judgements section to provide an overarching narrative about your sector areas; this should cover the key evaluation criteria and avoid repetition where similar criteria appear under different key aspects of your provision- adopt an holistic approach.

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- Curriculum
- Quality of education
- Quality arrangements
- SEND and inclusion
- Equality, equity and diversity, including values, culture and wellbeing
- Contextualised, embedded practical workplace English and maths
- Relevant contextualised impartial careers advice and guidance
- Practical application of the prevent duty-Again theory into practice

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

You will need:

- A clear understanding of what are your **measures of quality**
 - Who will **evaluate** against your own evaluation?
 - How will you ensure **alignment of data and audit** information?
 - How will you link the **strands of evidence**?
 - Your evidence base will need to be very secure and clear judgments made-my advice keep using the current EIF until end of September 2025, then adapt and update against the new Operating Guidance requirements. Do not change what works well for you as an organisation.
- ❖ Ofsted inspectors and inspections should not be biased, should be impartial and should not recommend a particular structure or approach!

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- The expectations of the inspection framework
- The 'standards' of educational quality
- Research-based approaches to understanding the indicators of quality in the FES sector
- Inspectorate and funding bodies and adapting to the changes
- Your leaders, managers and board
- Your learners and apprentices
- The link between 'performance' data and broader indicators of quality
- Clarity of the role of audit activities and more subtle indicators of high-quality education
- Ensuring it makes sense, by close examination of what your evidence means
- The best approach is to draft a strategic position paper that is informed by your SAR and tells the current story of your journey. This can be adapted as we receive more information about the new Ofsted Operating Guidance Requirements

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Considerations and top tips in the coming months,

- Leadership (whole-provider level)
- Contribution to meeting skills needs
(whole-provider level for colleges, sixth form colleges a
- Inclusion (whole-provider level)
- Safeguarding (whole-provider level)
- Curriculum (provision type level)
- Developing teaching and training (provision type level)
- Achievement (provision type level)
- Participation and development (provision type level)

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Summary

- ✓ Quality framework processes and reports from curriculum deep dives, reporting mechanisms to check on the robustness and appropriateness of the strategic curricula and operational/local curriculum plans in place that are constantly tested throughout inspection deep dive processes;
- ✓ Feedback from employers about the design and effectiveness of the curricula planning that they contribute to;
- ✓ Learners feedback on the effectiveness of their learning journey and individual planning of learning based on the local sector area curriculum plan and how these have helped them to achieve their next steps goals and career aspirations;
- ✓ Employer feedback on the quality of your service, support and delivery for learners;
- ✓ Seeing, hearing, reading about learners' progress in KSB's and personal skills development, how/when they have succeeded in their course, qualification and or apprenticeship with a positive destination outcome achieved. All of which helps to shape and inform your 2023/24 QIP planning.
- ✓ Continued focus on apprentice's on and off the job training-the balance in work and when studying
- ✓ Employers' line manager skills set-Knowledge and understanding of apprenticeships and their part to play!
- ✓ English and maths continued embedding in a truly contextualised way, **Theory applied to Practice always works.**

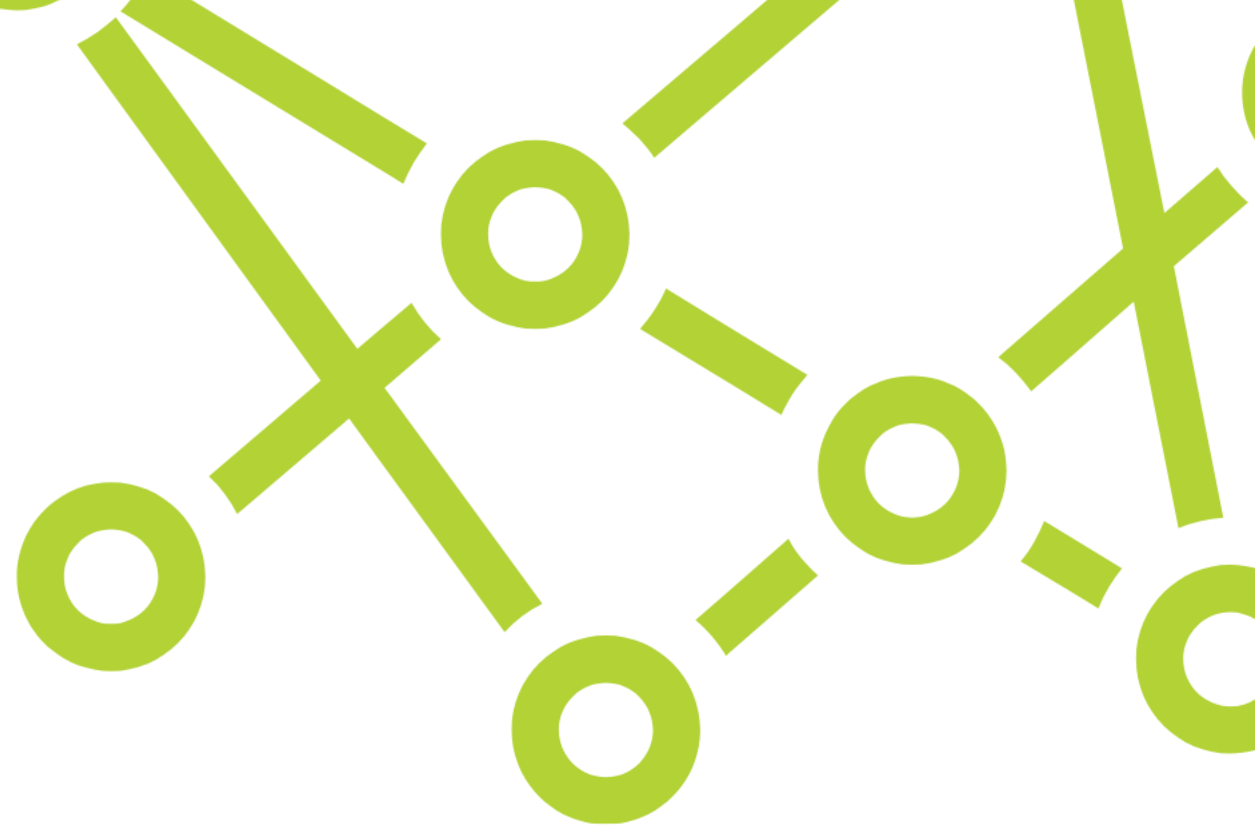
Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Top Tips

- Do not change what works well in your organisation
- Keep your governance board informed. Governance is a key priority for good practice
- Reporting processes not war and peace but tells the story of your continued successes with your provision, curriculum and impact on your learners
- If you are judging yourself as good or outstanding with the intended new Operating Guidance, you will really need to justify why you think this. Your evidence base will need to be stable, deep and wide with evaluative, transparent and valid judgements made.
- Data will be important, but so is the learner, employer and your workforce voice and feedback
- We need to be assured, not just reassured that when we make our judgments about the quality of our provision, we have the evidence base stacked up behind this
- Keep using the current EIF, do not try and pre-empt what the new Operating Guidance contains, it could still change!

**For Consultancy and Coaching Support,
Contact:
Maureen Deary
mail@maureendeary.co.uk
07715 609414**

**Appendices follow on in the next two slides as
useful online links for reports, research, guides
and publications**



Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Helpful Links for publications, inspection and guidance

- Further education and skills inspection handbook - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apprenticeship-funding-rules>
- Functional skills flexibility, p.20 Apprenticeship funding rules 2024 to 2025 (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- ALS funding, p7,
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6644c38dae748c43d3793c2c/Apprenticeship_funding_rules_changes_summary_24-25.pdf
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-training-provider-accountability-framework>
- <https://matrixstandard.com/>
- ETF Professional Standards: Professional Standards (et-foundation.co.uk)
- St Martin's Group: Overcoming-Barriers-Stimulating-Growth-and-Unlocking-Supply-in-UK-Apprenticeships.pdf (stmartinsgroup.org)
- Rowland, Ben. *Understanding Apprenticeships: A Student's Guide*. Trotman, 2023.
- Apprenticeship Resource Hub: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- Connect, Engage and Inspire – Association of Apprentices

Preparing for potential Ofsted Changes, our priorities as a provider

Helpful Links for careers, education, impartial advice and guidance, (CEIAG)

- **Matrix Self-assessment template:** <https://matrixstandard.com/self-assessment-template/>
- **Further Education Guide** - Working with Gatsby Foundation, CDI and Careers and Enterprise Company a guide for FE will be available.
- **HE Guide** – Working with The Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) a guide that shows how to apply the **matrix** Standard in Higher Education.
- **National Careers Service** – The National Careers Service guide which last updated in 2021 to reflect the new Standard.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**- A new guide is in production which looks at the application of the Standard in a SEND environment.
- **Adult Community Education** – Developed with HOLEX and the sector.
- **Employability Guide** – The current guide is called 'Welfare to Work' this is being updated to an 'Employability Guide' we are working with the Institute of Employability Professionals to produce this guide.
- **Digital Guide** – A new guide will demonstrate how to apply the Standard in a fully digital or blended delivery model.
- **The Ofsted Touchpoints** – We commissioned a consultant former inspector to work with Ofsted to produce a guide which shows the touchpoints the matrix Standard has with the inspection framework.
- **The Gatsby Touchpoints Document** – Partnering with the Gatsby Foundation, CDI and Careers and Enterprise Company.

Higher Health

Theo Cernow-Cooke

Director





HIGHER HEALTH

SKILLS 4 LIVING

Essential Life Skills Programme in Greater Manchester



15 years of work to date in South Africa



Skills for Living programme co-creation and pilot with 100,000 students



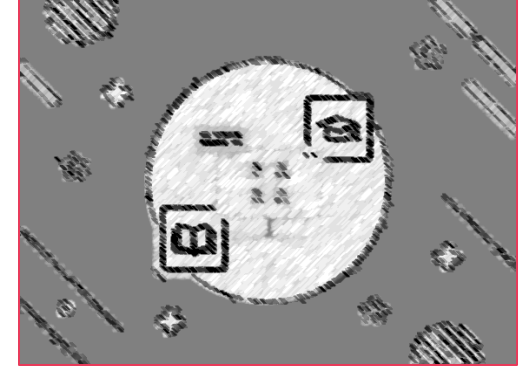
Political buy-in from Minister of Higher Education and government funding



Integrated model of on-ground health delivery and parallel digital curriculum



UNESCO endorsement and global partnership via resolution



National drive to roll out curriculum across 26 universities and 53 colleges

Strong and growing evidence base for transformational societal change (2019-2024):

1.05 million

students enrolled on knowledge & skills module

1.18 million

Additional young people reached through peer knowledge transfer where students share their skills with others in the community

65

730,000

Learners completed self-assessments and reflections during the course, related to their own experiences of gender-based violence, drugs & alcohol use or mental health concerns

50,638

early interventions for mental health-related cases

21,698

Self-referrals onto local gender-based violence victim/survivor services



Our post-16 status quo

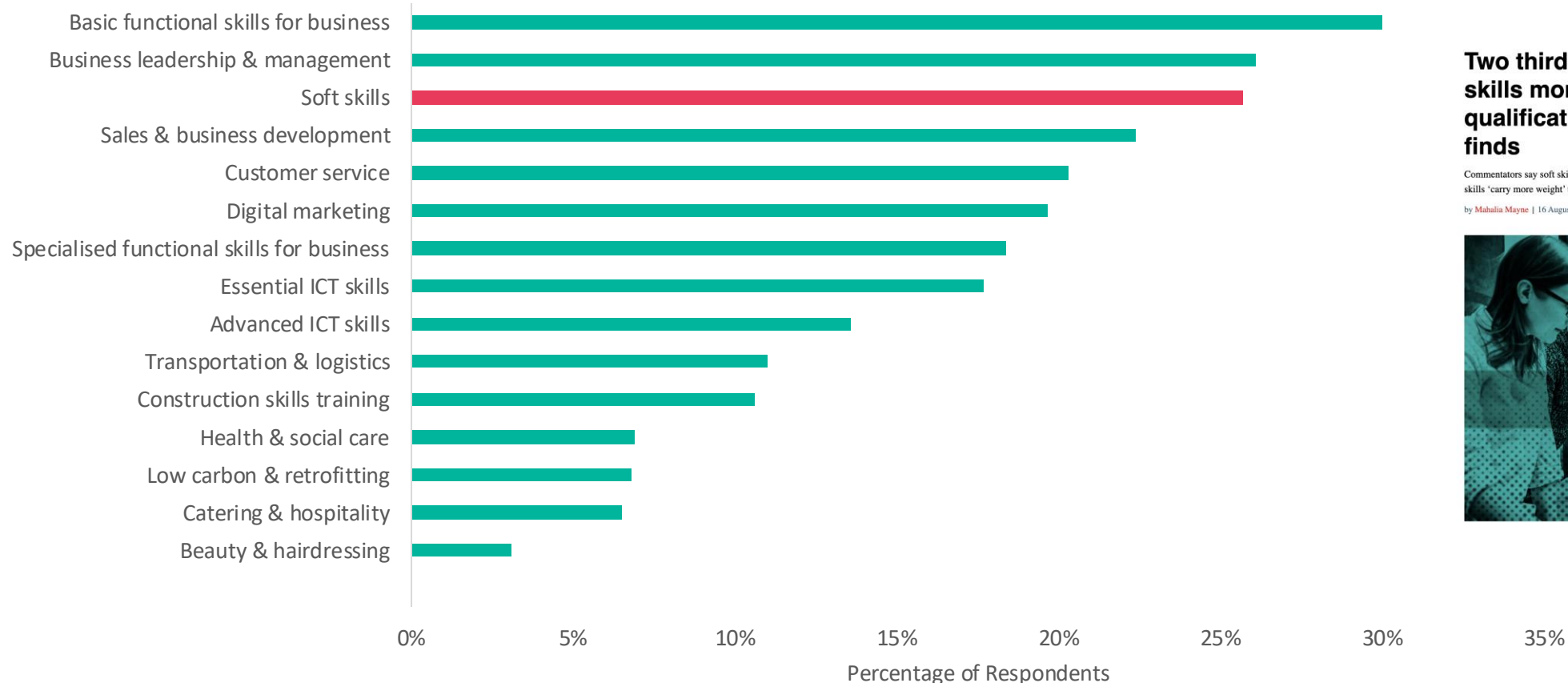
Young adults are experiencing poor wellbeing and struggling with belonging & citizenship. There are well-described challenges to young people's futures:

	Pressures on unemployment, housing, cost of living, childcare, recreation		Continued prevalence of gender and race-based violence and discrimination		Civic disengagement and fragile communities
	Health, social and economic inequalities continuing to deepen		Online interactions promoting unhealthy self-image and perfectionism		Widespread self-reported loneliness across all sections of society
	Fractures in social cohesion due to unconstructive and conflicting narratives		Growing anxiety at climate crisis and disillusionment with environmental action		Ongoing harms from drug and alcohol use



The essential life skills gap for employers

In the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), 3,000 Greater Manchester employers were asked about areas of training that they wanted to see made more accessible



Two thirds of employers value soft skills more than educational qualifications when hiring, research finds

Commentators say soft skills are like the 'eggs and flour in a cake' and that tenacity, drive and interpersonal skills 'carry more weight' than A-levels and degrees

by Mahalia Mayne | 16 August 2024





Higher Health specialises in building the top soft skills that society needs

- ① **Empathy**, Listening and **Counselling**
- ② Civic Responsibility and Peer Education
- ③ Conflict Resolution
- ④ Creativity, **Critical Thinking** & Problem Solving
- ⑤ Decision Making
- ⑥ Digital Literacy
- ⑦ Presentation Skills, Public Speaking & Communication
- ⑧ **Resilience**, Confidence & Self-Motivation
- ⑨ Teamwork, Organizational Skills & Leadership Skills
- ⑩ Time-Management & Goal-Setting







Impact designed to reach across the whole spectrum of society

Skills for Living equips individuals with the happiness, health and productivity to drives tangible change on personal, social and economic levels

INDIVIDUAL

Building essential life skills



EDUCATION & TRAINING PROVIDER

Retention

Community cohesion

Improved confidence and better behaviours

REGIONALLY

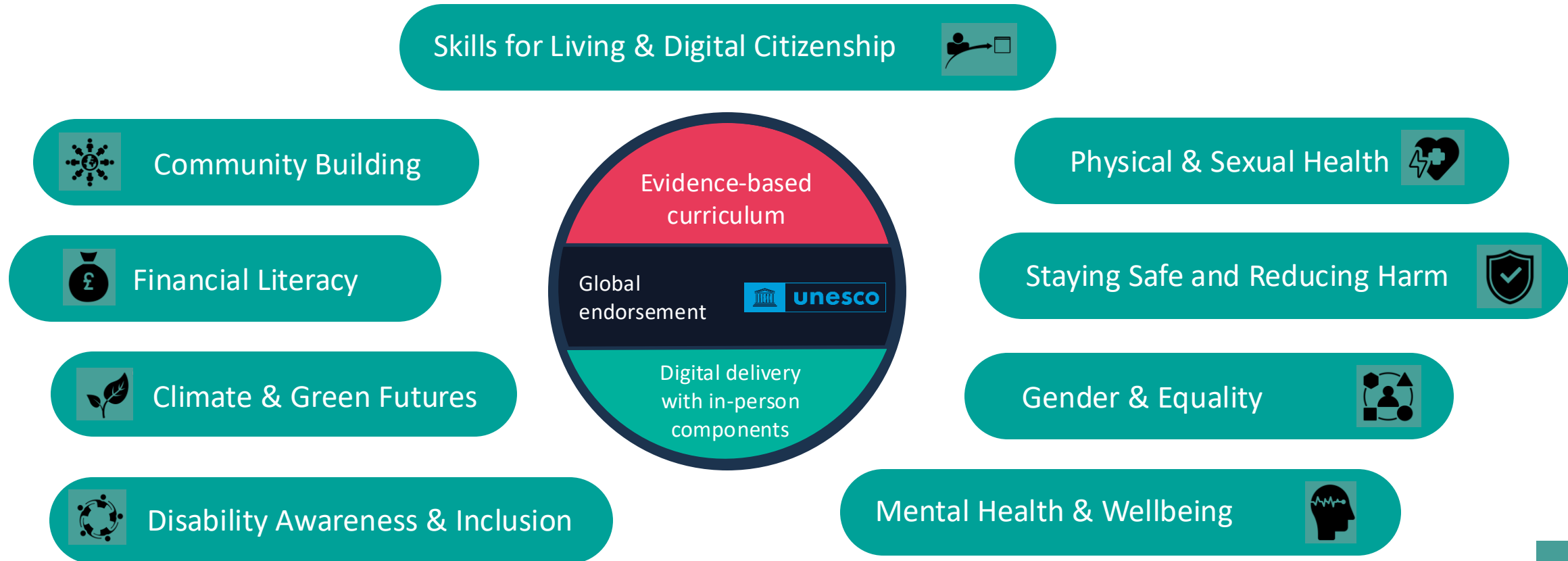
Work-ready and healthy individuals



Fully funded for GM learning providers



Using holistic health & wellbeing as a framework for skills development





Greater Manchester pilot partners

950 students

45% active on the platform

100 certificates to date





The learner voice so far



92% say the programme is valuable or a great opportunity



94% find the content stimulating



97% feel they could apply what they learned to real life



Programme delivery

Online knowledge & skills modules

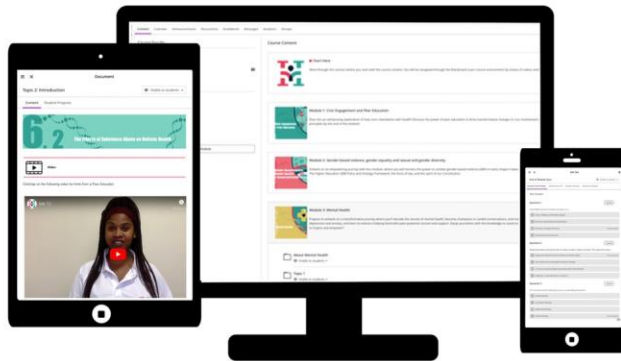


Interactive, exploratory, role-play, multimedia, case studies, reflective



In-person peer support model

Enabling horizontal learning between young people through discussions, groups projects and social connection



74

Self-evaluation



Embedded self-assessments for all modules and topics



Signposting for students to access immediate support

Assessments



Informal submissions



Peer interactions



Group tasks



Online tests

Qualification



(In progress) Level 1 & 2 accreditation



(In progress) Credit-bearing in some HE contexts



Merit/distinction for further study

Earn recognition!





For learners: why join the Higher Health programme?



Develop essential *Skills 4 Living*

Gain empathy, resilience, teamwork, and decision-making abilities valued by employers & communities



Build practical knowledge for life

Explore 9 key areas like mental health, financial literacy, and climate change for real-world readiness



Experience flexible and engaging learning

Self-paced modules, interactive exercises, and virtual access fit into busy student schedules



Boost career prospects

Enhance your CV, develop in-demand skills, and be interview-ready



Earn recognition

Receive a certificate symbolising your commitment to growth and impact



What's next?

July: Initiate accreditation process

September: full evaluation results due

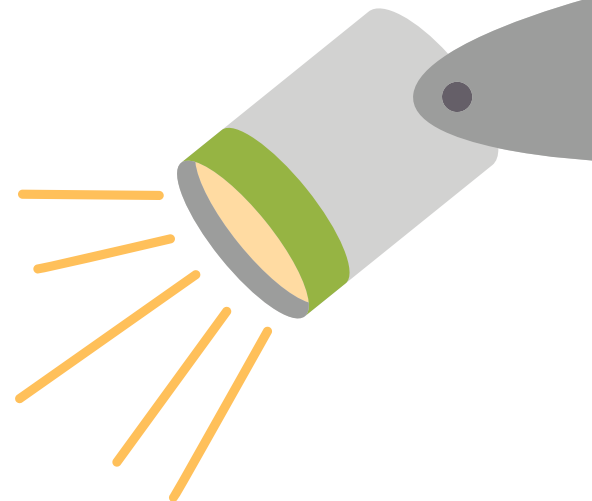
October: next cohorts start (target 5,000 – 10,000 learners)



Get in touch

theo@higherhealth.org.uk

www.higherhealth.org.uk



60 SECOND SPOTLIGHT

Close

Mark Currie

Chair | GMLPN





NETWORK MEETING

LUNCH & NETWORKING

