



GMLPN Online Member KIT

21st January 2026

10.00-12.00



Agenda

- Welcome & Open – Mark Currie | Chair of GMLPN
- Edge Foundation – Apprenticeships Work
- GMCC – LSIP
- GM Colleges – Apprenticeship Literacy Innovation Programme
- WorldSkills UK
- GMCA
- GMLPN Updates
- Close – Mark Currie | Chair of GMLPN

Welcome

Mark Currie

Chair | GMLPN



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

Welcome to the Board!

- Strengthen and further develop our Community Membership and engagement with the VCSFE sector



FUNDING
FUTURES

Edge Foundation

Sorah Gluck

Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager

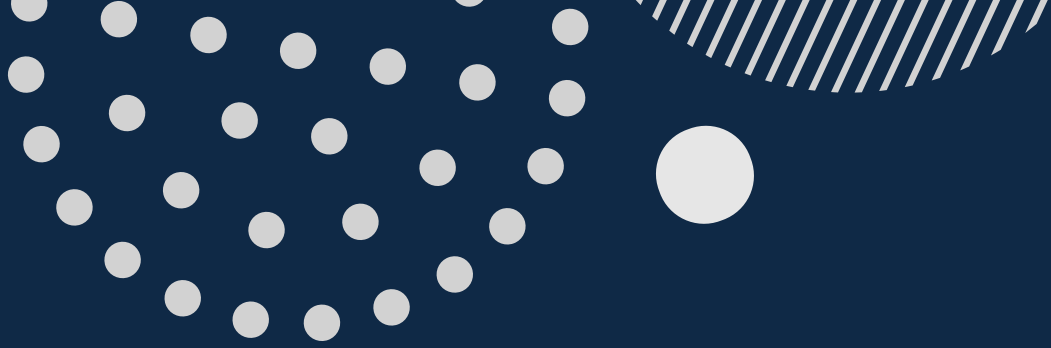




Apprenticeships Work: Presentation to the Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network

21 January 2026





Agents of Change:
Supporting SMEs through
apprenticeship brokerage
services

Supporting SMEs to Hire Apprentices

- Before the levy was introduced, apprenticeships in SMEs made up the majority (**54%**) of total starts. Yet, by 2022/3 (latest available data) this declined to **37%**, with levy-payers making up a bigger piece of the pie.
- **92%** of all apprenticeships offered by smaller businesses in England are held by 16 to 24-year-olds.

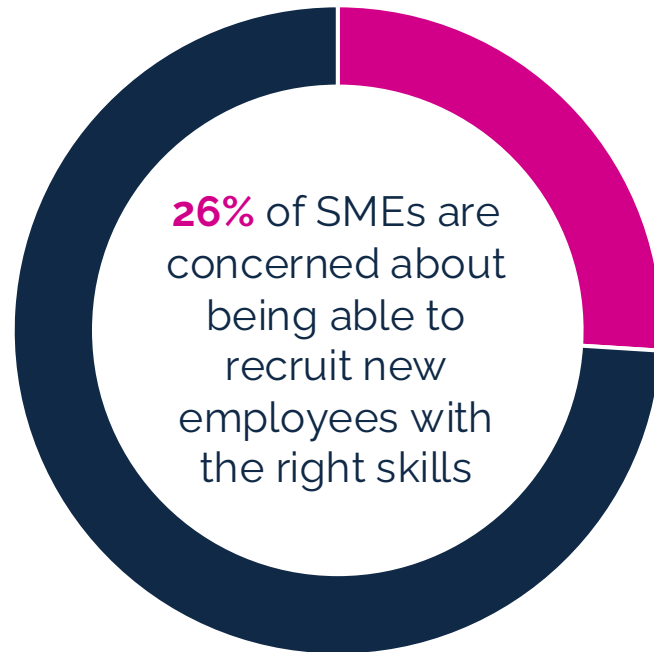


Ultimately, but in addition to efforts to cut needless bureaucracy, SMEs need more support to navigate the complex landscape, so that they can reap the benefits apprenticeships have to offer their business.

Agents of Change: Why we need a brokerage service



SMEs are more likely to hire **young people** and hire **local**, meaning they are important to fulfilling both the Government's **Opportunity** and **Growth** Missions



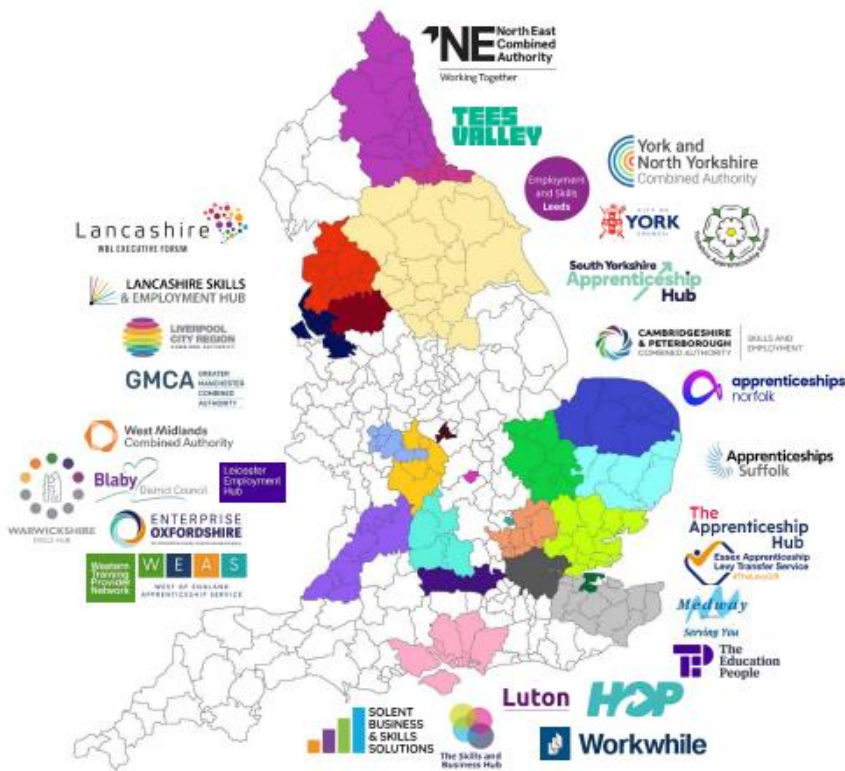
Over **2/3** SMEs say that tailored advice and support would be an **encouraging or decisive factor** in choosing to hire a young apprentice



Agents of Change: Local and regional brokerage

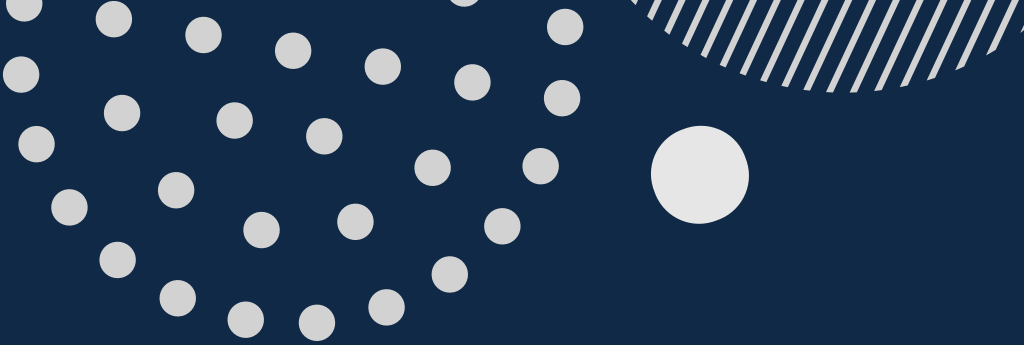
Apprenticeship Hub Network

Member Heatmap 2026



v21 - updated 13.01.2026





Apprenticeships Work

APPRENTICESHIPS WORK

For Young People
For Small Businesses
For Everyone

Campaign
background



Employer
resources



Supporting
stories



Get
involved

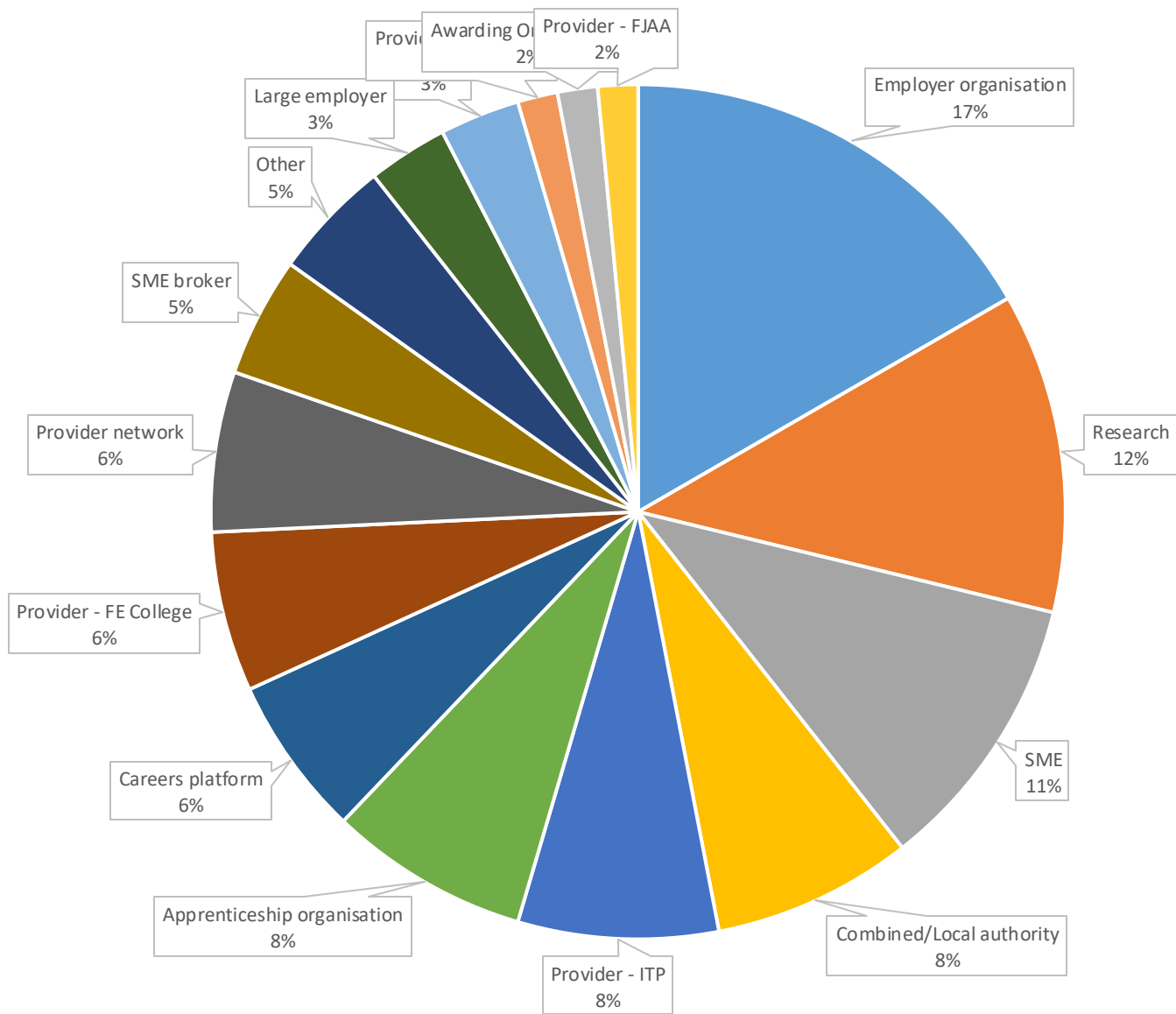


Apprenticeships Work is a new campaign with a simple goal: to encourage more small businesses to take on apprentices.

SMEs are the backbone of our economy and our communities, but often struggle to engage with the apprenticeship system. They represent 99.8% of businesses and 60% of total employment in the UK, but only employ 37% of apprentices - that's a 17 percentage point fall since the Apprenticeship Levy was introduced. We want to change that.



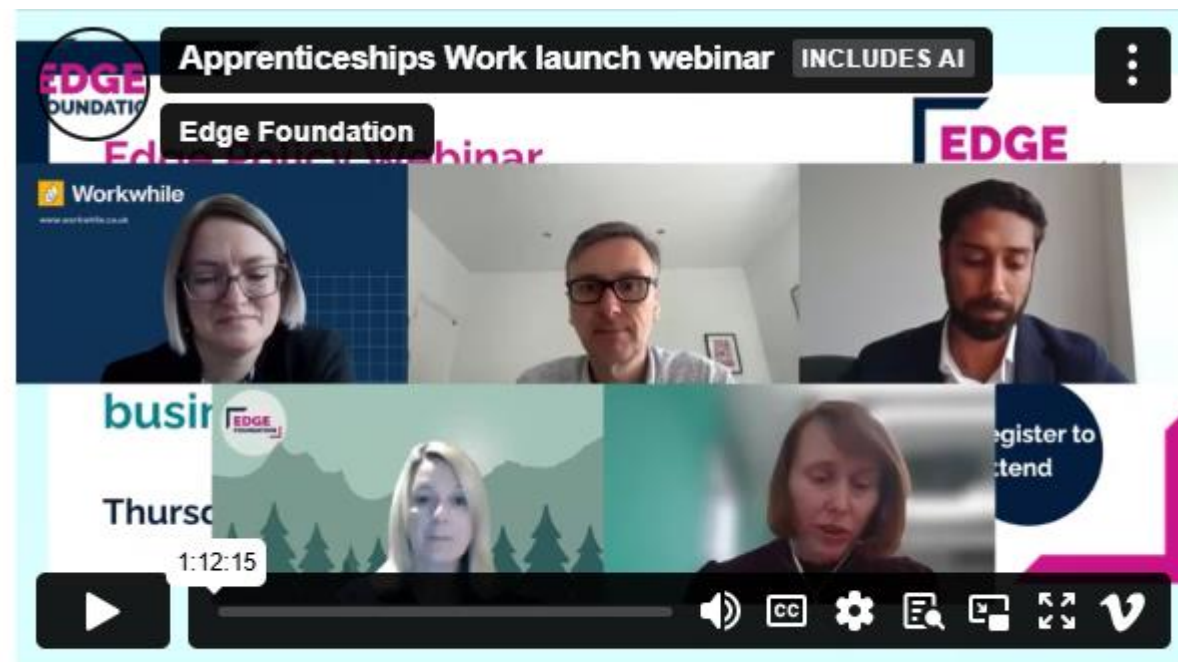
Campaign updates: Our partners



Campaign updates: Launch webinar

Panellists include

- Alice Gardner, Chief Executive, Edge Foundation
- Andrew Pakes MP, Co-Chair Apprenticeships APPG
- Kate Shoesmith, Deputy CEO, Recruitment and Employment Confederation
- Praful Nargund, Director, Good Growth Foundation
- Anna Ambrose, CEO, Workwhile

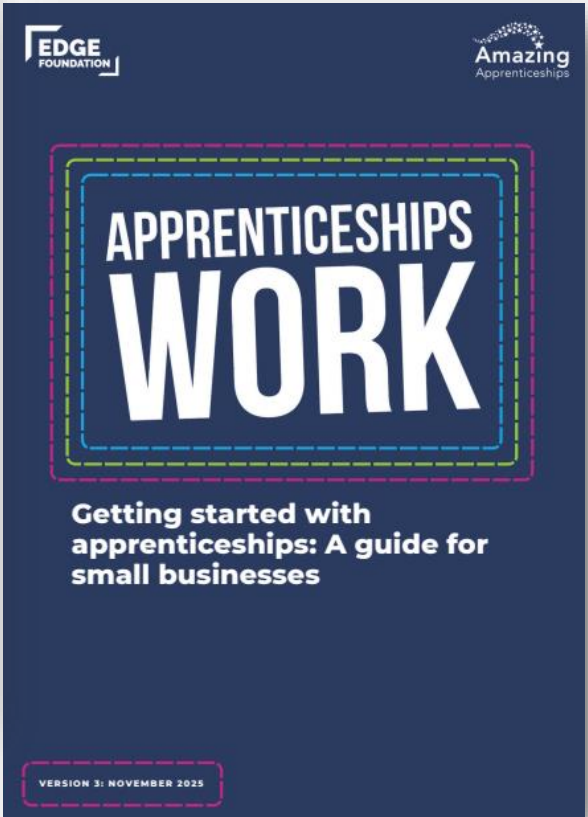


Campaign updates: Heathrow Business Summit



14.11.2025

Apprenticeships Work at the Heathrow Business Summit



Campaign updates: Parliamentary roundtable



26.11.2025

Apprenticeships Work
Parliamentary Roundtable



Small Business Saturday and support for SME apprenticeships

EDM 2363: tabled on 25 November 2025

Tabled in the 2024-26 session.

This motion has been signed by 2 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

Motion text

That this House celebrates Small local economies, employment and participation in apprenticeships pathways and hands-on training; through accessible brokerage services; SME apprenticeship growth, and

Edge Foundation
3,876 followers
1h • Edited •

Excellent question from [Antonia Bance](#) MP to the Small Business Minister at Tuesday's Business and Trade Committee meeting on support for SMEs interested in hiring apprentices. While the Minister agrees that the process is too "cumbersome", ...more



Campaign updates: Autumn Budget



Edge Foundation
4,089 followers
1mo • 🌐

So pleased to see the Chancellor announce that the full training costs for apprentices under-25 will be covered for SMEs, along with wider measures to tackle youth unemployment. A big win for our [#ApprenticeshipsWork](#) campaign 🎉





You and 71 others

4 comments · 6 reposts

Reactions



+64



01.12.2025

Apprenticeships Work campaign's response to the Autumn Budget

Campaign updates: Open letter



Rt Hon Pat McFadden
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
CC: Minister for Skills, Baroness Jacqui Smith; Minister for Small Business, Blair McDougall

1 December 2025

Dear Secretary of State

As partners in the Edge Foundation *Apprenticeships Work* campaign, we write to urge the Government to take decisive action to help more small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) recruit apprentices and, in doing so, unlock opportunity and growth across the country.

SMEs are the backbone of our economy. They employ 60% of the UK workforce, form the lifeblood of our local communities, and are often where young people get their first experience of work. Yet despite their vital role, their participation in apprenticeships has declined markedly since the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy.

This decline matters. 70% of apprenticeships in non-levy paying employers (most of whom are SMEs) are undertaken by 16–24-year-olds, making these businesses a critical driver of youth opportunity, local prosperity, and social mobility. Without stronger support for SMEs, we risk losing the very entry-level pathways that build skills, confidence, and careers for the next generation.

With the right support, SMEs can be the engine of inclusive economic growth and opportunity. They are more likely to hire locally, to offer entry-level roles, and to provide young people with hands-on experience that leads to sustained employment.



03.12.2025

Apprenticeships Work
campaign letter to Minister



Campaign updates: **New MSA pilot**

Press release

50,000 more young people to benefit from apprenticeships as Government unveils new skills reforms to get Britain working

The £725 million package of reforms to the apprenticeship system will help to tackle youth unemployment and drive economic growth, with thousands more young people expected to benefit over the next three years.

The latest funding includes a £140 million for a pilot where Mayors will be able to connect young people - especially those not in education, employment or training (NEET) with thousands of apprenticeship opportunities at local employers.

By partnering with regional leaders who best understand their local economies, these pilots will ensure young people can access training that meets the needs of employers in their area.

As part of the package, the government will also cover the full cost of apprenticeships for eligible young people under 25 at small and medium-sized businesses.

Campaign updates: Blogs and case studies

Supporting stories



Our ask of partners

1

Provide a logo for our website (email sgluck@edge.co.uk)

2

Promote the campaign to your networks

3

Contribute to our bank of employer resources, case studies, and guest blogs



Any questions?

Or get in touch:



sgluck@edge.co.uk



LSIP

GMCC



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

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- Involve your employers!
 - Share the LSIP survey
 - Invite them to the GMLPN / GMCC roundtable on the 27th February



Share your views on the future skill needs!

The Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (GM LSIP) brings employers, learning providers and partners together to make sure local training and education matches the real skills businesses need - now and in the future.

We're asking learning providers and the employers they work with to get involved. This is a chance to go beyond highlighting skills gaps and help shape practical solutions that work for your sector.

Why get involved?

Your insight is vital. By taking part, you can help shape how skills funding is used, highlight shared recruitment challenges that need a regional solution, and influence training and education so future employees arrive better prepared for work in Greater Manchester.

Roundtable Discussion (Employer Only)

Join us 27th February 2026, 14.00-15.30 at Mantra Learning (M24 1RU).

We're inviting you to join a short, practical roundtable discussion where you can share what's really happening in your business. We want to hear about the roles and skills you need now and in the next few years, the jobs you struggle most to recruit for, the skills candidates are often missing, and how training providers could better support the development of your current workforce.

[Click here to book your place](#) →

Skills Survey

We'd love to hear from you! Please take 10 minutes to complete the GM LSIP survey. Taking part will help shape training and apprenticeships that work for your sector, influence what gets funded, delivered and prioritised locally, and support a skills system that responds to real vacancies, growth plans and skills gaps.

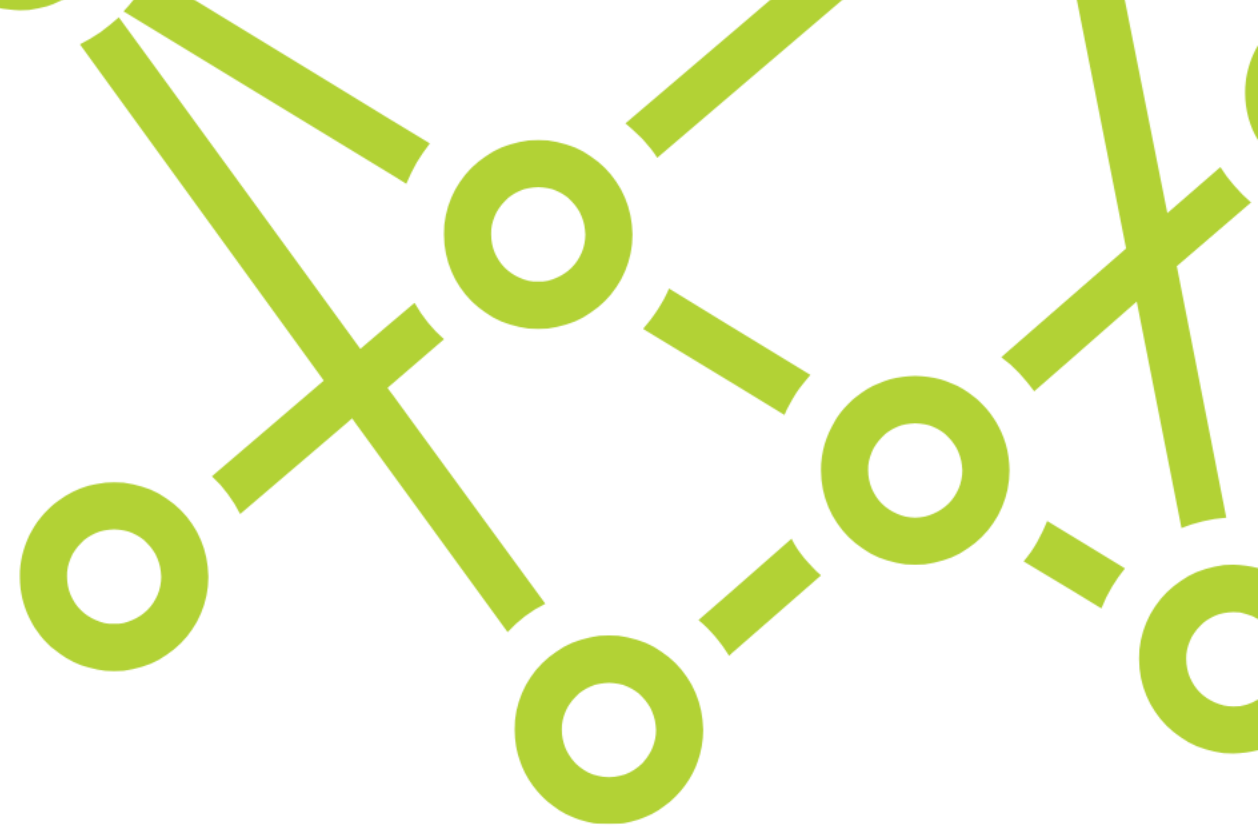
[Click here to complete the survey](#) →



Apprenticeship Literacy Innovation Programme

Dave Murat

GMColleges



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Innovation Literacy Training

WHAT IS IT?

A unique 2 day training opportunity available to apprentices, free of charge

Aims to equip apprentices with the skills to:

- Support innovation, efficiency and productivity in any business/organisation
- Communicate their ideas in a professional manner
- Make an Impact on your business with fresh perspectives and ideas
- Enable professional development linked to the most desirable skills for the modern workforce, as identified by the World Economic Forum.



The Benefit to Employers

- Support your organisations bottom line
- Increase productivity
- Realise apprentice creativity
- Help them embrace failure
- Hands-on experience of developing ideas
- Learn How To Communicate concepts
- CPD



“Since Joe has undertaken and completed the course, there has been a noticeable change in his confidence to communicate with his operational colleagues and more so, site managers.” – *Operations Manager, Wigan*

The Benefit To Apprentices

- Gain an understanding of innovation
- Generate and develop ideas
- Introduction to Change
- Increased soft skills
- Improved confidence
- CPD
- Helps with apprenticeship
- Counts towards Off The Job Tracker*
- Enhanced CV

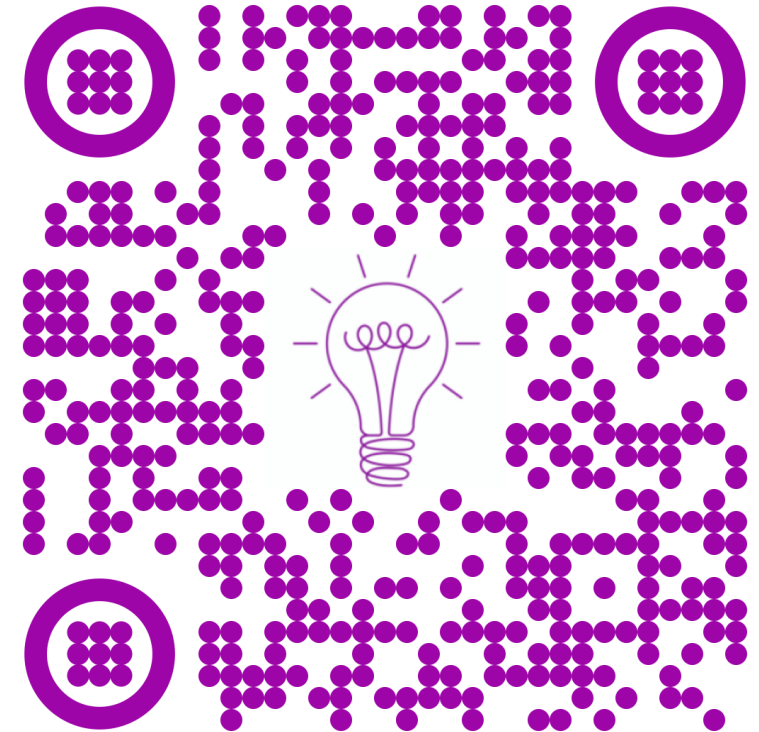


We have invested time to help Alex grow and the Innovation Ambassadors Programme was a big part of that. I would recommend this course to anyone who wishes to invest in their apprentices” – *Digital Inclusion and Projects Lead, Wigan*

More Information

www.innovationliteracy.co.uk

- Detail on the programme
- Upcoming dates across GM
- Contact details



WorldSkills UK

Christian Notley

High Performance Skills Coach and
Brand Ambassador



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WorldSkills UK

Presenter:
Christian Notley MBE





Question

Learning through Competitions (Competition Learning)

What do you think can be achieved by participating in a competition?

Post in Chat or raise your hand

For learners

Soft Skills

- Help develop resilience
- Problem-solving skills
- Time management
- Prepare learners for the workplace

Vocational Skills

- Embed/reinforce prior learning
- Application of skills
- Provide feedback on skills and an individual development plan
- **Raise standards**

For Tutors and trainers:

- Benchmarking
- Improved assessment methodology
- CPD opportunities
- EPA training
- Trackable work experience

Competition learning

Raising standards

‘Excellence is a process of continuous improvement’

‘Excellence is made up of small components and actions’

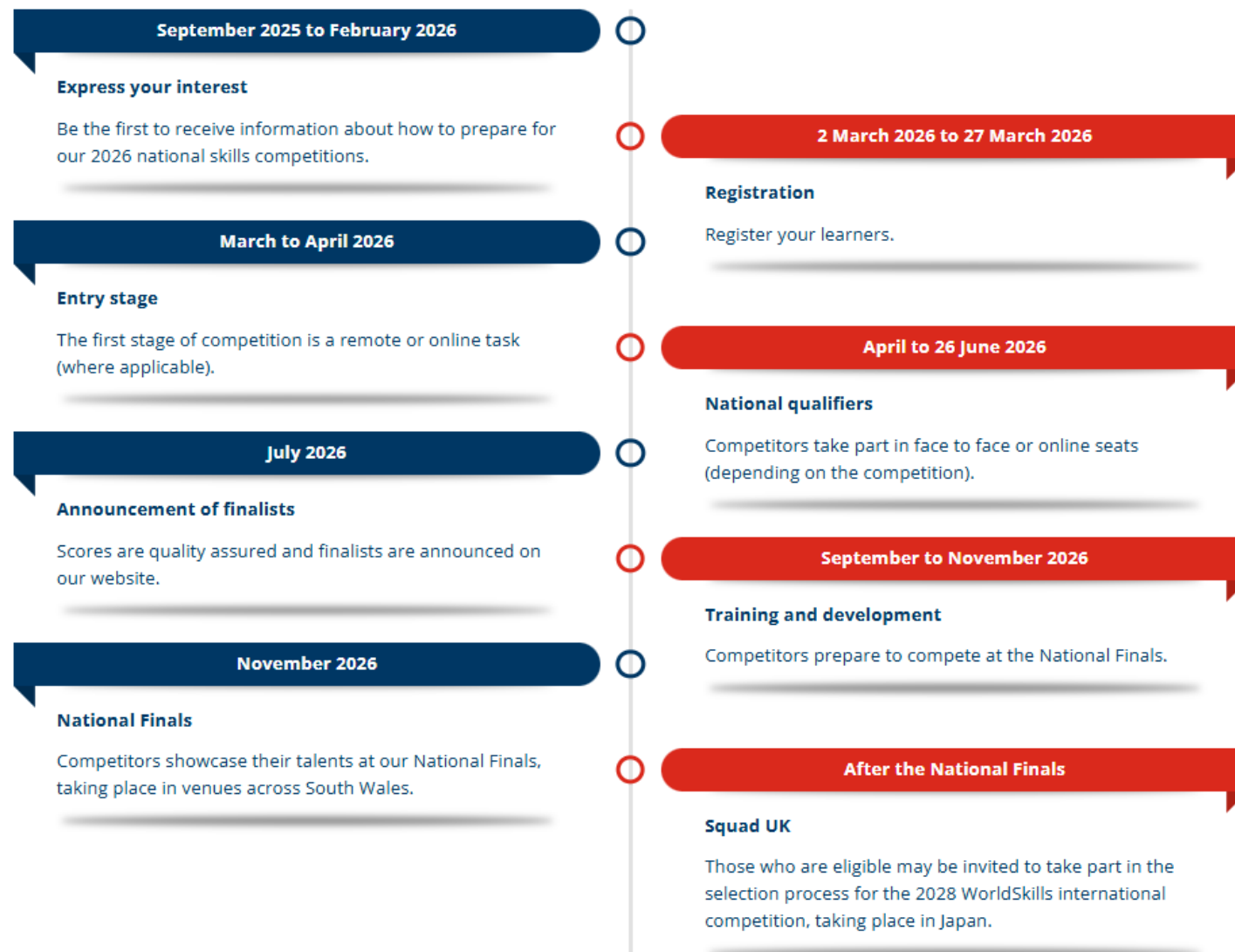
‘Excellence is developed by repetition measured against a standard of expectation’.

Competition assessment aims to break down a task to smallest element and clearly sets the expectation for learners

Sector	Competition	National or International Competition	Level *
Construction & Infrastructure	Digital Construction	International	Level 4
Construction & Infrastructure	Electrical Installation	International	Level 3
Construction & Infrastructure	Landscaping	National	Level 2
Construction & Infrastructure	Plumbing	International	Level 2/3
Construction & Infrastructure	Electronic Fire & Security Systems	National	All levels
Digital, Business and Creative	3D Digital Game Art	International	Level 3
Digital, Business and Creative	Accounting Technician	National	Level 3 / 4
Digital, Business and Creative	Cyber Security	International	Level 4
Digital, Business and Creative	Digital Media Production	National	Level 3
Digital, Business and Creative	Graphic Design	National	Level 3
Digital, Business and Creative	Network Infrastructure Technician	National	Level 3
Digital, Business and Creative	Web Development	International	Level 3/4
Digital, Business and Creative	Cloud Computing	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Aircraft Maintenance	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Automation	National	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Automotive Body Repair	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Automotive Refinishing	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Automotive Technology	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	CNC Machinist	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Metal Fabricator	National	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Industrial Electronics	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Industrial Robotics	International	Level 4
Engineering and Technology	Industry 4.0	International	Level 4
Engineering and Technology	Laboratory Technician	International	Level 3 / 4
Engineering and Technology	Mechanical Engineering: CAD	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Mechatronics	International	Level 4
Engineering and Technology	Welding	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Renewable Energy	International	Level 4
Engineering and Technology	Additive Manufacturing	International	Level 3
Engineering and Technology	Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps	National	Level 3
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Beauty Therapist	National	Level 2
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Beauty Therapy Practitioner	International	Level 3
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	SFX Makeup for Film & TV	National	Level 3
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Culinary Arts	International	Level 3
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Hairdressing	International	Level 2/3
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Health and Social Care	International	Level 3
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Restaurant Service	International	Level 3

Construction & Infrastructure	Foundation Skills: Horticulture	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Digital, Business and Creative	Foundation Skills: Enterprise	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Digital, Business and Creative	Foundation Skills: Digital	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Foundation Skills: Hairdressing	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Foundation Skills: Catering	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Foundation Skills: Health & Social Care	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Foundation Skills: Restaurant Service	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)
Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle	Foundation Skills: Creative Media	National	Entry 3 / Level 1 (SEND)

National Competitions timeline



Resources and Information



Registration dashboard



Performance tables

WorldSkills UK National Competitions

Guide to registration

Registration opens on 2nd March
and closes 27th of March.

Learners must have
accepted T&C by the 27th March



Before you start to
register your learners,
ensure you have the following
information for each;

Competitor details

- ☐ Competitor name
- ☐ Mobile phone number
- ☐ Email address (including a personal email address)
- ☐ Home address
- ☐ Date of birth
- ☐ Apprenticeship status

Training provider / college / employer details

- ☐ Organisation name
- ☐ Address including postcode
- ☐ Point of contact name (preferably relevant tutor/lecturer/employer)
- ☐ Point of contact phone number
- ☐ Point of contact email address
- ☐ Unique Learner Number (optional)

1

Visit [our website](#) to find out more about the competitions we deliver, including what they involve, the entry criteria and access to resources to help you to prepare your learners to be competition ready.

2

Click on the 'registrations are open' button to access the registration form.

3

If you do not have an existing account, please create an account, look out for an email to verify your details.

4

Register your learners. You will receive a confirmation email that the registration has been successful.

5

Follow up with your learners to ensure they have accepted the terms and conditions. They will have received an email asking them to do so. **Without their acceptance, the registration will not be complete.**



ENTRY STAGE

Once registered, the learner will receive an email with details of the entry stage for their competition and the deadline for submission.

Entry Stage Details 2025 dates

Competition	Date Test Project sent out	Final Deadline
3D Digital Game Art	31 March	30 April
Accounting Technician	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	2 May
Additive Manufacturing	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	28 April
Aircraft Maintenance	31 March	28 April
Automation	29 March	25 April
Automotive Body Repair	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	4 April
Automotive Refinishing	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	4 April
Automotive Technology	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	4 April
Beauty Therapist	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	25 April
Beauty Therapy Practitioner	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	25 April
SFX, Makeup and Hair for Film & TV	From 3 March (as soon as a registration is completed)	25 April
Cloud Computing	30 March	7 April
CNC Milling	31 March	3 May
Culinary Arts	3 March	4 April
Cyber Security	25 April	25 April
Digital Construction	29 April	3 May
Digital Media Production	31 March	4 April

ENTRY STAGE

WorldSkills UK Competitions AUTOMATION

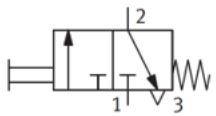
ENTRY STAGE Questions 2024

Total number of questions: 25 (4 marks each)

Total marks: 100

Time limit: 60 minutes

Pneumatics:

No	Question	Answer
1	What is the role of port number 3 on the symbol shown below? 	C
2	In a 5/3 way, centre off valve, how many states are there? a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 5	C

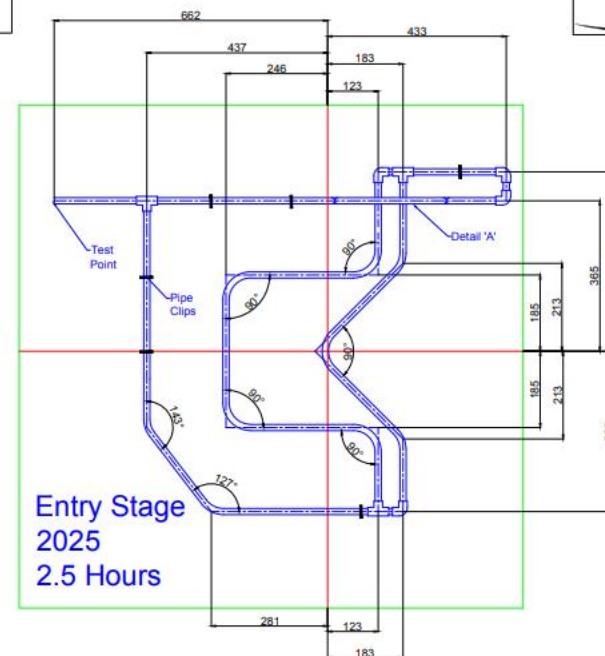
worldskillsuk
excellence at work



worldskillsuk
excellence at work



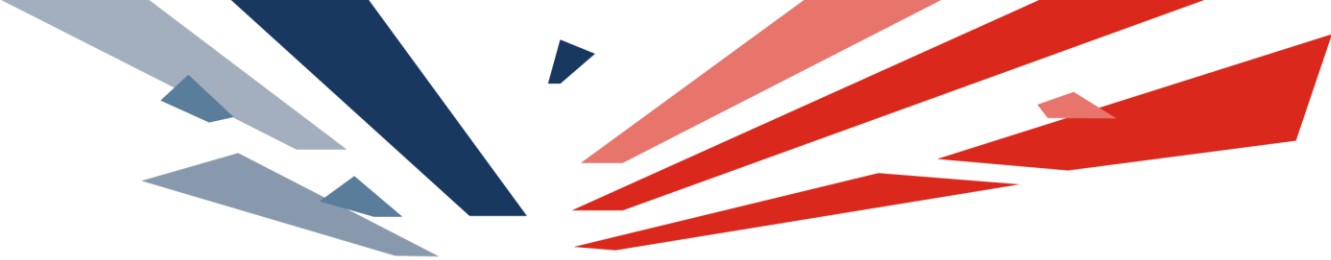
All 15mm
Copper Pipe



Entry Stage
2025
2.5 Hours



Funded by
UK Government



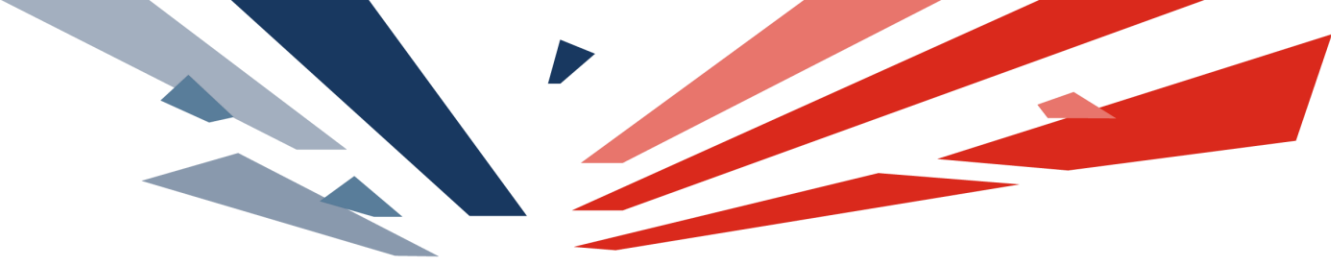
SKILL-BUILD

DELIVERED BY CITB ■

- [Bricklaying](#)
- [Carpentry](#)
- [Drylining](#)
- [Furniture and Cabinet Making](#)
- [Joinery](#)
- [Painting and Decorating](#)
- [Plastering](#)
- [Roof Slating and Tiling](#)
- [Stonemasonry](#)
- [Wall and Floor Tiling](#)

Open for registration now until the 20th of February.

No entry stage
Check the website for dates & venues for the
qualifying round



Mainstreaming world-class skills development

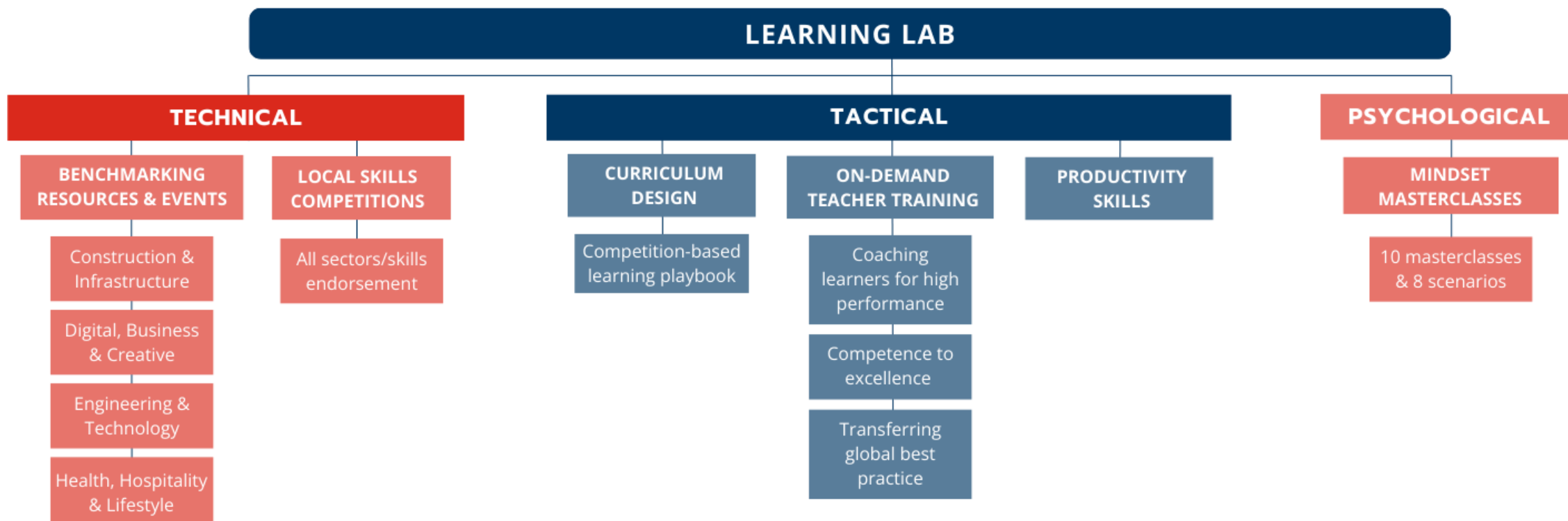
We use international best practice to raise standards in apprenticeships and technical education so more young people and employers succeed.



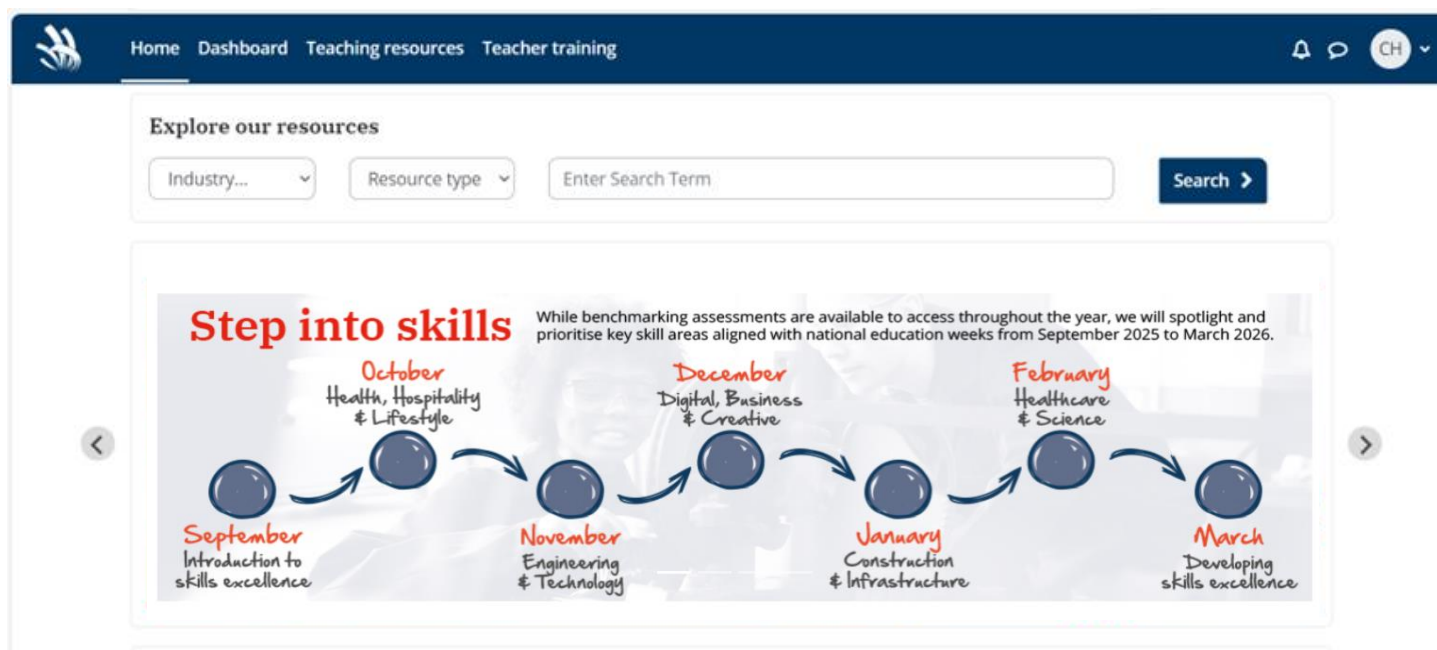
WorldSkills UK Learning Lab



What's available?



Navigating the Learning Lab



Home Dashboard Teaching resources Teacher training

Explore our resources

Industry... Resource type Enter Search Term Search

Step into skills While benchmarking assessments are available to access throughout the year, we will spotlight and prioritise key skill areas aligned with national education weeks from September 2025 to March 2026.

- September: Introduction to skills excellence
- October: Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle
- November: Engineering & Technology
- December: Digital, Business & Creative
- January: Construction & Infrastructure
- February: Healthcare & Science
- March: Developing skills excellence

Resources

WorldSkills UK Learning Lab

Curriculum design

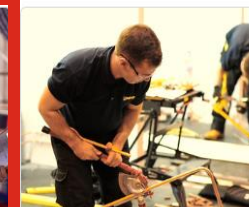
Search resources



Curriculum design



Benchmarking assessments



Local skills competitions



National Standards of Excellence



Mindset masterclasses



Productivity skills



On-demand teacher training

WorldSkills UK Learning lab.

Benchmarking resources

<https://learninglab.worldskillsuk.org/course/index.php?categoryid=11>



**Additive Manufacturing -
benchmarking assessments**

Category: Engineering and technology



**Aircraft Maintenance -
benchmarking assessments**

Category: Engineering and technology



**Automotive Body Repair -
benchmarking assessments**

Category: Engineering and technology



**Automotive Refinishing -
benchmarking assessments**

Category: Engineering and technology



**Automotive Technology -
benchmarking assessments**

Category: Engineering and technology



**Heavy Vehicle Technology -
benchmarking assessments**

Category: Engineering and technology

Available benchmarking assessments



Select
Topic



Download
pack



Run
activity



Assess



Upload
results
.csv file


Competition based learning

Health, hospitality and lifestyle
Beauty therapist


worldskillsuk
excellence at work


Benchmarking assessment


Funded by
UK Government

Assessment Title	Back treatment	
Learning Objectives	By the end of the session, learners will be able to: 1. Prepare a treatment area and client while adhering to health and safety standards. 2. Perform a basic back cleanse and mask application with attention to hygiene and client comfort. 3. Demonstrate simple massage techniques (effleurage and light petrissage) suitable for a Level 2 learner. 4. Conclude the treatment professionally and provide basic aftercare advice.	
Duration	1 hour 30 minutes (1-hour lesson, 30-minute practical assessment).	
Resources	• Treatment couch • Towels • Couch roll • Cleansing products • Mud-type mask products • Massage oil	• Disposable gloves • Water bowls and sponges • Waste bin with liner • Rolled towels for client support • Timer/stopwatch
National Standards of Excellence	Core Competencies: Selecting products and equipment to complete a service. Continual consideration of client's comfort, modesty and requirements. Higher Competencies: Creating and sustaining professional and positive relationships with clients and colleagues. Providing after care, home care and retail advice that is suited to the client's aims and requirements Transferable Skills: Time management Professional demeanour. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology	
URL Link (NSE)	Beauty Therapy	
Project based Learning	This is assessment 3 of 3	

Session Overview

Starter (10mins)
Educator Activities: • Ask learners: "Why is preparation important in beauty treatments?" • Facilitate a mind-mapping activity to discuss the importance of hygiene and safety. • Highlight how a clean and organised setup ensures positive client experiences.
Learner Activities: • Participate in the mind-mapping activity.

• Share insights on why preparation is critical in beauty therapy. • Take notes on hygiene and safety protocols.
Demonstration (20mins)
Educator Activities: • Perform a live demonstration of the simplified back treatment: - o Prepare the treatment area. - o Conduct a basic back cleanse. - o Apply a mud mask with even coverage. - o Demonstrate effleurage and light petrissage massage techniques. - o Remove the mask thoroughly and conclude the treatment with aftercare advice. • Emphasise critical points: - o Hygiene: Sanitise tools and avoid contamination. - o Client Modesty: Use towels to maintain modesty. - o Proper Posture: Demonstrate correct posture throughout the treatment.
Learner Activities: • Observe the live demonstration and take notes. • Ask questions to better understand the treatment steps.
Assessment Activity (45mins)
Objective: To evaluate learners' ability to perform a basic back treatment, adhering to hygiene and safety standards, demonstrating foundational massage techniques, and ensuring client comfort.
Educator Activities: • Guide learners through the practical session in pairs. • Monitor and provide feedback on their preparation, application, and techniques.
Learner Activities: • Practice the basic back treatment in pairs under instructor supervision. • Follow these steps: 1. Set Up Work Area (3 mins): Sanitise tools and organise the treatment area. 2. Back Cleanse (5 mins): Perform a basic cleanse to remove impurities from the back. 3. Mask Application (5 mins): Apply the mud-type mask evenly. 4. Mask Removal (5 mins): Remove the mask thoroughly, leaving no residue. 5. Massage Techniques (20 mins): Perform a basic back massage using effleurage and light petrissage. 6. Conclude Treatment (2 mins): Remove excess oil and provide basic aftercare advice.
Plenary (10 mins)
• Recap key points from the session. • Discuss common challenges learners faced and how to overcome them. • Upload to Benchmarking Tracker. • Provide constructive feedback on learners' techniques and outcomes.
Benchmarking Tracker Guide

Benchmarking tracker

Averages to show: All averages

- National average
- Class average
- Organisation average
- Regional / Devolved nations average
- All averages

Firstname	Lastname	Region / Devolved Nation	⏪	⏴	⏵	⏩	Total	National Ave
Harry	Bell	London	2	2	3	3	10	↑ 9
Aaliyah	Patel	London	3	1	2	3	9	→ 9
Chloe	Zhang	London	1	2	3	3	9	→ 9
Eleanor	Murphy	London	3	2	1	3	9	→ 9
Felix	Khan	London	3	1	3	2	9	→ 9
Grace	Ndlovu	London	1	3	3	2	9	→ 9
Benjamin	O'Connor	London	2	3	1	2	8	↓ 9
Dominic	Ali	London	2	3	2	1	8	↓ 9
Isla	Davies	London	3	1	2	1	7	↓ 9

All products are accompanied by the live **WorldSkills UK Benchmarking Tracker** that reviews and monitors learner performance.

Supporting educators to:

- ✓ Assess learner performance instantly to help educators set goals and close gaps in learning proactively
- ✓ A great tool to monitor class, college, regional and national averages for performance insights and impact

Did you know?

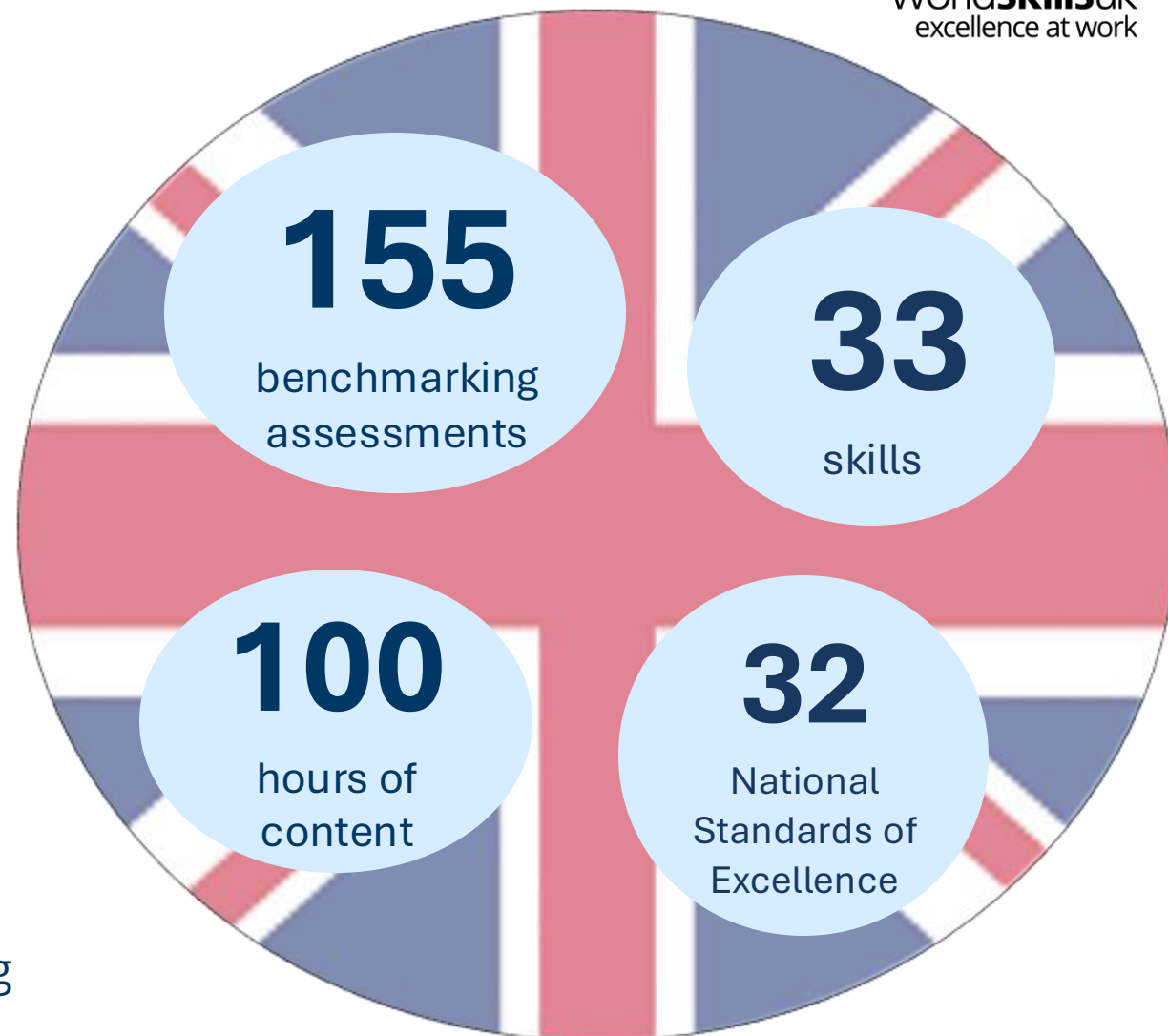
90% of the top 10 colleges at the WorldSkills UK National Competition Finals 2024 **used the benchmarking resources** to prepare their learners for success

92% of educators agree that the competition-based learning resource has given them more confidence in teaching their skill or subject area

91% of educators agree that the competition-based learning resource will have a positive impact on the quality of delivery, training and assessment in their teaching and learning environment

“This has certainly improved student confidence and aspirations, as well as teachers' knowledge and understanding of international benchmarking and the pedagogical strategies behind it.”

*Michelle Bibby, Director of Pedagogy and Insight
The City of Liverpool College*

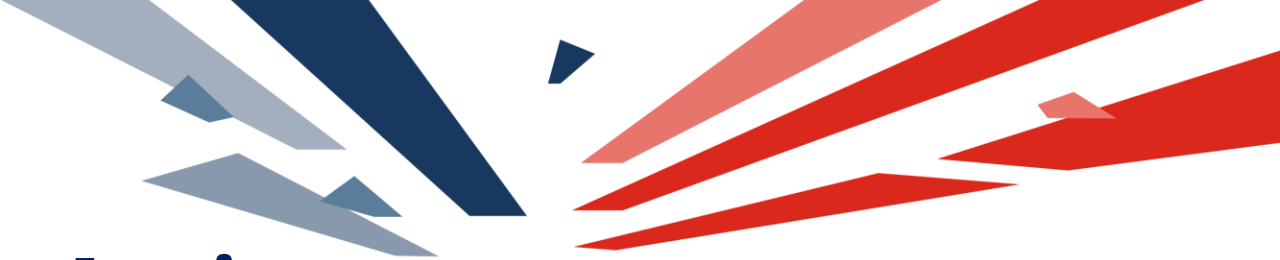


Local skills competition endorsement framework

The WorldSkills UK local skills competition endorsement framework empowers colleges with a quality-assured, standardised approach, powered by international insights, to create and deliver impactful competitions that elevate technical education, build resilient, career-ready learners, and prepare them for future success.

Expression of interest form open on the Learning Lab





Actions

Identify competition

Register for the learning Lab and identify resources (benchmarking, mindset)

Registration 2nd March to 27th March

Check that learners have agreed to the T&C by 27th March

ENTRY STAGE ensure learners know the requirements and deadline

Questions?

Support available from Joan Scott



GMCA

Sharon Weetman

Head of Youth Employment &
Apprenticeships

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GMLPN 25
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Learning Provider Network
25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

GMCA Update

together
we are

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Sharon Weetman

Head of Youth Employment &
Apprenticeships

A clear line of sight
to high-quality jobs

Removing barriers to good
employment will help reduce
poverty, improve health, and
boost the economy by closing
critical skills gaps.

4.

A clear line of sight to high-quality jobs

End state: GM will be the UK's leading engine of social mobility, with all children and young people having the opportunity to thrive with a clear path towards a good job in our growing economy.

Key delivery plan activity:

- By 2029 we will **narrow the gap on school readiness** through a consistent best start in life family hub offer, improved early access to speech and language support and investment in multiagency workforce skills and competencies that support child development.
- By 2029 **School Attendance for disadvantaged learners will be above 93%.**
- By 2029 we will **deliver a GM Youth Guarantee for 15–25-year-olds**, delivering consistent and targeted NEET engagement and prevention, tailored employment support and a guaranteed post-16 place for all learners.
- By 2029 96% of secondary schools and colleges will be delivering **high-quality careers education, information, advice and guidance** with 50% implementation of the Gatsby Benchmarks. By 2035 high quality CEIAG will be embedded in all education institutions and everyday support services.
- By 2029 90% of schools and colleges will be working towards a tailored MBacc plan and we will have fully rolled out the MBacc award for all students following a technical pathway. This means that by 2035 **most young people (aged 14-18) will be able to choose an MBacc pathway that meets their aspirations and leads them to a good job in GM's economy** supported by 45 days of industry experience by age 19.
- By 2029 we will increase the number of residents able to access place-based, tailored skills and employment support to a) enter or sustain work, b) upskill and progress in their careers into good jobs in GM's economy. **Narrowing the gap with the national employment rate with good sustainable jobs that pay well.**
- By 2029 we will grow the volume of higher technical skills for key growth sectors delivered across GM's Colleges and Providers. By 2035 we will ensure that **businesses can access the skilled pipeline needed for our key growth sectors** through skills provision that is employer informed, responsive to local need & occupation specific.
- By 2035 **Post-16 technical provision and apprenticeship pathways** for young people are clear, match their aspirations, are fully aligned with the region's economic needs and offer clear progression pathways.

A clear line of sight to high-quality jobs

Year one actions – examples of what we are doing now:

- Deliver Think Equal programme across all 980 reception classes and 1,200 nurseries to strengthen social-emotional development.
- Launch GM 2–5 Parent-Toddler Mental Health Hub to address gaps in early years mental health support.
- Distribute 1,800 Safe Start sleeping bundles via GM Baby Banks network to the most vulnerable families.
- Improve access to early education for disadvantaged children, sustaining increased take-up of 15-hour entitlement for 2-year-olds.
- Create 5,800 additional FE college places to address the 16-19 sufficiency gap.
- Roll out applied computing certificate to 1,000 young people and deliver AI skills programme to another 1,000.
- Support 22,098 out-of-work residents into employment through tailored adult skills and employment support.
- Support 2,700 adults to progress to Level 3 qualifications in GM priority sectors

Everyday support in every neighbourhood

End state: A network of inclusive and empowering Live Well centres, spaces and support offers will unite people, communities and services. Together, we'll co-create the conditions for healthier, happier lives with belonging, hope, and opportunity.

Key delivery plan activity:

- By 2029, **Live Well centres and spaces will be available from every neighbourhood**, driven by local people and supported by the VCFSE sector and integrated public service teams.
- By 2029, we will **improve the wellbeing of young people** (tracked through the #BeeWell survey) by at least 1% annually.
- By 2035, the **% of children living in poverty will have decreased** compared to 2025 (households below 60% of median income).
- By 2035, **access to mental health services for adults and young people will have expanded**, with ongoing improvements against the 55,000 children and young people receiving at least one contact in Year 1.
- By 2035, public services will routinely collaborate with people, communities, and the VCFSE sector to **co-create conditions that enable people to live well and reduce gaps in healthy life expectancy** across communities.
- By 2035, residents furthest from employment and facing multiple barriers will be **supported to progress towards and secure good work** through a fully integrated 'no wrong door' approach.

Everyday support in every neighbourhood

Year one actions – examples of what we are doing now:

- Launch Live Well Centres/Spaces, with at least one Centre open in every locality
- 10 Locality Implementation Plans completed and operational
- Over 50,000 people receive Social Prescribing support, with data showing improved wellbeing
- Publish Live Well in Later Life Blueprint and mobilisation plan with £1.9m neighbourhood investment
- Establish Live Well Communities Fund over £1m grants to 300 grassroots groups, benefiting up to 4,000 people
- Support 79,310 residents to prepare for work, including 13,094 via 1:1 employment support and 66,216 through skills development
- 6,100 residents in work supported to remain employed through integrated health and employment offer
- Deliver Year 1 of GM Make Smoking History Framework, driving a reduction from 12.5% adult smoking prevalence baseline
- The proportion of patients admitted, transferred, or discharged from A&E within 4 hours will increase to 78%
- The proportion of patients waiting longer than 18 weeks for elective treatment will reduce to 68.2%
- We will increase the number of residents who feel it is easy to contact their GP practice, measured against a baseline of 1,449,589 general practice appointments

Building a system wide response: what can you bring?

- Developing a Youth Guarantee - Every young person aged 16-24 can access a high quality post 16 opportunity, at the right place and time for them, connecting them to the GM economy. Through placements, experiences, learning, Apprenticeship, and jobs.
- Co-designing a GM plan for Apprenticeships & Rebuilding Apprenticeships for Young People
- Developing a system wide understanding of the strengths and gaps of technical education provision for young people mapped against employer need in the LSIP and MBacc gateway sectors.
- Addressing 16-19 sufficiency gaps by securing funding and developing enhanced place planning approaches.

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Findings



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Youth Voice Census 2025 Report

Voices of Young People Across the
Greater Manchester Combined Authority



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Methodology

The 2025 Youth Voice Census was open to young people from 31 March to 7 June 2025. Responses were gathered from across the GMCA area.

The Census combined two sources:



The full national Youth Voice Census dataset, filtered to respondents living within the GMCA boundaries.



A series of 3 in-person and online Youth Voice Sessions were made available across the region for young people to attend.

The 2025 Greater Manchester Youth Voice Census captures the views of more than 1,600 young people aged 11 to 30 from across all ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

This is the second time the Census has been run as a regional report for Greater Manchester Combined Authority and forms part of the eighth annual national Youth Voice Census, which has gathered the experiences and opinions of young people across the UK since 2018.

The report provides a detailed picture of how young people's experiences and aspirations are changing locally and how these compare with national trends

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

01



Safety & Community

Belonging and safety have strengthened, but gaps persist for those with additional needs.

02



Wellbeing & Life Satisfaction

Wellbeing is stable; however, the mental health support gap for young people with additional needs is acute.

03



Education & Transitions

Schools are more stable, but instability remains driven by high internal disruption.

04



Skills & Transitions

Strong self-belief contrasts with reduced careers education.

05



Workplace & Experience

Confidence is rising, but experience opportunities are shrinking.

06



Digital Life

Young people are digitally fluent yet vulnerable to exclusion and online stress.

07



Volunteering & Voice

Enthusiasm for participation is high, but channels for involvement are underdeveloped.

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

01

Safety & Community



Belonging and safety have strengthened, but gaps persist for those with additional needs.

- **Safety is up:** 49% feel safe or very safe locally, up six points since 2024 (national 50%).
- **Belonging is up:** 57% feel they belong in their community, up eleven points from 2024.
- **Feeling Welcome is steady:** 64% of young people say they feel welcome where they live.
- **Disparity:** Young women and those with additional needs are still less likely to feel safe.

Local Concerns:

- **Biggest Local Concerns:** Crime and violence (37%) remain the top concern, followed by Discrimination (21%) and the Environment (21%).
- More young people (22%) now say they have no major local concerns, compared with the national rate of 16%.

“I feel safer walking home now that there are more people around and better lighting.”

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

02

Wellbeing & Life Satisfaction



Wellbeing is stable; however, the mental health support gap for young people with additional needs is acute.

- **Life satisfaction is high:** (8-10 out of 10) for 1 in 4 (40%), up slightly from 36% in 2024.
- **Reported anxiety has declined:** modestly year-on-year, indicating regional resilience
- **Highest anxiety:** Young women experience higher levels of anxiety and lower life satisfaction compared to their male peers
- **Mental Health Access Up:** 41% say they can access mental health support locally (up 9 points since 2024).
- **Acute Support Gap:** The disparity for those with additional needs is acute: 25% disagree that they can access mental health support.
- **Happiness Stable:** Feelings of happiness remain stable at around 38% year-on-year.

“There’s support, but finding it is stressful, it shouldn’t take so long.”

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

03

Education & Transitions



Schools are more stable, but instability remains driven by high internal disruption.

- **Belonging Surges:** 71% feel welcome where they study, a dramatic rise of 23 points from 2024.
- **Top Disruption Cause:** Disruptive behaviour (49%), which is 7 points higher than the national average.
- **Staff absence:** Reliance on supply staff is 35%, 7 points higher than the national average (28%).
- **Attendance Strong:** 12% report perfect attendance; 25% missed only one or two days.
- **Uneven Transition Support:** Student with additional needs are twice as likely to report poor support moving settings.
- **Assessment support:** 18% of those who requested assessment arrangements didn't receive them.

I got help eventually, but it took a lot of chasing.

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

04

Skills & Transitions



Strong self-belief
contrasts with reduced
careers education.

- **High Awareness:** 93% of youth understand what skills employers want (at least a little).
- **Top Self-Reported Skills:** Listening (70%), Creativity (59%), and Teamwork (58%).
- **Perceived Employer Value:** Youth believe employers value Teamwork (63%), Listening (45%) and Speaking (38%).
- **Face-to-Face Advice Drops:** Only 30% received advice (down 20 points from 2024).
- **Employer Encounters Fall:** Only 24% attended a careers lesson (down 21 points).
- **Confidence Gap (SEND):** 20 percentage points lower confidence for youth with additional needs in applying for jobs/interviews.

“
I get more careers
advice from TikTok
than school.
”

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

05

Workplace & Experience



Confidence is rising,
but experience
opportunities are
shrinking.

- **Work Experience Shrinks:** Only 26% offered placement (down from 42%).
- **Employment Readiness Up:** 60% feel prepared to start employment (up 7 points).
- **Top Demands:** Fair Pay (64%) and Flexible Working Hours (70%).
- **Work Pressure Rising:** 69% report higher workload and 61% report higher stress.
- **Working While Studying:** 36% of all students reported having a part-time job while studying.
- **Career Ambitions Focus:** Strong interest in Business/Admin, Education, and Digital/Green/Creative industries.

**I'm ready to work, I
just need someone
to give me a chance.**

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

06

Digital Life



Young people are digitally fluent yet vulnerable to exclusion and online stress.

- **High Connectivity:** 90% access internet; 85% own a personal device.
- **Strong Digital Literacy:** 89% use search engine; 85% communicate effectively online.
- **Physical Access Gap:** Only 46% consistently have a quiet place to work at home.
- **Digital Equity Issue:** 26% report always sharing a device in their household.
- **Social Media Conflict:** 74% helps connection, but 26% negatively affects mental health.
- **AI Outlook Mixed:** 47% worry about job automation, yet 62% have already explored AI.

"Most of my learning and job searching happens online, I couldn't manage without it."

Youth Voice Census 2025 Key Insights

Voices of Young People Across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

07

Volunteering & Voice



Enthusiasm for participation is high, but channels for involvement are underdeveloped.

- **Participation Potential:** 36% volunteered, with 37% interested in future social action.
- **Youth Voice Shrinking:** Only 22% can share views locally, a 9 percentage point drop since 2024.
- **Volunteering Benefits Clear:** Top benefits reported are Helped People (42%), Made New Friends (32%), and Helped Build Skills (31%).
- **Top Barriers:** Scheduling (29%) and financial/transport challenges (15%).
- **Awareness Gap:** 14% of young people cite they simply don't know what volunteering opportunities are available.
- **Equity Gap in Volunteering:** Youngest and those with additional needs are least likely to volunteer.

I'd like to volunteer more, but travel and timing make it hard.



Recommendations

Greater Manchester stands at a pivotal moment. The region's young people are ready to lead, but they need a system that meets them halfway, one that listens, connects, and opens doors.

The Youth Voice Census makes it clear that small, practical changes in access, coordination, and communication can transform lives.



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1. Expand early and equitable access to wellbeing and financial support.

Strengthen BeeWell, Thrive in Education and local advice services to ensure no young person faces long waits or uncertainty.

3. Guarantee quality work experience for all.

Develop a city-region standard ensuring that placements are safe, inclusive and paid where possible.

5. Empower youth voice.

Create clear, accessible routes for young people to influence local policy and visibly act on their feedback.

2. Rebuild careers education and employer partnerships.

Through the Careers Hub and Good Employment Charter, guarantee meaningful employer encounters in every school and college.

4. Close the digital divide.

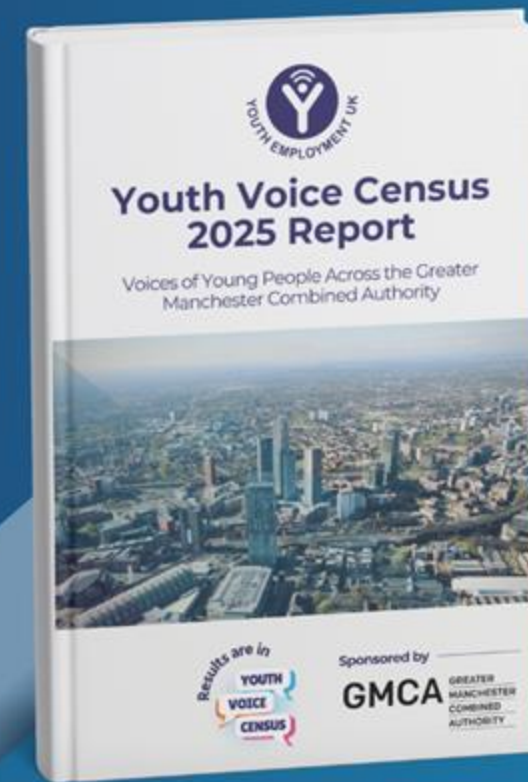
Expand device access and quiet study spaces across boroughs, embedding digital wellbeing education.

6. Recognise and reward volunteering.

Link social action to employability and personal development frameworks, celebrating young people's contributions to their communities.



Download the full report. Out now.



Regional Sponsor

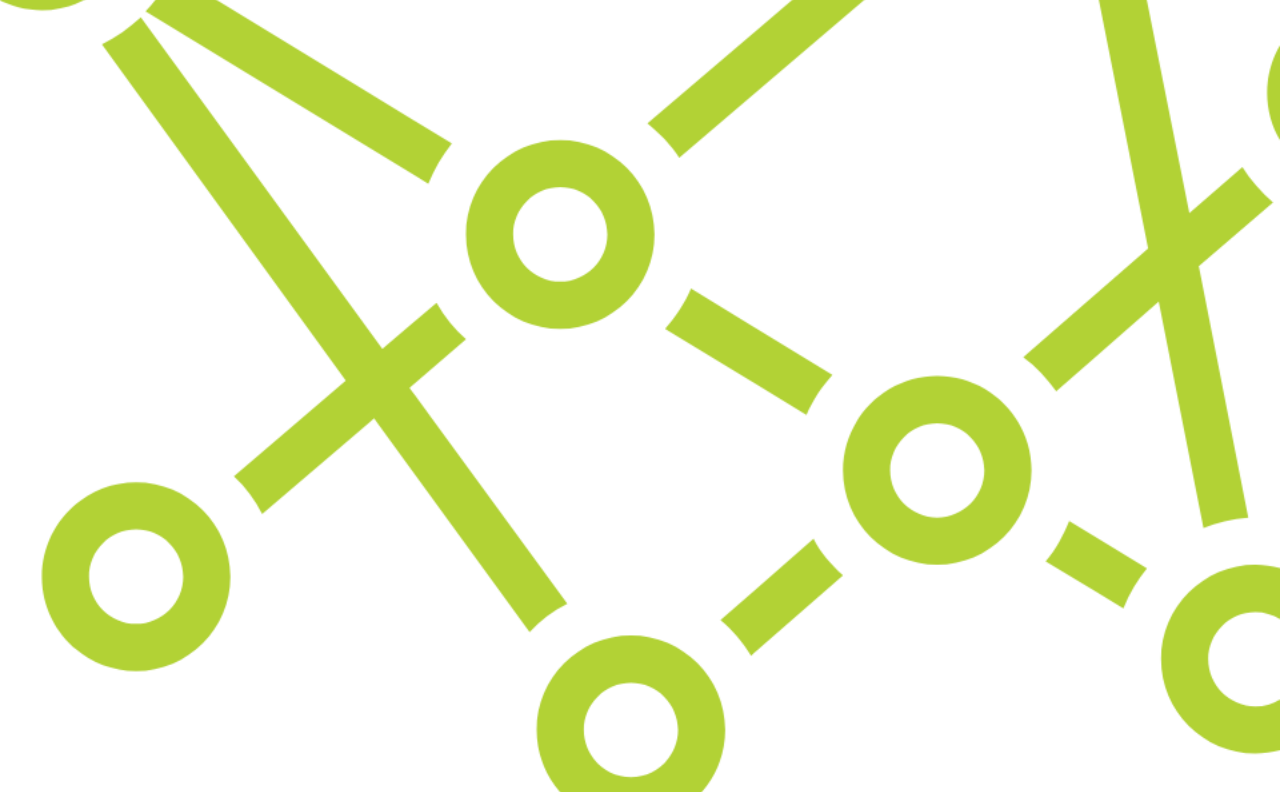
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Scan the
QR Code

GMLPN Updates

Charlotte Jones & Chloe Forrest



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

GMLPN25

- To celebrate 25 years of GMLPN's leadership, collaboration, and partnership in the skills sector by honouring our legacy, amplifying our impact, and shaping a bold, collaborative vision for Further Education and Skills Greater Manchester.
- GMLPN has supported its members through **challenge, change, and opportunity**, empowering the skills sector to thrive across Greater Manchester for over two decades.



GMLPN25

Your Feedback

<https://www.menti.com/alncz9n4suiu>



GMLPN25

Get involved!

- Campaigns throughout the year, including:
 - **Future of Skills: 25 Ideas for 2051**
 - **Lessons in Leadership**
 - **Then & Now**
 - **Power in Collaboration**
 - **+ more!**

[E-mail Charlotte to get involved](#)



Consultations & Lobbying

- Foundation Apprenticeships Insights – to be shared w/c 19th Jan
- Level 3 Pathways Consultation Submitted
- Working on responses for:
 - DWP - Young People and Work Report: Call for Evidence - [Young People and Work Report: Call for Evidence - GOV.UK](#) – 30th Jan
 - Work and Pensions Committee: Call for Evidence - Youth employment, education and training [Call for Evidence - Committees - UK Parliament](#) – 12th Feb

Exchanges



Quality Exchange – January 2026 – Taken place

- Summary will be live on the member only section of the website soon

SEND Exchange – 26th January

- Manchester City Council – forward look on SEND Cohort
- Neuro inclusive Organisations Network (NiON)
- Inclusion lens – Recent Ofsted Inspections
- [GMLPN SEND Exchange Tickets, Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Safeguarding Exchange – 29th January

- RLB Safeguarding
- Provider best practice (TBC)
- [GMLPN Safeguarding Exchange Tickets, Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

CEIAG Exchange – 13th February

- GMCA – All Aged Careers Strategy
- Gatsby Benchmarks
- Matrix
- [GMLPN CEIAG Exchange Tickets, Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Exchanges



Audit Exchange – 26th February

- In partnership with Blueprint Education
- Overview to the DFE Funding Assurance Programme
- Best practice sharing and Q&A discussion
- [GMLPN Audit Exchange Tickets, Thu, Feb 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Business Development Exchange – 5th March

- GM Skills Map
- GMACS / Beeline
- Best practice sharing
- [GMLPN Business Development Exchange Tickets, Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Apprenticeship Assessment Exchange – 9th March

- In partnership with NQual
- [GMLPN Apprenticeship Assessment Exchange Tickets, Mon, Mar 9, 2026 at 2:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

GM Maths Ambassador Exchange

- [The Value of GM Maths Ambassadors Tickets, Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



NAW2026

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026

- NW Apps Ambassador Network
- GMLPN Parent / Young Person Webinar - including Apprentice Panel & Employer Insights
- Share your events – and we will share with schools (Post-16 Newsletter)!

APPRENTICESHIPS EXPLAINED WEBINAR

Options, Opportunities
and Real Experiences

*An information session for
parents and young people*

📅 Weds 11th Feb 2026
🕒 6pm-7pm
💻 Online

This interactive session is designed for parents, carers and young people who want to better understand what apprenticeships are really like! The webinar will include a clear overview of apprenticeships, followed by a live apprentice panel, where current and former apprentices will share their real experiences, answer questions and bust common myths.

Whether you're exploring next steps after school or supporting someone else to make informed choices, this event offers practical insights, honest conversations and the chance to hear directly from those who've been there.

[Book your place by clicking here](#), or scan the QR code.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE:



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25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2026

Struggling to book, or got a question? Get in touch: info@gmlpn.co.uk

NAW2026 - GMCA

Call for adult case studies

- GMCA looking for 1–2 strong adult apprenticeship stories that show apprenticeships work at any age and challenge the idea that they're just for young people.
 - GMCA especially keen to feature:
 - Career changers
 - People progressing in their current role
 - Returners to work
 - Existing staff undertaking an apprenticeship
- **Please share any existing adult apprenticeship case studies you have with GMLPN by Friday 23rd Jan and we will share directly with GMCA!**



GM SKILLS AWARDS 2026

NOMINATIONS OPEN!



GMLPN
Greater Manchester
Learning Provider Network



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

Key Dates



**w/c 24th
November
2025**

**Nominations
Open**



**13th February
2026**

**Nominations
Close**



**w/c 30th
March 2026**

**Shortlists
Announced**



**w/c 30th
March 2026**

Tickets Open



2nd July 2026

**Awards
Evening**



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**
 - *Sponsorship Opportunity Available*
- **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 1st2 Achieve Training
- **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**
 - *Sponsorship Opportunity Available*

Sponsors – Thank you!



North West



Sponsorship Opportunities Available:

- Headline Sponsor (including Outstanding Contribution to FE & Skills)
- Degree Apprentice of the Year
- Photobooth Sponsor

Key Dates – Network Meetings / NSN

- 25th February | **GMLPN Network Meeting** | Stockport County FC | Sponsored by Gateway Qualifications
 - Confirmed Speakers: GMCA, IEP, Ofsted, GMCC, GM Good Employment Charter, Gateway Qualifications + more to be confirmed!
 - [GMLPN Network Meeting Tickets, Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- 24th March | **Northern Skills Network Conference** | Leeds Venue TBC | Sponsored by Gateway Qualifications
 - [Northern Skills Network Conference Tickets, Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- 13th May | **GMLPN Network Meeting & Birthday Party** 🎉 🎂 | Venue TBC

Key Dates - PSP

- 3rd February | **Bid Writing Webinar** | Delivered by NCFE
 - This interactive session will draw on NCFE's bidding experience to explore practical strategies, share insider tips, and use interactive activities to help providers improve their chances of securing places on frameworks and devolved education contracts.
 - [NCFE Bid Writing Workshop Tickets, Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- 11th March | **How to Prepare for and Manage Inspection Effectively** | Delivered by Marina Gaze
 - This practical session will guide you through what has changed, what inspectors are looking for, and how to position your organisation at its best. From understanding the role of nominees to preparing staff, learners, and employers, you'll leave with clear actions to strengthen inspection readiness and continuous improvement.
 - [How to Prepare for and Manage Inspection Effectively Tickets, Wed 11 Mar 2026 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Key Dates - PSP

- 27th March | **Powerful Pedagogy in Practice: Turning Evidence into Inclusive Learning** | Delivered by Christine Edwards
 - This 2-hour interactive online session explores what powerful pedagogy looks like in practice across post-16 and adult education.
 - [Powerful Pedagogy in Practice: Turning Evidence into Inclusive Learning Tickets, Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- 22nd April | **Emerging Findings & Lessons Learned from the First Inspections** | Delivered by Marina Gaze
 - This session will explore the key findings so far, highlighting what has changed in inspection approaches and what this means for providers. You'll gain a clear understanding of areas inspectors are emphasising, the types of evidence being requested, and the lessons learned that can strengthen your own preparation.

Key Dates – in partnership with DfE NW Prevent Coordinator

- Prevent in Education: Islamist Extremism – taken place (20th Jan)
- [Prevent in Education: Extreme Right Wing Ideology Tickets, Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [Prevent in Education: Emerging ideologies Tickets, Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [Prevent in Education: Antisemitism Tickets, Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- [Prevent in Education: Signs & Symbols Tickets, Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)



Department
for Education

Close

Mark Currie

Chair | GMLPN



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