



GMLPN Online Member KIT

Wednesday 24th June 2026

13.30-15.30



Agenda

- **Welcome** | Mark Currie
- **GMLPN Updates**
- **Rise Programme** | Dr Natasha Stott AFHEA, MMU
- **Jobs Guarantee – GM Pilot** | Ian Kerr, The Growth Company
- **Launch of GMLPN and Body Swap Pilot** | Ben Naughton-Rumbo, Body Swaps
LSIP next steps | Subrah Krishnan-Harihara, GMCC
- **DWP Updates** | Tom Errington
- **Close** | Mark Currie

Welcome

Mark Currie

Chair | GMLPN



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

GMLPN Updates

Charlotte Jones / Chloe Forrest



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NETWORK MEETING & 25TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday 13th May 2026

9.00-16.00

voco Manchester - City Centre by IHG

Sponsored by:



CIC Update

- As of 27th May 2026 – GMLPN has been approved as a Community Interest Company!
- Reinforces commitment as a not-for-profit, community-focused organisation
- Ensures assets are used for community benefit and aligned with mission and values
- Continues to support providers in delivering inclusive, high-quality vocational education
- Enhances ability to collaborate, support members, and deliver community impact

Next Steps

- Looking at funding opportunities to support the further development of GMLPN
Community Membership – aiming to strengthen the VCSFE voice across FE & Skills

Challenge, Change & Opportunity

- Prime Minister
 - GM Mayor
 - Apprenticeship funding band review
 - Apprenticeship Assessment Reform
 - Youth Guarantee
 - Employer Incentives
 - Foundation Apprenticeships
 - Defunding of Apprenticeships
 - Apprenticeship Units
 - ASF – procurement & future
 - SEND Reform
 - Revised Ofsted Framework
 - Employer Engagement
 - Gatsby Benchmarks
 - School Engagement
 - Jobs Guarantee
 - Curriculum and Assessment Reform
 - Milburn Review
- What more can GMLPN be doing to support you to navigate?**

Consultations & Lobbying

DWP Roundtables

- Employer & Provider Roundtable – 17th June
 - Shona Hutton, Head of Product Policy – Product, Quality and Market Division – DWP
- Focused on:
 - Foundation Apprenticeships
 - Apprenticeship Units
- Invited Shona to future Network Meeting

Consultations & Lobbying

Member Feedback:

- AAPG on Apprenticeships Call for Evidence Apprenticeships & The Industrial Strategy [Call for Evidence | All-Party Parliamentary Group on Apprenticeships](#)
- GMLPN Member Roundtable (to support GMLPN response):
 - [Roundtable - Call for Evidence: Apprenticeships & The Industrial Strategy Tickets, Wednesday, July 15 • 2 PM - 3:30 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

MSA – Apprenticeship Pilot EOI

DWP Aims

- Support more employers to offer apprenticeships to young people and those who are NEET, or at risk of NEET
- Increase the number of 16–24-year-olds starting apprenticeships and foundation apprenticeships in pilot areas.
- Increase the number of young people who are NEET starting apprenticeships and foundation apprenticeships in pilot areas.
- Build the evidence base for what works to produce a blueprint for local apprenticeship brokerage solutions.

MSA – Apprenticeship Pilot EOI

Your Feedback



Exchanges



[GMLPN Business Development Exchange Tickets, Thursday, July 9 • 10 AM - 12 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

[GMLPN / ALPS: AI Exchange Tickets, Monday, July 27 • 11 AM - 12:30 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

[GMLPN SEND Exchange Tickets, Thursday, August 20 • 10 AM - 11:30 AM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

More dates coming soon!



GM SKILLS AWARDS 2026

HEADLINE PARTNER
GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

THURSDAY 2ND JULY 2026

450 + ATTENDEES



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Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce



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SPONSORS



North West



New Members

<CODE>YOUR
FUTURE

 **MANCHESTER
FIRST**
leading the way in learning and employability

 **IBC** | **MANCHESTER
LONDON**
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COLLEGE

Pink.
ACADEMY

 **Skills &
Education
Group**

ZGMC

GMLPN Network Meeting

September 2026

Wednesday 16th September 2026

9.00-14.00

Toughsheet Community Stadium, Bolton

Agenda TBC

[GMLPN Network Meeting Tickets, Wednesday, September 16 • 9 AM - 2 PM | Eventbrite](#)

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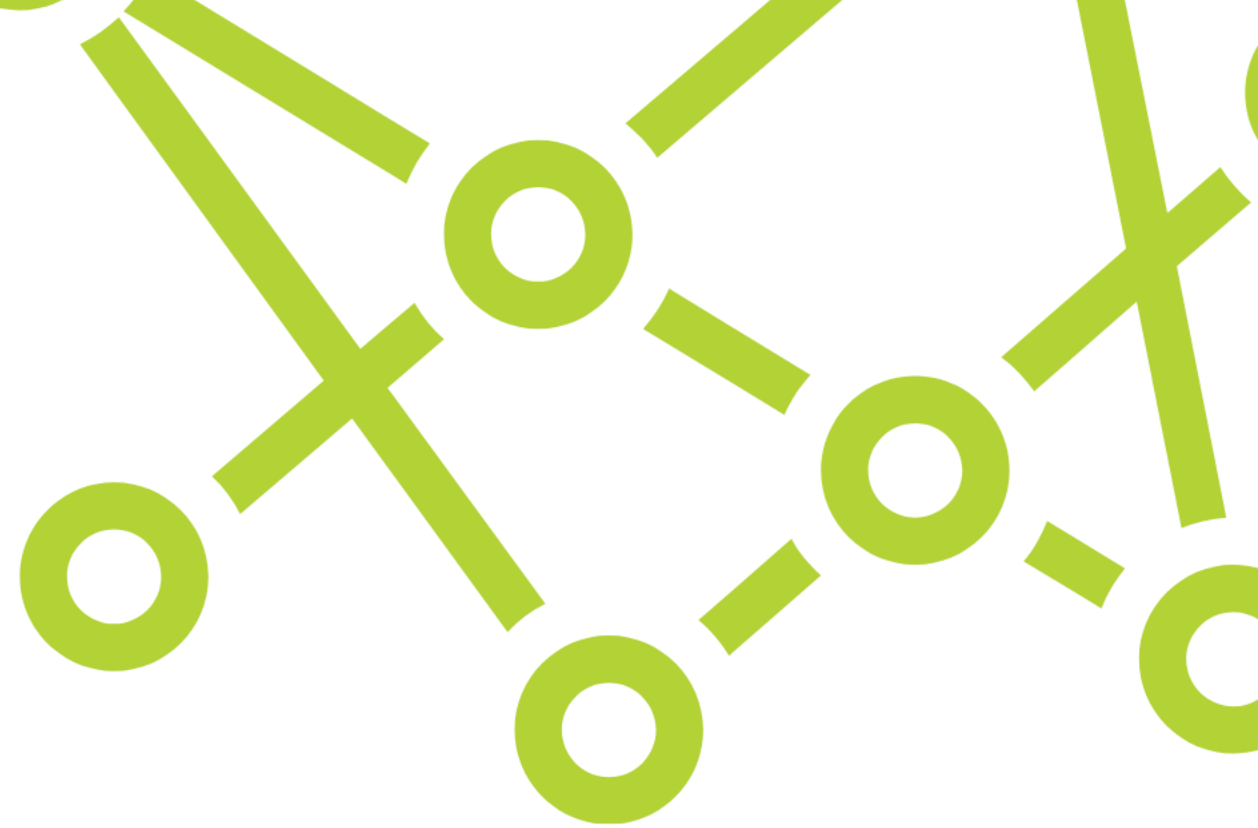
Manchester Metropolitan University

Dr Natasha Stott AFHEA

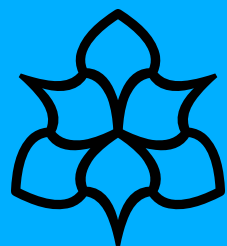
Senior Research Assistant at the School of Digital Arts



Manchester
Metropolitan
University



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**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**



**MANCHESTER
CITY OF LEARNING**

Rise: Skills Platform for Manchester

A briefing for Greater Manchester's Learning Provider Network

Dr. Natasha Stott

Dr. Natasha Stott

Senior Research Assistant . School of Digital Arts (SODA) . Manchester Metropolitan University

- ⑩ Coordinating Rise community rollout across Manchester
- ⑩ Designing inclusive, research-informed learning experiences
- ⑩ Bridging MMU and Greater Manchester residents through digital culture
- ⑩ Delivering on Manchester's UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning commitment

What is Rise?

Free
No cost, ever

150+
Short learning modules

6
Core skill themes

Rise is Manchester Metropolitan University's digital lifelong learning platform — now open to all Manchester residents as part of the UNESCO City of Learning initiative. It provides free, flexible, self-paced learning that builds real skills and earns recognised digital badges.

How it works:

1

Visit rise

2

Create a free account

3

Choose a module

4

Learn at your pace

5

Earn digital badges

Manchester: UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning

- Manchester was awarded UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning status in 2024
- The only UK city to hold both UNESCO City of Learning and City of Literature designations
- MMU is a lead delivery partner for this commitment across Greater Manchester
- Rise is the central vehicle for making learning accessible to all city residents
- Part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities — an international standard of civic ambition



Six Skills for Life

Rise modules are structured around six transferable skills from the Skills for Life framework — practical competencies that matter for work, community and everyday life.

Teamwork



Leadership



Communication



Self-Belief



Self-Management



Problem-Solving



Teamwork

Collaboration and relationship building

Featured modules:

- ⑩ Building Effective Relationships
- ⑩ The Art of Meaningful Co-Production with Young People
- ⑩ The Facilitation Workbook
- ⑩ Volunteering & Service Learning Passport
- ⑩ Becoming Culturally Competent

Why it matters: collaborative skills are consistently cited as the #1 priority by employers and community organisations.

Leadership

Ownership and progression

Featured modules:

- ⑩ Enterprise: Ideas Dream Big
- ⑩ Project Management Institute Certification
- ⑩ How to be a Sustainable Citizen
- ⑩ Using Money for Good: Finance & Sustainability
- ⑩ AI & Career Searching

Why it matters: learners build the initiative and future-thinking skills needed for progression into work and civic life.

Communication

Clear communication and confidence

Featured modules:

- ⑩ Your Spoken Story Superpower
- ⑩ Communicating Across Languages
- ⑩ Pitching Yourself and Your Ideas
- ⑩ Community Languages
- ⑩ World Languages

Why it matters: inclusive of multilingual learners — community languages provision makes Rise accessible across Greater Manchester's diverse communities.

Self Belief

Confidence and initiative

Featured modules:

- ⑩ Future Me Plan
- ⑩ Stand Out from the Crowd: Essential Skills to Get Noticed and Get Hired
- ⑩ Brand You — Your Personal Vision, Mission and Values
- ⑩ Your Journey, Your Skills
- ⑩ Confident Decision Making

Why it matters: for learners returning to learning after a gap, self-belief is often the first and most important step.

Self-Management

Organisation and accountability

Featured modules:

- ⑩ Setting Boundaries with Empathy
- ⑩ Understanding Wellbeing
- ⑩ Critical Self Employment
- ⑩ Introduction to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals
- ⑩ Goal Getting

Why it matters: self-management skills are fundamental for sustaining participation in learning, work and community life.

Problem-Solving

Adaptability and critical thinking

Featured modules:

- ⑩ Behavioural Design
- ⑩ Key Research Skills
- ⑩ Introduction to Statistics
- ⑩ PESTLE Framework in Business
- ⑩ Data Literacy

Why it matters: analytical and adaptive thinking skills are increasingly valued in employment and community leadership.

Who Rise is For

- **Residents disengaged from learning** Individuals lacking confidence in formal settings or currently unemployed. Rise offers an accessible, pressure-free first step.
- **Employed adults seeking upskilling** People in work who want transferable skills alongside their employment, including SME employees.
- **Post-16 learners & apprentices** Learners already in education or training who can use Rise as a complementary personal development resource.
- **University public & student audiences** Students, staff and public visitors at campus events exploring skills, confidence and progression thinking.
- **Partners & facilitators** Community organisations, housing providers and skills agencies who promote Rise and support learner participation in their networks.

Working Together

Rise is built on partnership. Learning providers, housing organisations, employers and community groups all play an active role in expanding access to learning across Manchester.

Promote Rise in your networks

Share materials through your newsletters, social media, events and staff communications.

Host a Rise session

We can deliver workshops in your venue — libraries, community halls, offices or online.

Refer learners to Rise

Link individuals you support to Rise as part of their learning, employment or wellbeing journey.

Contribute to content

Subject experts and organisations can feedback regarding new Rise modules.

Get Started with Rise

Free, flexible and open to everyone in Manchester.

Visit the platform . Create a free account . Start learning today

<https://rise.mmu.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=260>

Contact:

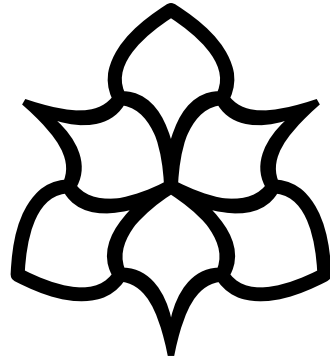
Natasha Stott

School of Digital Arts

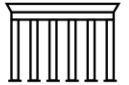
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Manchester Metropolitan University



MANCHESTER
CITY OF LEARNING



SCHOOL OF DIGITAL ARTS



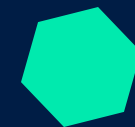
Jobs Guarantee – GM Pilot

Ian Kerr

Director of Employer Engagement



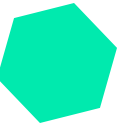
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Jobs Guarantee Phase Two

Ian Kerr

Director of Employer Engagement



Why a Jobs Guarantee

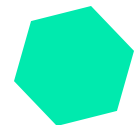
JOBS **GUARANTEE**

- **Too many young people are missing out on work:** A growing number are leaving education without pathways into jobs or training.
- **The problem is long-term and worsening:** Youth unemployment has been rising for years, now estimated at more than 1 million not in education, employment or training.
- **Young people are getting 'stuck' outside opportunity:** Once out of work or learning, it becomes increasingly difficult to re-engage, with lasting impacts on health and earnings.
- **Economic need is growing:** With an ageing population and lower migration, the UK needs young people to participate in the labour market.
- **A stronger system is needed:** The Jobs Guarantee forms part of a wider effort to build a welfare system focused on opportunity, skills, and long-term life improvement—not just income support.

Programme Overview

- The Jobs Guarantee is a key element of the Government's Youth Guarantee
- From November the Jobs Guarantee will be extended across the **whole of Great Britain**.
- It will provide a fully funded job to **18–24-year-olds who have been on Universal Credit and looking for work for 18 months**.
- The programme is expected to support more than 90,000 young people over the next three years.
- The **funding will cover 100% of wage costs for six months**, for up to 25 hours a week at the relevant minimum wage, including employer NICs and pension contributions.
- It will also include up to £250 per participant to support employers with onboarding costs.
- It will include additional funding for wraparound support and training to help individuals to succeed in their job and **turn their experiences into a sustainable job**.





Key features of the National Jobs Guarantee Scheme



Delivery Partners will provide wraparound support for young people for the duration of their time on the scheme. They can deliver this support themselves or through partners and specialist organisations.



An open, fair and transparent process. Delivery partners should work with employers to source jobs for the scheme and ensure there is an open, fair and transparent process for employers to participate. Delivery partners should use their judgement and expertise when matching young people with employers and roles.



A job description for roles. This should reference the core role responsibilities, line management and/or occupational and employability skills. If an employer is offering multiple jobs, a description does not need to be provided for each individual job, and jobs can be grouped if they are similar.



New or existing roles. Jobs can be either new or existing vacancies, but they must be genuine, paid jobs and offer meaningful employment. Jobs must not displace existing workers.



Apprenticeships where appropriate. An apprenticeship may be offered where participants are ready and the role is suitable. Delivery Partners should assess suitability on a case-by-case basis.



An employer funding limit of £25m over 3 financial years. This applies across both the Jobs Guarantee scheme and the Youth Jobs Grant scheme

Funding

- DWP will fund delivery partners to source jobs, match young people to jobs, provide wraparound support and training for the young person and administer the scheme. There is a single amount to cover all delivery partner costs.
- Applicants will need to provide a unit cost (cost per participant) for the delivery partner costs as well as the total grant applied for. We have outlined unit costs must be between £2,150 - £2,650 per participant.
- Applicants are required to complete a standardised Grant Cost Register, which can be found in the supporting documents in the Find a Grant advert, setting out their expected spend over the grant funding period.
- Employer wage costs will be paid separately by DWP in arrears. Funds will be paid to delivery partners to pass onto employers.
- Any employer onboarding costs should be paid by delivery partners directly, then claimed back from DWP as part of their quarterly claims. Delivery partners will be responsible for ensuring claims are valid and DWP will only reimburse valid claims.

Delivery Areas



DWP will appoint delivery partners in **25 areas of Great Britain.**

These areas have been selected to align as closely as possible with regional structures, including MSAs, to ensure a balanced distribution of eligible young people and enable a more locally tailored approach to delivery.

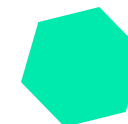
Area	Predicted Demand	Area	Predicted Demand
North and East Scotland	1,900	East Midlands	2,200
South and West Scotland	1,800	Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, South Midlands, Leicestershire & Rutland	3,500
Wales	2,200	Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk	1,500
North East & Tees Valley	2,500	Hertfordshire & Essex	2,100
Cumbria & Greater Lancashire	1,700	Devon & Cornwall	1,000
Lincolnshire, East and North Yorkshire	1,700	Somerset, Gloucestershire and West England	1,300
Merseyside	1,900	South Central England	2,000
Greater Manchester	3,600	Kent, Surrey and Sussex	3,100
West Yorkshire	3,600	West London	2,500
South Yorkshire	1,700	East and South East London	3,400
The Shires, Cheshire and the Marches	2,600	Central London	3,800
The Black Country	2,200	South West London	1,100
Birmingham, Solihull & Coventry	4,200		



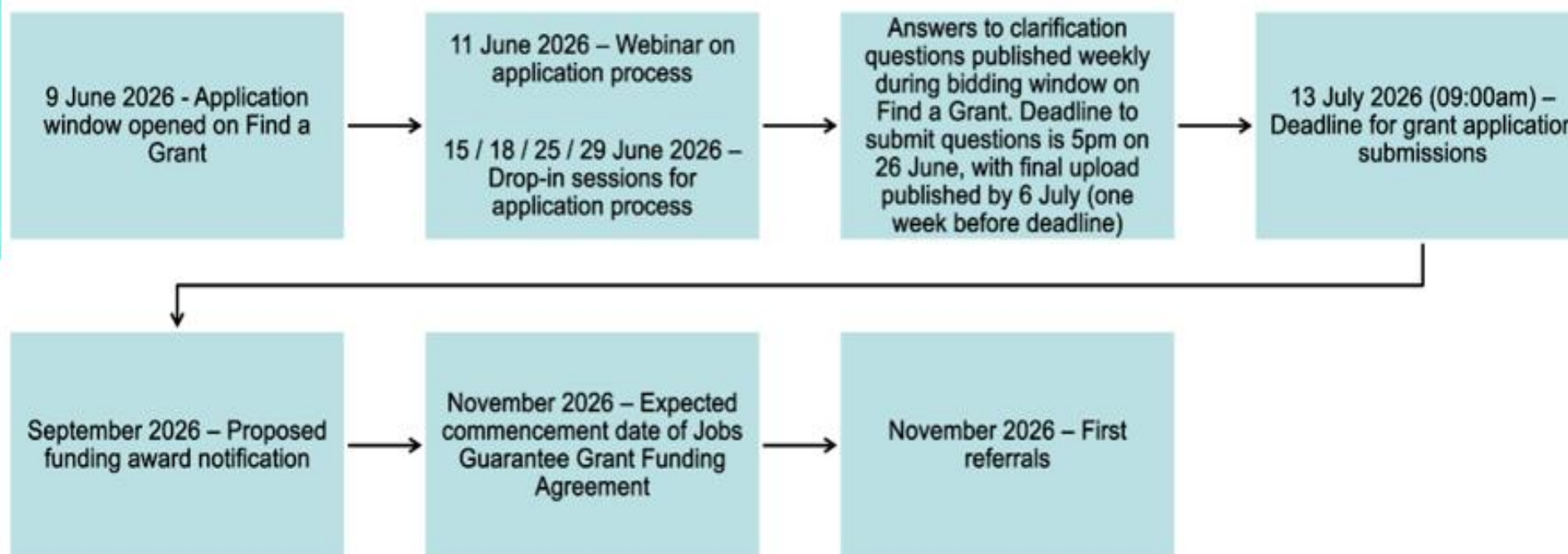
Delivery Partners

We are looking for organisations who:

- **Are experienced in delivering employment, skills, youth and wraparound support services**, including but not limited to specialist employment support organisations, charities, non-profits, and social enterprises, local authorities, mayoral strategic authorities or consortium applications from groups of these organisations.
- **Have a credible delivery plan** that outlines their approach to participant support and job sourcing.
- **Can demonstrate their capacity to deliver at the required scale** in the relevant delivery area; to stand up the scheme at the required pace to begin accepting referrals from November; and to reach a range of employers and sectors in their delivery of the scheme.
- **Can demonstrate their knowledge or understanding of the delivery area** they are applying for, including how they will work with key local stakeholders, or use existing networks to deliver across the full area and align with existing local provision.
- **Meet the eligibility criteria** in the application form e.g. meeting necessary requirements on turnover and the number of years they have been established.



The timeline for the application process is as follows:



Launch of GMLPN and Body Swap Pilot

Ben Naughton-Rumbo

Body Swaps



GREATER MANCHESTER LEARNING PROVIDER NETWORK × BODYSWAPS

Pilot Programme · 2026

Public speaking, practiced for real.

Bringing AI-powered public speaking training to 15 Greater Manchester learning providers
- so every learner has the confidence to stand up and speak.

LAUNCH

14 Sep 2026

COHORT

15 spots available

ACCESS

Unlimited · 3 months

WHY WE'RE HERE



Confidence to speak is the skill that opens every door

Communication is the number-one skill employers ask for - and the one learners get the least real practice in.

Standing up to speak is daunting, and there's rarely a **safe, low-stakes** place to rehearse it before it counts.

That's the gap this pilot is built to close, right here in Greater Manchester.



Employers rank it #1

Communication consistently tops the list of skills employers want — yet it's hardest to teach at scale.



Few safe places to practice

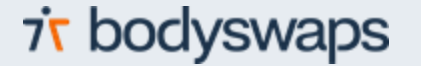
Most learners only speak up when it matters most: interviews, presentations, assessments.



A regional opportunity

GMLPN providers reach thousands of learners who'd benefit from this confidence — together.

WHO WE ARE



Bodyswaps: immersive practice for real human skills

Bodyswaps is an AI-powered immersive learning platform built to develop the soft skills that can be challenging to teach. Learners step into **realistic scenarios**, talk through them out loud with lifelike AI avatars, and get **personalised feedback** - in a space where it's **safe to get it wrong**.



Practice by doing

Realistic role-play in VR, desktop and mobile — speak the words, don't just read about them.



Open, AI-driven conversation

Unscripted practice with responsive AI avatars that adapt to what the learner actually says.



Feedback that builds confidence

Personalised, judgement-free feedback on delivery, language and body language — repeat as often as needed.



WHAT THE PROGRAMME IS



A 3-month public speaking pilot, built with GMLPN

Fifteen Greater Manchester learning providers, three months of unlimited access, one shared goal: give learners the confidence to speak up. At its heart is the Bodyswaps auditorium — where learners rehearse in front of an audience of up to 100 AI-powered avatars, as many times as they like.



14 Sep 2026

Programme launch



15

Provider cohort



Unlimited

Access for 3 months



100

AI avatars in the room

Real value — for providers and for learners



For your provider

- ✓ Fully-funded pilot access — no cost barrier to taking part
- ✓ A standout, future-facing offer for your learners and stakeholders
- ✓ Impact data and insight you can use to make the case internally
- ✓ Part of a regional cohort — shared learning across GM providers



For your learners

- The confidence to stand up and speak — in class, interviews and work
- Unlimited, judgement-free practice they can repeat until it sticks
- Personalised AI feedback that meets each learner where they are
- Skills that transfer straight into employability and everyday life

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Sign up to the GMLPN ILRP with Bodyswaps

1 Apply now

Applications are open — just 15 places in the cohort.

2 Get onboarded

We'll set up your provider and learners ahead of launch.

3 Launch 14 Sep

Three months of unlimited public speaking practice begins.



Apply at bodyswaps.co/gmlpn — 15 places only



LSIP – Next Steps

Subrah Krishnan-Harihara

GMCC



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce



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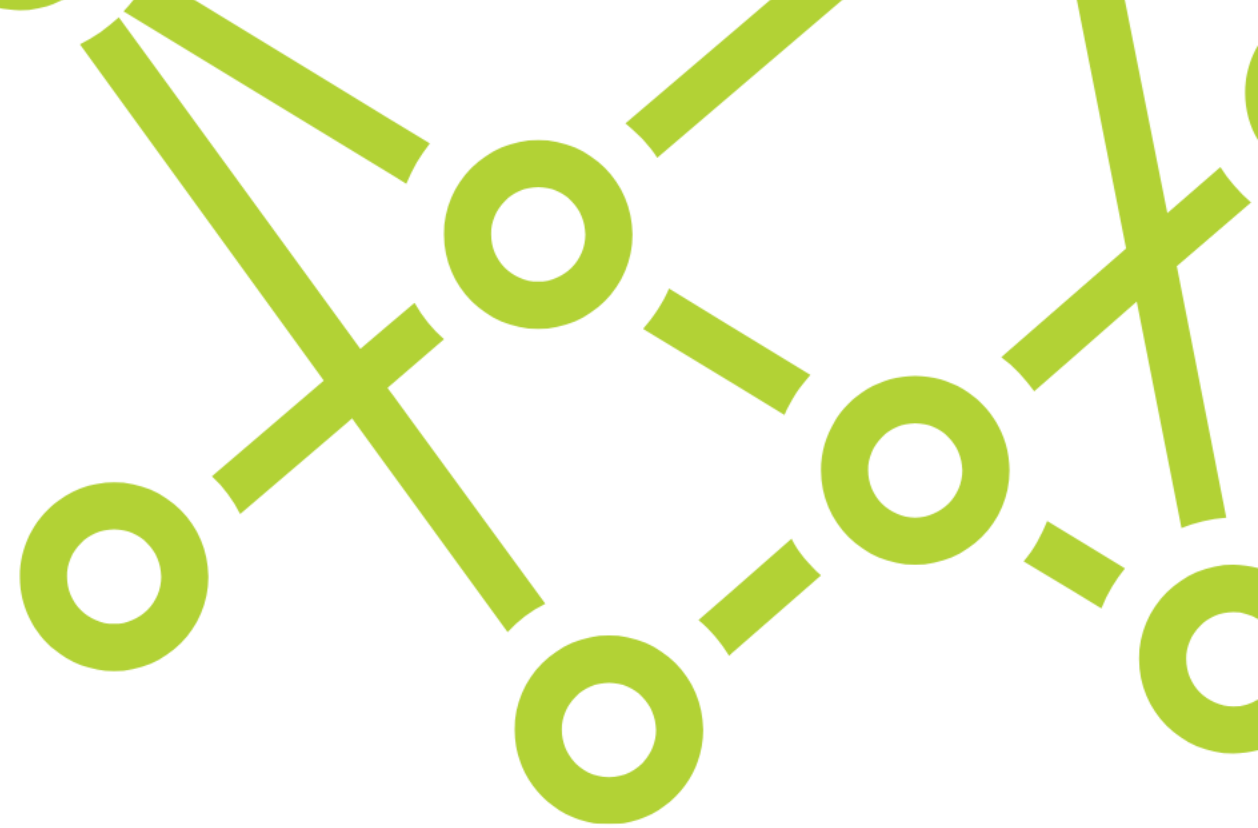
DWP Updates

Tom Errington

DWP



Department
for Work &
Pensions



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Close

Mark Currie

Chair | GMLPN



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