



## **HEY Skills Board**

## **Agenda**

# 2pm on 24 January 2025

# Venue – The Hull History Centre

	Item	Reporting Officer	Time
1.	Election of Chair and Deputy		2pm
	To confirm the election of the Chair and Deputy.		
2.	Apologies		2.15pm
	To receive apologies.		
3.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2024		2.15pm
	To approve the minutes as a true and correct record.		
4.	The HEY Careers Hub	Fiona Headridge, Careers Hub Lead	2.20pm
5.	Skills Horizon Scanning  To update Board members on current policy and issues relating to skills and to advise on future developments.	Chris Howell, Employment and Skills Manager HEY Business, Growth & Skills Hub	2.35pm
6.	Skills Framework and ASF Readiness	Claire Watts, Director of Economic Development & Communications and Chris Howell	2.50pm
7.	Future Work Programme – To follow		3.40pm
	To discuss the future work programme.		





#### **HEY Skills Board**

## 2pm on 13 November 2024

## **Ergo Business Centre, Bridgehead Business Park**

## **Present**

Laura Botham, Paul Britton, Mark Burley, Iain Elliot, David Gent, Tracy George, Becki Hamnett, James Hardstaff, Glenn Jenson, Rob MacNaught, Michelle Peacock, Susan Weeks and Adrian West.

## In attendance

Teresa Chalmers, Alex Codd, Dorinda Guy, Louise Hawkins, Andrew Hewitt, Councillor Tock and Claire Watts.

Minute	Item	Action By/Deadline
No		
1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
	C. Watts advised that she would be Chairing the meeting due to the Chair for this meeting having not yet been elected and welcomed all to the first meeting of HEY Skills Board. It was noted that the number of applications to the Board had exceeded expectations and the selection process had been challenging due to the high quality of applications.	
2	APOLOGIES	
	Apologies were received from Councillor Aitken, Jayne Adamson, Andy Crossland, Glen Halliwell and Danny Metters.	
3	ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY	
	C. Watts explained that it had been suggested that a Chair and Deputy Chair would be elected at the next meeting to provide members with an opportunity to consider whether they wished to put themselves forward as Chair/Deputy.	
	<b>Agreed</b> – That the role description for the Chair of the HEY Skills Board be circulated to all Board members with the nomination form.	Claire Watts
4	SIKILLS BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE	
	C. Watts confirmed that the Devolution Order would need to be laid before Parliament which was expected to take place 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024,	



that the Combined Authority would exist by February 2025, and that the process was on track for a Mayoral election in May 2025.

Discussion took place around representation from Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) sitting on the Skills Board; however it was felt that the LSIP role differed from this board and this was more around a broader remit. In addition there were several LSIP Steering Board Members on this group who could ensure alignment including Iain Elliot, Chriss Howell and Mark Burley. As such it was suggested that something more specific could be incorporated in the Terms of Reference to highlight representation from LSIP was covered within Board Membership.

It was suggested that a diagram be produced and circulated to explain who and what the Business Board Members role was and how this fitted within the Skills Board. It was advised that hopefully the Skills Framework would do this.

The Board was advised that some data could be gathered in terms of the current Adult Education budget, how it was delivered and what it achieved. Also a report regarding existing projects that had come from the Local Enterprise Partnership would be provided quarterly, alongside other Skills Delivery currently funded by the UK Prosperity Fund, which would provide good case studies.

#### Agreed -

- a. That the HEY Skills Board Terms of Reference be noted;
- b. that something be incorporated in the Terms of Reference to highlight representation from Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) was covered within the Board Membership, and
- c. that a diagram be produced and circulated to explain who and what Board Members role was and how this fitted within the Skills Board, if the Framework did not provide this information.

b. Claire Watts/ Teresa Chalmers/Chris Howell c. Claire Watts/ Teresa Chalmers/Chris Howell

#### 5 HEY SKILLS FRAMEWORK

A. Hewitt attended the Skills Board to present the draft HEY Skills Framework.

The Board was informed -

- a. That the document remained a framework rather than a strategy as the Mayor may have different views and priorities;
- that 4 themes had been agreed which were Enhanced Connectivity, Increased Productivity, Promotion of Inclusivity and Delivery of a Sustainable Future, and

	<ul> <li>c. that a structured questionnaire would be provided following the stakeholder enagagment workshop on the Skills Framework, due to be held at Craven Park in December 2024. Responses would be fed in and then the draft Framework would be finalised once the Mayor was in place.</li> <li>The Board discussed the following matters –</li> <li>a. That the evidenced data be refreshed and included when sending out future presentations, and</li> </ul>	
	b. that the Audit was required to be completed by next year.	
	<b>Agreed</b> – That Skills Board Members be invited to Craven Park in relation to the Skills Framework Consultation.	Andrew Hewitt and Chris Howell
6	SKILLS HORIZON	
	C. Howell provided the Board with an overview of the Horizon's Scanning Briefing Paper providing Members with the details of new or emerging policy, strategic research or thought pieces relevant to the work of the Skills Board.	
	<b>Agreed –</b> That the update be noted and that this item be standard on future agendas.	Chris Howell/ Louise Hawkins/ Dorinda Guy
7	FUTURE MEETING DATES	
	C. Watts advised that the future meeting dates may be required to be moved by 1 week to accommodate requests; however would provide new dates as soon as possible.	
	<b>Agreed –</b> That the meeting dates in January, March and May be reviewed and alternative dates be circulated to members of the Board.	Dorinda Guy/Louise Hawkins
8	WORK PROGRAMME	
	C. Watts advised that this had already been discussed going forward and would include the Business, Growth and Skills Hub contracted provision when needed (e.g. Careers Hub).	
	<b>Agreed</b> – That the Work Programme be submitted to the next meeting of the Board for review.	Claire Watts/Chris Howell/Dorinda Guy





#### **Briefing Paper to the HEY Skills Board**

Friday 24 January 2025

Wards: All

#### **Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hub**

## 1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

As part of the Grant Offer Agreement with the Careers and Enterprise Company, the Careers Hub is required to have a governance structure through which the work of the Hub can be monitored. The governance for the Careers Hub was successfully monitored by the Employment and Skills Board under the HEY LEP fulfilling the Agreement with the Careers and Enterprise Company.

It was agreed by both local authority Cabinets when discussing the setting up of the HEY Strategic Skills Hub that the Careers Hub governance will transition to the new Hull and East Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Skills Board when it is formed and operational. This is the case with Careers Hubs nationally.

The Board should be aware that the HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub Careers Hub is required and will be looking to find the necessary match funding needed to ensure continuation of the Careers Hub for the next academic year, without it, we will be unable to access the core funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company. This match is currently provided by a contribution of £12,500 by Hull City Council and the remainder by a number of employers who support the work of the Careers Hub.

To support the fulfilling of governance requirements for the Careers Hub, the Board needs to be aware of key activity and progress made by the Careers Hub along with any potential risk or further opportunity to develop.

This paper summarises the contract arrangements for the HEY Careers Hub and the Hub governance requirements of the funder, the Careers and Enterprise Company, who are funded by the Department for Education as the national partner for school/college careers delivery.

This paper summarises the grant offer arrangements, priorities and progress for the period 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025 (academic year) to support the Boards oversight of the Careers Hub.

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## 2. Background

#### The Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hub

The HEY Careers Hub is core funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE), with the aim of bringing together schools, colleges, employers, and apprenticeship providers in local areas across England. The goal is to strategically support schools and colleges to improve how they prepare young people for their next steps.

<u>The Gatsby Benchmarks</u> are the measurements that the CEC use to assess schools/providers progress in improving the way they deliver careers activity.

Careers Hubs drive progress against the Gatsby Benchmarks by enabling schools and colleges and their Careers Leaders to access free training and support, and to collaborate in a focussed way, bringing together best practice and using local labour market intelligence (LMI) to drive aspiration.

Hubs offer schools and colleges dedicated support from the local Hub team and facilitate partnerships with key employers committed to improving careers across an area.

The HEY Careers Hub works with all 50 State funded secondary schools and colleges in the region and more recently is offering support to independent schools and specialist special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) schools where appropriate.

In April 2024, the CEC were given an eighteen-month settlement agreement from the Department for Education. This currently ensures continuity of the Careers Hub until 31 August 2025. It is expected that the new Grant Offer Letter will be received for academic year 25/26 by May 2025.

The Department for Education in their contract for 2024/25 have asked the Careers and Enterprise Company to focus on five areas with Careers Hubs nationally. The areas are as below:

#### The Careers and Enterprise Company – Strategic priorities 2024/25



Hubs have been asked to use the five priorities to plan their activity for the forthcoming year using data from schools performance to identify needs. Data is gathered on an

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individual school basis by use of a national 'Compass digital tool'. Hubs are also asked to allocate their Local Hub Fund spend against priorities as set out in the grant funding arrangement. See Annexe 2

The CEC requires all Hubs to submit a delivery plan indicating how the hub will address the five priorities in their region meeting identified needs and this plan needs to be approved prior to contract delivery on an annual basis. Hubs are also asked to work collaboratively with other Hubs on a national basis where there is commonality and where economies of scale could be achieved.

As part of the contractual arrangements with CEC there is a requirement to have a transparent governance arrangement in place to oversee the Careers Hub and its activity.

#### **Funding**

Careers Hubs are funded on an academic year cycle (September to August) with a Grant Offer Letter being issued in the Spring or Summer Term every year. The Grant Offer Letter comprises of:

**Funding allocated for staffing** – this is based on the number of schools engaged in a Careers Hub. The funding is claimed retrospectively quarterly. A local partnership contribution is required to meet full salary costs for the Enterprise Coordinator/Project Manager and Project Officer positions. The Strategic Hub Lead is fully funded by CEC. In 2024/5 this is £163,675.90.

**Key Performance Indicators** - These targets are reviewed quarterly by the Careers and Enterprise Company in termly contract review meetings. Schools and colleges measure their performance by completing a termly self-evaluation, the Compass digital tool. Compass is a free tool for schools and colleges in England, it allows them to evaluate their careers activity against the eight benchmarks of best practice – the Gatsby Benchmarks. Once completed, the tool provides schools with a confidential report and allocates Hub resources to help schools work towards\*/achieve each Benchmark.

**Local Hub Fund** – an amount of money to enable activity to address the five CEC priorities. The amount is calculated on the number of schools in a Careers Hub. For the HEY Careers Hub in 2024/5 this was £50,000.

Additional funding is often made available in year for specific additional projects which Hubs might choose to engage with. This year we have accessed £15,000 to provide a minimum of 50 Teacher Encounters and an additional £4,000 to undertake a detailed survey relating to experiences of the workplace.

In addition to the £12,500 resource provided by HCC, corporate income from external employer partners has been secured to provide the necessary Local Partnership Contribution needed to access CEC funding for 2024/25. This type of match funding will need to be secured for 2025/26 – exact amounts are at present unknown given the Grant Offer Letter has not yet been received, however we would anticipate the amount needed to be in the region of £100k to maintain the existing team needed to service all 50 schools.

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#### **Key performance indicators**

The below chart shows the Key Performance Indicators the Careers Hub is tasked to work towards. The data collection point at the end of the autumn term (December 2024) is below.

Key Performance indicator	Baseline (August 2023)	December 2024	National Average
50 institutions in Hub (100%)	50	50	94%
90% of institutions achieving 3 or more Benchmarks	98%	96%	93%
80% of eligible institutions upgraded to Compass+	86%	93%	81%
13 schools to complete Future Skills Questionnaires	7	10 (=20% of schools in the hub)	16% of schools in a hub (= to 8 schools in HEY)
80% of institutions having the support of an Enterprise Adviser	80%	54%	80%
Maintain 42 Enterprise Advisers in the Hub	32	31	-
23% of institutions achieving all 8 Benchmarks	6%	6%	20%
Achieve an average of 6 Benchmarks (out of 8)	5.4	5.8	5.9
Achieve an average of 85% for Benchmark 5	85 %	85%	85%
Achieve an average of 65% for Benchmark 6	70%	59%	72%
100% of institutions complete Compass termly	100%	98%	92%

Progress in the first term of the academic year was positive and with the plans team members have in place we are in a good position to achieve the targets at the end of the academic year. There are two areas however which pose a challenge at present:

• We have seen a number of our <u>Enterprise Advisers</u> (EAs) step away from their roles. Individuals report a number of reasons including; work pressures, change in roles or the relationship with the school/college not being what they are looking for. We are currently running a new recruitment campaign for EAs and reviewing how we onboard, match and support our Enterprise Advisers. Initial response has been limited, but we are pursuing several conversations.

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- Due to the requirements of Benchmark 3 (to track individual students post 16 for 3 years after leaving school), very few mainstream schools are likely to achieve all 8 Benchmarks meaning we will likely fall short of the 20% target. This is largely due to the fact this tracking requires additional resource that schools do not have and this is not a statutory responsibility of the school.
- In addition to the two points above, we are also looking at supporting schools which
  have made little or no progress in the last year. The team has been tasked with
  prioritising those schools in this term.

The Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Inclusive Careers Project In April 2023, The Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (HNY ICB) allocated £300,000 to the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP for the Careers Hub to undertake a pilot project around increasing the number of people who would consider careers in health and care who may not previously do so due to perceived barriers to entry. The decision to align the project to the Careers Hub was to maximise existing relationships and networks, ensure the project could align to national priorities, provide a model that if successful could be scalable and shareable nationally, and to ensure a streamlined approach for schools.

The project also focuses on activity for people 19+ who are looking to change career, upskill or retrain and who may not have considered the health and care sector previously. On this aspect we have engaged the National Careers Service and Department for Work and Pensions in this project to ensure we can focus activity towards those individuals most in need and therefore ensure there is no duplication of activity.

This project is monitored via monthly Keep in Touch meetings with the HNY ICB and via their Workforce Development Board.

#### 3. Issues for Consideration

The HEY MCA Skills Board provides governance oversight for the Careers Hub to satisfy contractual arrangements to meet former arrangements as preferred by the Careers and Enterprise Company and to reflect the national picture.

The HEY MCA supports the Careers Hub to find financial contributions to ensure the continuity of the Careers Hub beyond August 2025.

#### 4. Next steps

Careers Hub Lead will prepare reports termly for presentation at the Skills Board

Careers hub Lead will work with Skills Manager to secure the necessary local contributions to secure CEC contributions for 2025/6.

Contact Officer: Fiona Headridge, Careers Hub Lead

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Officer Interests: None

**Background Documents:** 

## Appendix 1

## Glossary

- AP Alternative provision is education for children that cannot attend a mainstream school.
- CEC Careers and Enterprise Company
- FE Community of Practice (CoP) Further education (FE) community of practice group brings together 5 local FE colleges to collaborate and share best practice on careers services.
- CL Careers Leader the lead individual for careers services in an institution.
- Compass Online self-evaluation tool for quality of careers services in schools and colleges.
- Compass+ Online self-evaluation tool with enhanced functionality for quality of careers services in schools (not available to colleges).
- Cornerstone group Flagship employers who collectively champion the work of the Careers Hub and the value of engaging on careers activity.
- DfE Department for Education
- EA Enterprise Advisor Volunteers who partner with a local secondary school or college and use their skills, business experience and networks to help them develop a strong careers programme that supports all students.
- EC Enterprise Coordinator Employed by the Careers Hub to facilitate Hub activity and deliver contracted outcomes.
- Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) measures the career readiness of students at points of transition in their secondary education. The FSQ to sits as a feature within the Compass+ careers management tool. It includes the functionality to select students and send out questionnaires, as well as colourful and engaging digital questionnaires for students. The FSQ has been piloted and is now being rolled out as something schools are expected to engage with.
- HIPs Hub Incubation Project Funding made available from the CEC nationally to pilot innovative new practices.
- HOP Humber Outreach Programme Part of the Uni Connect programme funded by the government to deliver impartial advice and guidance about higher and further education in schools and colleges across the Humber.
- ITP Independent Training Provider
- LA Local Authority

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- LMI Labour Market Intelligence
- OfS Office for Students Regulatory body for all English higher education.
- Project Manager the Careers Hub Project Manager is funded through CEC (45%) and private investment (55%). This post provides the Careers hub Lead with operational support to deliver projects outlined in the Grant Offer letter and where additional private investment has been secured.
- Project Officer the Careers Hub Project Officer is funded through CEC (25%) and private investment (75%). The Project officer works closely with the project manager and other team members to coordinate specific projects. The post provides administrative support to the project.
- Provider Access Legislation (PAL) Aims to develop and strengthen existing legislation (the Baker Clause) from 2023. This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the students at the school for the purposes of giving them information about the providers education or training offer with regards to technical education or apprenticeships.
- Teacher Encounter A teacher encounter provides an opportunity for teachers to engage directly
  with employers to see and learn about the different career pathways relevant to their subjects, and
  to observe how their subject is applied practically in business.
- Uni Connect Brings together 29 partnerships of universities, colleges and other local partners to offer activities advice and information on the benefits and realities of going to university or college. Funded by the DfE.

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#### Appendix 2

# HEY Careers Hub Local Hub Fund activity for 2024 25

PRIORITY 1 - Raise the quality of careers provision in schools and colleges against the Gatsby Benchmarks through training for the education workforce, targeted support and quality assurance

# Drive Benchmark improvement and promote the Careers Impact System Internal Leadership Review

- Increase the average number of Benchmarks being achieved across the Careers Hub to 6
- Further improve levels of Senior Leadership Team (SLT) engagement in schools and colleges by promoting the use of the Careers Impact System Internal Leadership Review

## **Undertake the Hub Quality Standard review process**

Understand and improve the effectiveness of the HEY Careers Hub and maximise future impact.

## Careers Impact System (CIS) - Peer to Peer Review

Working in partnership with York and North Yorkshire Careers Hub to utilise resources to facilitate the onboarding of the Peer to Peer element of CIS using this joint approach to engage Senior Leadership Teams with careers.

## Introduce Independent Special schools in HEY to the HEY Careers Hub

Invite Independent Special Schools that are not Section 41 approved to community of practice meetings and include them in the sharing of resources

# PRIORITY 2 - Provide more high-quality experiences with employers for students and teachers - with a focus on current areas of need

## **Workplace Experiences**

Deliver shorter, more focussed experiences of the workplace and support more employers to consider a different model for workplace experiences.

## **Volunteer Management**

Increase number of EA's to minimum of 42.

Develop a structured programme of induction and support to ensure EAs feel well supported in the role and have the knowledge of local and national developments/policy.

#### **Teacher Encounters**

Develop a comprehensive Teacher Encounter programme to increase the quality of LMI available to young people and improve careers in the curriculum. Through meaningful interactions between teachers and employers we will develop sustainable relationships between employers and teachers.

## Cornerstone parental engagement event

Building on the success of a sector information event hosted by the cornerstone employers, in June 2024, to engage parents in careers conversations - deliver a larger scale event where parents receive information about priority sectors in the HEY region and have the opportunity to speak to employers about routes and pathways within their companies.

## Improve communication between education and business

Provide a fortnightly communication for schools and business to share opportunities for them to engage with one another and share opportunities and events.

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# Provide Careers Advisers with sector careers information and opportunities to engage with employers

Working with the HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub Careers Aspiration Group, deliver a series of three sector CPD sessions for Careers Advisers delivered by employers Work with the National Careers Service to offer this to all careers advisers in the region.

## Collaboration with Uni Connect on reimagining work experience

Work with Uni Connect to inform wider HE stakeholders about the ways in which schools are starting to look at experiences of the workplace instead of work experience

PRIORITY 3 - Amplify apprenticeships, technical and vocational routes - including by supporting Provider Access Legislation (Using detail of the success factors requiring focus as defined against the ATE Framework)

#### **Promote Apprenticeships and Technical Education (ATE) routes**

Using the agreed priorities from the 2024 ATE Framework exercise, develop a programme which can be used by employers and schools to increase the conversion rate of young people interested in undertaking apprenticeships to undertaking apprenticeships.

## Increase compliance with the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Working with the HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub's Apprenticeship and Technical Education Group report PAL data termly to the providers and seek support for those schools struggling to meet the requirements of PAL.

## **National Apprenticeship Week big assembly**

Following on the success of the 2024 HEY Big Apprenticeship Assembly, deliver a virtual assembly which all schools can access during National Apprenticeship Week 2025. Cornerstone employers to support the session by highlighting apprenticeship roles

#### **National Apprenticeship Week parent webinar**

Following on the success of the 2024 HEY apprenticeship webinar for parents, deliver another webinar for parents which all schools can promote to parents during National Apprenticeship Week 2025. Cornerstone employers to support the session by highlighting apprenticeship roles

## Small/Medium business (SME) apprenticeship information session

Working with the HEY Growth Hub, deliver a session to better inform HEY SMEs about apprenticeships and how both the Growth Hub and the Careers Hub can support those employers who have not previously recruited apprentices.

## Apprenticeship and Technical Education (ATE) framework exercise

Ensure that the HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub's Apprenticeship and Technical Education Group understand the interventions put in place by the Careers Hub to address findings of the 2024 exercise

# PRIORITY 4 - Target interventions for economically disadvantaged young people (Free School Meals) and those who face barriers

## **Student Voice**

Build on the success of the 23/24 student voice project deliver another student voice group for 24/25. Provide a regional student voice relating to the delivery and success of careers education

## Support the transitions for vulnerable young people

Work to support the aims of the HEY LSIP and the Hull and East Yorkshire Business Growth and Skills Hub Careers Aspirations group to pilot a local employability passport for young people with SEND

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#### **Careers CPD for SENCOs in mainstream settings**

Taking feedback from Careers Leaders that Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) would like more training around careers deliver a CPD session for SENCOs in mainstream settings relating to how they can support careers education

## PRIORITY 5 - Connect careers provision to local economies

## Health and Care inclusive careers project

Using private investment deliver a programme of activity to the 26 schools with highest Free School Meal numbers in collaboration with the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

## Net Zero careers package

Working with Greater Lincolnshire Careers Hub and STEM Learning UK scope and plan a Net Zero focussed careers package supported by employers to demonstrate how careers education can be delivered regionally to target sectors with the highest talent pipeline demands.

## **HEY LSIP Quarterly Forum - Careers Guidance**

Contribute to the HEY LSIP thematic forum on CEIAG. Work with the HEY LSIP to engage employers in checking, informing and helping shape plans for the LSIP to take forward.

#### **CAG** group

Engage with the HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub Careers Aspirations Group and lead on activity to age 19 on behalf of the HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub

## **Royal Society round table**

Work with The Royal Society to convene a roundtable with a view to them producing a case study on the Hull and East Yorkshire region, drawing out the links between technical education and jobs in the renewable energy sector.

## **National Careers Service regular meetings**

Regular meetings with the regional National Careers Service Manager to share progress and activity and opportunities for engagement.

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# **Briefing Paper to the HEY Skills Board**

24th January 2025

## **Horizon Scanning**

# 1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

1.1. This paper gives details of new or emerging policy, strategy, research or thought pieces relevant to the work of the HEY Skills Board.

	Item	Source	Overview
1.	Get Britain Working White Paper	DWP	Reform employment, health and skills support to tackle economic inactivity and support people into work.
2.	Connect to Work	DWP	A locally led work programme to help disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment, to find sustainable work.
3.	English Devolution White Paper	MHCLG	<ul> <li>Skills and employment provision that is more relevant to local jobs because Strategic Authorities will have:</li> <li>Joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan.</li> <li>Have devolved control of non-apprenticeship adult skills funding.</li> <li>Responsibility to ensure there are clear pathways of progression from education into FE or HE and employment for 16-19 year olds.</li> <li>Devolution of supported employment funding.</li> <li>Responsibility for co-designing future non-Jobcentre Plus employment support.</li> </ul>
4.	Work and Health Regional Data Report	OHID	A new work and health data report which brings together a range of key economic inactivity data indicators into one interactive tool.

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5.	T level Reforms	DfE	Simpler, more flexible guidelines designed to boost the number of students taking T Levels.
6.	Review of level 3 qualification reform	DfE	Around 70% of the remaining post-16 level 3 qualifications due for defunding will now continue up to 2027.
7.	Multiply	DfE	DfE has confirmed that the Multiply programme will end in March 2025. LAs can continue to fund other adult numeracy courses through UKSPF.
8.	Homebuilding Skills Hubs	DfE, MHCLG,DW P, DBT, CITB	<ul> <li>£140m industry investment to get Britain building again will provide 5,000 more construction apprenticeship places per year.</li> <li>Fast-track apprenticeships offered by the Homebuilding Skills Hubs (locations to be confirmed) which can be completed in 12-18 months, up to half the time of a traditional construction apprenticeship.</li> </ul>
9.	Social Mobility	Social Mobility Commission	New report 'Innovation Generation' considers a different approach to social mobility.
10.	Skills Inequality Report	Learning and Work Institute	<ul> <li>A new report 'Skills inequalities in the UK are holding back growth' shows that the UK has larger gaps in workforce skills between different parts of the country than most other European countries.</li> <li>Based on current trends, the projection is that by 2035 only 29% of people in Hull and East Yorkshire will have a degree compared to 71% in London.</li> </ul>
11.	The Future of Jobs report 2025	World Economic Forum	Jobs Report 2025 examines impact on jobs and skills, and the workforce transformation strategies employers plan to embark on in response, across the 2025 to 2030 timeframe.
12.	Offender Employment (Plan for Change)	DWP, MoJ	Regional Employment Councils are being set up to bring probation, prisons, DWP and local businesses together to get offenders into employment.
13.	Cyber Skills Training (Plan for Change)	DSIT	New funding for projects to deliver targeted support and training to boost cyber skills and new ways to protect businesses against cyber threats.

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#### 1. Get Britain Working White Paper

The <u>Get Britain Working White Paper</u> was published on 26 November 2024. £240 million of funding to reform employment, health and skills support to tackle economic inactivity and support people into work. That includes expanding access to mental health support and a greater focus on prevention to stop people becoming ill in the first place.

The White Paper opens-up multiple lines of support – the improved integration and local delivery of the current Jobcentre Plus employment service, more detailed and differentiated supported employment for people who need it through Connect to Work. There will be 2 Trailblazers to test innovative new approaches in existing MCA areas, 8 areas will target workless young people and 8 areas will design and test a model of locally joined-up work, health and skills support workless adults to test (in addition to Connect to Work). The Trailblazers will start in April 25 for 12 months.

#### 2. Connect to Work

<u>Connect to Work</u> is the first programme under the Government's new Get Britain Working Strategy. It is a work programme in England and Wales to help disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment, to find sustainable work.

Connect to Work will take a collaborative, locally led approach to tackling 'Hidden Unemployment.' It will help connect local work, health and skills support. The funding provides a coherent, systematic and joined up approach to maximise the benefits available for individuals and local communities. Accountable Bodies will determine how the support is delivered locally, in line with local priorities.

The Enterprise Development Manager at Hull City Council is leading on this on behalf of both LAs. A formal delivery plan is required by HEY for February 2025 which will then be followed up by procuring delivery partners. The initial focus will be on expanding delivery which is currently being planned to start from September 2025. Once established funding indications are that the programme could bring £3.9M to the region for bespoke delivery.

## 3. English Devolution White Paper

The <u>English Devolution White Paper</u> published 16/12/24. The White Paper sets out the Government's plans to widen and deepen devolution across England, providing mayors with new powers and funding. It also outlines how the Government will rebuild and reform local government, reset the relationship between central and local government, which they say will give communities stronger tools to shape the future of their local areas. The paper outlines a wide range of changes including transport and infrastructure, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration etc, only those relating to employment and skills are shown below.

#### Strategic Authorities

The Government will create in law the concept of a Strategic Authority. All Strategic Authorities will belong to one of the following levels:

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- Foundation Strategic Authorities: these include non-mayoral combined authorities and combined county authorities automatically, and any local authority designated as a Strategic Authority without a Mayor.
- Mayoral Strategic Authorities: the Greater London Authority, all Mayoral Combined Authorities and all Mayoral Combined County Authorities will automatically begin as Mayoral Strategic Authorities. This includes HEY.
- Those who meet specified eligibility criteria may be designated as **Established Mayoral** Strategic Authorities. This unlocks further devolution, most notably an Integrated Settlement.

#### **Employment and Skills**

## a) Local Skills Improvement Plans

- Skills and employment provision that is more relevant to local jobs because Strategic Authorities will have joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) alongside Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) - Hull and Humber Chamber for HEY.
- LSIPS to be clearly linked to Local Growth Plans, relevant parts of the Industrial Strategy and Skills England's assessment of skills needs.
- Strategic Authorities and ERBs will work with Skills England to ensure insights from Local Skills Improvement Plans are fed into the national picture.

#### b) Devolvement and un-ringfencing of Adult Skills Funding

Devolved control of non-apprenticeship adult skills funding. For Mayoral Strategic Authorities, this will combine and un-ringfence funding for the Adult Skills Fund, Free Courses for Jobs, and Skills Bootcamps from 2026/27 onwards.

#### c) 16-19 Skills

While 16-19 education is not a devolved function, Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have an important role working with employers to promote clear pathways from education and training into employment, including to help identify local industry placements for 16-19 year olds.

#### Other steps include:

- Ensuring Mayoral Strategic Authorities have regular, structured opportunities to feed their priorities into the Department for Education's annual strategic conversations with colleges to inform and help the further education sector in shaping provision that includes clear pathways of progression from education into further/higher education or local employment opportunities.
- Working with Mayoral Strategic Authorities to use their convening powers and influence to secure work and industry placements with local employers that relate to 16-19 education, training and career paths.

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- Joint ownership of the LSIP providing Strategic Authorities with a clear mechanism to help inform the skills offer locally, ensuring the LSIP facilitates opportunities for 16–19year-olds to undertake apprenticeships, education and training that lead to good quality employment opportunities.
- Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have a central role in convening local youth careers
  provision within the national context, greater flexibility to support the work of Careers
  Hubs, which support schools and colleges to deliver careers information, advice, and
  guidance to their pupils and students.

## d) Employment Support

- As set out in the Get Britain Working White Paper, all Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have a substantive role in co-designing any future non-Jobcentre Plus employment support. Strategic Authorities will be responsible for producing a local Get Britain Working Plan, focused on reducing economic inactivity. To support these plans, the government will devolve funding for supported employment provision to tackle inactivity to Strategic Authorities via grant funding, so they can design and deliver an offer that is shaped around local priorities and provision. Connect to Work, a new supported employment programme for people who are economically inactive which will start in 25/26 is the first strand of funding within the Get Britain Working Fund. Phil Hall, Enterprise Development manager at Hull City Council is leading on this on behalf of both LAs. Funding indications are that the programme could bring £3.9M to the HEY for bespoke delivery.
- The government will work closely with Mayors on offender rehabilitation to explore how skills, employment support, health, and housing levers can be better brought together at local level to support rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society.

## 4. Work and Health Regional Data Report

This Work & Health Regional Data Report was developed by the Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service (North East and Yorkshire), the work and health regional data report brings together a range of key economic inactivity data indicators into one interactive tool and provides useful insight for the North East and Yorkshire region to help shape work and health plans across the system.

The data sets show the regional/LA position/variations compared England across a range of indicators, for example page 16 shows the percentage of the population in receipt of long-term support for a learning disability who are in paid employment, this ranges from 12.8% in North East Lincolnshire, 4.8% Y&H and England to 0.4% in Hull. This data will be useful to develop the Connect to Work delivery plan.

#### 5. T-Level Reforms

<u>T Level placement reforms</u> have been announced which will cut red tape and make it easier for employers and providers to take part in T Level Industry Placements, while ensuring students benefit from high-quality experiences.

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In line with industry trends and real-life hybrid working practices most students will now be able to complete up to 20% of their placement hours remotely, rather than having to do them from a physical workplace, with the allowance increased to 50% for Digital T Levels.

T Levels are technical qualifications equivalent in value to three A levels. They include a 45-day industry placement, giving young people workplace experience in fields including construction, manufacturing, healthcare, early years education and digital technology.

## 6. Review of Level 3 qualification reform

Courses key to government's growth mission in subjects like manufacturing and engineering which were previously scheduled for defunding will remain until replacements become more established. Around 70% of the remaining qualifications due for defunding will now continue up to 2027.

The provisional list of post-16 level 3 qualifications that have had their funding approval extended or removed from 1 August 2025 is HERE

## 7. Multiply

The Department for Education has confirmed that the Multiply programme will end in March 2025. Funded from UKSPF and delivered through Local Authorities, the aim of the programme was to boost people's ability to use maths in daily life by offering free, flexible courses to people over age 19 who didn't have a grade four or above in GCSE maths, or an equivalent qualification. The DfE have said councils and mayors can continue to fund other adult numeracy courses through UKSPF.

#### 8. Homebuilding Skills Hubs

Up to 32 new Homebuilding Skills Hubs will deliver fast-track training to local areas that need more housing, giving apprentices vital skills to boost housebuilding in the UK. Locations to be confirmed, likely to be targeted in areas where local training providers struggle to meet demand for construction workers, all hubs to be launched by 2028.

#### 9. Social Mobility

The social mobility commission's latest report, <u>Innovation Generation</u> considers how we can take a different approach to social mobility, refocusing the debate on the real obstacles to opportunity, setting out next steps to improving opportunity for all.

The report sets out the Social Mobility Commission's long-term approach to improving social mobility in the UK. It argues that:

- Social mobility policy has typically focused disproportionately and too narrowly on disadvantaged young people's access to university and professional careers.
- A wider approach is needed, with an emphasis on economic growth and innovation which is essential if we seek to increase opportunity for all.
- The increase in university access in recent years is to be welcomed but should go alongside a more coherent and better-evidenced approach to vocational education and training, including apprenticeships.

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- We should pay much more attention to how we can best support young people who are not in education, employment or training, and those with no qualifications at all, who are much more likely to be economically inactive.
- Existing and forthcoming devolution deals offer an opportunity to develop a joined-up approach, particularly linking employment and skills together.

## 10. Skills Inequality Report

Article in the Guardian Warning of 'skills chasm' amid huge UK regional divide in qualifications | Education | The Guardian highlights the gap between high and low-skilled areas of the UK. If the trend continues to 2035 only 29% of people in Hull and East Yorkshire will have a degree compared to 71% in London.

The article is based on research from the Learning and Work Institute which shows that the UK has larger gaps in workforce skills between different parts of the country than most other European countries. The new report Skills inequalities in the UK are holding back growth warns that improving skills in an area on its own will not be enough. Most areas already lose graduates to a small number of cities like London, Leeds, Bristol and Brighton; even with a step change in skills provision, people in low-skill areas who gain new qualifications may continue to follow the better-paid jobs into these areas. L&W argues that efforts to improve skills therefore need to be joined up with efforts to improve jobs and opportunities across the country.

## 11. The Future of Jobs report 2025

Technological change, geoeconomic fragmentation, economic uncertainty, demographic shifts and the green transition – individually and in combination are among the major drivers expected to shape and transform the global labour market by 2030. The Future of Jobs Report 2025 brings together the perspective of over 1,000 leading global employers collectively representing more than 14 million workers across 22 industry clusters and 55 economies from around the world.

#### 12. Offender employment

New regional Employment Councils are being set up to bring probation, prisons, DWP and local businesses together. The scheme aims to get 1,000s offenders into work to cut crime as part of Plan for Change. Bosses from household names including Co-op, Oliver Bonus, Greggs and Iceland will be among those to sit on new Employment Councils supporting offenders serving their sentence in the community into work.

## 13. Cyber Skills Training

New regional cyber skills projects to bolster UK cyber defences and deliver on Plan for Change have been announced. More than 30 projects will receive funding to deliver targeted support including training to boost cyber skills and new ways to protect businesses against cyber threats. For Y&H this includes - First Steps to a Cyber Security Career - The Skills Network Ltd

The increasing number of online threats means demand for trained cyber professionals is continuing to rise, with almost half of UK businesses currently reporting a cyber skills

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shortage. These projects will now help plug the gaps and meet that demand - giving people across the country the skills they need to explore new, highly paid careers in cyber to ensure the wider security of technology and digital services across the economy.

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Officer Interests: None.

Background Documents: None.

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# **Briefing Paper to the HEY Skills Board**

24th January 2025

# Wards: All

# **Glossary of Terms**

Term	Full name	What is it?	Further details
*	Academies	Academies receive funding directly from the government and are run by an academy trust. They have more control over how they do things than community schools.	Types of school: Academies - GOV.UK
*	Advanced British Standard	The Baccalaureate-style qualification combining A levels and T levels into single qualification for 16–19-year olds. Not going ahead under the Labour Government.	Advanced British Standard Announcement.
*	A-Level	A-Levels are typically taken by students looking to continue on to higher studies. These are exams taken after GCSEs. Also see Qualification levels below.	n/a
*	Apprenticeship	Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels — intermediate level 2, advanced level 3, higher level 5-7, degree Level 6-7.	Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK
ASF	Adult Skills Fund and Tailored Learning	The adult skills fund (ASF) replaced the adult education budget (AEB) from 1/8/24.  The purpose of ASF is to support adult learners to gain skills which will lead them to meaningful, sustained and relevant employment, or enable them to progress to further learning which will deliver that outcome.  Within ASF, further provision for tailored learning (previously called community learning) is available that supports wider	Adult skills fund: funding and performance management rules 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK

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		outcomes such as to improve health and wellbeing, equip parents/carers to support their child's learning and develop stronger communities.	
	Careers Hub	Careers Hubs are partnerships between The Careers & Enterprise Company and Combined and Local Authorities.  Careers Hubs improve careers education for young people by working directly with schools, colleges, apprenticeships providers and employers.	Hull & East Yorkshire Careers Hub » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hubs
CEC	Careers & Enterprise Company	The national body for careers education in England supporting schools and colleges to deliver modern, 21st Century careers education.	The Careers & Enterprise Company   The Careers and Enterprise Company
CEIAG	Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance	The term used to describe careers advice.	n/a
*	Compass	Compass is a free tool for schools and colleges in England, that helps them evaluate careers activity against the eight benchmarks of best practice – known as the Gatsby Benchmarks.	compass.career sandenterprise. co.uk/info
CITB	Construction Industry Training Board	The CITB is the industry training board for the construction sector in England, Scotland, and Wales. It helps the construction industry attract talent and supports skills development. It is an executive non-departmental public body in charge of its own budget and activities. Sponsored by the Department for Education, it is also accountable to government ministers.	citb.co.uk/about-citb/
DBT	Department for Business and Trade	The department for economic growth. DBT supports businesses to invest, grow and export, creating jobs and opportunities across the country.	Department for Business and Trade - GOV.UK

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DESNZ	Department for	Responsible for UK energy security,	Department for
	Energy Security and Net Zero	protecting billpayers and reaching net zero.  DESNZ supports the NEY Net Zero Hub is	Energy Security and Net Zero - GOV.UK
		a collaboration of six Combined Authorities accelerating the transition to 'Net Zero' and a future of clean growth through local energy delivery.	NEY Net Zero Hub
DfE	Department for Education	The Department for Education is responsible for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy, apprenticeships and wider skills in England.	Department for Education - GOV.UK
DSIT	Department for Science, Innovation & Technology	DSIT's mission is to drive innovation that will deliver improved public services, create new better-paid jobs and grow the economy.	Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions	The DWP is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. It administers the State Pension and a range of working age, disability and ill health benefits including Universal Credit	Department for Work and Pensions - GOV.UK
ECITB	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	The ECITB is the employer led skills body for the Engineering Construction Industry in Great Britain.	What is the ECITB? - ECITB
ERB	Employer Representative Body	In autumn 2022, employer representative bodies (ERBs) were designated to lead the development of local skills improvement plans (LSIPs) for all 38 areas of the country.  The English Devolution White Paper published 16/12/24 proposes that Strategic Authorities (currently MCAs) will have a role in the designating process and new/joint responsibilities for the LSIP.	Local skills improvement plans and designated employer representative bodies - GOV.UK
FE	Further education	Further education includes any study after secondary education that is not part of higher education (that is, not taken as part of an undergraduate or graduate degree). Courses range from basic English and maths to Higher National Diplomas (HNDs).	further- education- courses

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FCFJ	Free Courses for	Level 3 qualification for free if aged 19+,	Free courses for
	Jobs	earning below £25k or unemployed.	jobs - GOV.UK
		Funding for this is part of the devolved funding agreement for Combined Authorities.	
FSB	Federation of Small Businesses	Membership organisation for small businesses and the self-employed	FSB   The Federation of Small Businesses
	Gatsby Benchmarks	The eight Gatsby benchmarks are a framework for good career guidance developed to support secondary schools and colleges in providing students with the best possible careers education, information, advice, and guidance. Based on international best practice, they set out what a world-class career guidance system looks like. The benchmarks were updated November 2024 to reflect technological advances, innovation in education and major shifts in the labour market.	Gatsby Benchmarks Explained
*	GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education. National exams taken in Year 11. Also see qualification levels below.	n/a
	Growth Hub	Growth Hubs are funded by DBT to provide a one-stop-shop for businesses e.g. funding, exporting, business start-up, innovation and apprenticeship recruitment.	Business Growth Hub » HEY Business Growth Skills Hub - Hull and East Yorkshire
HE	Higher Education	Higher Education. Post-18 education usually at universities and colleges.	n/a
IfATE	Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	IfATE work with employers to shape skills training in England, for the future of the workforce. IfATE was created in 2017 as an arm's length body of the Department for Education (DfE). The Government intends to bring forward legislation to pass IfATE's functions to Skills England, date to be announced.	Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education

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	Industrial	The Covernment leunched a green negative	Invest 2025: the
	Industrial	The Government launched a green paper	Invest 2035: the
	Strategy	on its modern Industrial Strategy in	UK's modern
		October 24. This set out eight growth-	industrial etrotogy
		driving sectors and announced that the	strategy -
		Government will produce sector plans for	GOV.UK
		each as part of its promise to help these	
IoT	Institute of	sectors thrive. Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are	inctitutes of
101		employer-focused providers specialising in	institutes-of-
	Technology	delivering higher technical education	technology
			Vorkobiro 9
		across England. They are collaborations between further education (FE) providers,	Yorkshire & Humber Institute
		higher education (HE) providers or	of Technology
		universities and employers.	(YHIOT)
JCP	Jobcentre Plus	Jobcentre Plus is a part of the Department	Contact
JOI	JODGHILE FIUS	for Work and Pensions which offers	Jobcentre Plus:
		support for people of working age. They	How to contact
		aim to: - help people into paid work; help	Jobcentre Plus -
		employers fill their vacancies, and- give	GOV.UK
		people of working age help and support	<u>007.010</u>
		they if they cannot work.	
		they it they cannot work.	
KS (KS1-	Key Stage	The five stages of the National Curriculum.	n/a
5)		The key stages are KS1 (age 5-7), KS2	
		(age 7-11), KS3 (age 11-14), KS4 (14-16)	
		and KS5 (age 16-19).	
*	Key Stage 4	The legal term for the two years of school	n/a
		education that incorporate GCSEs and	
		other exams. Normally known as Year 10	
		and 11 in England and Wales.	
*	Key Stage 5	Used to describe the two years of school	n/a
		education for students aged 16-18. Often	
		described as year 12 and 13.	
*	Lifetime Skills	Government initiative to offer adults without	https://www.gov.
	Guarantee	an A-Level or equivalent qualifications a	uk/government/
		free, fully funded college course.	news/hundreds-
			of-free-
			qualifications-
			on-offer-to-
			boost-skills-and-
			<u>jobs</u>
LMI	Labour Market	Data, statistics and research about the	n/a
	Intelligence	workplace including unemployment rates,	
		salary, supply and demand of labour.	1
	Local Growth	Local growth plans are 10-year strategies	Invest 2035: the
	Plans	which will set out how MCAs will use their	UK's modern
		devolved powers and funding to drive	industrial
		growth in their region. They will build on	strategy -
		the region's unique strengths and	GOV.UK
		opportunities to support sectors, identify	

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		wider business environment priorities, and provide a framework to unlock private investment. They represent strategic partnerships between central government and MCAs to identify priorities for growth and will be aligned to the industrial strategy.	
LSIP	Local Skills Improvement Plan	LSIPs are employer-led plans which will set out the key changes needed in a place to make technical skills training more responsive to local labour market skills needs.	Local skills improvement plans - statutory guidance
		Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce are the designated ERB for the HEY LSIP.	HEY LSIP
		The English Devolution White Paper published 16/12/24 proposes that Strategic Authorities (currently MCAs) new/joint responsibilities for the LSIP.	
LSIF	Local Skills Improvement Fund	The local skills improvement fund (LSIF) is designed to enable further education providers across a geographic area to respond collectively to the priorities in the local skills improvement plans (LSIPs). The LSIF is available across 2 financial years to March 2025.	Local skills improvement plans (LSIPs) and local skills improvement fund (LSIF) - GOV.UK
MCA	Mayoral Combined Authority	A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take /collective decisions across council boundaries. While established by Parliament, MCAs have an elected mayor, are locally owned and have to be initiated and supported by the councils involved.	Combined authorities   Local Government Association
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is central to the mission-driven government, from fixing the foundations of an affordable home to handing power back to communities and rebuilding local governments.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - GOV.UK
NCS	National Careers Service	The national body responsible for the provision of careers information, advice and guidance available to all people living in England.	nationalcareers. service.gov.uk/
NEET	Not in Employment,	A young person who is not in employment, education or training.	n/a

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	Education of Training		
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills.	Ofsted is a non-ministerial department which inspects services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. It also inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people.	www.gov.uk/gov ernment/organis ations/ofsted
Ofqual	Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England.	Ofqual - GOV.UK
QiCS	Quality in Careers Standard	The Quality in Careers Standard is the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in secondary schools, colleges and work-based learning	www.qualityinca reers.org.uk/
	Qualification levels	There are 9 qualification levels – Entry level to Level 8	What qualification levels mean: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK
*	Skills Bootcamps	Skills Bootcamps offer free, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks. They are available for adults aged 19 or over who are either in work or recently unemployed and live in England.	Skills Bootcamps   Skills for Careers
	Skills England	Skills England is a new arms-length body that will bring together key partners to meet the skills needs of the next decade.	Skills England - GOV.UK
	Skills and Growth Levy	The Growth and Skills levy which will replace the existing apprenticeship levy and include new foundation apprenticeships. Skills England's are consulting with employers and other key organisations on what priority training should be accessible through the Growth and Skills Levy.	Prime Minister overhauls apprenticeships to support opportunity - GOV.UK
	Study Programme	Study programmes were introduced in September 2013, to provide breadth and depth to young people's education, provide experience that would prepare young people for the workplace and future life and to ensure a focus on English and maths for those with lower prior attainment.  For people aged 16 to 19 and for 9- to 24-year-olds with an education, health and care (EHC) plan.	16 to 19 study programmes guidance: 2024 to 2025 academic year - GOV.UK

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	Supported Internship	Supported Internships are a structured, work-based study programme for 16- to 24-year-olds with SEND, who have an EHC plan. The core aim of a supported internship study programme is a substantial work placement, facilitated by the support of an expert job coach.	Supported internships - GOV.UK
T Level	T Level	Equivalent to 3 A Levels, T Levels were introduced in September 2020 and focus on vocational skills. They include a 45-day industry placement. They can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships.  Also see Qualification levels above.	T Levels   The Next Level Qualification
UFS	Unit for Future Skills	The Unit for Future Skills is part of Skills England, it provides decision makers in the skills system with the information they need to invest in the right skills to meet national and local employer needs and support economic growth.	Unit for Future Skills - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
UKSPF	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	The UKSPF provided £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. It mitigates against the loss of European Funding, spent against three investment priorities: (1) community & place (2) supporting local business (3) people & skills.  All areas of the UK are receiving a further allocation of UKSPF - helping places take advantage of the Fund's flexibility and plan now for delivery from April 2025.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26: Technical note - GOV.UK

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Officer Interests: None

**Background Documents:** 

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