

Press release

Biggest employment reforms in a generation unveiled to Get Britain Working again

Unveiling the biggest reforms to employment support for a generation, Work and Pensions Secretary, Liz Kendall has today (26 November) published the Get Britain Working White Paper, marking the Government's first major intervention to achieve an ambitious 80 per cent employment rate.

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Biggest **employment reforms** in a generation unveiled to **Get Britain Working** again

- White Paper on biggest reforms to employment support for a generation published today, backed by £240 million investment

- Jobcentres transformed across Great Britain and every young person to have access to an apprenticeship, quality training and education opportunities
- Mental health support to be expanded and extra capacity deployed to reduce waiting lists in areas with highest levels of inactivity
- Measures announced in White Paper will fuel growth as Government rebuilds Britain in a decade of national renewal

It comes as stark figures show almost one and a half million people are unemployed, over nine million people are inactive, a record 2.8 million people are out of work due to long-term sickness. Young people have also been left behind with one in eight young people not in education, employment or training, and nine million adults lack the essential skills they need to get on in work.

The UK is also the only major economy that has seen its employment rate fall over the last five years, which has been largely driven by a significant rise in the number of people out of work due to long-term ill health with an outdated employment support system which is ill equipped to respond to this growing challenge.

This White Paper sets out a fundamentally different approach to the employment support system - backed by £240 million of investment - to target and tackle the root causes of unemployment and inactivity, and better join up health skills and employment support based on the unique needs of local communities.

That includes tackling ill health as the biggest driver of inactivity by fixing the NHS. This includes deploying extra staff to cut waiting lists in areas of high inactivity, expanding access to mental health support, as well as a greater focus on prevention to stop people becoming ill in the first place.

The outdated Jobcentre system will also be transformed into a new national jobs and careers service, focused on people's skills and careers instead of just monitoring and managing benefit claims. Mayors and councils will be empowered to

join up local work, health and skills support in ways that meet the specific needs of their local areas.

The government is also delivering a new Youth Guarantee so every young person has access to education or training to help them find a job and transforming the Apprenticeship Levy in England into a more flexible Growth and Skills Levy backed by £40 million to expand opportunities for young people to develop skills and get into work.

An independent review will also be launched into how employers can be better supported to employ people with disabilities health conditions, and to keep them in the workplace, ensuring that more people can benefit from a sense of dignity, purpose and financial independence.

Building on these reforms, the government will bring forward measures to overhaul the health and disability benefits system so it better supports people to enter and remain in work and to tackle the spiralling benefits bill. A consultation will be published in Spring as part of a commitment to put the views and voices of disabled people at the heart of any policy changes that directly affect them.

The driving purpose behind this new approach is to enable everyone to have the opportunity of secure, rewarding and fulfilling work. Today's White Paper delivers the fundamental reforms needed to fix the foundations, break down barriers to opportunity particularly for young people and improve living standards.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said:

“ From the broken NHS, flatlining economy, and the millions of people left unemployed and trapped in an inactivity spiral – this government inherited a country that simply isn't working. But today we've set out a plan to fix this. A plan that tackles the biggest drivers of unemployment and inactivity and gives young people their future back through real, meaningful change instead of empty rhetoric and sticking plaster politics.”

- “ We’re overhauling jobcentres to make them fit for the modern age. We’re giving young people the skills and opportunities they need to prepare them for the jobs of the future. We’re fixing the NHS so people get the treatment and mental health support they desperately need to be able to get back to work. We’re working with businesses and employers to better support people with disabilities and health conditions to stay and progress in work, and it doesn’t stop there.”
- “ Our reforms put an end to the culture of blaming and shaming people who for too long haven’t been getting the support they need to get back to work. Helping people into decent, well-paid jobs and giving our children and young people the best start in life - that’s our plan to put more money in people’s pockets, unlock growth and make people better off.”

The Secretary of State, Liz Kendall MP said:

- “ To get Britain growing, we need to get Britain working again. Our reforms will break down barriers to opportunity, help people to get into work and on at work, allow local leaders to boost jobs and growth, and give our children and young people the best opportunities to get on in life.”
- “ The Get Britain Working White Paper shows that this Government stands unashamedly for work. We will make sure everyone, regardless of their background, age, ethnicity, health, disability or postcode can benefit from the dignity and purpose work can bring.”
- “ We can build a healthier, wealthier nation – driving up employment and opportunity, skills and productivity – while driving down the benefit bill.”

The employment reforms will be underlined by the principle that people who can work, will be expected to work with clear consequences if they don’t properly engage with the government’s employment support offer. The fundamental

principles of reform set out in the white paper include:

Fixing the NHS and Tackling economic inactivity caused by ill health

A quarter of all people aged 16-64 have a long-term health condition that limits their day-to-day activities with disabled people nearly three times more likely (than non-disabled people) to be economically inactive. Given the strong evidence on the health benefits of good work, extra capacity will be deployed to reduce waiting lists in 20 NHS Trusts across England with the highest levels of economic inactivity.

The government is providing an additional £22.6 billion of resource spending in 2025-26 for the Department of Health and Social Care. This will support the NHS in England to deliver an additional 40,000 elective appointments a week and make progress towards the commitment that patients should expect to wait no longer than 18 weeks from referral to consultant-led treatment.

The Government will deliver an additional 8,500 new mental health staff and also expand access to Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for severe mental illness, reaching 140,000 more people by 2028/29. On top of this, the Government will take a prevention first approach through an expansion of Talking Therapies, a landmark Tobacco and Vapes Bill and a range of steps to tackle obesity.

The White Paper sets out how the Government will invest £125 million in eight areas across England and Wales, to mobilise local work, health and skills support – so everyone who wants to work can get the joined-up support they need. This includes funding in three of the trailblazer areas for NHS accelerators to stop people falling out of work completely due to ill health. The three areas will be the North East, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

These eight trailblazers will be at the forefront of designing how locally joined-up support will work in practice across England and Wales.

Creating a new National Jobs and Careers Service to help people into work

Jobcentres across Great Britain will be overhauled and in England will be brought together with the National Careers Service. This will be kickstarted by £55million of investment, to help people get into work, stay in work, build skills and progress in their career.

A radically improved digital offer will be trialled to bring Jobcentres into the 21st century, with the DWP using the latest technologies and AI to provide up-to date information on jobs, skills and other support and to free up Work Coach time.

Staff at Jobcentres will have more flexibility to offer a more personalised service to jobseekers – moving away from the ‘tick box’ culture. New coaching academies will also be set up to upskill jobcentre staff to better support people into work.

Backed by £55 million, testing and digital design will be carried out into next year to understand how best to bring DWP services online and make them easier to access to deliver tailored support, including CV advice and job adverts. This builds on work already underway to give work coaches AI tools so they can find the right information for their customers faster.

Delivering a Youth Guarantee to support young people into work

Every 18-to-21-year old in England will have access to an apprenticeship, quality training and education opportunities or help to find a job under a new ‘Youth Guarantee’.

The White Paper unveils new partnerships with some of Britain’s most iconic cultural and sporting organisations, including the Premier League, Channel 4 and the Royal Shakespeare Company, who will offer work or learning opportunities to inspire and upskill the next generation.

Eight youth “trailblazer” areas will be set up across the country, including in Liverpool City Region , Tees Valley and the East Midlands with £45 million

funding to identify those most at risk of falling out of education or employment and match them to opportunities for education, training or work.

To further expand opportunities for young people through the Youth Guarantee, the Government will transform the Apprenticeship Levy in England into a more flexible Growth and Skills Levy by investing £40 million. This will help to deliver new foundation and shorter apprenticeships in key sectors.

These new opportunities will be the responsibility of young people to take them up. In return for these new opportunities, young people will be expected to engage with training or work that's on offer so no young person is left behind.

An advisory panel will also be set up to put young people at the heart of decision making. There will also be a disability panel set up to ensure the voices of disabled people are at the core of reforms.

This change will deliver greater flexibility for employers and learners, aligned to the Government's Industrial Strategy, while rebalancing the offer so that more apprenticeships are focused on young people.

Empowering local mayors to shape an effective work, health and skills offer for local people

Up to £15 million will be made available to areas across England not getting a trailblazer so they can develop their own Get Britain Working Plan focused on reducing economic inactivity. Plans will be developed by mayoral authorities where they exist – aligned with their Local Growth Plans – and elsewhere by Local Authorities.

By giving local areas the power and money to design their own Get Britain Working plans, we will deliver real employment opportunities for people who know their communities best. Up to £15 million will be made available to support local areas across England to develop their own plans and to support the trailblazers.

The government will also provide £115 million in funding next year to enable local areas across England and Wales to deliver a new supported employment programme called Connect to Work scheme.

Connect to Work provides voluntary employment offers to people with disabilities, health conditions or complex barriers to work and will support up to 100,000 people a year at full roll out as the first tranche of money from a new Get Britain Working Fund.

Launching an independent review into the role of UK employers in promoting health and inclusive workplaces

Poor workforce health imposes large costs on employers, especially from sickness absence and turnover, while also making it harder for them to find the talent they need to grow and thrive. There is also compelling evidence about the value of helping people with a health condition or disability to stay in work, including to prevent them becoming economically inactive.

In response, the review will consider what more can be done to enable employers to increase the recruitment and retention of disabled people and those with a health condition and undertake early intervention for sickness absence and increase returns to work.

The review will run until next summer and involve wide-ranging engagement with employers, employees, trade unions, health experts, and disabled people and those with health conditions.

It will complement the Government's Employment Right's Bill, which will tackle job insecurity and expand flexible working.

Adele Ablett, who has worked at the DWP for 38 years and now manages five Jobcentres and 71 Work Coaches across Cheshire said:

“ It's a real privilege to support people at vulnerable times in their lives and help them find the right pathway for them – whether that

be through training or work. With more customers coming through our doors with complex health needs and mental health challenges, the demand on our service has never been greater. ”

“ The changes in the Get Britain Working White Paper will help us to amplify this support to reach more people and change more lives. It will give us more flexibility to build strong relationships with employers and organisations, so everyone sees us the way I do – as the go-to place for businesses to recruit and as a public service passionate about people and possibilities.”

Clare Sumner, Premier League Chief Policy and Social Impact Officer said:

“ Building on our long-term investment into communities, the Premier League will contribute to the Youth Guarantee by using the power of football to engage young people who need the greatest support.”

“ Our programmes delivered by football clubs across the country play a vital role in providing inspiring opportunities and pathways to success to help the next generation fulfil their potential. We will be working with the Government to continue this important work and help extend the reach of the Youth Guarantee initiative into communities and to those who need it most.”

Secretary of State Lisa Nandy said:

“ We’re committed to a bold new approach to shaping policy that values the aspirations and experiences of young people to give them every chance of success in life. ”

“ The introduction of a Youth Guarantee, along with the co-production of a new National Youth Strategy, will help put young people back in charge of their own destiny and unlock opportunities for all young people, regardless of their postcode.”

Darren Burns, Director of Diversity & Inclusion of Timpson Group said:

- “ At Timpson we support the plan to get more people back into work, by helping them to find exciting and rewarding careers.”
- “ Many of our existing colleagues have come to us through the Jobcentre and this is still the case today. We regularly work in close partnership with local job centres to find amazing colleagues for our business and the support we receive is invaluable.”

Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham said:

- “ It’s great to see the Government get serious about transforming the old tick-box approach to job support into one that tackles the root causes of unemployment and poor health and sets people up to succeed.”
- “ The best way to do that is to join up services in the places where people live, and offer them the kind of positive, personalised support that grows confidence and looks at complex issues in the round.”
- “ The Secretary of State has seen for herself the difference that our Live Well approach is already making in Greater Manchester, where our brilliant community partners are building trust and helping break down barriers to work and wellbeing.”
- “ Through our new trailblazer, and with Government backing, we can build on these strong foundations and help more people find the sense of purpose that comes with good work. That is how we will help everyone to achieve their potential, ease pressure on our public services, and deliver growth in our city-region and across the country.”

Mayor of South Yorkshire Oliver Coppard said:

- “ In South Yorkshire, work, health and skills barriers have prevented people here making the most of their talents for far too long.

That's why we're determined to address those barriers through our pioneering Pathways to Work Commission. The Commission's report set out recommendations that could unlock the full potential of our communities and I'm really pleased that the Government has backed our pioneering approach."

" In South Yorkshire we have led the way in highlighting the importance of bringing work, health and skills together as we support people back into employment. We now have a Government that understands the importance of devolution and joined-up working, and together we are undertaking the biggest reforms to how we support people into work for a generation. "

" Our trailblazer will help us to create a bigger and better economy in South Yorkshire that helps people to stay near and go far."

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region Steve Rotheram said:

" Devolution is already making a huge difference to people's lives in the Liverpool City Region. We've helped thousands of people into work, created opportunities for young people through apprenticeships, and supported adults to gain the skills they need to thrive. This shows what can be achieved when decisions are made closer to the people they affect."

" That's why I welcome the government's plans to give Mayors more of the tools and resources we need to break down the barriers keeping people out of work. Whether it's tackling skills shortages, improving childcare, or supporting people with health conditions, this is a chance to make a real difference."

" I look forward to working with the government to make these bold ambitions a reality for the people in our communities."

Stephen Evans, Chief Executive of Learning and Work Institute said:

- “ The Government’s ambition for an 80% employment rate is the right one and our research shows it will benefit people, employers and the economy. More than three million people who are out of work want a job, but too often don’t get the right support.”
- “ This White Paper starts us on the path to change that. I’m particularly pleased to see the Youth Guarantee, which we have long called for. There can be few bigger priorities than ensuring young people get the education and careers they need. ”
- “ To tackle the shockingly wide disability employment rate gap and opportunity gaps across the country, we need high-quality, joined-up, locally delivered work, skills and health support. It will take time, but the prize is great.”
- “ The White Paper is part of wider Government action to spread opportunity and fix the foundations of our economy. This includes launching Skills England to create a shared national plan to boost the nation’s skills, creating more good jobs through our modern Industrial Strategy, and strengthening employment rights through our Plan to Make Work Pay.”

Secretary of State for Scotland Ian Murray said:

- “ Breaking down barriers to opportunity is the key to our plan to Get Britain Working. Our radical overhaul of Jobcentres will bring improvements to every part of the UK, creating a service more fit for modern life, helping people into decent, well-paid jobs.”
- “ A joined-up approach to tackling inactivity is crucial, and we want to work with the Scottish Government to ensure all services are considered - including better healthcare, improved childcare, and access to meaningful skills training.”

“ Our Employment Rights Bill has brought some of the biggest improvements for workers in a generation with an end to zero-hours contracts and increased job security. And our Tobacco and Vapes Bill, also introduced today, will curb many of the health issues affecting work connected with smoking. Together we can Get Britain Working and on the path to prosperity and growth.”

Additional Information

- The Get Britain Working White Paper is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-britain-working-white-paper>
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-britain-working-white-paper>)
- All 16 trailblazers will be within mayoral authorities, Wales and London.
- The inactivity trailblazers will be in: West Yorkshire, the North East, South Yorkshire, York and North Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, two in London and one in Wales.
- The youth trailblazers will be in: Liverpool City Region, West Midlands, Tees Valley, East Midlands, West of England, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and two in London.
- This announcement follows the government commitment to allocate £85 million in capital funding in 2025/26 in recognition of the urgent need for more youth facilities for young people across the country. This will include £26 million of new funding for youth clubs to buy new equipment and undertake much needed renovations via the Better Youth Spaces programme. Projects already underway via the Youth Investment Fund will also be completed as part of the Government's commitment to young people. The Government also announced the co-production of a National Youth Strategy to be published next year, which will put young people back in the driving seat on policies that affect them.
- The UK Government will work closely with the devolved Governments to consider their

experiences and needs as we deliver new measures.

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London said:

“ I welcome the Government’s new Get Britain Working plans and bold new reforms to boost the amount of people in work. They will ensure that young people and those who need extra support due to their health reap the benefits of future economic growth.”

“ After 14 years we finally have a Government that understands the problems and opportunities London faces and is working hand in hand with us to ensure that everyone is given access to opportunities and skills. I stand ready to work with London Councils to deliver these reforms as part our new growth plan next year, as we work together to build a fairer and prosperous city for everyone.”

North East Mayor Kim McGuinness said:

“ I have made it my ambition to make North East England the home of real opportunity. We are already starting to deliver projects that will make a real difference and that’s why the Government has chosen the North East as a trailblazer area for Get Britain Working, which will further boost our own plans.”

“ We don’t need to be told the reasons why people are excluded from work because of health issues, because the jobs out there are insecure and low-paid, or because they were not allowed a second chance since leaving school. Our Get Britain Working trailblazer will give us the power here in the North East to take the step we know will work in our communities, in partnership with both the Government and NHS.”

Mayor of West Yorkshire and Chair of the UK Mayors Group Tracy Brabin said:

“ Over 100,000 people in our great region are being held back by a treatable or preventable

health condition, and every single one of them deserves a fair chance to flourish.”

“ We are transforming how public services are delivered through our innovative West Yorkshire model, which joins up health, skills and work to ensure that everyone can get the support they need to succeed.”

“ To grow our economy, we must unleash the potential of everyone in it, and mayors across the country stand ready to build a healthier, wealthier nation through strong local partnerships.”

Mayor of the West Midlands Richard Parker said:

“ I welcome the Get Britain Working White Paper, which emphasises the importance of an inclusive and thriving workforce to the future prosperity of our communities. Its focus on breaking down barriers to opportunity and addressing health-related economic inactivity will help redefine the future for the West Midlands.”

“ I’m very proud that our region will be one of the place-based trailblazers delivering the Youth Guarantee, this is a significant step forward in devolution. It acknowledges that local leaders are best placed to shape effective strategies to connect young people with good jobs, quality training, and fulfilling careers. By working collaboratively we can ensure that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our region’s growth.”

“ This is a moment of opportunity for us to redefine how we approach employment, skills, and health - particularly as we look towards a new industrial strategy and regional growth plan. I’m excited to see the outcomes that these ambitious reforms will deliver for our community. Together, we can set a new benchmark and change lives across the West Midlands and beyond.”

Mayor of the East Midlands Claire Ward said:

“ I’m delighted that the East Midlands will be leading the way as one of the Youth Guarantee trailblazer regions. This is a crucial step in breaking down the barriers that too often prevent young people from accessing the skills, training, and opportunities they need to succeed. ”

“ By bringing together education, training, and support into a clear offer, we can ensure no young person is left behind. With this additional funding, we have the chance to make the East Midlands the best place to live, work, and learn — where every young person can realise their full potential and contribute to our region’s growing economy and exciting future.”

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen said:

“ We are creating thousands of good quality local jobs for local people and I welcome this trailblazer which will help us support young people in Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool get the skills they need to help them access these opportunities. ”

“ Good quality jobs are the best way to give people economic security and this is a positive step on this journey.”

Dan Norris, the Mayor of the West of England, said:

“ The Get Britain Working white paper ensures that every young person and every worker has the opportunity to thrive. ”

“ My West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is excited to enhance our offer on jobs and skills and to reduce economic inactivity. Our region’s 18- to -21-year-olds will be supported to access education, training, work, or an apprenticeship through the new Youth Guarantee. The West of England’s share of £45 million for 2025, and the power to deliver local solutions, will be a gamechanger for the investment and jobs that our communities need.”

Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Dr Nik Johnson said:

- “ The ‘Get Britain Working’ package will be transformational in helping break down the barriers to good quality employment. As a trailblazer we’ll be able to build on our experience and help even more young people get on in life.”
- “ Through local knowledge and partnerships we can deliver real opportunities that change lives, providing access to invaluable education, training, and work, and the independence, purpose, and sense of achievement that come with it.”

Mayor of York and North Yorkshire David Skaith said:

- “ This is a great opportunity to help break down barriers that prevent people in York and North Yorkshire getting back into work. I’m incredibly excited to bring this trailblazer to our region and help people get healthy and back to work.”
- “ Working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions, we’ll make the most of the national fact-finding work and ensure that we’re using our local knowledge to deliver employment and opportunities for people across York and North Yorkshire.”

Peter Cheese, Chief Executive of the CIPD, the professional body for HR and people development, said:

- “ Economic inactivity is an urgent challenge for the UK economy, so we welcome government focus on particular groups and regions of the country to join up support and help more people into work. Plans to modernise Jobcentres, integrate access to careers advice, encourage more investment in skills, and improve jobseeker support through work coaches are all important steps which we will help to support.”

“ Addressing rising youth unemployment through a properly delivered Youth Guarantee will provide more opportunities to those most in need of support to access training and apprenticeships to help them into fulfilling jobs.”

Gavin Williams, Managing Director, GXO UK and Ireland said:

“ Logistics is a great example of a growing sector in the UK that offers lots of entry level roles, particularly for young people where they can develop their skills and careers. We fully support creating employment opportunities for young people and people with disabilities, which is why we have over 1,000 apprentices at GXO and are the biggest single employer of people with Down’s Syndrome in the UK.”

“ We work closely with Jobcentres around the UK, and we’ve had great success with the candidates we’ve recruited through them. We welcome the Government’s plans for additional support to help young people and those who face barriers to enter the workplace.”

William Roberts, CEO of the Royal Society for Public Health, said:

“ Joining the dots between our workplaces and our health is absolutely critical to building a healthier Britain. It is encouraging to see the Government’s new white paper explicitly recognise the role of employers in promoting better health outcomes for their workers – something that aligns with what businesses have told us.”

“ Everyone employed in the UK should have the right to a healthy workplace. We hope the announced independent review into the role of UK employers in promoting health will recommend an ambitious level of minimum support for all employees. This is especially important as our research shows that 10

million people currently lack access to any workplace health support.”

- “ Ultimately, the Government’s ambitions to get more people into work, reduce waiting lists, and drive economic growth will depend on keeping people healthy. The white paper recognises this, and the public health workforce stand ready to support these efforts.”

David Hughes, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges:

- “ It’s right that the government white paper today focuses firmly on ensuring that both young people, and adults who have been economically inactive, are able to enter the workplace with the skills they need to succeed. ”
- “ Colleges already lead the way on supporting their communities into meaningful employment. They will need to play a central role in these reforms, and they are ready and willing, with the expertise, to drive them forward. To have the impact the government desires, there must be joined-up services at the local level, collaboration nationally across government departments, and investment to follow.”

Commenting on the publication of the Governments Get Britain Working white paper, Cllr Liam Robinson, Chair of the LGA’s City Regions Board, said:

- “ Local government leaders know their areas best so it is right that they co-ordinate their efforts to help young people and adults that have left the jobs market back into work. ”
- “ The adoption by the Government of a place based approach is positive and something that the LGA has long called for through our Work Local proposals. This signals a commitment from government to work with all of local government, from mayors to councils, in delivering new approaches that work best for their areas.”

Commenting on the publication of the Governments Get Britain Working white paper, Cllr Martin Tett, Chairman of the LGA's People & Places Board, said:

- “ Councils want to do more to address recruitment challenges across all sectors which affect their places, including through utilizing a far more flexible new growth and skills levy. ”
- “ We look forward to further details from the Government as they step towards a more localised way of delivering employment and skills services and working with them to plan how these changes will work in practice.”

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB commented:

- “ The construction industry is experiencing a major skills crisis, and the Government's ambitious plans to get Britain building again will simply not be viable unless they can get more workers into the industry. The FMB will be keen to work alongside the DWP to connect job opportunities with the building companies that are going to be crucial in delivering new homes and upgrading existing ones.”

Kate Nicholls, Chief Executive of UKHospitality, said:

- “ Hospitality is proud to offer jobs for everyone - whether you're a working parent, a student, a carer or someone looking to re-enter the workforce. ”
- “ Investment into Jobcentres and reforming the Apprenticeship Levy are both positive steps to help people find fulfilling and rewarding careers, which hospitality can offer in abundance.”
- “ UKHospitality has worked productively with the Government already on the career options hospitality offers and we look forward to continuing that work.”

General Secretary, Paul Nowak, said:

- “ The Government is right to focus on creating more good-quality and secure jobs and investing in our public services. We know that decent treatment at work delivers higher employment rates, improved health and stronger growth. ”
- “ It is right to ensure that young people who are seeking work are helped to find a job or training. Positive early experiences in the jobs market are vital for young people’s future life chances. They must be supported to take part, not faced with self-defeating sanctions. ”
- “ Success will also depend on ministers making the investment that’s needed in health services and quality training. Jobcentre staff must have a central role in redesigning their services, and devolution must never come at the cost of staff terms and conditions.”

Barry Fletcher, CEO at Youth Futures Foundation, comments:

- “ We welcome the Youth Guarantee announcement, as part of the Get Britain Working plan, an approach that ourselves and fellow co-chairs of the Youth Employment Group have been calling for based on the evidence of what works. ”
- “ We’re pleased to see the much needed integration with mental health support, boosting Apprenticeships, and the aim to reach all young people, including the significant number who are not currently claiming benefits or accessing support. ”
- “ Addressing the youth employment challenge can ensure there is a brighter future for young people, their communities and help drive economic prosperity.”

Jonathan Townsend, UK Chief Executive, The King’s Trust.

“ At The King’s Trust we believe that every young person deserves the chance to succeed, no matter their background. We support young people to find work because having a job can lead to a more stable and fulfilling life, creating a profound impact not only for them, but also for their wider communities and the UK economy. We therefore welcome the prominence given to the development of a Youth Guarantee, as maximising the number of young people in employment, education, and training will be vital over the coming years.”

Bethany Windsor, Head of Skills Policy at Logistics UK, said

“ The restructured Growth and Skills Levy outlined in the government’s Get Britain Working Again white paper answers the calls from logistics businesses for a more flexible system to provide skills-based development opportunities to help young people into the workforce. Not all careers in logistics require formal qualifications, and so a vocational approach that values a variety of training opportunities will enable more young people to investigate the opportunities that logistics offers, and enter a career that will challenge and develop their skills.”

Steven Haines, Director of Public Affairs at Impetus said

“ Young people furthest from the labour market face multiple barriers to work – which is why the announcement of the government’s trailblazers, working across multiple services to tackle youth unemployment, is so vital. Having worked shoulder-to-shoulder with youth employment organisations for over a decade, we know what has impact. As a founding member of the Youth Employment Group, we’ve worked closely with the government to shape the youth guarantee and ensure that it mirrors the Young Person’s Guarantee. These policies have the potential to make a huge difference not only for the

future of a generation but for the future of our economy.”

Jane Gratton, Deputy Director Public Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce said:

“ Bringing more people back into the workforce is essential to tackle skills shortages and boost economic growth. Government and business need to work together to remove barriers for people who want to work. ”

“ Today’s White Paper – with its emphasis on improving access to health, skills and employment support - has the potential to make a real difference for employers, employees and local economies. ”

“ Our research shows only 1 in 10 SMEs are using Job Centres and this is a lost opportunity. It’s crucial to modernise the service to better connect businesses and job seekers. ”

“ The high number of working age people who are economically inactive though ill health is a particular concern for employers. We look forward to engaging with the review into how employers can be supported to promote healthy and inclusive workplaces. Tax reforms would make it easier for employers to take a proactive role. ”

“ Healthy staff make healthy businesses, but delivery is key. It is important changes are made quickly and effectively, to help firms develop thriving workforces in the years to come.”

Chief Executive of Youth Employment UK, Laura-Jane Rawlings MBE DL, said:

“ The commitment to young people couldn’t be more welcome or more needed as we see current NEET data hit its highest rates in a decade. It is great to see our work on the Youth Guarantee set out clearly to ensure that young people have a pathway to education, employment or training. ”

“ The last 7 years of Youth Voice Census showcase how important addressing local issues and disadvantage is, where you live matters and has the power to disproportionately impact your life chances. We are pleased to see trailblazers setting a way forward to ensure that opportunity and potential is everywhere. ”

“ We look forward to working with the Government on connecting young people to quality opportunities.”

Stephen Phipson, CEO of Make UK, the manufacturers' organisation said:

“ The commitment that every 18-21 year old in England will have access to an apprenticeship, education and training through the new Youth Guarantee will be good news for industry as long as it helps to address the engineering skills gap that we have in this country. Manufacturers are currently struggling to find qualified technically skilled workers to fill the 58,000 vacant roles across the sector, and with one in eight young people not in education, employment or training, there is an untapped talent pool waiting for the right training opportunities. ”

“ But we need to ensure that the right courses are on offer with a strong focus on engineering and manufacturing, and we will work closely with Government as the detail behind these plans is developed with stakeholders over the coming weeks and months to ensure our growing sector of the economy gets the decisive action it needs to fix the skills gap.”

Becci Newton, Director, Public Policy Research, Institute for Employment Studies

“ The Get Britain Working White Paper brings a welcome focus on overcoming worklessness and improving outcomes for young people and adults. The plans to build greater integration between employment support and

careers guidance and connecting with skills demand in local areas should create a step-change, enabling a personalised approach to capitalise on people's capabilities and support entry and progression into good, meaningful work."

Sarah Bradbury, CEO, of the Institute of Grocery Distribution, said:

" As the largest private sector employer, the food industry has a proud track record of helping people into work, through initiatives like the Mmmake Your Mark campaign and employability skills training, which has inspired and upskilled over 100,000 young people. The Get Britain Working white paper presents exciting opportunities for this vital sector to deepen its collaboration with government and drive even greater efforts to support more people into employment."

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