



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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26 August 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Last year, at the height of the pandemic, we welcomed your public commitment to an 'Opportunity Guarantee' so that all young people could get the help that they need to get into work through investment in employment support, education, training and jobs. This timely response made a significant contribution to averting the worst of the jobs crisis.

But the challenge for young people is far from over.

Today, one in eight of all young people are not in full-time education or training and most are not looking for work due to health challenges, disability or caring responsibilities. These young people have been overlooked in the Plan for Jobs response so far. Meanwhile, long-term youth unemployment has risen by nearly a half during the crisis to 200,000, and it's reached its highest level in five years. We know that young people with multiple disadvantages and lower qualifications are much more likely to become long-term unemployed, threatening the Government's 'levelling up' agenda.

In the coming months, we need to maintain momentum on helping jobseekers and education leavers and do far more for young people from marginalised backgrounds and those furthest from the labour market. With at least half a million young people leaving full-time education this summer, we cannot afford to assume a youth employment recovery, as the situation for young people experiencing disadvantages remains precarious and uncertain.

To address these challenges and improve the prospects of young people in the post-COVID economy, we propose a three-stage approach in ['Levelling up for young people: Building an Opportunity Guarantee'](#):

1. Ensure that all young people, whether leaving school, college, or university this summer, have the opportunity of an education place, apprenticeship or job
2. Invest in young people in this Spending Review to prevent long-term unemployment among young people, as we've seen in the years after previous downturns
3. Drive forward a coordinated cross-departmental approach to tackling short-term and long-term youth unemployment to ensure that there will be no 'lost generation'

Investing in opportunities now will help to prevent the economic and individual scarring effects we've seen from previous recessions and ensure that young people are not left behind. We firmly believe that this package of actions will enable regions, businesses, and households to put young people at the heart of a future flourishing economy that levels up opportunity for all. We stand ready, as a coalition of over 200 organisations working across the country to support youth employment, to help the government make these actions a reality.

Sincerely,

The Youth Employment Group

Eleanor Harrison OBE, Chief Executive, Impetus
Jonathan Townsend, UK CEO, The Prince's Trust
Laura-Jane Rawlings, CEO, Youth Employment UK
Anna Smee, CEO, Youth Futures Foundation
Tony Wilson, Institute Director, Institute for Employment Studies
Stephen Evans, CEO, Learning and Work Institute
Kieran Gordon, Executive Director, Careers England
David Hughes, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges
Councillor Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth & Children's Services, London Borough of Hounslow
Kayleigh Wainwright, Director of Collective Action, UK Youth
Graham Duxbury, Chief Executive, Groundwork UK
Kamran Mallick, CEO, Disability Rights UK
Mike Hobday, Executive Director Policy & Campaigns, National Deaf Children's Society
Anna Morrison, Director, Amazing Apprenticeships
Nicola Inge, Employment and Skills Director, Business in the Community
Helen Sanson, Director, Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership
Leigh Middleton, CEO, National Youth Agency
Loic Menzies, Chief Executive, The Centre for Education and Youth
Sam Olsen, CEO, Movement to Work
Scott Parkin FIEP, Chief Executive, Institute of Employability Professionals
Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive, Institute of Student Employers
Elaine Boyes, Executive Director, The Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)
Aileen Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Grand Union Housing Group
Andrew Forsey, National Director, Feeding Britain
Dr Hilary Leever, CEO, Engineering UK
Dr Hinnah Rafique, CEO, Generation Medics
Dr. Niamh McGarry, Research Director, ClearView Research (YE2030 campaign)
Andy Chaggar, UK Director, Talent RISE
Chris Wright, CEO, Catch22
Dr Emma Egging OBE PhD, CEO, Jon Egging Trust
Tom Clarke-Forrest, CEO, Sport 4 Life UK
Ed Heaver, Director, Serve Legal
Barry Fletcher, Chief Executive, Career Connect

Cherri Blissett, Director, Rocket Science UK LTD

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Fiona Barrett, Director of Operations, Genius Within CIC

Gary Laybourne, Chief Executive Officer, Coach Core Foundation

Julian Hall, CEO, Ultra Education

Sharon Davies, CEO, Young Enterprise

Shenaaz Chenia, CEO, YouthBuild Ventures U.K.

Jo Rice, CEO & Co-Founder, Resurgo

Jo Wells, Director, Blagrave Trust

Johnny Rich, Chief Executive, Push

Juliet Mountain, Director of Shaw Trust Foundation, Shaw Trust

Clare Viney, Chief Executive Officer, Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC)

Karen Challis, CEO, Sheffield Futures

Karen Jelenie, Founder + Director, Activate the City!

Lynne Peabody, Acting CEO, EY Foundation

Mark Cameron OBE, CEO, The 5% Club

Matt Lent, CEO, Spark!

Michaela Greene, Partnerships and Impact Director, Roundhouse

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Rachel Roxburgh, CEO, Working Options in Education

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Peter Tate, Chair, Bradford Youth Development Partnership

Richard Kennell, CEO, SOFEA

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Vanessa Simon, Chief Connection Officer, Youth Voices C.I.C

Richard Watson, Chief Executive, MyBigCareer

Mark Devlin, Chief Executive, Young Epilepsy

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Thomas Cliffe, Director, TRACK NN

Steve Woolcock, CEO, First Rung

William Akerman, CEO and Founder, MyKindaFuture

Jack Houghton, CEO, Half-Full