

## Youth Employment Group meetings resume since summer break

**The Youth Employment Group recently met for their first session since the beginning of the summer break.**

Against a backdrop of economic uncertainty and the concerning cost-of-living crisis, Co-Chairs offered insights into the latest labour market statistics and shed light on the key issues affecting young people from data gathered in the Youth Voice Census.

### Labour market outlook

Opening the session, Tony Wilson, Director of Institute for Employment Studies and YEG Co-Chair, gave an overview of September's labour market data, with the outlook not looking good for young people.

- Tony shared a graph that demonstrated the proportion of young people by whether they are employment, in education, not in education, not employed and in education etc. The NEET figure is very high, around 10% (approximately one in seven people), but it is at its lowest level it has been on record.
- There has been a significant growth in the number of young people combining full-time education and employment, but it is still low by historic standards and there is potentially untapped labour in education.
- A lot still needs to be done to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and there is a case for redistributing the £750 million underspend from the Kickstart scheme.

### Youth Voice Census

Lauren Mistry, Director of Impact, Strategy and Communications, Youth Employment UK, presented the key findings from Youth Employment UK's Youth Voice Census 2022. This year, Youth Employment UK extended the reach of the survey from the 14-24 age group to 11-30. This was to recognise the multiple factors within education and careers education that young people are now facing. This, combined with the impact Brexit, Covid and the cost-of-living crisis is having on young people's presents knock-on effects for young people's attempts to access the labour market.

The four main findings were:

1. **There is a mental health emergency for young people.** The census found that many young people are anxious, worried or depressed and that anxiety is, or will be, one of the biggest barriers to accessing work. This year's findings are a warning that young people are feeling overwhelmed by the life choices and transitions they have to make more than ever before.
2. **Difference is the disadvantage for young people.** Young people are seeing difference as a disadvantage. Being young was seen as a disadvantage by respondents, but there was more nuance particularly for those with protected characteristics and carers and care leavers.
3. **Young people are feeling unprepared for the world of work.** Young people are feeling unprepared for the future. Many young people do not feel like they are being prepared for

the world outside education and are not confident that they have the skills and tools needed to access good quality work.

4. **Young people do not believe there are good opportunities to access quality work where they live.** Young people continue to feel that they are unlikely to access quality work locally. They find that travel and location to access good jobs to find work is a barrier. When young people are in good quality work they feel they can be themselves, that they are building good skills, are happy about the future, feel confident and are making progress.

In addition to these findings, the very essence of who young people are – their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic group etc. – appears to play a part in the types of services young people have access to, their aspirations and their quality of work.

Finally, members shared various updates and opportunities of activities within the youth employment sector. The next YEG meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 October, 2-3pm.

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Read the full Youth Employment Group minutes [here](#).

If you do not have the YEG meetings in your diary, please contact [Angel](#).