

Youth Employment Group produce policy wish list for next General Election

Members of the Youth Employment Group (YEG) reflected on the key policy areas they wanted to see the Government prioritise in the next General Election. Members also received an update on the latest labour market statistics and discussed updates affecting apprenticeships.

Policy wish list discussion – Richard Rigby (Head of Policy and Public Affairs, The Prince's Trust)

Richard chaired a discussion around what policy wishes YEG members would like to see addressed by Government ahead of a General Election in 2024 or 2025.

Discussion points included:

- Considering the exit requirements for apprenticeships in the policy design of apprenticeship reforms
- Addressing youth mental health by integrating CAMHs, employment support and NEET support
- Re-defining and scoping the supported employment model, ensuring it is available for all groups of young people

Labour market stats – Tony Wilson (Director, Institute for Employment Studies)

Unemployment has risen a tiny bit, but economic inactivity and employment remain broadly flat. You can read the December briefing [here](#).

- Unemployment is still below pre-pandemic levels. The broad story remains the same: that there are far fewer people in the labour force and many people who are out of work and not looking for work. The economically inactive group is mainly explained by those who are older and those who have long-term health conditions.
- The story of the pandemic has changed significantly, but there remains one in eight young people that are quite significantly disadvantaged through neither earning or learning.

Apprenticeships update – Anna Morrison (Director, Amazing Apprenticeships)

Anna presented on National Apprenticeships Week, the Holman Review on careers and the recent announcement on traineeships.

National Apprenticeships Week

- National Apprenticeships Week is running from 6-12 February and themes this year includes skills for life. Logos and badges, events, resources and more can be found [here](#).

- The Amazing Apprenticeships team have created lots of resources, including a podcast with a special guest and an apprenticeships arcade – launching on 11th January – with games to play in the classroom and at home.

Traineeships

- The Government announced that traineeships as a programme are going to be integrated into the 16-19 programme and adult education provision from 1 August 2023. Read the full statement [here](#).
- Anna is currently having conversations with the traineeships team looking at what this announcement means and the Apprenticeships subgroup will also be picking this up.

Holman Review of Careers Guidance

- Sir John Holman's review of careers guidance was published on 12 December.
- Read the 8-page summary of everything that has come out of the review [here](#).

Finally, members of the YEG shared their updates, opportunities, and activities within the youth employment sector.

The next YEG meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 February, 2-3pm.
