

## YEG discuss APPG for Youth Employment's report on mental health

The February meeting of the Youth Employment Group (YEG) included a debrief on the latest labour market stats, a presentation on the APPG for Youth Employment's new report on mental health and key findings from the Institute for Fiscal Studies' research on the early careers of education leavers since the Covid-19 pandemic.

### APPG for Youth Employment report on mental health – Eilish Peters, Policy and Youth Voice Coordinator, Youth Employment UK

The APPG for Youth Employment was established to bring together parliamentarians to explore how to tackle unemployment and support young people into good quality work. Youth Employment UK provides the secretariat role for the APPG for Youth Employment.

- The inquiry came out of the Youth Voice Census 2022, which found that young people are currently in a mental health emergency.
- The inquiry heard oral and written evidence from 17 organisations. You can read the full list [here](#).
- As part of the inquiry, the APPG for Youth Employment asked what works and what more needs to be done. Whilst there has been some commitment from government on this, including the NHS long-term plan published in 2019, there has been little progress in tackling the root causes of mental ill health.
- Eilish stated that it's important to note that the issues facing young people have changed since 2019. Even pre-pandemic, the mental health issues young people were facing were becoming more complex with long waiting lists for key services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- Through contributions to the inquiry, economic experts Resolution Foundation said that the impact of mental ill health can now be clearly attributed to economic inactivity which continues to rise.
- The APPG for Youth Employment made several recommendations in the report, including: setting out a long-term plan for mental health, increased funding for mental health services, accountability and responsibility, early intervention, in-work support and quality work, targeted support for young NEET people, youth voice and more.
- As a YEG co-chair, Youth Employment UK will be considering how to incorporate the findings from the report into the YEG Vision Paper.
- You can read the report [here](#).

### Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report on the early careers of education leavers since the Covid-19 pandemic – Sam Ray-Chaudhuri, Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Sam presented on the report *Are the kids alright? The early careers of education leavers since the Covid-19 pandemic*. The broad question the report tries to answer is 'how has the Covid pandemic affected the labour market outcomes of young people?'

**Summary of findings:**

- The pandemic saw significant losses in the time young people spent working which, combined with a deterioration in mental health, is associated with significant scarring and persistent negative effects on earnings of young people and other labour market outcomes.
- Despite this, the research showed limited evidence of persistent negative effects based on employment and job quality measures currently.
- Some of the scarring could be yet to materialise, including stunts in the development of skills and networking with people in a cohort, the unknown impacts of working from home early in career and the tick down in vacancies.

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 15 March, 2-3pm.**

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