

# EMPLOYABILITY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

## BLACKBURN'S INSPIRING 2025 Shaping Futures, Raising Aspirations

### Blackburn is Inspiring 2025

**Bringing together education, employers, and young people to build the future workforce**



This year's Blackburn's Inspiring event took place at Blackburn Leisure Centre on Thursday 18th<sup>t</sup> of September, organised and delivered by BwDBC's New Directions team. Now in its eighth year, the purpose of the event is to inform and inspire young people of the options available once they leave school or complete their post 16 studies. Almost 2000 young people attended the event from BwD secondary schools and sixth forms, as well as some young people who are not currently engaged in education, employment or training.

There were 71 exhibitors on the day, including local employers, colleges, sixth forms, training providers, and universities. Employers such as the Eric Wright Group, Forbes Solicitors, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, and Leyland Trucks took part, alongside third sector organisations like Youth Action and Blackburn with Darwen Youth Zone.

The event featured interactive activities, giving young people the chance to learn hands-on and talk with employers and training providers. It was also a great opportunity for businesses to meet potential future employees.



**For More  
Information**



[newdirections@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:newdirections@blackburn.gov.uk)



01254 666424

*If you would like to share organisational updates, success stories, or collaborative working experiences, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your submissions via email to [sabiha.patel@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:sabiha.patel@blackburn.gov.uk)*

# JOB CLUB

Supporting People into Work

Our professional and experienced support workers are on-hand to help you get back to work. We have access to a range of courses, work experience and volunteering opportunities that will help to improve your appeal to employers.



CV & Cover Letters



Job Searching



Interview Coaching



Build your confidence



Getting Online



contact for more information



[employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk)



01254 666483



<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/jobs/help-find-job/employability-mentoring>

EVERY  
TUESDAY

Darwen  
Community  
Helpers,  
Bridge St,  
Darwen,  
BB3 2AA

9.30am-  
11.30am

EVERY  
WEDNESDAY

Bank Top  
Neighbourhood  
Learning  
Centre,  
Arthur Way,  
Blackburn,  
BB2 1QP

9.30am-  
11.30am

EVERY  
THURSDAY

Audley  
Neighbourhood  
Learning  
Centre,  
Pringle St,  
Blackburn,  
BB1 1SF

1-3pm

CONNECT TO WORK  
Funded by UK Government

EMPLOYMENT,  
SKILLS AND  
SUPPORT HUB



Part of the  
Lancashire Combined  
County Authority

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Lancashire Combined  
County Authority

## Need help to find or stay in work?

Connect to Work can help you if you're finding it tough to get a job or stay in work. Whether you have a disability, a long-term health condition, or you're finding it hard to keep a job, **we're here to support you**. Let's talk.



- A personal employment specialist to support you
- A plan to help you meet your work goals
- Help and support at work and outside of work
- Support to help make changes at work to make things easier
- Someone to help you speak up at work

Scan the QR code to find out more:



01254 666483 | [employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk)

EMPLOYMENT,  
SKILLS AND  
SUPPORT HUB

## Being in work can improve your...

- Confidence
- Social Skills
- Finances
- Mental Health
- Health
- Community



Scan the QR code to find out more:



01254 666483 | [employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk)

EMPLOYMENT,  
SKILLS AND  
SUPPORT HUB

# <<<new directions>>>

**Are you 16-19 and looking for a new direction?/  
Are you 14-25yrs with an EHCP?**

New Directions is a careers, information and advice service for young people within Blackburn and Darwen. We can provide you with the support you need to make choices about your future. Come and meet our team of friendly advisors at one of the sessions below.



**Monday: 1-4pm  
Monday: 1-4pm  
Tuesday: 1-4pm  
Wednesday: 12-3pm  
Wednesday: 1-4pm  
Thursday: 10 - 12pm  
Thursday: 12 - 3pm  
Thursday: 1 - 4pm**

**Audley and Queens Park Children's Centre  
Little Harwood Family Hub  
Darwen Health Centre  
Livesey Family Hub  
Shadsworth Family Hub  
Wensley Fold Children's Centre  
Higher Croft Children's Centre  
Darwen Health Centre**



01254 666424



newdirections@blackburn.gov.uk



[https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/jobs/  
help-find-job/careers-advice-new-  
directions](https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/jobs/help-find-job/careers-advice-new-directions)



**Whatever the stage of  
your career...  
We are here to help!**

Find your new job or change your career

**We help adults of all ages,  
both in and out of work.**

**Discover your  
career options  
through our  
skills assessment**

**Access training,  
courses and  
apprenticeships**

**Develop job  
search,  
CV and  
interview skills**

**Understand  
the local  
job market**

**Get In Touch**



**01254 507720/ 01254 581175**

**[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)**



**[NCS@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:NCS@blackburn.gov.uk)**



# See where learning can take you



## Introduction to IT, Internet and Emails

This short course is ideal for complete beginners who can use a mouse and keyboard and want to build basic computer skills. You'll learn how to type documents, save and find files, use programs, browse the internet, and send emails with attachments safely.

**Skills required:** Mouse and keyboard.

368	Bank Top NLC	Thursday	9.30am - 11.30am	26/02/2026	3 weeks
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## Introduction to Cyber Security - Stay Safe Online

Learn how to protect your personal information while shopping, booking, and communicating online. This course covers how to spot and avoid scams, fraud, and online risks.

**Skills required:** Mouse and keyboard.

371	Bank Top NLC	Thursday	9.30am - 11.30am	19/03/2026	2 hours
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## Exploring Skills for Life and Work

### Unsure about your next steps—career, volunteering, or personal development?

This course will help you identify your strengths, explore your skill set, and match them to suitable pathways. You will also learn how to recognise and apply transferable skills for employment, volunteering, or life goals.

302	Bank Top NLC	Tuesday	9.30am - 12pm	24/02/2026	2½ hours
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## Step into Employment - CV Building

### Stand Out with a Strong CV.

Learn how to create a professional CV that highlights your skills and experience. Whether you are job hunting, volunteering, or advancing your career, this course offers practical guidance to make your CV impactful. Ideal for students, job seekers, and professionals.

303	Bank Top NLC	Tuesday	9.30am - 12pm	03/03/2026	2½ hours
386	Darwen Town Hall	Tuesday	9.30am - 12pm	12/05/2026	2½ hours

## Step into Employment - Interview Skills

### Want to Ace Your Next Job Interview?

Join our interview skills course and gain the confidence to impress! Whether you are stepping into your first role or aiming for a promotion, this workshop will help you master key techniques to succeed in any interview.

304	Bank Top NLC	Tuesday	9.30am - 12pm	10/03/2026	2½ hours
387	Darwen Town Hall	Tuesday	9.30am - 12pm	19/05/2026	2½ hours

## Highfield Level 2 Award in Customer Service

### Boost Your Customer Service Skills



Whether you are in a customer-facing role or preparing for one, this course is for you. Learn key principles like meeting customer expectations, effective communication, professional behaviour, and handling difficult situations—across all industries, including telephone-based roles.

**Skills required:** Learners must have English language skills at Level 1 or above to complete this course.

305	Bank Top NLC	Tuesday	9.30am - 2.30pm	17/03/2026	2 weeks
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## Free English & Maths Courses for Adults - Build Skills for Life and Work!

Want to feel more confident in everyday situations or boost your chances at work? Whether you're helping your children with homework, applying for jobs, or managing your money, improving your English and Maths can make a big difference.

**Join our friendly, adult-only classes and take the next step towards your goals!**

### What You'll Gain:

- Reading, writing, and number skills
- More confidence in work, interviews, and daily tasks
- Help with job applications and CVs
- Skills to support your children's learning
- Improved budgeting and problem-solving
- A stepping stone to further training or qualifications

### Why Learn With Us?

- Learn at your own pace in a relaxed, supportive environment
- No exams unless you want them
- Small, welcoming groups
- Free for all learners!

# Book Now!

SCAN ME



**Learn at your own pace in a relaxed,  
supportive environment  
No exams unless you want them,  
Small and welcoming groups -**

**\*FREE for all learners!**

**Find out more information about courses by  
contacting them  
01254 507720 / 581175**



[adultlearning@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@blackburn.gov.uk)



<https://www.bwdlearning.org>



## Information Technology Solutions Skills Bootcamps

**Start Date: 11th February 2026 - 31st March 2026**

Blended Learning - Classroom Location: Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP  
- Remote Delivery Using MS Teams

**Dates: 11th Feb 26 - 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 26** **Delivery: Remote and Classroom**

**Times: 9.30am - 2.30pm** **Classroom Sessions: 1, 2, 3, 10, 18, 19, 20**

**Duration: 20 Sessions** **Online Sessions: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**

Our 20 sessions IT Skills Bootcamp offers comprehensive training in essential IT areas, including cybersecurity, cloud computing, and database management. Focused on practical skills and employability, it prepares learners for the IT industry with hands-on project work and career development guidance. More details related to the course is shown overleaf.

**Join our IT Solutions Skills Bootcamps**

**GUARANTEED JOB INTERVIEWS**

**Enrol Today** ☎ 01254 679998 ✉ bootcamps@alphabet-training.co.uk 🌐 <https://www.alphabet-training.co.uk/skills-bootcamps-form>



### ELIGIBILITY

- Aged 19+ (as at 31st March 2025)
- Must be a resident of the UK
- Be eligible to work in the UK

## YOUTH HUB

The Journey Starts **Here...**

Tailored support is offered to young people aged 14-24, with progression coaches assisting with CV writing, interview practice, job applications, work experience, and finding employment.

**Get In Touch**



**01254 292000**



**[laura.billington@blackburnyz.org](mailto:laura.billington@blackburnyz.org)**



**[www.alphabet-training.co.uk](https://www.alphabet-training.co.uk)**

**For more information on the courses offered please contact:**

**Get In Touch**



**01254 679998**



**[bootcamps@alphabet-training.co.uk](mailto:bootcamps@alphabet-training.co.uk)**



**[www.alphabet-training.co.uk](https://www.alphabet-training.co.uk)**

## YOUTH HUB

The Journey Starts **Here...**

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone's Youth Hub is your key to unlocking potential and shaping a rewarding future. We're dedicated to supporting you through all stages of your journey, from leaving school to pursuing further education or exploring new opportunities.

**Our mission:** to change how a generation of young people prepare for the world of work, so our local economy thrives.



### RAISING ASPIRATIONS

Empowering you to unlock your maximum potential

### SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Upskilling you for challenges and demands of the workplace

### PROGRESSION ROUTES

Guiding you on a path toward a brighter future through positive steps.

The Youth Hub offers tailored support for 14-24 year-olds in Blackburn with Darwen. Our Progression Coaches help with CV writing, interview practice, job applications, work experience, and finding employment.

**Ready to move forward towards your future?** Come join us at the Youth Hub and begin an empowering journey toward achieving your dreams!

scan QR code to our referral page on our website





Whatever challenges you're facing, if you're aged 16 to 30, The King's Trust (formerly known as The Prince's Trust) is here for you. You've got what it takes to gain the confidence and skills to get a job. But sometimes it takes that first step, and we're here to help.



Boost your confidence by taking part in fun, challenging group activities. You'll gain key skills to support you in life and work, including teamwork, leadership and communication.

ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

- Work in a team and benefit from 1-1 support
- Take part in fun and engaging activities
- The opportunity to gain qualifications during the programme
- Receive support moving forward into work, education or training

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster day: monthly  
Course dates: monthly  
Express interest by: monthly  
Location: Lancashire  
Eligibility criteria: 16 - 25yrs and not in education, work or training.

Find out more  
via webchat  
at:Tracey.duerden@kingstrust.org.uk  
mobile - 07943557868



Uncover new skills, gain work experience and improve your local community. All with a group of people just like you. Start something, together.

ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

- Take part in a group community project
- Go on a fun-filled residential trip
- Develop English, maths, communication and teamwork skills
- Get two weeks' work experience in something you're interested in

NEED TO KNOW:

12-week personal development programme  
Start dates: February, May and September  
Locations: Lancashire and Cumbria  
Eligibility criteria: Aged 16-25 years old and not in any work, training or education.



Everyone starts somewhere. Get the skills, experience and opportunities to help you land a job.

Email [Becca.Grimshaw@kingstrust.org.uk](mailto:Becca.Grimshaw@kingstrust.org.uk)  
07484906567

ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

- Gain in-depth training in the retail industry by completing work experience with M&S
- Improve your teamwork and communication skills and boost your confidence
- Have the opportunity to gain a 12-week employment contract
- Receive 6-months post programme support

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster day: Week Commencing 16 Feb 26  
Course Dates: 2 Mar 26 - 27 Mar 26  
Application Deadline: 12 Feb 26  
Location: Stores across Lancashire  
Eligibility criteria: Not in education, employment or training. Aged 16-30 years old.



Our free business support can help turn your idea into a reality.

Find out more  
**Zainab Anwer**  
**07483135849**



ABOUT ENTERPRISE

You'll develop the skills and knowledge you need to launch and grow your business, thanks to one-to-one support, training and mentoring from business experts.

- Get one-to-one support
- Plan for success
- Learn and grow
- Connect and network
- Test and review your idea
- Apply for funding to test or start-up

ELIGIBILITY AND USEFUL INFORMATION:

Our business support is open to those aged 18 to 30, who have a right to work in the UK, and runs regularly throughout the year. See our website for full eligibility.



Everyone starts somewhere. Get the skills, experience and opportunities to help you land a job.

BAE Systems value diversity, and everyone has the opportunity to be themselves and fulfil their potential no matter their background.

To find out more, get in touch:  
becca.grimshaw@kingstrust.org.uk  
07483906567

#### ON THIS FREE COURSE YOU'LL:

- Take part in an on-site work experience placement with BAE Systems.
- Develop new skills, improve your CV and boost your interview technique.
- Learn about job opportunities and apprenticeships with BAE Systems.
- Receive up to six months support after completing the programme.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster date: 22 Jan 26  
Course dates: 9 Feb - 27 Feb 26  
Express interest by: 19 Jan 26  
Location: Samlesbury, Lancashire  
Eligibility criteria: Aged 18-30, not in full-time employment, education or training



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Join the Prince's Trust Team programme and we can help you achieve your potential!

Team is a free 12 week personal development course for young people aged 16-25.

Gain new skills, a nationally recognised qualification, meet new people and have fun! Take part in a community project, enjoy a residential trip away and complete a two week work placement - all aimed at your successful future.

Team Leader:  
Programme Support Worker:  
Office:  
Email:  
Address:

[www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/adults](http://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/adults)

# Creative Future

## Get Started with Photography

Blackburn  
16 -20 February  
Age: 16 - 25

Try out hands-on activities, start building a portfolio, and screen your work to an audience – with support from inspirational industry experts.

**Find out more and sign up:**  
[andrew.mcnally@kingstrust.org.uk](mailto:andrew.mcnally@kingstrust.org.uk)  
07931 614736

Thank you to our delivery partner Blackburn College.

King's Trust

Elba Hope Foundation

Funded by  
UK Government

Blackburn College

DSN6424 © The King's Trust 2025 - all rights reserved. The King's Trust is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter in England: RC000772, Registered office: The King's Trust, The King's Trust South London Centre, 8 Glade Path, London SE1 8EG. Registered charity number in England and Wales: 1079675 and Scotland: SC041998.

**Are you aged 16 - 25 and think you will benefit from joining our next Prince's Trust Team programme?**

**Are you struggling to find the right job?**

**Thinking college isn't for you?**

**Want to develop important skills to help you reach your potential?**

**Do you want to gain new experiences, a qualification up to level 2 and work as part of a team in a huge variety of activities?**

**Do you want to build your CV?**

**We have new 12-week TEAM programme's starting at Blackburn Fire Station**

**Get In Touch**



**07900268703 / 07900268704**



[PTBlackburn@lancsfirerescue.org.uk](mailto:PTBlackburn@lancsfirerescue.org.uk)



<https://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/your-community/princes-trust>

# SKILLS FOR WORK

The skills for work team at Blackburn college are passionate about people, we are passionate about serving our community & helping to upskill our local community.

CONTACT



01254 292382



skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk

## GATEWAY TO BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Do you want a career at Blackburn College?

Be more employable. Get work experience at Blackburn College and gain the opportunity to start your new career.



### Why choose Gateway to Blackburn College?

- Get the skills employers are looking for & gain recognised qualifications valued by employers
- You'll be guaranteed an interview to join our staff talent pool.
- Complete a work placement at Blackburn College

INDUCTION  
WEDNESDAY  
14TH JAN 26

Induction &  
DBS  
Information

WEEK 1-5  
TUESDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup> JAN 26

Employability  
skills tailored  
to your needs,  
over 4 days.

WEEK 6-8  
W. 9TH MARCH 26

3-week work  
placement in one of  
our support  
areas; reception,  
admin, customer  
service,  
catering, cleaning,  
library, and Student  
Support.

+ FLEXIBLE PLACEMENT HOURS & SUPPORT FROM A PLACEMENT MENTOR

01254 292277  
skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk

Who can join the Gateway to Blackburn College programme?

If you're aged 19+ and a local resident, this FREE 8 week course is for you\*

\*Free if claiming a benefit or earning less than £25,750

### Free accredited courses with Blackburn College \*



### TEACHING ASSISTANT ESSENTIALS

BLACKBURN COLLEGE SKILLS FOR WORK TEAM OFFERS THE LEVEL 1 AND 2 NCFE SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING QUALIFICATION  
STARTING MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

#### ABOUT THIS CLASS

Delivered by the Skills for Work Team at Blackburn College, our friendly and supportive tutors will guide you every step of the way. Learn on campus in a welcoming environment and take the first step towards a rewarding career in education!

Enrol today and make a difference

Level 1 Starting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

2026

Level 2 starting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January

2026

#### OUR MAIN TOPICS

- UNDERSTANDING THE
- ROLE OF A TEACHING
- ASSISTANT
- SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH
- SUPPORTING LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN THE CLASSROOM

Speak to your work coach for more information  
\*Free if claiming an in work benefit or earning less than £25,750

## MENTAL HEALTH Awareness

JOIN US FOR A 4 DAY NCFE AWARD IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



Delivered by the Skills for Work Team at Blackburn College, our friendly and supportive tutors will guide you every step of the way. Learn on campus in a welcoming environment

### NCFE LEVEL 1 AWARD IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

- RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES SURROUNDING MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES
- DISPEL SOME OF THE MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS FREQUENTLY LINKED TO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
- DEVELOP YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Starting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

01254 292277  
skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk  
www.blackburn.ac.uk

START YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE UK'S LARGEST EMPLOYER!



## CIVIL SERVICE

### HELP TO APPLY WORKSHOP WITH BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Join our 1-week intensive course designed to help you confidently apply for roles within the Civil Service.

- Navigate the Civil Service application process
- Write effective personal statements
- Understand Success Profiles and Civil Service behaviours
- Prepare for Civil Service interviews and judgement tests
- Explore career paths across departments like DWP, HMRC, MOD, and more
- Receive expert customer service training



STARTS MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
9:30AM – 2:30PM

SPEAK TO YOUR WORK COACH

01254 292277



skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk

ENROL NOW



# Confidence counts: Nail your next interview

Three-Day Workshop |  
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM |  
Launchpad Centre

Starting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**What you'll gain**

- ✓ Confidence Building
- ✓ Master that interview
- ✓ STAR technique
- ✓ Realistic Practice
- ✓ AI insights

**Overview**

Ready to boost your confidence and master modern interview techniques? This practical, interactive programme is designed for adult learners who want to stand out and succeed.

**Why join?**

- Build confidence through repetition and expert guidance.
- Understand multi-stage recruitment processes used by top employers.
- Leave with practical tools and a clear plan for your next steps.

[skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk](mailto:skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk) [01254 292277](tel:01254 292277) [www.blackburn.ac.uk](http://www.blackburn.ac.uk)



# step into schools

START YOUR CAREER AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT

Starts 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026  
Information Session 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

**14 WEEKS TRAINING**  
STUDY ON CAMPUS AT BLACKBURN COLLEGE AND GAIN ESSENTIAL TEACHING ASSISTANT QUALIFICATIONS

**QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE:**  
NCFE L1 PREPARING TO WORK IN SCHOOLS  
NCFE LEVEL 2 SUPPORT WORK IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES  
LEVEL 1 SAFEGUARDING  
LEVEL 1 MENTAL HEALTH  
TQUK LEVEL 2 SEND

**WORK PLACEMENT**  
KICKSTART YOUR CAREER: 10-DAY WORK PLACEMENT + FUNDED DBS, THEN A 2-WEEK BLOCK!

[skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk](mailto:skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk) - 01254 292277  
Course is free if claiming UC or earning less than £25,750\*



## Adult Education

**Why Join?**  
Enhance your CV • Prepare for interviews • Build confidence with languages • Access work in factories, schools and hospitals • Progress and promotion opportunities

We Interview Every Thursday  
Study Options: ESOL, GCSEs, Functional Skills, CELTA, Community & Employability, Spanish & Arabic

Contact: 01254 292582 | 01254 292929  
ESOL.HUB@blackburn.ac.uk | CELTA@blackburn.ac.uk | admissions@blackburn.ac.uk



**OUTSTANDING**

The capacity to learn is a *gift*; the ability to learn is a *skill*; the willingness to learn is a *choice*.

Brian Herbert



**Community  
Trust**

Blackburn Rovers Community Trust is dedicated to providing all members of the local community with access to a top-quality program focused on grassroots football, educational initiatives, inclusion projects, and awareness campaigns.

## KICKSTART FUTURES

A fresh start for young people in Darwen.

**Kickstart Futures** is part of the Blackburn Rovers Community College pathway, designed to support 16-19 year-olds in Darwen who are not currently in education, training or work.

**What you'll get:**

- 10-week programme (2.5 days per week)
- Friendly, small group learning and mentoring
- Employability skills: CV writing, interview prep, teamwork
- Volunteering placements with local employers and charities
- Functional skills preparation & King's Trust Achieve Certificate
- Enrichment activities: sports, team projects, free gym membership
- Wellbeing and personal support to overcome barriers

**Where it leads:**

- Progression onto our YMCA pre-apprenticeship programme
- Further training, volunteering, apprenticeships, or employment
- Opportunities within Blackburn Rovers Community Trust itself

**Delivered locally in Darwen by Blackburn Rovers Community Trust - helping you build skills, confidence, and a brighter future.**



Call: 07939 347801  
Email: [communitycollege@brfctrust.co.uk](mailto:communitycollege@brfctrust.co.uk)

[f](#) [X](#) [@](#) [brfctrust](#)



Community Trust  
**COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

**Get In Touch**

**For more information or to make a referral,**

**Please contact Michelle on:**



**07939 347801**



**[communitycollege@brfctrust.co.uk](mailto:communitycollege@brfctrust.co.uk)**



**Community  
Trust**



## Pre-apprenticeship Programme:

This programme is open to young people aged 16-18 (or 19-24 with an EHCP) who are eager to build the skills they need for apprenticeships or future employment.

Accepting referrals for our upcoming Pre-Apprenticeship Programme.  
20 places available for the next cohort.

### Programme Overview

Ages: 16-18 (19-24 with an EHCP)  
Next Cohort Start Date: 13th April 2026  
Duration: 12-16 weeks

### What You'll Learn

Employability skills  
Functional skills in maths and English  
Three-week work placement for hands-on experience

### Additional Support

Bursary available for travel and food expenses  
DBS required for work placements in childcare, education, or care sectors  
Birth certificate is required on enrolment

## Next Steps Together

We offer a friendly and supportive Employment and skills service for people in the communities where you work.

- Job interview preparation
- CV refresh
- Job searching
- Connections to local employers
- Build skills, build confidence
- Personalised advice

We create personalised support for every individual, focusing on their goals and aspirations. We offer a small and relaxed environment, to boost the confidence and skills of each person who joins our Next Steps Together programme.

What our participants think:

*"You've not only given me the opportunity to learn again and take new courses, but you've also been a massive help with my job search, from looking for work to applying for jobs."*

*"Things are always explained clearly and professionally but friendly at the same time and this put me at ease, nothing is too much trouble."*

*"The environment I was supported in was really relaxed, quiet and it wasn't formal which helped me a lot."*

For more information or to make a referral, please contact hello@newground.co.uk

**The Launchpad**

The Launchpad, a collaboration with Blackburn College, is a space for people in Blackburn to seek employment, alongside our additional support services is now open. Our expert team will be delighted to assist your customers to become work-ready and find local job opportunities. Our connections with local employers and community partners mean that we can offer a wide range of services to match job seekers with local vacancies to help more people into sustained employment.

The Launchpad is open Monday to Fridays from 9am-4.30pm to guide with job searching, CV writing, 1-2-1 support such as interview preparation, energy advice, financial and debt advice, and skills training.

Strengthening connections and creating opportunities in the communities you work in

Meet the business and partnerships team from Newground Together. Working within your community, their aim is to bring organisations like yours and the communities in which you work, closer together.

**Tariq Ali**  
Business and Partnerships Lead

What they do

Work alongside local businesses and community stakeholders to create opportunities into employment, training or develop skills to support personal growth.

We will work in partnership with you to develop work placements and offer a tailored approach to ensure specific needs are met.

**Kat Shah**  
Business and Partnerships Officer - Employment

[newgroundtogether.co.uk](http://newgroundtogether.co.uk)

**Noor Network**

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

For professionals working with or supporting South Asian parents with SEND\* children

- Learn how to effectively support South Asian parents
- Expand your professional practice and confidence
- Share your expertise to empower parents and families
- Make lasting change - a great CPD opportunity!

**YOUTH ACTION.**

YOUTH ACTION works with all young people from all communities aged 5 to 25

For more information on the courses offered please contact:

**Get In Touch**

01254 695847

hello@YouthAction.org.uk

[www.youthaction.org.uk](http://www.youthaction.org.uk)

# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteering offers a great way to enhance your CV while making a positive impact.

**Age:**  
**16 - 30yrs**

We offer a range of volunteering roles that allow individuals to gain valuable experience while giving back to the community.

**Roles Include:** Wellbeing Hub Support, Matchday Assistant, Birthday Party Helper, Holiday Camp Assistant

**Requirements:** DBS check and two references

**Benefits:** Safeguarding training, Inclusion training

**How to Apply:** Ongoing application process with flexible start dates.

**For more information visit the website:** [www.chipinbwd.co.uk](http://www.chipinbwd.co.uk)



Community CVS are here to help you find your perfect volunteering opportunity. It's our mission to make volunteering in Blackburn with Darwen easy to access, fulfilling and life-changing for everyone.

**There are 179 local volunteering opportunities in BWD**

Browse our extensive directory of local volunteering opportunities in Blackburn, Darwen

**For more information visit the website:** [www.communitycvs.org.uk](http://www.communitycvs.org.uk)



Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) is a gateway into public service volunteering. It may be that you would like to gain experience in a specific area, or learn and progress in your career; volunteering is a great way of trying something new. Or perhaps you would like the chance to meet new people and give something back by making a difference to someone's life.

**For more information visit the website:** [www.lancsvp.org.uk](http://www.lancsvp.org.uk)



Our volunteer programme lets you share your passion and ensures our work stays community-led. We provide full training for every role, with chances for further development. You'll also have regular support from Anthony, our Volunteer Development Officer, to help you make the most of your experience.

**For more information visit the website:** [www.refreshbwd.com](http://www.refreshbwd.com)



# INFORMATION / EVENTS

  
**RECRUITMENT EVENT**  
**APPRENTICESHIPS • GRADUATE SCHEMES**  
**ENTRY LEVEL ROLES**

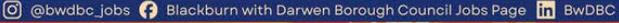
Explore apprenticeship & graduate opportunities across departments starting in September 2026.

**Wednesday, 4th February 2026 16:30 - 19:00**

**Blackburn Leisure Centre BB2 1LQ**

Be a part of Growing Our Own here at Blackburn with Darwen.

[blackburn.gov.uk/jobs-and-recruitment](http://blackburn.gov.uk/jobs-and-recruitment)



  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**GET JOB READY**

Connect with employers from different sectors who are looking to meet engaged, job-ready people.

**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**10am - 3pm**

**BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**

Jubilee Street,  
Blackburn,  
BB1 1EP

  
**BLACKBURN YOUTHZONE**

**EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS AND SUPPORT HUB**



## **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Discover various career paths

Explore different career sectors

Enhance your abilities

Your one-stop shop for jobs, training & support

 → 

 → 

 [employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk)

 01254 666483

  
**WorkWell**  
Blackburn with Darwen  
Connecting work and health

**COULD THE RIGHT SUPPORT HELP YOU THRIVE, NOT SURVIVE AT WORK?**

WorkWell has been developed as part of the Government's plan to help people, with physical and mental health conditions that are not complex but are affecting a person's life, to start and stay in work. This could be things like:

- Feelings of being overloaded with life and so experiencing stress or feeling overwhelmed and needing space to talk.
- Musculoskeletal (MSK), back or knee problems, or other discomfort and muscular problems.
- Life changing circumstances affecting confidence, skills and aspirations.

**A FREE & VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

As part of the offer, people will have access to a work or health coach, who will offer individualised support for up to 12 weeks and together will agree realistic next steps that can form part of a personal support plan that considers a full range of local support, which may include:

- A personal assessment of your needs to understand what support might work best for your circumstances.
- Access to local, community-based employment, training and skills services.
- Access to community physical activities and/or exercise programs, healthy weight and 121 coaching to support health and wellbeing.

[REFRESHBWD.COM/WORKWELL](http://REFRESHBWD.COM/WORKWELL)

# OUR PARTNERS

## EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS AND SUPPORT HUB



Blackburn with Darwen

**ADULT LEARNING**

<<<new directions>>>

National  
Careers  
Service



Blackburn Rovers  
**Community  
Trust**  
'Inspiring change in our community - together'

Department for  
Work & Pensions

**ALPHABET  
TRAINING**



**calico**  
enterprise

**BLACKBURN  
YOUTHZONE**

**e4a**

**LANCASHIRE  
WOMEN**

**Places  
for People**

**newground  
together**

**YOUTH  
ACTION.** YA

**Community**  
Support Action Resource Volunteer



**PHX  
TRAINING**

**imo**  
inspire  
motivate  
overcome  
it's my opportunity

**great  
places**  
HOUSING GROUP

**ingeus**

***If you would like to share organisational updates, success stories, or collaborative working experiences, we'd love to hear from you!***

***Please send your submissions via email to  
sabiha.patel@blackburn.gov.uk***

