

EMPLOYABILITY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

A New Chapter for Careers Support Update: National Careers Service is Changing

National
Careers
Service

A New Chapter for Careers Support

From 1 October 2026, the National Careers Service is transitioning to the new Jobs and Careers Service (JCS). Adult careers guidance will be delivered through the DWP Careers Service, while online careers tools and information will continue through Get Careers Information and Advice.



What Does This Mean?

- ✓ Adult careers support will continue through DWP Careers Advisers.
- ✓ Online resources will remain available, including career tools, skills assessments, course searches and labour market information.
- ✓ The new Jobs and Careers Service will also offer digital tools such as a CV Builder, Find a Job service and AI-powered support.

*Working together to create brighter
futures across Blackburn with
Darwen.*

The National Careers Service has been a valued partner within the **Employment, Skills & Support Hub**, playing a vital role in supporting residents across **Blackburn with Darwen** with impartial careers advice, skills development, progression opportunities, and employment support.

Through strong partnership working, they have improved access to opportunities and supported people into sustainable employment.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the National Careers Service team for their commitment, professionalism, and the positive impact they have made across our communities.

Looking Ahead

Although the service is changing, our partnership working remains as important as ever. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the Employment, Skills & Support Hub will continue to work closely with colleagues delivering the new careers service to ensure residents receive the support they need to achieve their ambitions.

Together, we remain committed to helping local people access opportunities, develop skills, and progress into rewarding careers.

Their contribution has helped thousands of local residents build confidence, gain qualifications, explore career options, and move into, or closer to, sustainable employment.

**Thank You for
Your Continued
Support**

Need help to find or stay in work?

EMPLOYMENT,
SKILLS AND
SUPPORT HUB



CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

Connect to Work
can help you
return to work.

Contact us for a friendly chat
with an Employment Specialist
01254 666483



JOB CLUB & ICT Skills

Supporting People into Work



CV & Cover Letters



Job Searching



Interview Coaching



Build your confidence



Getting Online



Learn a new course

contact for more
information

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.

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

12.45 -
2.45pm



employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk



01254 666483



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



Blackburn with Darwen
ADULT LEARNING

Explore Your Future Career
TRY BEFORE YOU DECIDE!
Explore different career paths before committing to a qualification or job role.

WHY CHOOSE THESE COURSES?

- Explore different workplaces
- Gain practical workplace skills
- Experience enrichment in your chosen area
- Ideal if you're returning to work
- Build confidence & communication
- No long term commitment

NEW FOR THIS YEAR

Blackburn with Darwen

ADULT LEARNING

Blackburn with Darwen Adult Learning helps residents gain new skills, qualifications, and confidence to support their career and personal development. Their courses help people progress into employment, further education, or training.

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

For more information:

 **01254 507720 / 581175**

 **adultlearning@blackburn.gov.uk**

 **<https://www.bwdlearning.org>**

	Introduction to Working in Hospitality and Catering					
	69	Bank Top NLC	Wednesday	9.30am - 2.30pm	04/11/2026	6 weeks
	70	Bank Top NLC	Wednesday	9.30am - 2.30pm	06/01/2027	6 weeks
	Introduction to Working in Customer Service					
	66	Bank Top NLC	Monday	9.30am - 2.30pm	04/01/2027	6 weeks
	Introduction to Working in Mental Health Services					
	61	Bank Top NLC	Monday	9.30am - 2.30pm	02/11/2026	6 weeks
	62	Audley NLC	Monday	9.30am - 2.30pm	04/01/2027	6 weeks
	Introduction to Working in Childcare					
	65	Livesey Family Hub	Monday	1pm - 3pm	02/11/2026	6 weeks

Ready to get started?

Visit www.bwdlearning.org
Call **01254 507720 or 581175** for more information

BOOK NOW!
Scan the QR code to book your place today.



COMING SOON

Courses starting in November 2026

NCFE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
NCFE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
Highfield Level 2 Award in Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People
Introduction to working in Hospitality and Catering
Introduction to Working in Mental Health Services
Introduction to Working in Childcare

Courses starting in December 2026

Progression to Work Readiness
Highfield Level 1 Food Safety for Catering

Courses starting in January 2027

Progression to Work Readiness
Highfield Level 1 Food Safety for Catering

Courses starting in February 2027

Progression to Work Readiness



Book Now!

SCAN ME



<<<new directions>>>

Are you 14-24 yrs with a BwD EHCP?

New Directions offers a careers information, advice and guidance service to young people with a BwD EHCP. We are here to support you in making informed choices about your future. Meet our friendly team of advisors at one of the sessions listed below.

Monday: 1-4pm Audley Neighbourhood Learning Centre
1-4pm Little Harwood Family Hub

Tuesday: 1-4pm Darwen Youth Zone

Wednesday: 12-3pm Livesey Family Hub
1-4pm Shadsworth Family Hub

Thursday: 10-12pm Wensley Fold Children's Centre
1-4pm Blackburn Youth Zone
1-4pm Darwen Youth Zone
12-3pm Highercroft Children's Centre

Advice and guidance

Training courses

Apprenticeships

College courses

Volunteering

Employment

Telephone: 01254 666424
Email: newdirections@blackburn.gov.uk

Audley Neighbourhood Centre
Pringle Street
Blackburn
BB1 1SF

Blackburn Youth Zone
Jubilee Street
Blackburn
BB1 1EP

Darwen Youth Zone
Gary Aspdon Way
Darwen
BB3 2FW

Highercroft Children's Centre
Fishmoor Drive
Blackburn
BB2 3UY

Little Harwood Family Hub
Robinson Street
Blackburn
BB1 5PE

Livesey Family Hub
Andrew Close
Blackburn
BB2 4NU

Shadsworth Family Hub
Shadsworth Road
Blackburn
BB1 2HR

Wensley Fold Children's Centre
Carnarvon Road
Blackburn
BB2 6NL

 [newdirectionsblackburn1](https://www.facebook.com/newdirectionsblackburn1)
 [newdirectionsbwd](https://www.instagram.com/newdirectionsbwd)
 01254 666424
 newdirections@blackburn.gov.uk

Your Career,
Your Future,
Our BwD.



Your career, Your future, Our BwD



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



BLACKBURN & DARWEN
YOUTH ZONE
An OnSide Youth Zone



For more information, call us on
01254 292000 or email
laura.billington@blackburnyz.org

Get In Touch



01254 292000



laura.billington@blackburnyz.org



www.blackburnyz.org



APPRENTICESHIP FOR EMPLOYERS

AI AUTOMATION PRACTITIONER LEVEL 4 APPRENTICESHIP

Turn everyday manual work into automated, AI powered workflows. A practical Level 4 apprenticeship that builds the AI & automation skills your business can put to work straight away.

LEVEL Level 4	DURATION 16 months plus EPA	ROUTE Digital
OFF THE JOB Min 6 hours a week	STUDY MODE Remote & face to face	EPA BCS: Awarding Body

DIGITEX ACADEMY

WHY IT WORKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- RECRUIT NEW TALENT**
Bring in an automation practitioner and grow your own digital capability.
- FUNDED TRAINING**
Training funded through the apprenticeship levy or government co investment.
- UPSKILL EXISTING STAFF**
Turn a capable team member into your in house AI and automation specialist.
- REAL SAVING FROM LIVE PROJECT**
Every module applied to real workplace processes, so value lands early.

WHAT YOUR APPRENTICE WILL DO FOR YOU

- SPOT AUTOMATION OPPORTUNITIES**
Map your processes and find the manual, repetitive work ready to automate.
- CONNECT YOUR SYSTEMS**
Integrate tools and data through APIs and reliable workflows.
- KEEP AI SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE**
Bias, security, governance and ethical use built into every solution.
- BUILD WORKING AUTOMATIONS**
Low and no code bots, prompts and AI tools applied to your real tasks.
- UNLOCK TIME AND COST SAVINGS**
Remove duplication & manual effort to deliver measurable efficiency.
- BRING PEOPLE WITH THEM**
Stakeholder engagement, training and smooth change delivery.



APPRENTICESHIP FOR EMPLOYERS

CONTENT CREATOR LEVEL 3 APPRENTICESHIP

Bring in a new content creator or upskill a member of your team. A practical, workplace based apprenticeship that builds the digital content skills your business needs.

LEVEL Level 3	DURATION 15 months plus 3 months EPA	ROUTE Creative and Design
OFF THE JOB Min 6 hours a week	STUDY MODE Remote & face to face	EPA BCS: Awarding Body

DIGITEX ACADEMY

WHY IT WORKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- RECRUIT NEW TALENT**
Bring in a new content creator and grow your own skilled resource from day one.
- FUNDED TRAINING**
Training funded through the apprenticeship levy or government co investment.
- UPSKILL EXISTING STAFF**
Formalise and sharpen the skills of a team member already producing your content.
- REAL OUTPUT FROM MONTH ONE**
Every module applies to live workplace content, delivering value throughout.

WHAT YOUR APPRENTICE WILL DO FOR YOU

- PLAN AND PRODUCE CONTENT**
Written, visual and audio content built around your brief, brand and budget.
- GROW YOUR AUDIENCE**
Content mapped to the right platforms and channels to lift reach and engagement.
- RUN AND MEASURE CAMPAIGNS**
Campaign planning with clear, measurable outcomes and data led evaluation.
- PUBLISH SAFELY AND LEGALLY**
Copyright, data protection, accessibility and brand compliance handled.
- MANAGE YOUR CONTENT LIBRARY**
Organised, searchable content using industry standard tools and a CMS.
- KEEP YOU CURRENT**
New tools, formats and trends brought into your business as they emerge.



APPRENTICESHIP FOR EMPLOYERS

IT SOLUTIONS TECHNICIAN LEVEL 3 APPRENTICESHIP

Build the person who keeps your systems working. A practical, workplace based apprenticeship that develops a technician who can design, build, test and support the IT solutions your business runs on.

LEVEL Level 3	DURATION 18 months plus assessment	ROUTE Digital
OFF THE JOB 370 hours minimum	STUDY MODE Remote & face to face	ASSESSMENT To be confirmed

DIGITEX ACADEMY

WHY IT WORKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- RECRUIT NEW TALENT**
Bring in a junior IT technician and grow your own technical capability from day one.
- FUNDED TRAINING**
Training funded through the apprenticeship levy or government co investment.
- UPSKILL EXISTING STAFF**
Formalise and sharpen the skills of a team member already supporting your systems and users.
- REAL OUTPUT FROM MONTH ONE**
Every module is applied to your live systems, tickets and projects, so you see value throughout.

WHAT YOUR APPRENTICE WILL DO FOR YOU

- DESIGN SOLUTIONS THAT FIT**
Requirements gathered from your people and turned into concept and logical designs.
- TEST BEFORE YOU TRUST**
Test plans and structured testing so solutions work before they reach your users.
- KEEP DATA AND SYSTEMS SECURE**
Cyber security, privacy and legislation applied across the whole solution lifecycle.
- BUILD, INSTALL AND CONFIGURE**
Hardware, software, networks and cloud services installed and configured.
- DEPLOY WITHOUT DISRUPTION**
Change management, version control and safe implementation built into every go live.
- SUPPORT AND DOCUMENT**
Ongoing support for current and legacy systems, with a clear audit trail behind every decision.



LEVEL 5 AI UNIT - UNIT ONE OF THREE - AU0009

AI STRATEGY AND OPPORTUNITY

For the leaders setting the direction. The unit to take when AI is being talked about in your organisation but nothing has actually been decided.

LEVEL Level 5, leadership	GUIDED HOURS 30 hours	STRUCTURE Six sessions, twelve mornings
COHORT SIZE Capped at twelve	DELIVERY Face to face, Blackburn	ASSESSMENT No exams

DIGITEX ACADEMY

WHY IT WORKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- DECISIONS, NOT THEORY**
Every activity is applied to your own organisation, so what comes out of the room is usable the week after.
- ONE DOCUMENT TO KEEP**
The unit builds, piece by piece, into a finished document written about your business, not a folder of notes.
- TWELVE TO A COHORT**
Capped at twelve so it runs as a discussion between peers rather than a lecture.
- NO EXAMS**
Assessed on workplace written work and a professional conversation, judged on your own evidence.

WHAT A LEADER WALKS OUT ABLE TO DO

- ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP**
Set AI policy and strategy, with business cases covering workforce, perception and sustainability.
- ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Evaluate opportunities using qualitative and quantitative evidence, including risk.
- VIABILITY**
Assess viability through use cases and pilots, balancing gains against feasibility and readiness.
- STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**
Build support for AI adoption across the organisation, including non technical audiences.
- HORIZON SCANNING**
Monitor implementation and respond to emerging technologies and trends.



Early Years Skills Bootcamps

Start Date: Monday 12th Oct 2026

Classroom Based: Venue - Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP

Dates: 12th Oct 2026 - 8th Dec 2026

Days: Mondays & Tuesdays

Times: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Duration: 16 Sessions

Our Early Years Skills Bootcamps is a 16 sessions programme designed to equip learners with the practical skills and knowledge needed to succeed in early settings such as childcare, child minding, nurseries and playgroups. Our programme will cover a range of topics including, safeguarding, child development, learner support, handling transitions, working with families and professional practice. The Early Years Bootcamp will also provide an opportunity to complete a short placement at a Nursery Setting.

Join our Early Years Skills Bootcamps **GUARANTEED JOB INTERVIEWS**

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

ALPHABET TRAINING

SKILLS FOR LIFE

LANCASHIRE SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT HUB

Funded by UK Government

ELIGIBILITY

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

Course Details

Week 1



Introduction to Early Years

Session

1 - Mon 12th Oct 26

2 - Tue 13th Oct 26

- Group Inductions
- Exploring Early Years Settings
- Introduction to the EYF Framework
- Unpacking the EYF Framework
- **Employability Topic:** Job Roles, Skills & Interests

Week 5



The Role of Attachment and Handling Transitions

Session

9 - Mon 16th Nov 26

10 - Tue 17th Nov 26

- Attachment in Children
- Attachment - Why it Matters in Early Years
- Transitions and Significant Events
- Transitions and Significant Events - Why it Matters
- **Employability Topic:** Personal Statements

Week 2



Safeguarding Children

Session

3 - Mon 19 Oct 26

4 - Tue 20 Oct 26

- Health and Safety in Early Years
- Safety Practices in Early Years Settings
- Sharing Information Safely
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- **Employability Topic:** Skills Gap Analysis, Skills & Qualities

Week 6



Working with Families for Child Success

Session

11 - Mon 23rd Nov 26

12 - Tue 24th Nov 26

- Building Positive Relationships with Families
- Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness
- Parental Involvement in Early Years
- Partnership Working
- **Employability Topic:** Mock Interviews

Week 3



Exploring Child Development

Session

5 - Mon 2nd Nov 26

6 - Tue 3rd Nov 26

- Cognitive Development in Early Years
- Language and Communication Development
- Physical, Social and Emotional Development
- Managing Behaviour Positively
- Nurturing & Wellbeing
- **Employability Topic:** Applying for Jobs

Week 7



Work Placement

Session

13 - Mon 30th Nov 26

14 - Tue 1st Dec 26

- Opportunities for Supervised Work Placements
- Job Shadowing & Observations
- Learning & Reflection Logs
- Feedback and Evaluation
- **Employability Topic:** Cover Letters

Week 4



Supporting Every Little Learner

Session

7 - Mon 9th Nov 26

8 - Tue 10th Nov 26

- Supporting Children with Additional Needs
- Techniques in Supporting Additional Needs
- Managing Behaviour Positively
- Introduction to Behaviour Management Plans
- **Employability Topic:** Meet The Employers

Week 8



Professional Practice & Graduation

Session

15 - Mon 7th Dec 26

16 - Tue 8th Dec 26

- Professionalism in Early Years Settings
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Effective Communication Skills
- Interviews
- **Graduation and Completion**



Join our Early Years Skills Bootcamps

GUARANTEED JOB INTERVIEWS



Health & Social Care Skills Bootcamps

Start Date: Monday 12th Oct 2026

Classroom Based: Venue - Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP

Dates: Monday 12th Oct - Friday 11th Dec 2026

Days: Monday & Friday

Times: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Duration: 8 weeks

Our Health and Social Care Skills Bootcamps is a 16-session face-to-face programme designed to equip learners with the practical skills and knowledge needed to succeed in health and social care settings such as residential care, home care, and community care. Our programme covers a range of topics including safeguarding, mental health, personal development, duty of care, communication, and infection control. The Health and Social Care Bootcamp also guarantees a job interview upon completion.

Join our Health & Social Care Skills Bootcamps **GUARANTEED JOB INTERVIEWS**

Enrol Today ☎ 01254 679998 ✉ bootcamps@alphabet-training.co.uk 🌐 www.alphabet-training.co.uk/skills-bootcamps-form

ALPHABET TRAINING

SKILLS FOR LIFE

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Funded by UK Government

ELIGIBILITY

- Aged 19+ (as of 31st August 2025)
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Course Details

Week 1



Introduction to Care

Session

1 - Mon 12th Oct 26

2 - Fri 16th Oct 26

- Role and responsibilities of care workers
- Key skills required for effective care
- Introduction to the 6Cs of Care
- Applying the 6Cs in everyday care situations
- **Employability Topic:** Job Roles, Skills & Interests

Week 5



Infection Control and Communication

Session

9 - Mon 16th Nov 26

10 - Fri 20th Nov 26

- Introduction to infection prevention strategies
- Identifying common pathogens in care
- Importance of effective communication in care
- Explore different communication methods
- **Employability Topic:** Personal Statements

Week 2



Duty of Care and Personal Development

Session

3 - Mon 19th Oct 26

4 - Fri 23rd Oct 26

- Define 'duty of care' importance
- Legal responsibilities of care workers
- Continuous professional development importance
- Self-assessment of personal strengths
- **Employability Topic:** Skills Gap Analysis, Skills & Qualities

Week 6



Person-Centred Practice and Equality

Session

11 - Mon 23rd Nov 26

12 - Fri 27th Nov 26

- Introduction to person-centred care principles
- Supporting individual choice and independence
- Overview of equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Legal frameworks supporting human rights
- **Employability Topic:** Mock Interviews

Week 3



Safeguarding and Mental Health

Session

5 - Mon 2nd Nov 26

6 - Fri 6th Nov 26

- Safeguarding principles and relevance
- Identifying signs of abuse and neglect
- Overview of common mental health conditions
- Exploring the concept of mental capacity
- **Employability Topic:** Applying for Jobs

Week 7



Well-being and Personal Well-being

Session

13 - Mon 30th Nov 26

14 - Fri 4th Dec 26

- Introduction to factors contributing to well-being
- Role of care worker in promoting well-being
- Discuss the importance of personal well-being
- Strategies for managing stress and burnout
- **Employability Topic:** Cover Letters

Week 4



Health & Safety and Moving & Handling

Session

7 - Mon 9th Nov 26

8 - Fri 13th Nov 26

- General health and safety regulations
- Addressing specialised safety concerns
- Principles of safe moving techniques
- Introduction to pressure area care
- **Employability Topic:** Meet The Employers

Week 8



Review and Graduation

Session

15 - Mon 7th Dec 26

16 - Fri 11th Dec 26

- Review of all sessions and key learning points
- Group discussion on applying learning in practice
- Feedback session on assessments
- Awarding of certificates & discussion of next steps
- **Graduation and Completion**



Join our Health & Social Care Skills Bootcamps

GUARANTEED JOB INTERVIEWS



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.

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.

Programme Overview

Ages: 16-18 (19-24 with an EHCP)

Next Cohort Start

Date: Sept 2026 / January 2027

Duration: 12-16 weeks

What You'll Learn

Employability skills

Functional skills in maths and English

Work experience 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

Want to pursue a career in Sports?

This programme is open to young people aged 16-18 (or 19-24 with an EHCP) who are interested in pursuing a career in sport.

Programme Overview

Ages: 16-18 (19-24 with an EHCP)

Next Cohort Start

Date: Sept 2026 (Date TBC)

Duration 36 weeks (Sept - July)



What You'll Learn

BTEC Level 1 to Level 3

qualifications (dependent on current GCSE grades)

Progression onto Higher Education

Additional Support

Bursary available for travel and food expenses

DBS required for Higher Education

ID is required on enrolment

BTEC LEVEL 1

Requirements:

No formal qualification

Duration:

1-year course

Progression:

Employment, BTEC Level 2 in Sport

BTEC LEVEL 2

Requirements:

3 GCSEs at grades 1-3 or above

Duration:

1-year course

Progression:

Employment, BTEC Level 3 in Sport

BTEC LEVEL 3

Requirements:

5 GCSEs including English & Maths at grade 4-9

Duration:

2-year course

Progression:

Employment, Higher Education

SCAN HERE TO



FIND OUT MORE

- STUDY AT EWOOD PARK
- UEFA-QUALIFIED COACHES
- INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE
- OVERSEAS TRIPS



f X @brfctrust

Call: 07939 347801

Email: brfeducation@brfctrust.co.uk

KICKSTART

13-week employability programme at Ewood Park

Build skills, confidence and experience - our programme combines employability, Maths and English development, wellbeing, enrichment and work experience, designed to help 16-19 year olds progress into further education, training or employment.



Call: 07939 347801

Email: communitycollege@brfctrust.co.uk

f X @brfctrust



Community Trust
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For more information:



brfeducation@brfctrust.co.uk



07939 347801

Christmas Jobs fair Building stronger employer partnerships

The Launchpad Christmas Jobs Fair successfully brought together employers, support organisations and job-ready participants, creating valuable opportunities for local people seeking employment and employers recruiting for the busy festive season.

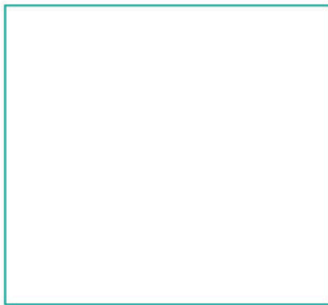
Employers from a range of sectors attended the event on the 25th September alongside local training and support organisations, highlighting the strength of partnership working across the community.

Throughout the day, employers were able to:

- Promote seasonal and permanent vacancies
- Meet potential candidates face-to-face
- Raise awareness of their organisation and opportunities
- Build relationships with local employment and skills services
- Support local people into work.

Participants who attend the Next Steps Together programme, met with the local employers, seeking roles ahead of the Christmas rush.

If your customers need employability support, are looking to improve their confidence but don't know where to begin, get in touch and we will be happy to discuss the Next Steps Together programme to support their individual needs. Email hello@newground.co.uk call 0300 330 5535.



SICK OF BEING SKINT?

The ongoing cost of living crisis continues to place significant pressure on many households. If you work with people who are struggling to make ends meet, Sick of being skint provides practical support giving them the confidence to take control of their finances and improve their financial wellbeing.

We work alongside individuals for up to six months to understand their financial situation, identify opportunities to save money, and build confidence in managing their household budget. We will also refer them to our employment support to continue their journey to financial stability.

How can we support your customer?

Money Reviews and Budgeting Support:

We help people understand their income and expenditure, identify areas where they can reduce costs, and create a realistic plan to make their money go further.

Help with Bills and Suppliers:

We support customers with conversations around utility bills, debts and household costs, helping them access fair treatment and explore available options.

Building Financial Confidence:

Our team provides guidance, tools and practical advice to help people feel more confident managing their finances now and in the future.

Make a Referral

If you work with customers who could benefit from additional financial support, we welcome referrals from partner organisations.

To find out more about the programme or discuss referral opportunities, please contact us:

Email: hello@newground.co.uk

Call: 0300 330 5535

Together, we can help more people feel in control of their finances and better equipped to manage the challenges of rising living costs.

Why Refer to Us?

1 Personalised support tailored to individual circumstances.

2 A friendly, non-judgemental approach that puts people at ease.

3 Experienced advisers who take the time to listen and understand.

4 Practical solutions that help customers achieve positive financial outcomes.

5 A trusted service that complements the support your organisation already provides.

Next Steps
Together

October 2026

newgroundtogether.co.uk

Prince's Trust Team

12 week course for young people aged 16-25

Prince's Trust

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

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.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/adults



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@lancsfireandrescue.org.uk



<https://www.lancsfireandrescue.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.

NCFE

LEVEL 1 AWARD IN SAFEGUARDING

In Education + Childcare Settings



This qualification will give you the knowledge and understanding of your legal responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and learners.

UNITS INCLUDE

- Understand Safeguarding and Protection in Education and Childcare
- Understand the Role of the Education and Childcare Practitioner in Safeguarding Children and Learners



STARTING MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2026

Course will run Monday to Friday for 2 weeks
9.30am - 2.30pm

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

Blackburn College *



TEACHING ASSISTANT ~ESSENTIALS GAIN THE QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED TO WORK AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT

**STARTING 23RD NOVEMBER
LEVEL 1 TEACHING ASSISTANT**

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

ENROL TODAY

Speak to your work coach for more information or call
01254 292277

**Free if claiming an in work benefit or earning less than £26.800*



CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING

Gain the skills employers are looking for with this 4-week City & Guilds Level 1 Customer Service course. Develop your confidence, communication skills and understanding of customer service while working towards a nationally recognised qualification.

**Starting Tuesday 9th November
Runs Tuesday - Friday 9.30am-2.30pm**

- ✓ Understanding customer service and customer expectations
- ✓ Creating positive customer experiences & satisfaction
- ✓ Customer service legislation, regulations and procedures
- ✓ Understanding customer service job roles and career pathways

ENROL NOW

01254 292277 skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk

Courses are Free if claiming an
In work benefit or earning less than £
£26,800

Free accredited courses with
Blackburn College

Business & RETAIL



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.

Employability support & Employer Links

MAIN TOPICS

- Working in Business
- Working in Retail
- Business Documents
- IT Skills for Business
- 4 Week Programme
- Starting Monday 23rd November 2026
- Runs Monday & Tuesday

ENROL TODAY

CONTACT US:

01254 292277 skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk

Course is Free if 19+, claiming an in-work benefit or earning less than £26.800



Free accredited course with Blackburn College

LEVEL 1 AWARD IN COUNSELLING

STARTING MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER
COURSE RUNS FOR 2 WEEKS MONDAY - FRIDAY
9.30AM - 2.30PM

Main Topics

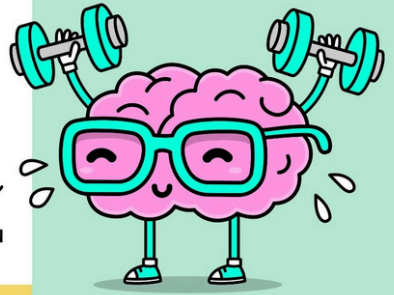
- Know how counselling can help people.
- Understand the skills used by counsellors
- Know about empathy in a counselling context.
- Understand how self-knowledge enables counsellors to demonstrate acceptance



Book your place: 01254 292277
skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk or speak to your work coach
Course is Free if 19+, claiming an in-work benefit or earning less than £26.800

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 7th December
Enrol Now - 4 day course 9.30-2.30

01254 292277
skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk
www.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

INFORMATION SESSION
WEDNESDAY
7TH JANUARY 2027
10AM
BOOK YOUR PLACE

WEEK 1-5
STARTS
MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2027

Qualification in Customer Service
Employability skills tailored to your needs, over 4 days.

WEEKS 5-8
STARTS
MONDAY 22ND FEB 2027
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 £26.800

JANUARY 2027 START

LEVEL 2 BUSINESS ADMIN COURSE

Looking to start a career in business administration or develop your workplace skills? This Gateway Level 2 Certificate in Business is designed to give you the knowledge and practical skills needed to work confidently in a modern office environment.

Throughout the course, you will explore key areas including business communication, health and safety, personal development, teamwork, customer service, email, telephone skills, document production, time management and the use of office equipment.

MAIN TOPICS

- BUSINESS COMMUNICATION
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
- USING EMAIL AND OFFICE SOFTWARE
- TELEPHONE AND RECEPTION SKILLS
- TIME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION
- WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH OTHERS
- PRODUCING PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS DOCUMENTS

STARTING WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2027

COURSE WILL RUN EVERY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY FOR 20 WEEKS
COURSE ENDS 17TH JUNE 2027



01254 292277
skillsforworkhub@blackburn.ac.uk



HOW WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE

The King's Trust provides free support to young people aged 16 to 30 who are not in education, employment or training. Working with partners and volunteers, our courses are designed to boost confidence and build skills to get a job or start a business.

If you work with young people in your community, here is your quick guide to our support.

Build skills and confidence

Explore Ages 16 to 25

The **Explore** programme is often for young people who are furthest away from employment, education or training. The programme offers a mix of group activities and one-to-one support to help young people develop the skills and confidence they need to move forward.



Team Ages 16 to 25

Team is a 12-week personal development programme and is ideal for young people looking to build foundations for work, such as teamwork and English and Maths skills. Team gives young people the chance to gain a qualification, lead a group community project and take part in a residential trip.



Get Started Ages 16 to 30

Taking place over one week and covering topics from fashion and music to construction and sport, **Get Started** courses are for young people who want to develop their skills towards employment, education or training whilst learning about and experiencing a theme that interests them.



Support to get a job

Get Ready Ages 16 to 30

Get Ready courses focus on building skills in rapidly-growing industries such as AI or Sustainability. Taking place over one to two weeks, these courses are ideal for young people who want to learn about new career pathways and connect with local employers.



Get into Ages 16 to 30

Get into courses are for young people seeking hands-on work experience. Ranging from 3 to 12 weeks in length, we provide hands-on experience and access to opportunities and qualifications in a range of sectors - from sales, retail and media to construction, engineering or health and social care.



Get funding to train and learn Ages 16 to 30

Our **Development Awards** can cover the cost of course fees, tools or equipment. To be eligible, young people must be: Aged 16 to 30 and living in the UK, studying less than 14 hours a week or not in compulsory education and unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.



Get Hired Ages 16 to 30

Get Hired events are ideal for young people who know the sector they want to work in. Taking place over one to three days, workshops focus on equipping young people for job applications and connecting them with employers at our recruitment events.



Steps to self-employment

Enterprise Ages 18 to 30

With expert-led workshops, one-to-one support and opportunities to apply for funding, our **Enterprise** programme supports young people to turn their business idea into a reality.



[Click here to find out what we offer in your area](#)

Contact your local team:

lucy.johnson@kingstrust.org.uk

Or call us for free on 0800 842 842



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EXPLORE YOUR POTENTIAL

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.

Find out more aaron.wilkinson@kingstrust.org.uk
07956 072667

ON THIS COURSE YOU'LL:

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Taster day: 3 Nov 26
Course dates: 10 Nov 26 - 4 Dec 26
Express interest by: 2 Nov 26
Location: Blackburn
Eligibility: 16-25 years old, not in education, employment or training



LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN DIGITAL AND IT SKILLS.

UPGRADE YOUR SKILLS, SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

DEVELOP THE DIGITAL SKILLS NEEDED FOR TODAY'S WORKPLACE WITH THIS NATIONALLY RECOGNISED LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION. DESIGNED FOR INDIVIDUALS LOOKING TO IMPROVE THEIR CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE WITH TECHNOLOGY, THE COURSE PROVIDES PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACROSS A RANGE OF DIGITAL AND IT AREAS.



CREATING AND MANAGING DIGITAL DOCUMENTS

INTERNET SAFETY AND CYBER SECURITY

ESSENTIAL DIGITAL AND IT SKILLS

IT SUPPORT AND TROUBLESHOOTING

DIGITAL MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

6 JAN 27 | 20 WEEKS

EXPERT TUTOR GUIDANCE THROUGHOUT

JOIN NOW! 01254 292277
SKILLSFORWORKHUB@BLACKBURN.AC.UK

CLASS

✓ RUNS WED AND THUR FOR 20 WEEKS - 9.30AM - 2.30PM

✓ DELIVERED ON CAMPUS BY OUR EXPERT TUTORS

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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



LANCASHIRE VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY SUPPORT BEFRIENDING

**VOLUNTEER TODAY
FEEL CHAMPION**

Our Community Support Befriending service has become increasingly important to many people across Lancashire and has helped to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation with some of the most vulnerable people within the county.

With our volunteer Befrienders maintaining regular contact with individuals each week, it has become a lifeline of support for many people.

With this in mind, we now offer flexible packages of volunteer support subject to need; ranging from regular telephone calls, to face to face visits, or both.

If you are interested in supporting lonely and isolated people, please visit lancsvp.org.uk for more details or call 01772 416 417

BENEFITS:

- ✓ Enhances your CV
- ✓ Fills in employment gaps
- ✓ Connects you with people who share your passions
- ✓ Helps learn about different people, cultures and values
- ✓ Develops confidence
- ✓ Lets you give back to your community
- ✓ Keeps you mentally active

Not only is this service beneficial for the people being supported, but volunteering is a great way to give something back to the community with opportunities for personal development too.

@LANCSPVP @LANCASHIREVP



Blackburn with Darwen
ADULT LEARNING
COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Grow with us • Meet people • Make a difference

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
Help our community garden flourish and enjoy the benefits of being outdoors, learning new skills and meeting others.

WHAT YOU COULD DO

- Planting and sowing
- Weeding and watering
- General garden maintenance
- Supporting community and wellbeing activities

WHERE?
Bank Top NLC, Arthur Way, Blackburn BB2 1QP

EVERYONE WELCOME
No previous gardening experience needed — just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved.

COME AND GROW WITH US!

LANCASHIRE VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP

Stronger Greener Healthier Communities



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

**176 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



Volunteering offers a great way to enhance your CV while making a positive impact. We offer a range of volunteering roles that allow individuals to gain valuable experience while giving back to the community.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

**If you are interested in the volunteering
programme,
please complete the Expression of Interest
form:**



INFORMATION / EVENTS

Blackburn with Darwen
ADULT LEARNING

Festive Fun Day

Competitions
Crafts Games
Photo Booths

Saturday 5th December 2026
10:00am - 1:00pm
Bank Top NLC, BB2 1QP

To book or for more info, scan the QR code or contact us on adultlearning@blackburn.gov.uk



Work With Us!

Sign up to our Fortnightly Email Jobs Bulletin

Receive regular updates on Job vacancies we have to offer you. There will also be active links to our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn pages.

Sign up using the QR Code:



You can opt out of this at any time by simply pressing unsubscribe at the bottom of the email!



Trust
Respect
Ambition
Collaboration
Kindness

Apply now! Visit blackburn.gov.uk/jobs



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
01254 666483



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

A FREE & VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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.

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.

CONTACT US

- 01254 682037
- WELLBEING@BLACKBURN.GOV.UK

[REFRESHBWD.COM/WORKWELL](https://refreshbwd.com/workwell)

Employability Hub

SKILLS | JOBS | FUTURES

For young people (aged 16-24)
ready to take their next step into work.



Build your skills. Find your opportunities. A friendly weekly drop-in with practical help and one-to-one advice to get you into work.

NEET? Not in education, employment or training? **This hub is made for you.**

HOW WE HELP

CVs
Write a CV that stands out

APPLY
Help with job applications

INTERVIEWS
Tips, practice and confidence

FUTURES
Apprenticeships and training



Every Wednesday
10am - 12 noon

Unity House
49-51 Preston New Road,
Blackburn UK

YOUR NEXT STEP
Scan & sign up!

Starts here, it takes
just a few taps



For more information call
Kim on 01254 695847

Or email Kim at
Kim.Tattersall@youthaction.org.uk

Youth Action works with all young people from all communities aged 5 to 25

For more information
on the courses offered

Get In Touch



01254 695847



hello@YouthAction.org.uk



www.youthaction.org.uk

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

YOUTH HUB
The Journey Starts Here...

e4a

**LANCASHIRE
WOMEN**

**Places
for People**

**newground
together**

YOUTH ACTION. **ya**

Community
Support Action Resource Volunteer



**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***

