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SOVEREIGN



# HOUSING LEARNING AND WORK CONFERENCE

Securing prosperous futures for all  
Tuesday 28 February 2023 | 9.15am–1pm | Online

Led by

**L&W** LEARNING AND  
WORK INSTITUTE



Communities  
that Work

# A message from our headline sponsor

"We're delighted to be the headline sponsor of the Housing, Learning and Work Conference 2023.

One of our main objectives is to make a visible impact in the area of employment and skills. We work in partnership with like-minded organisations and value the work of Learning and Work Institute and Communities that Work.

This conference will provide fresh ideas on creating and sustaining jobs and boosting skills to unlock future growth. I'm looking forward to chairing a panel at the event on the development of green jobs and the role of employers in the future of the labour market as we move towards net zero."



**Sarah Maguire**  
Social Value Manager  
Fusion21

## About Fusion21

Fusion21 is a national social enterprise specialising in efficient and impactful public sector procurement and social value services. Proud to help its members to procure with purpose and meet social impact targets, Fusion21's team of experts support members to deliver social value they can see in every project.

The organisation also gives back through the Fusion21 Foundation, a registered charity working to build brighter futures for the communities that Fusion21 operate in. Since its inception in 2015, the Foundation has given over £1.2 million in grants and has committed £2 million in social investment.

To date Fusion21 has saved its members more than £308 million through the procurement process, created over 9,600 employment outcomes, and generated more than £136 million in social impact. For the latest news from Fusion21, please click [here](#).

With thanks to our sponsors:



# Housing, Learning and Work Conference | Agenda

28 February 2023 | 9.15am–1.00pm

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9.15am

## Welcome

Stephen Evans, Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute  
Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that work

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9.30am

## Plenary 1: Towards a Bright Green Future

We're delighted that Fusion21 have come onboard as headline sponsors for the conference, and they will be hosting this panel discussion on the importance of green skills.

This panel will focus on the role of employers in the future of the labour market as we move towards net zero; how education and training providers can help equip the future workforce with the skills they need; and the role of housing associations in supporting tenants to pursue jobs for the future.

Speakers:

- Chair: Sarah Maguire, Fusion21
  - Amy Holbrook, British Gas
  - David Pierpoint, Retrofit Academy
  - Dr Robert Sugden, HACT
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10.20am

## Break

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10.30am

## Plenary 2: Local Power, Local Opportunity

This panel discussion will focus on local power and local opportunity, and how the devolution of policy and funding can help facilitate more joined up delivery of housing, skills and employment interventions. Speakers will discuss the role of providers and employers in working together to ensure skills provision meets the needs of local labour markets, including through Local Skills Investment Plans; and how devolution can support inclusive growth.

Speakers:

- Chair: Lynsey Sweeney, Communities that Work
- Annabel Smith, Centre for Progressive Policy
- Chris Fletcher, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Councillor Gillian Ford, Local Government Association



11.20am

**Break**

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11.30am

**Breakout 1: Enterprise and employment**

Since the pandemic, employment options have had to become more agile and flexible, and there has been a focus on creating income, rather than simply employment. Increase VS, a partnership programme funded by ERDF, focusses on practical implementation of training and support methods for self-employed residents, and those who are considering it as an alternative employment. We'll share learning and case study examples of our client base exploring new employment options. We'll cover how this applies in the Housing sector and alongside existing and well-developed systems of 'traditional' employment support.

Speakers:

- Chair: Tom Arkle, Southern Housing
  - Rumana Johnson, Clarion
  - Jamie Kemp, Abri
  - Zografia Bika, Norwich Business School, University of East Anglia
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11.30am

**Breakout 2: Partnerships for prosperity**

Social housing, DWP/JCP and local businesses can work together to support people into the right job, with the right skills, at the right time. In this breakout you'll hear from all those partners, exploring how outreach, job matching and in-work coaching are leading to improved and sustained outcomes and towards prosperity at work.

Speakers:

- Chair: Naomi Clayton, Learning and Work Institute
  - Erica Watts, Sovereign
  - Tammy Fevrier, Department for Work and Pensions
  - Kate Carr, Business in the Community
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12.15pm

**Keynote speech**

**Tom Copley**, Deputy Mayor of London for Housing and Residential Development

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12.45pm

**Closing remarks**

Stephen Evans, Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute  
Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that work

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1.00pm

**Close**

