



**E&S**  
**2023**

**EMPLOYMENT  
AND SKILLS  
SUMMIT**

**JOIN**

**Thursday 23 November 2023**  
9.30am – 1.00pm | Online

Led by

**L&W** LEARNING AND  
WORK INSTITUTE

Sponsored by



youth  
futures  
FOUNDATION





## Introduction

The Employment and Skills Convention is Learning and Work Institute's major annual event for the employment and skills sectors and will take a deep dive into the question of where next for employment support?

Anticipating Mayoral elections in England and a General Election coming up in 2024, we are bringing together political, employment and skills audiences with a focus on good practice and the most urgent areas for change.

As well as considering support for people who are economically inactive or unemployed, we will be considering the role that employment support plays in progression at work and up-skilling or reskilling. Our plenary sessions and workshops will cover diverse themes, including economic inactivity, health, in-work progression, young people and vocational training, and digital skills..

## A message from Clarion Futures

Clarion Futures Jobs & Training seeks to support the aspirations for our residents and wider communities through developing and enhancing skills; providing the tools and opportunities to build sustainable, fulfilling careers and flourishing communities.



**CLARION  
FUTURES**

We utilise the everyday experiences of our communities to measure impact and use this to inform the evolution of employment and skills provision. We listen, learn and share our experience and research with key stakeholders to maximise the numbers of people who benefit from our service.

**Victoria Whittle, Head of Jobs and Training at Clarion Futures, said:** "We're delighted to be sponsoring this year's Employment and Skills Summit, which will bring together all sorts of people to explore the big question of 'where next for employment support?'. It's a subject we've been thinking about for some time now following the end of the Governments' Kickstart scheme and I'm looking forward to swapping insights and best practice with those in attendance and thinking about innovative ways to break down barriers and support people into work."

## A message from Youth Futures Foundation

We are delighted to be sponsoring Learning & Work Institute's Employment and Skills Summit.



**Barry Fletcher, CEO of Youth Futures Foundation, said:** "Narrowing the employment gap for young people facing marginalisation is vital to ensuring there are fewer young people outside the labour market and that there are improved progression pathways. We are looking forward to highlighting the value of vocational training and exploring what works in supporting young people's access to apprenticeships and training in our session."

# Employment and Skills Summit 2023

## Full agenda

JOIN

Thursday 23 November 2023 | 9.30am–1.00pm

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09.30am

### Welcome and keynote

Naomi Phillips, Deputy Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute  
Stephen Evans, Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute

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10.00am

### Plenary 1: Delivering full employment

The number of people who are economically inactive has increased since the Covid-19 pandemic, but research shows that the growth in people leaving the workforce is part of a longer-term demographic crunch, with 1.4 million more people projected to retire over the next 17 years than young people will enter the workforce. Expanding the workforce is critical to avoid labour shortages in future decades. This session will explore:

- What we know about people who are economically inactive
- How support can be expanded to help more people with health conditions, caring responsibilities or other support needs to work, and how to reach and engage them
- What employers can do to support more people to access and stay in work

Speakers:

- Chair: Sam Avanzo Windett, Learning and Work Institute
  - David Finch, Health Foundation
  - Elizabeth Taylor, Employment Related Services Association
  - Barry Fletcher, Youth Futures Foundation
  - Nic Witton-Dowd, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- 

10.50am

### Break

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11.00am

### Plenary 2: Supporting access to good work and progression

Increases in the minimum wage have significantly reduced the prevalence of low pay. Yet, living standards have stagnated since 2008 and many workers get stuck in low paid, often insecure, jobs that fail to act as stepping stones into future careers. It is vital that we improve job quality and support more people to progress in work. This session will explore:

- DWP's in-work progression support offer
- Innovative, local approaches to supporting access to good jobs and in-work progression
- The role of training and development

Speakers:

- Chair: Naomi Clayton, Learning and Work Institute
- Ian Caplan, Department for Work and Pensions
- Anna Ambrose, Workwhile
- Professor Ashwin Kumar, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Ola Kolade, Business in the Community

11.50am

Break

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12.00pm

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### Breakout 1: Achieving better outcomes for young people

Sponsored by Youth Futures Foundation, this workshop will explore what works in supporting young people's access to apprenticeships and training and supporting them to get better employment outcomes. Speakers will focus on what the evidence says about the interventions that are most likely to make a difference to young people facing disadvantage getting a job and what else needs to be in place to improve outcomes.

Speakers:

- Chair: Sam Avanzo Windett, Learning and Work Institute
  - Chris Goulden, Youth Futures Foundation
  - Jess Evans, Youth Futures Foundation
  - Sonal Shenai, Impetus
  - Olly Newton, Edge Foundation
- 

12.00pm

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### Breakout 2: Supporting labour market participation through essential skills

Sponsored by Clarion Futures, this workshop will dig deeper into economic inactivity and how people furthest from the labour market can be effectively supported to engage through essential skills provision. Speakers will share examples of programmes supporting adults through technology and digital skills, as well as developing numeracy skills through Multiply.

Speakers:

- Chair: Alex Stevenson, Learning and Work Institute
  - Jo Pownall, Clarion Futures
  - Josh Smith, Ufi VocTech Trust
  - Sean Lewis, Sunderland City Council
- 

12.00pm

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### Breakout 3: Supporting people with health conditions into employment

With over 2.5 million people economically inactive due to ill health, it is critical that we support more people with health conditions to find and stay in work. The most effective Individual Placement and Support (IPS) programmes, integrating employment and health support with a focus on individual need and preferences, can lead to significant employment gains and be cost-effective. As IPS is expanded as part of the first phase of the DWP's Universal Support employment programme, this session will explore what effective employment support for people with health conditions looks like.

Speakers:

- Chair: Jill Rutter, Learning and Work Institute
  - Julie Bailie, Centre for Mental Health
  - Richard Clifton, Shaw Trust
  - Jess Elmore, Learning and Work Institute
  - John Hall, West Midlands Combined Authority
- 

12.45pm

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### Closing remarks

# Festival of Learning

## Nominations are now open!



**Nominations for Festival of Learning 2024 are open until Friday 2 February 2024.**

Festival of Learning awards celebrate the best in adult learning and the wide-ranging benefits of learning on individuals, families, communities and employers.

Our award winners showcase the breadth and depth of the impact learning can have, and we want these stories to encourage more adults to participate in learning.

We are calling on you to share similar stories by nominating inspiring adult learners and tutors, and exemplary learning provision and workplace learning for one of our awards.

Full guidance notes, tips for writing a good nomination, as well as template nomination forms for drafting your statements can be downloaded on our website.

**#FestivalofLearning2024**

# AND SKILLS CONVENTION



## About Learning and Work Institute

Learning and Work Institute (L&W) is an independent policy, research and development organisation dedicated to lifelong learning, full employment and inclusion.

We want the 2020s to be a decade of recovery and renewal. We want more people engaged in learning, improving our skills base, increasing employment, and ensuring wider and fairer access to good quality work with opportunities to develop and progress. That is essential for increasing prosperity, building connections between people and communities, and widening opportunity so that no one's life chances are limited by their background.

Learning and work need to be golden threads running through our approach to improving health and wellbeing, increasing employment and careers, building connected and active communities, and ensuring a prosperous and fair society.