

E-Bulletin

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ADULT SKILLS FUNDING

HLC has agreed funding for the next academic year with Hull Training and Adult Education, to continue to deliver local adult skills courses. Funding for over 400 places will be available on a wide range of classes up to level 2, aimed at helping people improve their skills, achieve qualifications and move into work.

Five community-based partners will deliver the courses for people aged 19+ across a wide range of skills and employment sectors including construction safety, hair & beauty, digital skills, maths and English, warehousing, hygiene, care, retail and customer service.

“It’s great news that we’ve been able to agree funding with Hull Training and Adult Education to continue to offer our courses,” said Phil Thames, HLC Contract Manager. “We have a broad curriculum that supports people to develop skills, build confidence to help them progress. We have partnerships with local partners, offering recognised qualifications to help people in a competitive local jobs market,” he added.

HLC’s adult skills delivery partners for 2025/26 are Goodwin Development Trust, Unity in Community, Niche Education and Training, Blue Apple Training and Hull Business Training Centre.

SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS

HLC were pleased to see the former Springboard programme the focus of a national evaluation by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Employment Data Lab Team.



One of only 7 projects selected nationally as part of the external independent research into the longer-term employment, benefit, and education-related outcomes of participants two years after leaving programme.

The research highlighted the Springboard programme’s positive impact on longer-term sustainable employment and education and training outcomes and also its role in ensuring vital support remained available during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also recognised the positive influence in assisting those with special educational needs looking for work and accessing education and training.

The full report can be viewed here: [Employment Data Lab - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/employment-data-lab)

This corroborates HLC’s own programme analysis, highlighting the programme’s effectiveness in reaching priority groups and participants and ensuring positive destination outcomes for these. More than 41% of the 5,700 people supported were helped into positive work, self-employment or further learning/training destinations directly upon leaving programme, with high numbers of inactive, NEET, long-term unemployed, those with disabilities and lone parents successfully engaged.

For reference - the Springboard programme supported more than 5,700 economically inactive and long-term unemployed 16-29 year olds between April 2016 to December 2023. It comprised 19 separate delivery partners and total funds of £21.2 million, making it one of the largest youth employment and skills support programmes the area has seen.

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SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS CONTINUED...

It was part-financed through the European Union via the European Social Fund (ESF) and the original Youth Employment Initiative funds.

The substantial long-term funds and dedicated “youth” training and support package Springboard provided played a key role in reducing NEET and youth unemployment levels in Hull and the wider Humber area. In the year after the end of the Springboard programme, NEET volumes in Hull had started rising and peaked in 2024 and combined with a growing 16-18 population cohort[1], underlines the case for targeted youth and Springboard style employability support programmes.

Exploring Opportunities (EO) Hull stepping up....

Responding to this, the new EO programme in Hull, which forms part of the UK Shared Prosperity Funds (UKSPF) to March 2026, is offering a dedicated NEET support pathway for 300 young people and working closely with Hull City Council 14-19 Team / Connexions Service. In the first 3 ½ months of operation, 128 NEET young people have been supported, equivalent to 40% of all participants - underlining the demand for, and attractiveness of, accessible provision for this important youth cohort.

[1] Education, Learning and Skills Statement, 2024-25, Target Period NEET Report, Hull City Council.

CASE STUDY: LEE'S STORY OF SUPPORT BACK INTO WORK....



Lee (45) first came across Unity in Community through the Job Centre. After dedicating 15 years to fostering and caring for his children, he felt it was time to focus on himself and explore the possibility of returning to work. With his partner in steady employment, Lee had taken on the role of primary caregiver but as the children grew older and more independent, he started thinking about what might be next for him.

When he first attended Unity in Community, he didn't have any digital skills and was unfamiliar with online job searching. Feeling ready to take the next step, he began attending the Job Club several times a week. With support, Lee created a CV, learned how to look for jobs online, and discovered how to write cover letters tailored to specific roles.

As his confidence grew, Lee also enrolled on to adult skills Fund programme, wanting to gain qualifications that would open more doors. He successfully completed Health and Safety in Construction Level 1 with Unity in Community and a Forklift Truck course with another local provider, both key achievements that helped him feel more prepared and hopeful about his future.

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LEE'S STORY CONTINUED...

After being out of work for such a long time, Lee admitted it had affected his mental wellbeing. He shared that he often felt envious of people in work and wanted to set a positive example and be a role model for his children. With a renewed sense of purpose, he was ready to make a change.

Once Lee had built up his skills and confidence, we arranged a six-week paid work placement for him with local glass manufacturer KwikTuf, working 35 hours per week. It was a big step but one he took with determination. Over those six weeks, Lee developed valuable workplace skills like teamwork, communication, and adaptability.

The experience paid off. Lee impressed the team at KwikTuf and was offered a full-time role as a Production Operative.

Reflecting on his journey, Lee said:

“The support from Unity has been brilliant. I didn't have the skills to use a computer when I first attended, and I honestly could not be happier than I am now! KwikTuf have been unbelievable. I've never met such caring people like these.”

From long-term unemployment to full-time work, Lee has rediscovered his confidence and become the role model he always hoped to be for his children.

