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FOREWORD: ANDY CROSSLAND, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HLC.

HLC welcomes the Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority's Local Growth Plan and the ambition it sets for a more productive, resilient, and inclusive regional economy. The direction of travel is right: aligning skills, employment support, and investment behind local priorities, with a clear focus on people as well as places.

In our response, we have been broadly supportive while offering practical suggestions to strengthen impact. In particular, the Plan would benefit from explicitly recognising the contribution the VCSE sector makes to inclusive economic growth – especially where we as a sector provide trusted, community-based routes into learning and work. HLC's neighbourhood "front door" model meets people where they are, reduces barriers, and connects residents to the right support at the right time.

The value of this approach is already visible through Exploring Opportunities (EO) in Hull. Since April 2025, EO has achieved 870 starts, with 68% of participants economically inactive and 44% NEET. Crucially, 72% have progressed into jobs or further learning. These outcomes reflect strong partnership delivery and an evidence-led model that supports those furthest from the labour market. HLC and our VCSE partners also bring a long track record of successful strategic employment programme delivery, including EO, Springboard (supporting 5,700 NEETs), Building Better Opportunities (2,000 participants), Community-Led Local Development (2,150 participants), and Talent Match Humber (1,972 NEETs).



As the Local Growth Plan moves from strategy to implementation, we stand ready to work with the combined authority, local authorities, and partners to embed what works: locally rooted, preventative support that turns inclusion into measurable growth for residents and employers.

YOUTH INACTIVITY AND NEET UPDATE:

This article provides a brief update on key developments relating to youth inactivity and young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), following our more detailed exploration in the previous edition.

The National NEET Review, Young People and Work, led by the Rt Hon Alan Milburn, closed at the end of January. Our response to the review emphasised the importance of **community delivery partners** in reaching and supporting young people who are disengaged from mainstream services. In particular, we highlighted the value of a

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strong **neighbourhood “front door”** approach – enabling trusted, local organisations to act as the first point of contact and provide flexible, relationship-based support tailored to individual need.

Alongside this, new research from the Youth Futures Foundation and Institute for Employment Studies on transitions from education to employment offers useful insight into the non-linear journeys many young people experience. The research includes a “tube map” style illustration, which clearly shows how young people move between education, training, employment and periods of inactivity, rather than progressing along a single, straightforward pathway [LINK](#).

This evidence is especially relevant to current work being undertaken by HLC for the Humber Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP) with young people who are **Children Missing Education (CME), Electively Home Educated (EHE), and NEET**, where transitions are often complex and fragmented.

On the current UKSPF EO programme 44% of participants are young people aged 16–24 demonstrating the significant demand for targeted youth employment and training support. Our data also highlights that **51% of young participants have identified Emotional, Social and Mental Health (ESMH) challenges** as a key issue impacting their ability to engage and progress.

Taken together, these developments underline the need for **integrated, place-**

based approaches that combine employment and skills support with mental health, wellbeing and community-led provision, ensuring young people receive the right support at the right time.

HUMBER VPP COMMISSION HLC TO CONDUCT VITAL RESEARCH...



On behalf of the Humber VPP, HLC are conducting research to develop understanding of Children Missing Education, Elective Home Education and Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) cohorts in the Humber.

We have developed a questionnaire to gather responses from key stakeholders and sector experts around the following themes:

- Common themes and disproportionalities across cohorts
- perceived barriers to entering/re-entering education and training
- perceived reasons for children leaving in-person education
- map existing services and provision available to children and young people leaving in-person education

If you would like to add your voice and opinion to the research, please complete the questionnaire using the link - <https://emea.dcv.ms/oyDMb63wzm>.

We also need help reaching out to families and children within these cohorts to take part in interviews, to help us shape understanding from their perspective.

If you are able to assist us please contact norman.richards@hlc-vol.org.

More information about what is involved in taking part can be found here - [study information sheet](#).



<https://www.hlc-vol.org/>



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ERASMUS



We've started adding instructions for how to create the Portable Educational Escape Rooms (PEERS) to the Independent People 2.0 website. We'll be setting up some 'train the trainers' sessions in June (Dates TBC) but for now, please check out the [LINK](#) to learn more about the project so far....



WE'D APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK...

We would welcome your thoughts and feedback about our monthly newsletter to ensure the information we share is relevant and interesting to you. Please let us know what you think by emailing katie.freeman@hlc-vol.org.

WE'RE NOW ON LINKEDIN!....

Please help us to build our community by following us and keep an eye out for our news...



<https://www.hlc-vol.org/>

HULL & EAST YORKSHIRE CAREERS CPD EVENTS 2026...

HEY Careers Aspiration Group are currently taking bookings for FREE places on three sector CPD events for Hull & East Yorkshire careers advisers and leaders.

If you are a careers practitioner working with young people or adults, please click on the Eventbrite booking links below to book a place (all events take place at the MKM Stadium, Hull). Ample free parking is available - registration from 08:30.

Clean Energy

Weds 11 February 2026

09:00-11:30

Maritime & Careers at Sea

Weds 18 March 2026

09:00-11:30

Construction: Professional Trades

Weds 6 May 2026

09:00-11:30

Please share with any colleagues who might be interested in attending [LINK](#).

