

E-Bulletin

May 2026 Vol.80



NEW EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME PICKS UP FROM WHERE LEFT OFF...

HLC's Exploring Opportunities programme resumed delivery in April under the banner of Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority's (HEYCA) Local Growth Fund (LGF). It builds on the resounding success of our UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme that supported 904 participants between April 2025 to March 2026, delivering a 72% progression rate into positive work or further learning destinations. UKSPF funding ended in March and is replaced by the LGF.

LGF funding is for an initial 6 months to September 2026, with potential to extend for a further 6 months subject to HEYCA review. The community delivery partnership has hit the ground running, with 126 unemployed and economically inactive participants engaged in the first two months. Of this, 46% are young people aged 16-24 years, highlighting the demand for support from this key group. Exploring Opportunities is filling an important gap in the face of stubborn NEET and youth inactivity levels. NEET levels in Hull stand at 427 (6.1%) for March 2026 and 327 in the East Riding (4.4%) compared to 5.5% for England. Youth unemployment remains a key challenge, with 18-24 year olds accounting for close to 10% of all unemployed people across the HEYCA area, rising to over 12% in Hull.

The delivery partnership comprises: Catzero, Enviromail, Goodwin Development Trust, Giroscope, Hull FC, Hull KR, Probe,

The Warren, Tigers Trust and Unity in Community. Specialist mental health counselling and debt/financial advice are once again provided by City Health Care Partnership and Citizen's Advice Hull and East Riding.

The programme aims to support over 300 people across Hull and this year has a particular employment focus, with job search and employability training aiming to support at least 90 people into work or self-employment. There is also a return of the popular Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) paid work experience placements with local employers available via Goodwin, Probe and Unity.

Check out the participant case studies featured below.....

CASE STUDY 1: RHYEN - THE WARREN

ACHIEVE PROJECT
DREAM IT. BELIEVE IT. ACHIEVE IT

The Warren YOUTH PROJECT
ESTABLISHED 2014

HLC Humber Learning Consortium
Passionate about learning

Funded by UK Government

Rhyen has attended the Warren since he was in his early teens. He has a range of conditions including Autism, ADHD, Physical Health conditions and Mental Health conditions. Rhyen has completed a wide range of courses previously, various activities and groups, and slowly over time got support to build their confidence.

Rhyen

Rhyen has always felt they were unable to work due to their health, but after working with Achieve on Exploring Opportunities they began looking into volunteering opportunities which they successfully began, in addition to delivering workshops to other young people to test their skills.



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CASE STUDY 1: RHYEN - THE WARREN CONTINUED....

This further built Rhyen's confidence, and this year with Exploring Opportunities, he felt ready to look at work. We worked intensively on applying for roles, interview skills, building a presentation and coping strategies for stress and anxiety which worked with their neurodiversity.



Rhyen

Rhyen has now achieved their Dream Job at Yorkshire MESMAC, working as a Community Development Worker for Young People, helping them to manage their Sexual Health. We could not be more proud of Rhyen and their progress!

A Big Taboo

This publication has been a huge amount of work, and a learning curve for us all, but we are so proud of Steph's incredible work. Steph is now excited to apply for university and get the support she needs to complete her course successfully, in addition to also volunteering and starting work on her second book!



Steph

A Big Taboo is available to purchase as Paperback or Kindle edition on Amazon via <https://amzn.eu/d/Q2gWZ5A3>

CASE STUDY 2: STEPH - THE WARREN

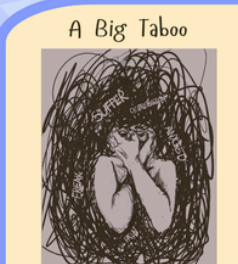
ACHIEVE PROJECT
DREAM IT. BELIEVE IT. ACHIEVE IT.

The Warren YOUTH PROJECT
SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE
2018-2026

HLC Humber Learning Consortium
Passionate about learning

Funded by UK Government

Steph first attended The Warren in 2019, getting involved in some spoken word workshops we were offering. Since then, Steph has been working with Achieve as Part of Exploring Opportunities - working one to one and building up to attending groups to support her mental health and look at her future prospects such as employment or education options, in addition to accessing one to one support for her confidence and mental health.



Steph

Working with Achieve EO, Steph has published her first Poetry Anthology, A Big Taboo. This anthology highlights Steph's struggles with her Mental Health and portrays the message that people are not alone in their struggles, and it's ok not to be ok.



HLC Safeguarding Week (11th - 15th May) 2026

This month we marked Safeguarding Week with a range of engaging and informative sessions for its learners.

Cornerhouse

We welcomed Viv and Carrie from Cornerhouse, who delivered workshops focusing on healthy relationships, consent, and keeping safe. Learners took part in important discussions around respect, boundaries, and recognising safe and unsafe situations.

Continued....



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HLC SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2026 CONTINUED....



CornerHouse event at Niche.

Their powerful presentation highlighted the real-life impact of violence and encouraged learners to think carefully about their actions and choices.

Learners engaged well throughout the week, asking thoughtful questions and taking part in meaningful conversations around personal safety, wellbeing, and making positive decisions.

Thanks to Niche and Goodwin for hosting!



Learner feedback from the event at Niche.



We also welcomed One Punch Hull & East Riding, who spoke to learners about the devastating consequences that can result from a single punch.

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

