

E-Bulletin

September 2026 Vol.82

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME EXTENSION FUNDING CONFIRMED...

We are delighted to announce that HLC's Exploring Opportunities employment support programme has secured a funding extension from 1st October 2026 to 31st March 2027. The extension was confirmed in September by the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA), which has seen the community delivery partnership recognised as part of its Local Growth Fund's Pathways to Potential funding, helping connect local people to skills and employment.

In the first 6-months to September, the programme has engaged 338 inactive and long-term unemployed participants with 80% (8 in every 10 people engaged) going into positive work or further learning destinations, exceeding all key performance targets. The model is making a difference.

Mirroring last year's trend, young people aged 16-24 years represent 43% of all participants and with close to half citing mental health challenges - Exploring Opportunities is filling an important gap in the face of stubborn NEET and youth inactivity levels.

Reflecting the focus on vocational pathways and jobs, analysis of programme outcomes data demonstrates that over 420 jobs were created in the last 18 months. This includes 220 jobs in Growth Enabling sectors like Retail, 130 jobs in Growth Potential sectors like Hospitality and Construction, and 50 jobs in Growth Driving sectors like Manufacturing. It underlines the effective pathways being created by the inclusive community partner

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



model, connecting disadvantaged people and communities to work.

It also places the partnership at the heart of joint work by the Combined Authority and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and wider stakeholders to establish greater alignment across health, skills, employment and community support for local people and places across Hull and East Yorkshire.

Partner re-cap: 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 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 will again have an employment focus, with job search and employability training aiming to support at least 90 people into work or self-employment.





E-Bulletin

September 2026 Vol.82



EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME EXTENSION CONTINUED...

The popular Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) paid work experience placements with local employers is available via Goodwin, Probe and Unity.

With the Milburn NEET review recommendations due in October alongside the Government's Autumn Statement, we will be keeping a lookout for anticipated announcements around additional unemployment support and Skills Devolution.

Further information:

[Mayor backs community organisations as new Neighbourhood Health and Prosperity model moves into testing - Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)

HLC SECURES ADULT SKILLS FUNDING FROM HEYCA

HLC is delighted to announce that it has been successful in its application to deliver Adult Skills Fund (ASF) provision for 2026 and 2027 on behalf of the HEYCA.

The new funding will enable HLC to continue working with its network of experienced community-based learning providers to deliver high-quality education and training across Hull and the East Riding. Provision will focus on supporting adults to develop the skills, confidence and qualifications they need to progress into employment, further learning or improved opportunities within the workplace.

HLC's approach is built around taking learning into local communities and working with organisations that understand the needs of the people they support. This is particularly important for adults who may have been out of learning for some time, are unemployed or economically inactive, or face additional barriers to accessing mainstream education and training.

The engagement programme will include opportunities to improve essential English, maths and digital skills, alongside vocational training courses designed to respond to needs of local people, local skills needs and the employment opportunities they need to grow and develop. HLC and its partners will also place a strong emphasis on progression, ensuring that learners are supported to identify and take their next step after completing their programme.

On securing the HEYCA Adult Skills Fund Phil Thames – HLC Contract Manager said:

"This represents an important opportunity for HLC to build on its long-standing experience of managing adult funding and working collaboratively with local delivery partners.

We look forward to working with HEYCA, our partners, employers and communities to ensure that Adult Skills Funding makes a positive and lasting difference to people across Hull and East Yorkshire...."





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HLC LAUNCH NEW AND EXCITING SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP WITH AMAZON FOR 18-24 YEARS OLD WITH SEND!

This month HLC launch their new Supported Internship with Amazon, in partnership with DFN Project SEARCH, Hull City Council, and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

This exciting one-year programme will provide young people, aged 18-24, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the opportunity to gain competitive work experience in Amazon's state-of-the-art fulfilment centre in Melton, near Ferriby, Hull.

Sandra Williamson, Quality Director at HLC, said,

"We are delighted to launch our Supported Internship with Amazon. This new partnership aligns with our values and ethos to create opportunities for those with special educational needs to access employment. It will also provide an effective progression pathway for those young people we are supporting on our 16-19 Study Programmes and reinforces our mission to help break down barriers into further learning and work for those from disadvantaged groups."

The five-day a week programme will give interns the chance to gain real workplace experience, build their confidence and independence, develop valuable employability skills, receive dedicated support from a HLC tutor and mentor, and work towards their goal of paid employment. The programme offers a combination of both classroom education and practical supported experience in various Amazon roles.

For more information, please see link to the HLC website [Amazon DFN Project Search Supported Internship - Humber Learning Consortium](https://www.hlc-vol.org/Amazon_DFN_Project_Search_Supported_Internship_-_Humber_Learning_Consortium).



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