



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

27 September 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

For over two decades we have seen no improvement in the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). Unlocking the potential of these young people will not only transform their lives but also provide a significant boost to our workforce and economy.

In 2000, 1 in 7 young people aged 18-24 were NEET in England. In 2023, that remains the case. There is strong evidence that being NEET has long-term, 'scarring' impacts on young people's future incomes, health and wellbeing; and those from disadvantaged backgrounds are significantly more likely to be NEET in the first place.

In times of prosperity, we as a society have been too willing to accept this decades-long status quo, but set today against the backdrop of low economic growth, workforce shortages and high inflation, we can no longer afford to leave the potential of so many young people on the table.

As the UK's largest coalition of youth employment experts, we believe in the potential of our young people and our shared responsibility to change this story, for the benefit of all.

On this basis, we propose a transformational offer for our young people: The Young Person's Guarantee which we are calling on you to action.

Grounded in the principles of no young person left behind, a commitment to the long-term, and working together in national collaboration; the Guarantee lays out the success factors, key challenges and route to improving outcomes for young people across England.

In order to deliver real progress and tackle the various challenges that exist, we are calling for a guarantee that no young person should reach four months outside of education or employment without having been offered support to get into appropriate employment, learning or training. This would be underpinned by five policy changes:

1. Proactively support young people in education who are at high risk of NEET.
2. Strengthen and broaden the range of Level 2 and Level 3 pathways available to young people.
3. Re-commit to Youth Hubs and extend their services to all economically inactive young people.
4. Pilot a subsidised work placement scheme for young people who reach twelve months of being NEET.
5. Establish a new joint ministerial brief between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education.

We know that civil society has a part to play, so stand ready to both support and report on the progress of the Guarantee annually. Together, we can help change the lives of young people and unlock their true potential.

Sincerely,

The Youth Employment Group

Tony Wilson, Director, Institute for Employment Studies

Steve Haines, Director of Public Affairs, Impetus

Naomi Phillips, Deputy Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute

Richard Rigby, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, The Prince's Trust

Laura-Jane Rawlings, CEO, Youth Employment UK

Barry Fletcher, Chief Executive, Youth Futures Foundation

Kate Jackson, Services Director, AFK

Michelle Mellor, Trustee, Blackburn Youth Zone

Esther Anwuzia, Lecturer in Human Resources and Organisational Behaviour,
Bournemouth University

Akhtar Malik, Development Manager, Bradford Youth Development Partnership

Nicola Inge, Social Impact Director, Business in the Community

Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority,
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

Tokunbo Ajasa-Oluwa, Chief Executive Officer, Career Ready

Kirsty McHugh, CEO, Carers Trust

Dan Money, EMEA TA Manager, Early Careers, Carrier

Victoria Head, Strategic Director of Employability and Skills, Catch22

Diane Betts, CEO, City Gateway

Amy Fazackerley, National Partnerships Manager, Coach Core Foundation

Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that Work

Libby Duo, Strategic Manager Skills and Employability, Conwy County Borough Council

Kahiye Alim, Director, Council of Somali Organisations

Vanita Nicholls, Apprenticeship manager, Ealing Council

Jack Scott, Enterprise Coordinator, East Sussex County Council

Liam Scully, Chair of Trustees, EFL Trust

Ashley Ryan, Director, Enable Works

Elisabeth Paulson, CEO, Envision

Rebecca Richens, Strategic sector lead, Fedcap Employment

Mrs Anne Bailey, CEO, Form the Future CIC

Michael Houlihan, CEO, Generation

Hinnah Rafique, Founder and Director, Generation Medics

Garry Campbell, Head of Policy & Communications, Groundwork UK

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Pauline Daniyan, Chief Executive, London Youth

Alima Sonne, Manager, Manchester Youth, Play and Participation Area Lead

Gillian Churchill, CEO, Movement to Work

Campbell Robb, Chief Executive, Nacro

Kiera Upton, Youth Voice Engagement Coordinator, National Citizen Service

David Gallagher, CEO, NCFE

Ashwin Sridhar, Chief Executive Officer, NCS Trust

Clare Tucker, Business Network Coordinator , Newcastle United Foundation

Luke Mattam, EET Tracking Manager, Oxfordshire County Council

Johnny Rich, Chief Executive, Push

Harry Brown, Director, ReGenerate

Richard Nuttall, CEO, Shropshire Youth Support Trust

Sam Hayden, Head of Operations, SOFEA

Matt Lent, Chief Executive Officer, Spark!

Tom Clarke-Forrest, Founder & CEO, Sport 4 Life UK

Bryan Grierson, Operations Director, Springboard

Mark Lawrie, Chief Executive, StreetGames

Andy Chaggar, Director, Talent RISE

Gill Cronin, Director of Operations, The 5% Club

Laura Davis, CEO, The British Association for Supported employment

Deborah Streatfield, CEO, The Careers Office

Becky Moses, Head of Programmes (Mentoring), The Diana Award

Kelly Johnstone, Chief Operations Officer, The Springboard Charity

Helen Sanson, Director, The Switch Charity LTD

Ashley McCaul, CEO, ThinkForward

Jo Gibson, Social Entrepreneur Support Manager, Unltd

Daniel Hogan, Grants Manager, Walcot Foundation

Claire Smith, Associate Strategy Director, We Are Futures

Tim Balogun, Executive Director, We are IVE

Clare Hatton, Interim Director for Employment, Skills, Health and Communities, West Midlands Combined Authority

Denise Hatton, Chief Executive, YMCA England & Wales

Sharon Davies, CEO, Young Enterprise

Claire Reindorp, Chief Executive Officer, Young Women's Trust