

# BETTER SKILLS FOR ALL

**June 2025**

Skills Newsletter

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## Join us at CambsB2B North

Come and meet the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Skills and Employment Team at CambsB2B on Thursday 12th June — and let's talk about how we can support your workforce and growth ambitions.

Andrea Wood MBE, Assistant Director for Skills and Employment at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, will be joining a morning panel discussion exploring regional growth, skills, and international business.

Visit our stand to find out more about our work, including:

- ✓ Our expanding support for apprenticeships and internships to help develop local talent
- ✓ Initiatives to strengthen collaboration between businesses, education providers, and local authorities
- ✓ How we're building a dynamic skills market that evolves with the region's economic needs.
- ✓ The development of ARU Peterborough, a new university designed to align courses with the needs of local employers

[Book your place](#)

## Tech, Talent, Trade

**12th June****09:30 - 15:30pm****KingsGate Conference Centre, Peterborough**

Don't miss these exciting events going on throughout the day at CambsB2B North

**Register for a seat here:**

Business Breakfast with Andrea Wood MBE

[Book your place](#)

Safari Networking Lunch

[Book your place](#)

Drinks reception

[Book your place](#)



## Volunteers' Week

It's Volunteers' Week – a time to recognise the vital role volunteers play in shaping brighter futures. Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, volunteers support individuals, schools and colleges by sharing their knowledge, experience and time with those seeking their next opportunity.

### One brilliant way to get involved?

Become an Enterprise Adviser – someone who brings their business brain, experience and network into a local school or college. You'll help shape careers programmes that actually prepare young people for the working world (yes, even the weird bits like office jargon and Teams calls).

#### You can:

- Offer work experience placements
- Mentor students
- Join mock interviews (don't worry, it's not you in the hot seat)
- Set business briefs that make the curriculum come alive

Whether you volunteer solo or through your employer, there's a role that fits – and you'll get just as much out of it as the students do. Ready to make an impact – and maybe even have a bit of fun doing it?

Check out the opportunities through Talent Pledge:

[Book your place](#)

## More funds for training opportunities

We're pleased to share that two local employers have recently received generous support from Aldi and Amazon Apprenticeships, who donated unspent apprenticeship levy funds to fully cover the cost of new training opportunities.

This kind of support makes a real difference – helping individuals gain valuable skills while enabling employers to grow and strengthen their teams. If you're an employer looking to access fully funded apprenticeships to upskill your workforce, support and guidance is available – just get in touch.

We'd also like to thank our other valued levy donors: Anglia Group, Lifetime, BBC Apprenticeship Partnerships, and Eastern COOP and many more whose contributions continue to open up opportunity across the region.

Contact the skills team to talk about training opportunities for your teams. [Skillsteam@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Skillsteam@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

[Contact us](#)





Funded by  
UK Government

# Important Update: Changes to Apprenticeship Off the Job Training Requirements

There are several changes to apprenticeship funding rules coming into effect — but here's one key update that will affect everyone involved in planning or delivering OTJT.

From August 2025, the DfE will decouple OTJT from programme duration. Instead of calculating hours based on a percentage of time on programme, minimum OTJT hours will be set for each standard.

Here's what this means:

- ✓ More flexibility – You can now plan delivery over any duration (minimum 8 months), as long as the set OTJT hours are met.
- ✓ No more automatic extensions for part-time apprentices – Just plan to deliver the minimum OTJT hours over your agreed timeframe.
- ✓ Annex C contains the OTJT minimums while Skills England transitions.
- ✓ This policy remains absolute for 2025/26 – not meeting the required hours could put funding at risk.
- ✓ No more linking OTJT to time on programme – if durations change, OTJT hours don't.

Overall, this should simplify planning and reduce the admin burden for providers and employers alike.

We'll share a wider summary of other key changes soon – but for now, it's worth getting familiar with this one!





# Inspiring Futures at Heltwate School

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Careers Hub recently delivered a careers carousel for Year 11 students at Heltwate School in Peterborough as part of their 'Futures Week'.

Students took part in a range of career-related activities, including a local labour market exercise, discussions around key workplace skills and employer expectations, and finished the session with mock interviews. It was a fantastic morning — and I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, the students, Eva, or myself!

We're looking forward to running the final session of this programme on 2nd June at Meadowgate Academy, this time with KS5 students. A big thank you in advance to Graham Bing from Anglian Water and Jack Wycherley from Burmor Construction for supporting the event.

Looking forward to working with Emma Bird and the students after half term!

## How are young people experiencing life, learning, and work in the UK today?

The Youth Voice Census 2025 is now open — giving 11–30 year olds the chance to share their views on education, employment, and their future.

As an employer, understanding the challenges and aspirations of the next generation is vital. The insights from this nationwide survey, supported by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, will help shape better support, policy, and opportunities for young people across the UK.

Please share the survey with your networks, colleagues, or any young people you work with. It only takes 20 minutes — and there's a chance to win a free Chromebook!

[!\[\]\(c50c8b7b2cc2cf9ff925edec0ee94c0d\_img.jpg\) Take part or share the link: here](#)

 Closes next month.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

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Here are our upcoming events and meetings



## 6TH JUNE

Connect to Work  
Early Market Engagement session  
Civic Suite, Pathfinder House  
10am - 2pm



## 12TH JUNE

CambsB2B North  
KingsGate Conference Centre,  
Peterborough  
**9:30am - 3:30pm**

## 16TH JUNE

Skills and Employment Committee  
11:00am

## 13TH NOVEMBER

CambsB2B South  
IWM Duxford  
Cambridge  
**9:30 - 3:30pm**