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Employment & Skills programmes

Opportunity Sheffield



Helping people into
employment, training & apprenticeships.

Supporting employers with
recruitment & skills needs.



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UP**

What we do

Opportunity Sheffield is the employment and skills service within Sheffield City Council.

We support local people into jobs, apprenticeships and training, helping to overcome barriers to employment and career progression.

We work with employers to address skills gaps and enable access to funded training and qualifications. This helps to create strong and agile workforces which grow the local economy.

Through our keyworker programmes, jobs fairs, industry-specific training courses and promotion of inclusive hiring, we connect jobseekers with local employers who are looking for staff.



Our schools-focused activity is aimed at showcasing the world of work to pupils and promoting a wide range of career options, including jobs and apprenticeships.

At a strategic level, we work with local and regional partners to identify gaps in

employment and skills services, and determine priorities.

Our programmes promote equality, diversity and inclusion, sustainability and social value, and aim to ensure everyone has equal opportunity to access the support they need to achieve a better future.



Finding a Job or Apprenticeship



If you're currently out-of-work and seeking a job or apprenticeship in Sheffield, we can offer practical support and advice.

We help people from a wide range of backgrounds and life circumstances, including those with health problems, learning difficulties, caring

responsibilities, language barriers, a lack of qualifications or work experience, and many others.

Our dedicated keyworkers can support you with tasks including CV-writing, job search and interview preparation, and also broker job and apprenticeship opportunities with local employers.

At our friendly and welcoming community venues, located across the city, you can meet your keyworker, develop employability skills, build your confidence, attend jobs fairs and access wider support.



Sector-Specific Training



Each month, we run short, sharp industry-specific training courses to help out-of-work people secure employment in industries where there are high numbers of vacancies.

These sector routeways lead to sustainable jobs, brokered by our team, in areas such as construction, engineering and manufacturing, early years education, adult social care, business administration, hospitality and digital.

Our bootcamp-style training courses include initial classroom study, where you'll gain the entry qualifications needed to get on-site and active in the workplace.

Then you can undertake a one or two-week work placement with a local employer in your sector of choice, leading to a job or apprenticeship.



Career Progression & Training

If you're currently in-work and aiming to progress further or change your career, we can help you access the training you need to upskill or reskill.

Our training brokers can help you identify relevant courses and qualifications, and secure funding to support your learning and continued professional development.

We can advise on accredited and non-accredited training along with other opportunities to advance in the workplace.



If you're thinking about advancing in work or switching careers, we can offer information, advice and guidance on a range of industry sectors and potential job opportunities.

We can help sharpen up your skills in areas such as CV-writing, job search and interviewing to increase your chances of landing your desired new job.



Building a Stronger Workforce

If you're a local employer, we can assist with both staff training and recruitment, supporting you to build stronger and more productive teams.

Over the last ten years, we've engaged with thousands of employers from a wide range of sectors, including the NHS, Sheffield City Trust, South Yorkshire Police, Henry Boot, Sheffield Assay Office, Wates, Isaac, Gripple, Fletchers, Showroom Workstation and Green Estate.

Our training brokers will undertake a training needs analysis, leading to a workforce development plan for your organisation. We can also navigate the range of skills programmes, funding and grant schemes that exist, allowing you to offer upskilling, reskilling and professional development opportunities.

If you're looking to hire, we can connect you with a large pool of motivated jobseekers from across the city, allowing you to recruit, build capacity, and diversify your team through a wide range of recruitment methods.

If you want to give back to your community as part of your corporate social responsibility, we can support by helping you to recruit an apprentice, offer work experience or volunteering placements, or engage with a local school.



Careers Support in Schools

We work with schools across Sheffield to inform pupils about post-16 and post-18 opportunities, including apprenticeships, T-Levels, traineeships, and entry into the world of work.

Each year, our 'Apprenticeships: Be Inspired' careers fair connects around 1,000 young people who are considering an apprenticeship with up to 100 employers, allowing them to meet in-person to discuss industry options, career paths and upcoming vacancies.



We co-ordinate work experience placements for many local schools, ensuring young people have the chance to develop vital employability skills in the workplace. This includes traditional work experience and project-based employer interactions.

Our wider work aims to support young people at the vital transition stages of 16, 18 and 24-years-old, ensuring they have all necessary support to engage in employment, education or training and the opportunities to succeed on their chosen path.

Green Skills & Sustainability



Green Skills are increasingly important in the workplace, as businesses consider their environmental impact and as job roles and responsibilities evolve on the journey to Net Zero.



We can introduce you to the training needed to reskill the Sheffield workforce, not just to futureproof jobs and career paths but also meet ever-increasing demand for specialist skills, helping to ensure profitability and sustainability within a low-carbon economy.

Working in partnership with local industries, educators and the training sector, we are creating opportunities for local people to gain core skills in emerging sectors and innovative technologies.



Social Value



Working with the Council's suppliers, we aim to maximise the social and economic value of Local Authority activities through the creation and support of jobs, work experience, training and apprenticeships.

Through the procurement process, we incentivise suppliers who are bidding for Council contracts to pledge additional community investment. For example, creating apprenticeships, offering training or working with local schools.

We then help suppliers deliver on their employment and skills commitments through introductions to local partners and services.

We aim to ensure employment and skills outcomes deliver 'true added value' for Sheffield and its residents, by providing opportunities that otherwise would not have existed.

Contact us:

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www.sheffield.gov.uk/business/employment-skills



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