



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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Debbie Abrahams MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 November 2025

Dear Debbie,

REPORT INTO YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORK

I am writing to inform the Committee that today, the Government announced it will launch an Independent Report into *Young People and Work*, with support from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Education. I am informing the House today and attach a copy of Written Ministerial Statement.

This Report forms part of our mission to maximise opportunities for young people and ensure no one is left behind. Nearly one million young people are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET), with around 583,000 economically inactive. This is a serious challenge - not only for the individuals affected, but for our economy and society as a whole.

Too many young people are leaving education without a clear path into work or further learning. We are determined to change that. The Report will examine the drivers behind the rise in NEET rates and economic inactivity among young people including those with health conditions.

The Report will provide a robust evidence base and make recommendations for policy responses that will help more young people to earn and learn. It will be delivered in two phases:

- **Discovery Phase (to conclude in Spring 2026):** This phase will examine the drivers behind the increase in NEET rates and economic inactivity among young people, particularly disabled young people and those with health conditions.

- **Solution Phase (concluding in Summer 2026):** This phase will set out a series of policy recommendations, taking a holistic view of the welfare, health, skills, and employment systems.

I am pleased to confirm that the Right Honourable Alan Milburn will Author the Report. He brings a wealth of experience in public service and reform. He will be supported by a panel of experts from the labour market, health, and clinical sectors, with further details to be announced in due course.

This work builds on the Government's Youth Guarantee, which sets the expectation that all young people aged 18 to 21 should be earning or learning.

For disabled people and those with health conditions we are introducing the Pathways to Work guarantee of work, health and skills support- – backed by an £1 billion a year investment by the end of the decade. But this Report will help us go further and faster.

This Report is being commissioned with a clear and independent focus on young people. While it sits alongside other important work, including the Timms Review on Personal Independence Payment, it is distinct in scope and purpose. The Chair will consider relevant insights from the Timms Review as part of the solution phase, ensuring alignment where appropriate. I know you've discussed the Timms Review recently with the Minister for Social Security and Disability, and I remain fully committed to its aims.

We know that early disengagement from the labour market can have long-term consequences for individuals and for the country. That is why we are taking bold action now, to ensure every young person has the opportunity to thrive.

Best wishes,



The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions