

<https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/skills-employment/>

<https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/skills-employment/teesvalleycareers-com/>

Tees Valley Careers.com is an ambitious £3million initiative, which is the first of its kind in the UK.

The initiative is led by the Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, and the Combined Authority, working hard to ensure young people in the region have the skills they need to flourish and undertake successful and rewarding careers. [TeesValleyCareers.com](https://teesvalleycareers.com) will target 100,000 young people in Tees Valley and will see every school and college in the area work with local businesses to help shape and deliver careers and enterprise.

The aim is to have more than 1,000 businesses engage with 11-18-year-olds to directly inform them of job opportunities and career information with the aim of each child receiving seven direct and meaningful employer engagements by the time they leave education, employment or training.

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The Combined Authority's plan is to provide new job opportunities for working-age residents and young people, attract new talent and grow our own highly skilled workforce for business growth.

We will create progressive apprenticeship and technical training routes and increase the relevancy and quantity of apprenticeship training to align with economic growth. We will increase the support for long-term unemployed residents and prevent young people from becoming unemployed. By removing barriers to work through targeted and multi-agency programmes, we can ensure we enable our residents to better access existing jobs and those that will be created in the future. We will develop a shared, robust evidence base that identifies what works and really makes a difference to the individual and how this could contribute to a long-term sustainable economic change.

<https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/skills-employment/employment/routes-to-work-2/>

In response to the high levels of economic inactivity in Tees Valley, in February 2017, the Combined Authority were invited to apply for Innovation funding to pilot a major new approach to support those most distant from the labour market to prepare for and to access work. The Department for Work and Pensions awarded £6m to the Combined Authority to deliver the Pilot. The Combined Authority Cabinet agreed to provide £1.5m as match funding for this pilot, making a total of £7.5m.

The Routes to Work Pilot will provide holistic support from a range of service providers for those unemployed or economically inactive individuals aged 30+, across the Combined Authority area, who are deemed to need the most help and support to move back into work. This includes many elements with the primary focus being the individual, it provides the opportunity to identify and address multiple barriers that some people face when trying to access work and will not solely focus on providing training courses.

The Pilot is monitored by the Combined Authority and delivered by the five Tees Valley Local Authorities. Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

The eligibility criteria are;

In all cases the customer must be aged 30 or over, not be in work and either;

- Disengaged from the benefits system or:
- Receiving benefit

Plus fall within any of 1-4 below:

- 1) Long term (2yrs +) unemployed /inactive benefits.
- 2) Claim to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) rejected.
- 3) In the ESA support group (health/disability).
- 4) Have been out of work for min 13 weeks and be unlikely to find work in the next 12 months, due to having significant or multiple barriers to work. This could include:

Ex-offenders, Health/MH or disability, BME/ESOL needed, SEND, Drug/alcohol dependencies, 50+, Lone parents, Returners to the labour market, Roma/travellers, Refugees, Carers, Care Leavers, Homeless, Ex Forces.

For more information please contact your local Routes to Work Office;

Darlington – Telephone – 01325 406170, email – [onestopshop@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:onestopshop@darlington.gov.uk)

Hartlepool – Telephone – 01429 284482, email – [routestowork@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:routestowork@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Middlesbrough – Telephone – 01642 811400, email – [routestowork@mcls.ac.uk](mailto:routestowork@mcls.ac.uk)

Redcar and Cleveland – Telephone – 01287 612563, email – [routestowork@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:routestowork@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

Stockton-on-Tees – Telephone – 01642 528107, email – [learning.skills@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:learning.skills@stockton.gov.uk)