



All-Party Parliamentary
Group
For Youth Employment



Making Youth Employment Policy Work

Online Meeting, 14:00-15:00, 19th October 2020:

<https://zoom.us/j/6382018621?pwd=eWJrWFo4S0xtS0RDT2JBcjrRzdJdz09>

Meeting ID: 638 201 8621

Passcode: 7Kr7at

Please note this is a new link and does not require registration.

Chair: James Daly MP

Contact: Josh Adcock (josh@youthemployment.org.uk)

Agenda

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| 14:00 | Welcome and housekeeping |
| 14:10 | Introduction from Chair, James Daly MP |
| 14:15 | The Plan for Jobs and Government policy, Anna Smees, CEO of Youth Futures Foundation |
| 14:30 | What are employers thinking? Tudor Price, Deputy Chief Executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce |
| 14:45 | Follow-up questions and discussion |
| 14:55 | Meeting Close |

Meeting Overview

We are now seven months into the pandemic that has seen unprecedented action taken by the Government and we are starting to understand how different cohorts have been affected. Young people's physical health seems to be the least affected, but evidence has come to light suggesting mental health, confidence and employability prospects have taken a huge hit.

The latest Labour Market Statistics show that the UK is coming to a tipping point; so far the main figures around employment, unemployment and inactivity have not caught up with the claimant count, redundancy and vacancy data and HMRC PAYE data depicting a bubbling problem beneath the surface. The latest two Labour Market Overviews from the ONS have seen those headline figures impacted and we can now expect to see unemployment rise over the next 6 months to a year.

500,000 people have become unemployed since the start of the pandemic, 60% of those are aged 16-24.

This meeting will explore whether announcements made by the Government in its Plan For Jos will meet the full extent of the problem, whether there are any gaps or tensions in the policies and funding, what more could be done and whether it incorporates what we know works. We also hear from employers to understand the feelings of the business community, what it thinks about the Kickstart scheme, Traineeships, Apprenticeships and other schemes aimed at reducing the employment problem we are facing.

Guest Speakers



Anna Smee, CEO of Youth Futures Foundation

Anna Smee joined the Youth Futures Foundation as CEO in November 2019. Youth Futures is a not-for-profit organisation focused on overcoming disadvantage and discrimination to create a society where all young people have equitable access to good quality jobs.

Anna is co-founder and co-chair of the Youth Employment Group (YEG), which was established to mobilise a cross sector response to rising youth unemployment in the wake of Covid19.

Before this role, Anna was Chief Executive of the national charity UK Youth, and prior to that Director of Ventures at The Young Foundation.

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**Tudor Price, Deputy Chief
Executive of Kent Invicta
Chamber of Commerce**

Tudor Price is the Deputy Chief Executive at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce which is the official Chamber for Kent and is part of the British Chambers of Commerce network.

Tudor has worked for the Chamber of Commerce since 2011 having joined from a national role as Chief Operations Director within the recruitment and logistics sectors. He has also set up and sold several small businesses and continues to have commercial interests outside of the Chamber. He is responsible for the development of non-subscription revenue, international trade and business support. He is also the primary bid writer for the Chamber having worked on several EU Funded programmes.

Tudor is a member of the European Structural Investment Fund sub-committee and represents business at both a regional and national level.

Context and focus of the inquiry

In the previous meeting, Tony Wilson (Directors of The Institute for Employment Studies) explored the labour market statistics, the impact of covid-19 on the labour market, and the challenges and opportunities young people will face on their journey to employment. Samantha Windett (Director of Policy, Impetus) presented data from Impetus' Youth Gap research that displayed the challenges the most disadvantaged faced pre-Covid19. Samantha is also the Chair of the Youth Employment Group and gave us insight into the [recommendations](#) that have been put forward and announced the [#1000opportunities](#) research findings. We heard the thoughts and concerns of young people and youth friendly employers around the Plan for Jobs, and the opportunities they are optimistic about and would like to be involved in.

Before the Covid-19 crisis began there were approximately 750,000 young people not in employment, education or training (NEET). Youth unemployment is expected to continue to rise as the economic impacts of Covid-19 are fully realised; the Resolution Foundation, the Institute for Employment Studies and the Learning and Work institute have predicted there will be at least 600,000 more unemployed young people, with a further 500,000 expected to become NEET over the next 18 months.

Following the £3.06bn government investment into new and existing youth employment initiatives in the summer, is there any sign of tensions in the systems and areas where

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young people can fall through the gaps? In this inquiry we will explore the key youth employment programmes and see what the early indicators of success are, it will aim to provide constructive feedback to the government to accelerate impact or where improvements need to be made if there are tensions in the system.

- Are the summers announcements #PlanForJobs ambitious enough to address the youth unemployment challenge?
- Are their gaps and tensions that may cause a rise in further inequalities amongst groups of young people such as those furthest from the labour market?
- What more needs to be done to accelerate impact and ensure no young person is left behind?

Submissions should be emailed to josh@youthemployment.org.uk by the 7th November 2020, no later than 5pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates 2020

December TBC -a Minister will be invited to give evidence and receive a copy of the Inquiry Report.

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