



A Future that Works

Creating A Future that Works



Communities that Work

#FuturethatWorks



The national 'A Future that Works' campaign aims to end employment poverty within some of the UK's most disadvantaged communities



The UK is facing an unprecedented employment crisis which is affecting the most economically vulnerable and hardest to reach communities.



9.1 million people in the UK are currently economically inactive. Of those 9.1 million, 1.7 million want to be in work but are unable to get the employment opportunities they desperately need.

Yet there are 1.1 million vacancies in the UK, and thousands of businesses across the country are reporting severe staff shortages.

But the support that the UK provides to those who want to enter work is failing, and people and businesses are suffering. It is hitting the poorest and most economically vulnerable the hardest.

The campaign is calling for a national commitment from political leaders to create systemic change to tackle unemployment, economic inactivity and in-work poverty within some of the UK's most disadvantaged communities.

We are asking all political leaders, and the next government to commit to creating A Future that Works. This means:

1. Commit to ending employment poverty within five years. The world has fundamentally changed and we need a bold plan to end employment poverty for those who can and want to work.
2. Commit to working locally to deliver employment support. Focus on providing local jobs for local people and those who are in employment poverty.
3. Don't go it alone. Work with local leaders, businesses and social housing providers to make sure any investment in local support matches local need.



2. Commit to working locally to deliver employment support



The employment support given to those who want to enter work is failing to reach most economically inactive people across our communities.

Leadership on employment support is scattered across various government departments. The Government invests around £20 billion on 49 national employment and skills-related schemes or services throughout England. These initiatives are managed by multiple Whitehall departments and agencies, and their delivery spans different boundaries through various providers.

The critical problem with the current employment support is that it struggles to understand the local needs and characteristics of the local employment market. The consequences of this are missed opportunities to solve local barriers to training and employment support.

Investment and employment support interventions can only work if they are focused on supporting local people, including learners, unemployed people, career changers – as well as supporting local leaders, businesses and other employers.

As endorsed by the LGA's Work Local Campaign, a joined up and locally responsive employment and skills offer is critical. Councils and combined authority leaders should be given greater powers to oversee the design of employment support programmes, working directly with critical local partners such as social landlords and civic society organisations, to help target 'hard to reach' communities, and remove barriers to accessing work.

Our recent report, Building Opportunity commissioned jointly with the National Housing Federation (NHF) and the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA) – demonstrates the clear value of effective local partnerships in supporting those furthest from work. As the report highlights, there has been a growing focus on building local partnerships in recent years - particularly in working with combined authorities and developing pathfinders for local employment and skills provision (Building Opportunity report).

The Department for Education's (DfE) introduction of the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) and a new local skills improvement fund (LSIF) is a welcomed step to place employers at the heart of local skills systems, but it does not go far enough. LSIPs should be expanded to include representations from local social housing providers. Social landlords have an important role to play in shaping local skills provision, including working directly with colleges, providers and contributing to LSIPs.

In particular, social housing providers are uniquely well placed to support those furthest from work, because landlords have regular contact with their tenants and are often relatively well trusted in their communities.

Leverage social housing's role as 'anchor institutions' to create partnerships and drive change in their communities:

1. Promote and fund local employment support initiatives that have a greater understanding of local needs to provide employment opportunities and skill building. Advocate for the decentralisation of employment assistance.

2. Commit to working with the social housing sector. Social housing providers should be involved in the new LSIPs – as they are critical partners in the battle to help people who want to find employment and paid work.

3. Support the social housing sector to create employment and skills opportunities through their commissioning and supply chain partnerships.



The Government and local employment support services should focus on tackling three core challenges:



Make sure it always pays to work by reforming and improving benefits and providing wrap-around support, such as childcare.



Eliminate barriers to work by assisting individuals who aspire to work in accessing long-term employment.



Provide locally co-ordinated and neighbourhood-based support, as trailblazed by the Jobs Plus model.



About Communities that Work



Social housing providers are critical local partners for employment support.

Many social housing providers deliver bespoke support that grows local economies based on specific resident and local community needs. Social housing providers often build strong partnerships and co-ordinate activities locally – with many playing a key role within local communities to bring together services, align provision, and then use this to reach more people and deliver more joined-up, person-centred support.

Landlords often act as ‘community anchors’ who connect with vulnerable and hard-to-reach people every day. They collaborate with partners to bridge gaps and create opportunities, ensuring that no one is left behind. Communities that Work is the leading membership organisation in the social housing sector and the only consortium for the sector that focuses on the employment and skills services provided to social housing tenants.

With social housing providers as our members, our mission is to transform lives by enabling the housing sector to support people into employment.



Around half of working-age social housing tenants are out of work and unemployment among this group is almost three times that of private renters. Creating long-term and genuinely sustainable employment opportunities for social housing tenants is vital in order to help tenants sustain their own tenancies, whilst also making a crucial contribution to cutting the welfare bill.

Communities that Work collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen the relationship between the housing and employment sectors. We utilise our network of political contacts to place housing at the heart of employment support and policy.

Communities that Work members



We are led by our members; social landlords who own and manage 1.6 million homes across England.

- Abri
- ACH
- Acis Group
- AGHA
- Arawak Walton
- Arches Housing
- Arhag
- Bahay Kubo Housing Association
- Bangla Housing Association
- Bcha
- Berneslai Homes
- Bernicia
- Beyond Housing
- Blackpool Coastal Housing
- BME London Landlords
- BME National
- Bolton at Home
- CHS Group
- Clarion Housing Group
- Community Housing
- Ebony
- Ekaya Housing Association
- EMH Group
- First Choice Homes
- For Housing
- Future Housing Group
- Gentoo
- Grand Union Housing Group
- Great Paces Housing Group
- Hexagon
- Home from Home
- Imani Housing co-op
- Industrial Dwelling Society
- Innisfree
- Inquilab
- Karbon Homes
- L&Q
- Livin
- Longhurst Group
- Magenta Living
- Manningham Housing Association
- Metropolitan Thames Valley
- Millat
- NCHA
- Nehemiah Housing
- New Ground
- NLM
- North Star
- Notting Hill Genesis
- Nottingham City Homes
- Octavia
- ODU DUA
- One Manchester
- Ongo
- Orbit
- Orwell
- Peabody
- Pine Court Housing Association
- Places for People
- Platform Housing Group
- Plus Dane Housing
- Raven Housing Trust
- Sadeh Lok Housing Group
- Shian Housing Association
- Simba Housing Association
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Southern Housing
- Soutway Housing Trust
- Sovereign
- Spitalfields
- Steve Biko Housing Association
- Stockport Homes
- Stonewater
- Tamil Housing
- The Guinness Partnership
- The Pioneer Group
- The Wrekin Housing Trust
- Thirteen
- Torus Foundation
- Town & Country Housing
- Tuntum Housing
- Unity Homes and Enterprise
- Vivid
- Wandle
- Weaver Vale Housing Trust
- West Kent
- Westway Housing Association
- Whg
- Yorkshire Housing





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