



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.



1. Commit to ending employment poverty by 2030



The UK has a hidden workforce crisis: unemployment is less than 4%, but our economic inactivity rate is steadily climbing.

The UK's economic inactivity rate – measured as the proportion of the working-age population that is neither in work nor looking for work – reveals a real problem.

Statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that there were 500,000 more people out of the labour force due to long-term sickness between spring 2019 and summer 2022. This economic inactivity has grown considerably since the start of the pandemic. More than half (55%) of those out of the labour force are aged between 50-64, whilst the proportion of 25-34 year olds out of the labour force rose by 42%.

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

However, the UK's employment support policies remains largely focused on people who are unemployed and on out-of-work benefits. This means that those 1.7 million people who are 'economically inactive' but say they want to work will likely miss out on the support to find work. If we are to expand our labour force and increase the employment rate, this needs to change.

The crises that we are facing now are fundamentally different to those that we faced when the Government launched its 'Plan for Jobs' in the summer of 2020.

The UK now needs a new plan that can invest in specialist employment support for those out of work and who want to work; broaden access to mainstream employment services; strengthen local partnerships and alignment, including with wider services like health, childcare and transport; and work better with employers.

If we don't take drastic action now, we risk pushing some communities even further into poverty. We need a bold plan to end employment poverty for those who can and want to work.

We're asking all political parties to commit to ending employment poverty by 2030, within five years of the next general election.



1.7 million people in the UK want to be in work but are unable to get the employment opportunities they desperately need (ONS).



There are 500,000 more people out of work following the covid-19 pandemic than there were in 2019 (ONS).



There are 1 million vacancies in the UK, and thousands of businesses across the country are reporting severe staff shortages (ONS).

Poverty and the risk-of-poverty don't affect everyone equally:

- 38% of working-age adults in workless families were in relative poverty before housing costs in 2021/22, compared to 10% in families in which at least one adult was working (DWP data, August 2023).

- 43% of social renters and 35% of private renters were in relative low income after housing costs in 2021/22, compared to 15% of people who owned their home outright and 9% of those who have a mortgage (DWP data, August 2023).



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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