



# WOKING YOUTH HUB - STEPS2WORK



Since 2020, and with funding from the Dept. of Work and Pensions and Woking Borough Council, Surrey Care Trust has offered unique mentoring to help young people into employment and a sustainable future.

## 5 YEARS ON

### Steps2Work Model

Steps2Work is specifically designed to engage with young people aged 16-24yrs, and Care Leavers, living in the Woking area with a focus on supporting them back into employment or further education.

### Community Support

Experienced staff and trained volunteers focus on outreach and building network connections within the community. The support helps with identifying skills, CV writing, job searching, interview coaching, travel organising, and accepting job offers.

### Young People's Needs

Clients come with a wide range of needs including Emotional and Social needs - low confidence and motivation, anxiety, neurodivergence, fear of rejection, and Poor Skills incl. teamwork and communication.

### Results

The team have supported almost 600 young people, helping:

- **48%** into employment
- **24%** into education/training
- **12%** into volunteering

The team also supported nearly 90 displaced people and their families.



## Joseph's Story

*"After the first conversation, they invited me in and showed me around the centre - I felt like having a job was going to be good and something I could do.*

*I got an offer as a data entry technician and now feel successful and more confident in my ability to have a job."*

### What Worked?

- Long-term (average 12 months), flexible support is key - allows for continuous progress.
- Holistic, whole-person approach.
- Engaging, flexible activities - work experience, volunteering, workshops etc.
- Volunteers embedded in local communities that provide valuable support.



# Youth Unemployment



## Youth unemployment in the UK has seen notable changes:

- **Unemployed Youth:** Between November 2024 to January 2025 the youth unemployment rate rose to 14.5%, up from 12.2% the year before.
- **Economic Inactivity:** Approximately 3.01 million (40.8%) young individuals were economically inactive, showing a slight decrease from the previous year.
- **NEET Statistics:** In October to December 2024, an estimated 987,000 people (13.4%) aged 16 to 24 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET). This marks an increase of 110,000 from the same period in the previous year.

## As of March 2024, the youth unemployment in Woking:

- 3.6% of 18 to 24 year olds are in receipt of Universal Credit or Jobseeker's Allowance, compared to 2.5% across Surrey.
- In the year ending December 2023, Woking's overall unemployment rate for individuals aged 16 and over was 2.9%, with approximately 1,600 people unemployed.



**These figures suggest that youth unemployment in Woking is higher than the county average, indicating a need for targeted interventions to support young job seekers in the area.**

## Surrey Care Trust

Every year we mobilise hundreds of volunteers, work with our natural environment, and focus people's community spirit to create opportunities and make a difference to vulnerable people and communities.

### We help people to:

- Build their confidence and skills to thrive in life, learning, and work.
- Nurture their wellbeing and engagement with their environment and communities.
- Help parents to provide positive childhoods, and families that can flourish.

