

WOKING YOUTH HUB - STEPS2WORK



Charity 285543

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

6 YEARS ON

Steps2Work Model

Steps2Work is specifically designed to engage with young people aged 16-24, 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, organising travel 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

In six years, the team have supported over **700** young people, helping:

- **52% into employment**
- **27% into education/training**
- **10% into volunteering**



Amelia's Story

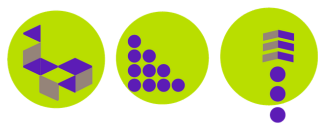
Despite completing GCSEs and a university degree, Amelia* struggled with severe social anxiety. These challenges sometimes led to low moods and made it difficult for her to connect with others and find employment.

My mentor helped me to improve my confidence, and encouraged me to try new things and engage with others



What Worked?

- Partnership with over **40** businesses and employers
- Accessible Job and Apprenticeship Fairs
- Long-term (average **12 months**), flexible support is key as it allows for continuous progress.
- Holistic, whole-person approach.
- Engaging, flexible activities including work experience, volunteering and workshops.
- Volunteers embedded in local communities, that provide valuable support.



Woking Youth Hub

2026 saw our Steps2Work base at the Moorcroft Community Centre evolve into a vibrant, physical Youth Hub. By strengthening local partnerships, we have created a "one-stop shop" where young people access diverse support under one roof.

We now host regular sessions with specialist partners to streamline the path to employment, training, and wellbeing. This collaborative approach ensures every visitor receives holistic, wraparound care tailored to their goals.

Youth Unemployment

UK Youth Unemployment Trends (2025–2026)

- Between December 2025 and February 2026, the UK youth unemployment rate rose to 15.8%, an increase from the 14.6% recorded during the same period the previous year.
- Economic inactivity among young people remains high at approximately 3 million (39.9%).
- Statistics showed an estimated 957,000 young people (12.8%) categorised as NEET (those not in education, employment, or training) for the end of 2025.



Local Statistics: Woking and Surrey

As of early 2026, youth unemployment in Woking remains a localised challenge, with 3.4% of 18 to 24-year-olds receiving Universal Credit or Jobseeker's Allowance - the Surrey-wide average is 2.3%.

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.

