

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council
Held on Wednesday 10 June 2026,
in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices,
TN13 3QG

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting concluded: 19:00

Aahana Verma	Apologies	Lily Court	Apologies
Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi		Lizzie Hunt, Treasurer	
Adelina Suslikova	Apologies	Lukas Abromavicius, Vice Chair	Apologies
Aditya Srinivasan	Present	Logan Lewis	Present
Aidan Hirst		Mackenzie Willis	Present
Alex Jin		Mark Bielikov	
Ali Esad Kutuloglu		Max Oser	
Alice Warren	Apologies	Max Rowland	Present
Alicia Ho		Maximilian David	
Allegra Delli Rocoli	Present	Megan Philips	
Angelos Maroulis	Apologies	Mila Skoko	Apologies
Arina Evtushenko	Present	Milly Anscomb	Present
Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, Chair	Present	Mirabel Poulson	
Audrina Chan		Morgan Ingarfield	
Ayan Motwani		Naima Karki	
Benjamin	Present	Nelly Schiefer	Present
Caspar Tillieux		Pendar Ahmadvazir	
Catherine Barden de Leon	Apologies	Penelope Muccino	
Charlotte Bagoee		Penelope Rowbotham	
Chelsey Dai		Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon	
Clement Isong		Reza Panlavi	Present
Cynthia Chen	Apologies	Rhea Engineer	Apologies
Cyrus Tillieux	Present	Riddley McDermott	
Dhriti Pasumarty		Riley Ferguson	Apologies
Ethan Cook	Present	Russell Street	
Eva Wang, Social Media Officer	Apologies	Ryan Zhaeentan	
Finn Chadwick	Present	Sarah Pardasany, Social Media Officer	
Franz Lahura-Sturm	Present	Sayeesha Boysen	
George Kelly	Present	Shinki Yu	
Grace Bejarano	Apologies	Shiv Lamba	
Harry King	Present	Simi Akintoye	
Henry Thomas		Sofia Vittoria Moschini	
Ines Wang Neto		Sophia Yu	Apologies
Ishwar Sharma	Present	Sophia Sheridan	Present
Jasper Barnes		Summer Chen	Present
John Ng		Susanna Local	
Joshua Maddox Aquino	Apologies	Taani Shukla	
Joshua Maretlane	Present	Thomas Heregods	
Julien Beck		Thomas Mather	
Karam Kandhari		Vihaan Sharma	Present
Katie Lo	Present	Vyom Bhandari	
Kisali Wijesekara	Present		

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In attendance: Linda Larter MBE, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café and Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that, as this meeting took place during the exam season, many of the Youth Councillors expressed their apologies.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the apologies for absence as above.

2 - Guest Speaker: CONNECT TO WORK

The youth councillors received a Teams call and PowerPoint presentation from Claire from Connect to Work, a Kent County Council Project that supports young people aged 16+ facing disadvantages and disabilities in taking their next steps. The project has been funded by Central and Local government alongside schools and colleges. The programme operates voluntarily, where the young person can reach out to Connect to Work without the need for a professional referral. The programme for each individual runs for a maximum of 12 months, depending on the young person, as they can drop out at any time. Over the course of the project, the young person is given 1-1 support to obtain realistic goals depending on what they want out of the project; this can be as simple as wanting to boost their confidence, applying for a job, preparing for an interview, and/ or writing a C.V. Any young person who might have some form of disability, health Conditions and/ or facing complex barriers to work can be supported through the project, the project is mainly for individuals to self-refer via an expression of interest form.

Claire reported that project currently has been running for one year out of the five years they have funding for, and in that time, they have gone from 14 staff to a team of 58.

The PowerPoint that Claire presented can be found at the end of the minutes.

3 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 18th MARCH 2026

The Youth Council noted that in their last meeting, they had agreed to help promote Kooth Mental Health to other young people struggling with their mental health. It was noted that this was important assistance during stressful exam time.

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on the 18th of March 2026 as a true record.

4 - VIDEO ON TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

The Youth Council received a video on local Town and Parish Councils which was created by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) to help explain how local councils such as the Sevenoaks Town Council operate. The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=UNRZYCwBg674on-O&fbclid=IwY2xjawSXWkVleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzKxNzg4MjAwOD>

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5 - Finance Report

The Youth Council noted that the Charity Bake Sale was still on the Finance Report and should be removed.

It was noted that their budget had increased by £500

RESOLVED: To note the Youth Council's balance was £1,501.70

6 - CURRENT MATTERS REPORTS

RESOLVED: To receive and note the current matters report.

7 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

The Youth Council heard from Daren that House in the Basement had been going very well, with many young people helping to volunteer at House in the Basement and helping with cleaning and painting the walls outside HitB, getting it ready for Sevenoaks in Bloom regional entry for South and Southeast in Bloom. It was noted that many of the Youth Councillors volunteer at House in the Basement.

Daren reported that there were many different events planned over the Summer holidays, from an upcycling event on the 19th of June, Dungeons and Dragons workshop, Fishing Sessions, African Drumming Workshop, Open Mic Nights and a podcast interview with some of the young people at HitB.

Daren also mentioned that on the 12th of August, the House in the Basement will be taking a convoy of three minibuses to Broadstairs. One from the Town Council and two from Knole Academy, it was noted that in the past, the youth council has helped towards funding this trip and offered to help with the donation towards the Minibuses from Knole Academy.

RESOLVED: For the Youth Council to donate **£150** towards the cost of the Minibus.

8 - PLASTIC FREE SEVENOAKS PLEDGE

The youth council noted that at a previous meeting, they had mentioned that they wanted to know about the Refill Scheme. It was noted that the Refill scheme is a National Scheme that highlights local businesses where you can fill up your water bottle for free. Many of the businesses that support this scheme have the Refill sticker in their window.

Youth Councillors also heard that prior to COVID, the Town Council started to promote a plastic-free Sevenoaks to local schools and businesses. It was noted that the Town Council were now looking to revive this project and asked if the Youth Council could help.

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RESOLVED: For Youth Councillors to place posters for the Plastic Free Sevenoaks Pledge in their schools to help promote it.

9 - Kent Police Interdependent Advisory Group

The Youth Council noted they had received an invitation for representatives of the Youth Council to attend the Kent Police Independent Advisory Group. The Chair opened this to the Members, and three young people put their names forward as representatives.

RESOLVED: For the representatives to attend the meetings of the Kent Police Independent Advisory Group and provide feedback to the youth council on these meetings.

It was noted that the next meeting was **Thursday, 9th July -18.30 at Sevenoaks Primary School**

10 - FRIENDS OF RHEINBACH

The Youth Council received a request from the Friends of Rheinbach to help come up with ideas on how to create a modern pen pal program with young people in Rheinbach. The youth council came up with a few ideas, such as:

- Talking to schools that already teach German
- Zoom/ Teams calls, Emails, it was noted that with these options, online safeguarding will come into this.
- Does Rheinbach have a youth council that they can communicate with?
-

The Youth Council noted that it would be worth talking to their schools about whether this is something that young people in the town would be interested in doing and setting up a volunteer group within the Youth Council to lead the project with support from STC staff and, at a later stage, support from the Friends of Rheinbach to move the project forward on their side.

RESOLVED: For youth councillors to talk to their schools and see if this is a project that young people would be interested in. Youth Councillors were also asked if any were interested in developing this as a voluntary project – creating a sign-up form, promotion, considering operational matters, and analysing success.

11 - UPCOMING EVENTS

It was noted that the Skateness event was taking place again this year on Wednesday, 5th August, 11 am-4 pm. The Youth Council expressed an interest in attending the event and having a stall to raise money; it was suggested that they could either have a cake sale or hold a raffle (raffle item to be purchased from Youth Council funds).

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RESOLVED: For members of the Youth Council to have a stall at the Skate Park in Greatness Recreation Ground on Wednesday, 5th of August and to hold some form of Fundraising event.

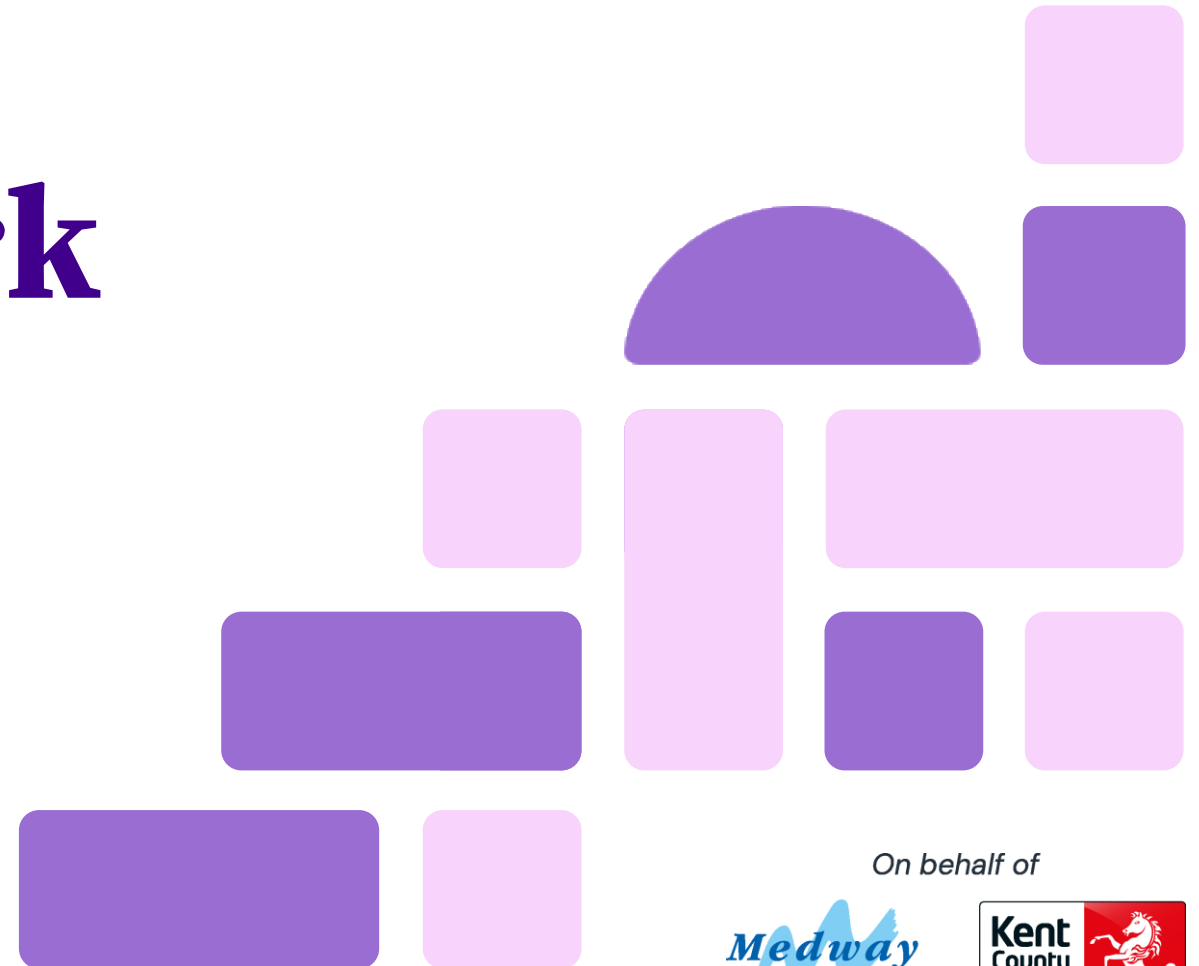
There being no further business, the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated

Connect to Work overview

Supported Employment Service



On behalf of

The Education People

- ✓ Supporting people with a disability and disadvantages into paid employment for over 32 years
- ✓ Funded by central and local government, schools and colleges
- ✓ Members of BASE and hold Excellence Status in SEQF Model Fidelity.



On behalf of

What do we do?

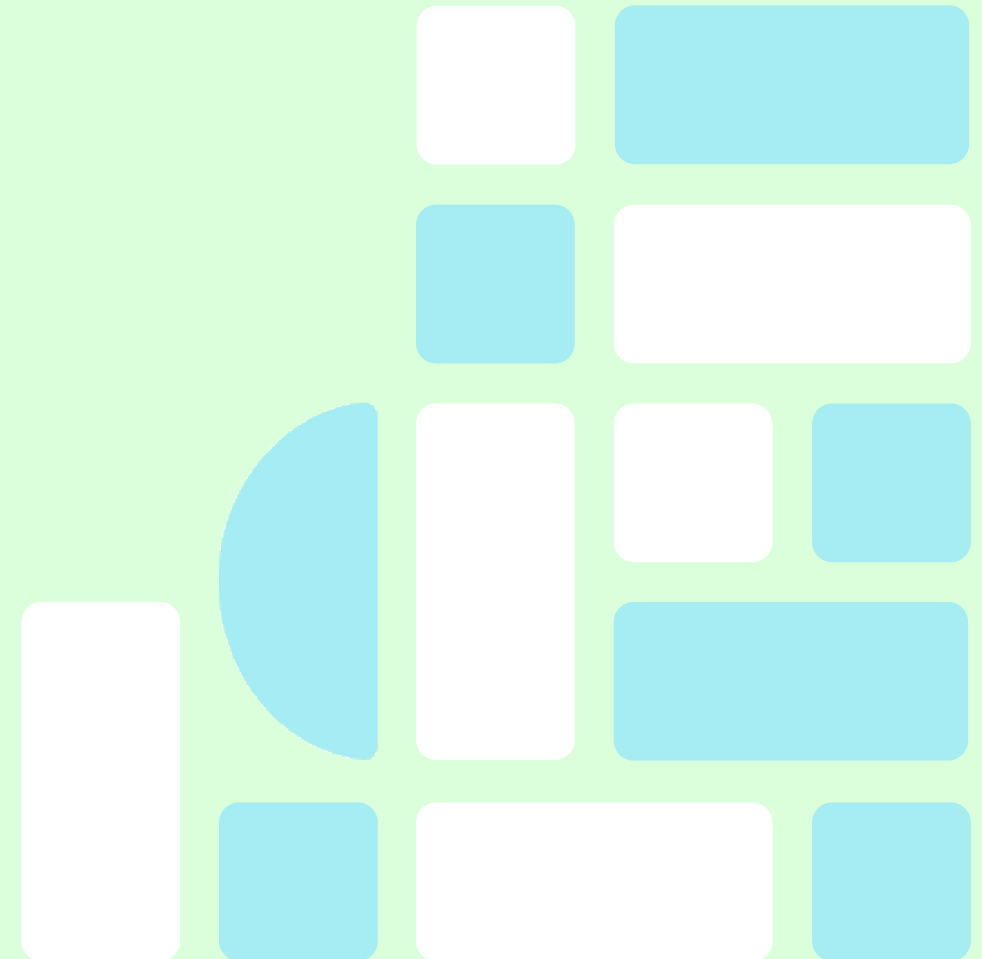
We support individuals with disabilities, health conditions, and complex barriers to employment to find paid work.

Scope

- Available across England and Wales
- We support across Kent and Medway

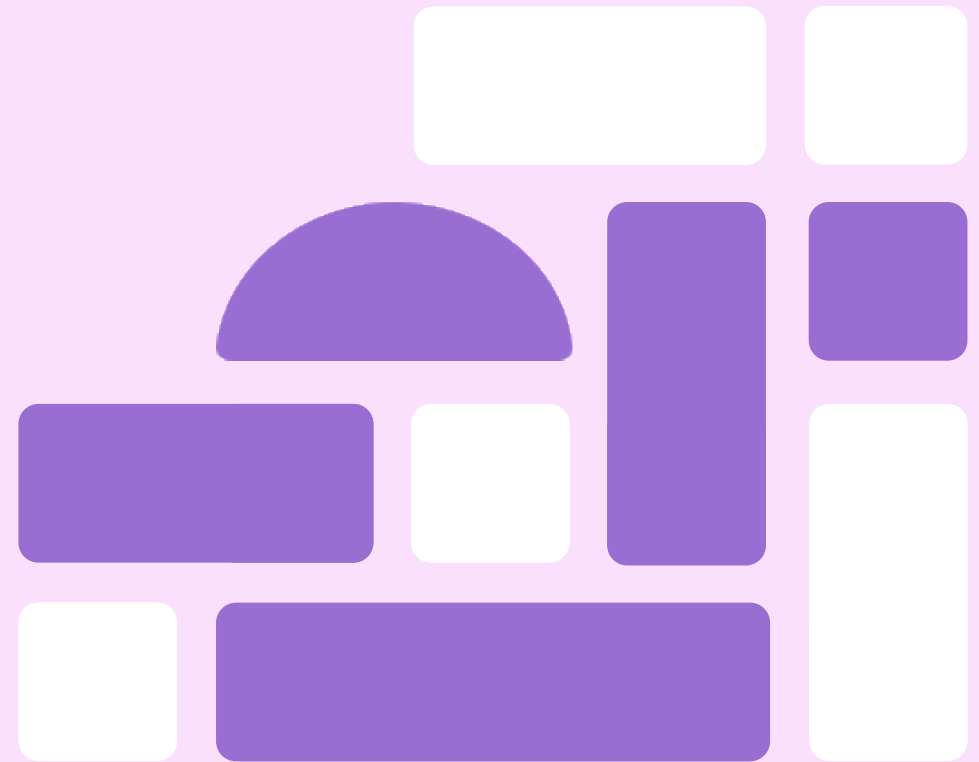
Voluntary

- Individuals choose to join the program
- Maximum of 12 months (4 months retention)



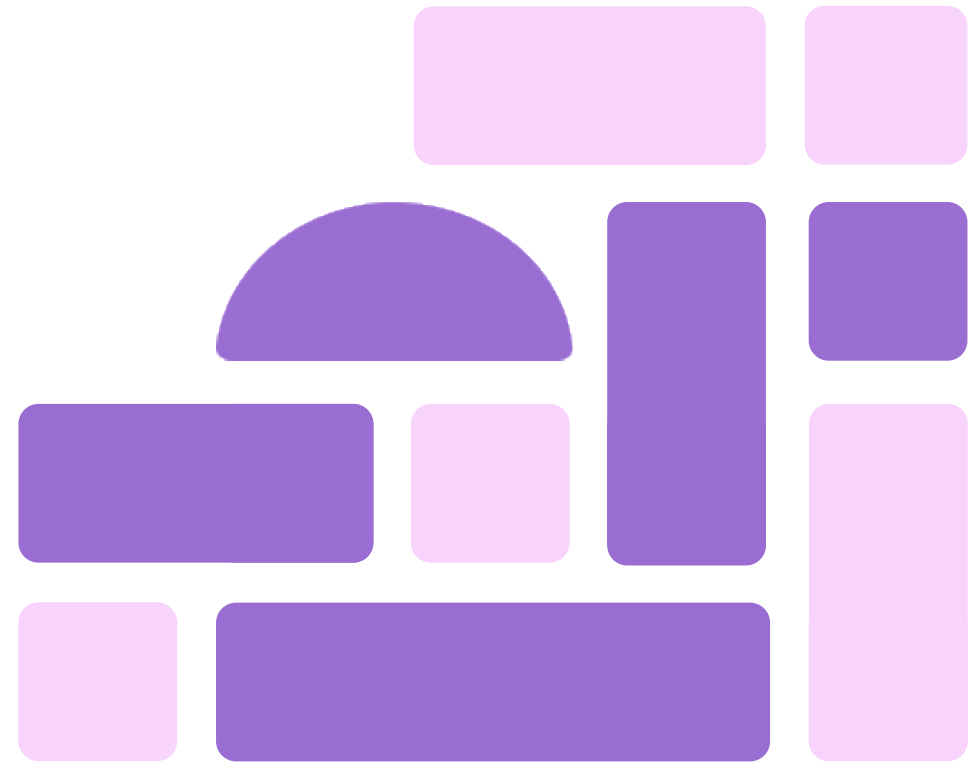
Suitability

- 18+
- Not on any other work support programme
- Motivated to work
- Not in paid work / At risk of losing work (retention referral)
- Individuals can self-identify.



Who can we support?

- ✓ Disabled individuals
- ✓ Individuals with health conditions
- ✓ Individuals facing complex barriers to employment, such as...
 - ➔ an offender or ex-offender
 - ➔ a carer or ex-carer
 - ➔ a homeless person
 - ➔ a former member of the Armed Forces, a member of the reserves, or a partner of current or former Armed Forces personnel
 - ➔ a person whose current or historical drug or alcohol dependency presents a significant barrier to employment
 - ➔ a care experienced young person or care leaver
 - ➔ a refugee, a resettled Afghan
 - ➔ a person on the Ukrainian scheme
 - ➔ a victim or survivor of domestic abuse
 - ➔ young people involved (or at risk of being involved in) serious violence
 - ➔ a victim of modern slavery.



What does Supported Employment look like?

Customer
engagement

Vocational
profile

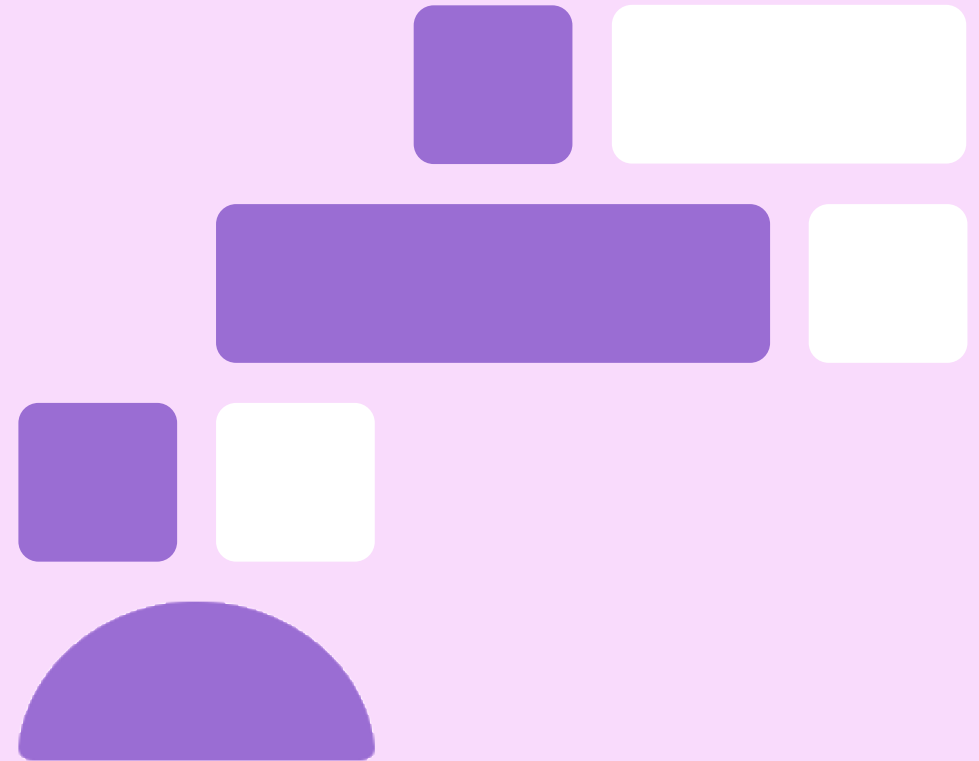
Employer
engagement

Job
matching

In work
support

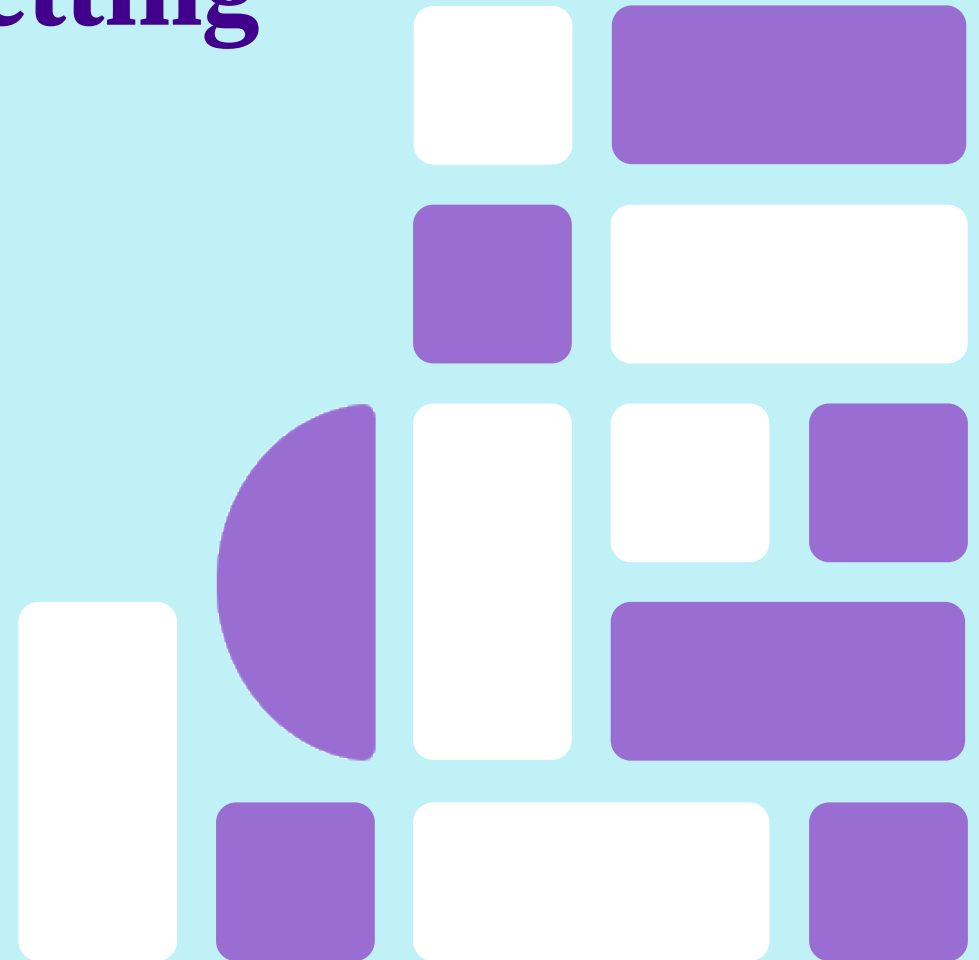
How could Supported Employment help?

- ✓ Help you decide on a career.
- ✓ Write a great CV.
- ✓ Apply for a job.
- ✓ Prepare for an interview.
- ✓ Talk to employers.
- ✓ Support with travelling to work.
- ✓ Support in work.
- ✓ Advice on benefits.



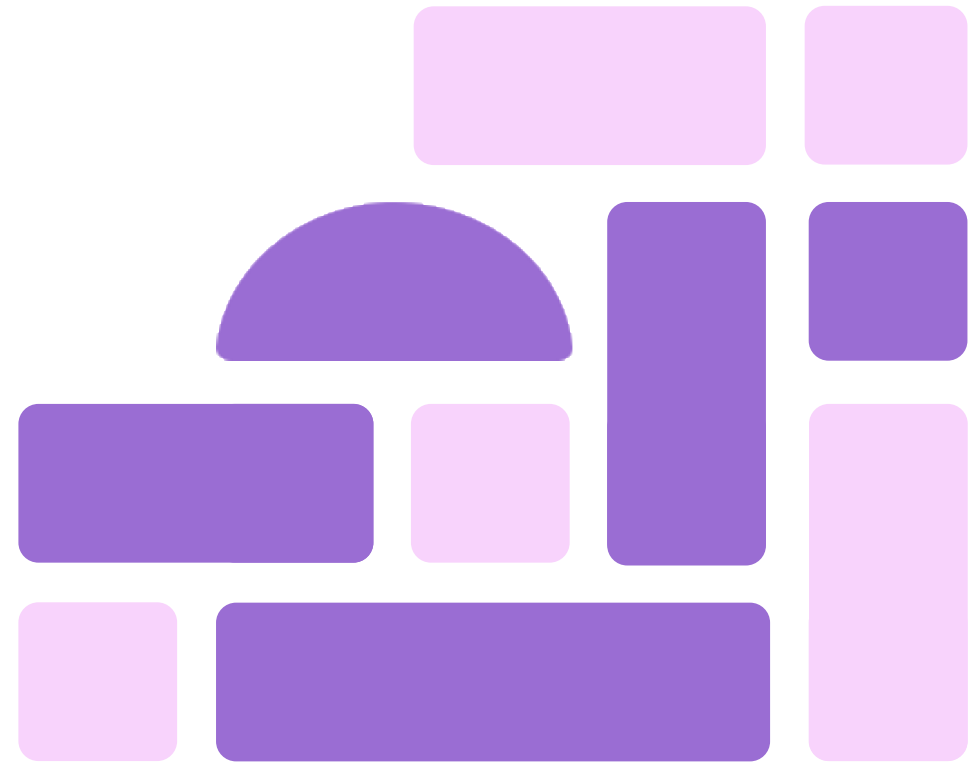
Expressing Interest and Getting Involved

- ➔ Individuals can self-refer.
 - ➔ You can support someone to refer.
 - ➔ Chat to our team about collaboration.
1. Complete our expression of interest form.
 2. Include as much information as you can.
 3. Look out for contact from our team.



Next steps

- What groups is your organisation supporting?
- What barriers are your service users facing?
- Who else in your organisation needs to know about Connect to Work?
- How can we support you?
- What extra information do you/we need?



Get in touch



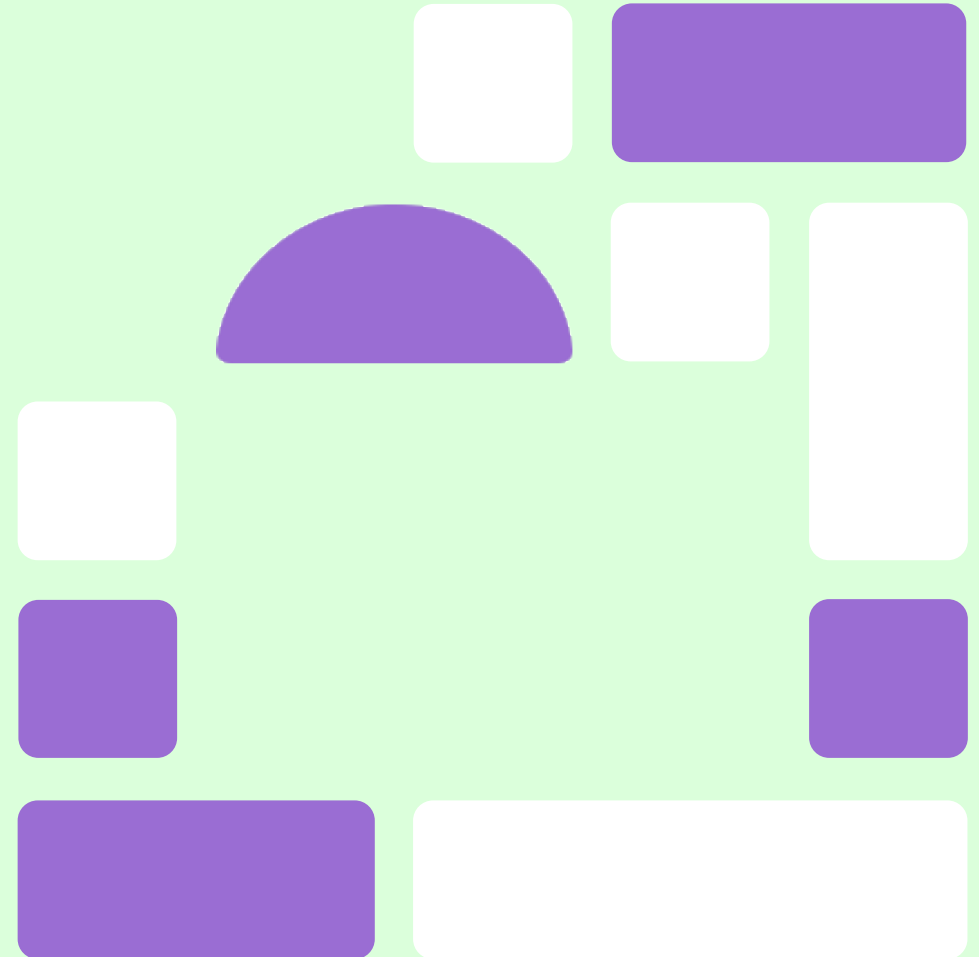
theeducationpeople.org



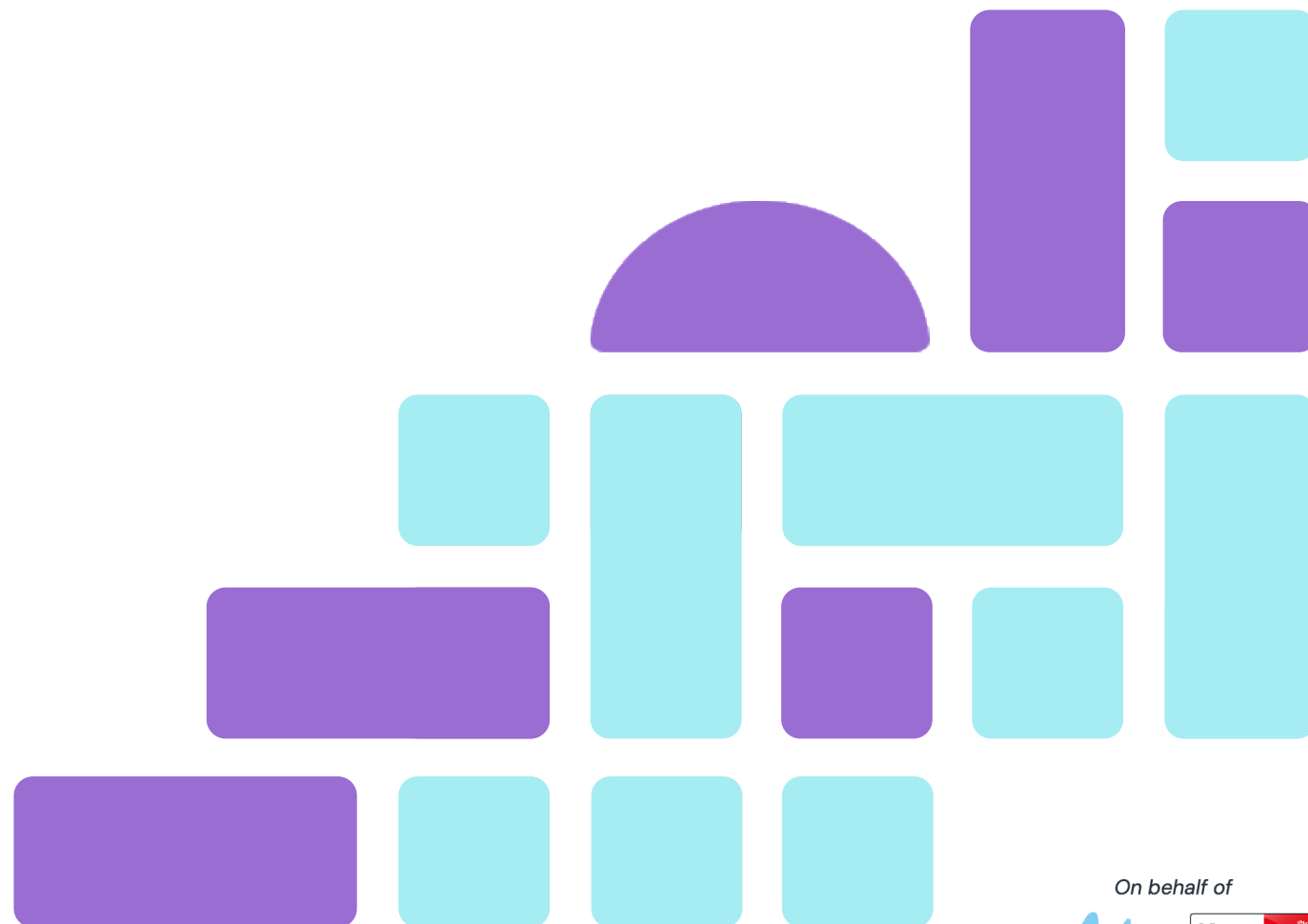
ses@theeducationpeople.org



03301 651 135



Questions



On behalf of