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Department
for Work &
Pensions

Research and analysis

Young people and work report: General population polling

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A report of research carried out by Ipsos on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Views expressed in this report are not necessarily those of the Department for Work and Pensions or any other government department.

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Executive summary

Background

The Milburn Review is a UK-government commissioned independent inquiry to investigate the high numbers of young people (aged 16-24) not in work, education or training (NEET).

To provide context and insight into the views of the general public on this issue, DWP commissioned Ipsos to survey a representative sample of UK adults aged 16-75. Question topics included public understanding of the issue, its causes, the extent to which the issue is considered a priority and how the government and others should tackle it.

Methodology

Findings presented in this report are from an online survey of 2,031 UK adults (aged 16–75) conducted between 13 and 20 February 2026. Data is weighted to the

known profile of the UK adult population by the following characteristics: age, gender, region, work status and social grade. Results are percentages: where multiple responses were allowed, totals may not sum to 100. Sub-group findings are reported where differences are significant; all significance testing has been applied at the 95% confidence level, meaning we can be 95% confident that the differences observed reflect real world differences using a two-tailed T test. Figures from smaller bases should be interpreted with caution.

A total of 47 questions were asked in the survey. While responses were collected for all questions, this report focuses on those findings most relevant to its stated objectives. As a result, not every survey question is reported. A full list of survey results can be found in the report annex.

Summary of key findings

The research shows 4 in 5 respondents (79%) had heard about the recent rise in the number of young people NEET, with 9 in 10 (93%) saying it was important the government take action to address this issue.

The top perceived drivers of the recent rise in the number of young people who are NEET were young people lacking motivation/desire to work (41%) and limited access to apprenticeships/entry-level jobs (37%). Broader economic conditions (e.g., the cost of living, job market) and fewer opportunities for part-time or early work experience were also considered important factors (both 33%). The research shows 3 in 5 thought finding a first job or work experience is harder for young people now than it was for their parents' generation (60%).

Reducing the cost and risk for employers hiring young people (33%), linking education more closely to work (28%) and reforming benefits/employment support so they actively help young people move into work (26%) were seen as the most effective ways to tackle the recent rise in the number of young people who are NEET.

The perceived consequences of the recent rise in the number of young people who are NEET were skills shortages in the UK workforce and a greater reliance on foreign labour in the future (43%), young people feeling disconnected from work (40%), increased demand for welfare and public services (39%) and a higher risk of crime or antisocial behaviour (also 39%).

There were broadly positive views of apprenticeships and early work experience -

apprenticeships were generally seen as a good route into a career (91% agreed), and almost 9 in 10 (86%) said the government should prioritise increasing them. Early work experience was felt to matter (91% said work experience at a young age was important for long-term success in the labour market), and lack of experience were seen as the top barrier to a 'good job' (67%).

The research shows 4 in 5 respondents (82%) thought that the government should focus on supporting young people into work, education or training before it supports them through benefits. Most said benefits should stop if a job is refused because it 'doesn't interest' someone (75%) but should continue for those who turn a job down due to it not fitting with caring responsibilities (71% agreed it should continue for adult carers, 67% for those with under-4s, 56% for those with over-4s) or because they do not feel they can do it due to a health condition/disability (66% agreed benefits should continue).

Main report

Issue awareness and perceived importance

Most (79%) UK adults had heard of the recent rise in the number of young people not in work, education or training (sometimes described as being 'NEET'). Awareness was slightly higher among younger groups, although a majority of all age cohorts had heard of the issue.

There was strong support for government action to address the issue: almost all (93%) UK adults said it was important the government takes action to address the rise, with two-thirds (66%) saying it was very important. This places the issue at a comparable level to others the public believed it was important for the government to take action on, including increases in the cost of living (93%), rising housing costs (92%) and access to quality education for children and young people (94%).

Despite relatively high awareness and perceived importance of the issue, only around 1 in 5 had heard of the Milburn Review (22%) at the time of the survey (13th and 20th February 2026) and a similar proportion of the Government's Youth Guarantee (19%).

Causes and context

The public referred to both individual and structural factors when considering what had contributed most to the recent rise in the number of young people who are NEET. A perceived lack of motivation/desire to work among young people (41%), limited access to apprenticeships and entry-level jobs (37%), broader economic conditions including the cost of living and job market (33%), and fewer early or part-time work opportunities (33%) were believed to be key drivers. Older adults were more likely to suggest a lack of motivation or desire to work among young people was a significant factor in explaining the rise (50% of 55-75s said this compared to 24% of 16-24s), while younger people were more likely to identify structural factors such as fewer early opportunities (47% among 16–24s) and broader economic conditions (45%).

What would help address the rise

When asked what would most help address the recent rise in the number of young people who are NEET, the public suggested reducing the cost and risk for employers of hiring young people (33%), making education more closely linked to work and careers (28%), and reforming benefits and employment support to help young people move into work (26%). A quarter (24%) prioritised increasing the availability of apprenticeship schemes, 23% wanted government-backed paid placements or internships, and 22% wanted more early opportunities/part-time jobs.

Older adults were more likely than other age groups to suggest action be taken to reduce the cost and risk for employers of hiring young people (42% among 55-75s), reforming benefits and employment support so it actively helps young people move into work (35%) and increasing the availability of apprenticeship schemes (34%). Younger groups were more likely to suggest it was important to create more part-time and early opportunities for young people (37% of 16-24s), and reducing the cost and risk for employers of hiring young people (28% of 16-24s).

Perceived impacts and who should act

The most commonly anticipated consequences of rising numbers of young people

who are NEET were skills shortages among the UK workforce and a greater reliance on foreign labour in the future (43%), young people feeling disconnected from work and work opportunities (40%), increased demand for welfare and public services (39%) and higher risk of crime/antisocial behaviour (39%). The public also pointed to impacts on young people's mental health (34%) and the wider economy/productivity (33%). Older adults were more concerned about skills shortages among the UK workforce and a greater reliance on foreign labour in the future (56% of 55-75s) while younger groups were more likely to be worried about the impacts on young people's mental health (42% of 16-24s).

When asked who plays the biggest role in helping young people move from education to work, people pointed to parents and families (42%) and young people themselves (39%), followed by schools/colleges/universities (35%), employers (28%) and government/public services (20%). Over a third said responsibility was shared across all of these (36%).

Parents of under 16s were more likely to suggest it was parents and families who play the biggest role helping young people move from education to work (49%), while younger groups (16-24s) were more likely to suggest it is schools/colleges/universities (50%) or employers (37%), alongside parents and families (41%).

Despite this, the UK government was most often named as being most responsible for addressing the rise in the number of young people who are NEET (38%), ahead of young people themselves (12%), wider economic conditions (10%), the welfare system (10%), employers and businesses (9%) and parents/families (8%).

When asked who they trust most to make practical suggestions about what would encourage young people into work, education or training, a third chose young people themselves (33%), while similar proportions chose employers/business leaders (32%), educators/training providers (31%) and family members (29%). Only 9% picked government ministers or officials.

Apprenticeships and early work experience

There were broadly positive views of apprenticeships - 9 in 10 (91%) agreed they were a good route into a career, and almost 9 in 10 (86%) said the government should prioritise increasing them.

Similarly, 9 in 10 (91%) said early work experience was important for young people's

long-term success, including just over half (54%) who said it was very important. Additionally, nearly 8 in 10 (78%) agreed employers should play a bigger role in offering work experience.

In line with this, lack of experience was seen as the top barrier to securing a 'good job' (67%), suggesting there was support for earlier routes into work. Two-thirds (67%) agreed employers benefit from experienced workers but avoid investing in young talent, a view stronger among 16-24s (84% agreed compared to 58% of 55-75s).

Other cited barriers included limited opportunities in the desired field (54%) and lack of relevant qualifications (49%). One in 5 (20%) cited discrimination or bias, rising to around 3 in 10 (31%) among ethnic minority participants.

Benefits, conditionality and fairness

Public opinion supported a system that encourages young people into work, with support for those who need it. The research shows 4 in 5 (82%) agreed the government should focus on supporting young people into work, education or training before supporting them through benefits. The research shows 6 in 10 (59%) said the current benefits system discourages young people from working, and almost two-thirds (64%) said it does not help people back into work quickly enough.

Views on young people receiving benefits were conditional; 3 quarters (75%) said benefits should stop if a job is refused because it 'doesn't interest them', and around 3 in 5 (59%) said benefits should stop if a job is refused because it 'doesn't pay enough'. In contrast, the majority favoured continuing benefits where young people turn down jobs that don't fit with caring responsibilities or for health reasons. For example, 7 in 10 (71%) thought benefits should continue for those caring for another adult full-time, 2 in 3 (67%) for those with children under 4, and just over half (56%) for those with school-age children. The research shows 2 in 3 (66%) also thought benefits should continue where a health condition or disability means the job is not suitable.

Those in employment were typically more inclined to agree that benefits should stop in all situations, although a majority still agreed they should continue when a job doesn't fit with a person's caring responsibilities or around a health issue. Older adults (aged 55-75) were more inclined to agree that benefits should stop when a job is turned down because it doesn't fit around childcare for school-age children (41% agree, 49% disagree), it doesn't pay enough (70% agree, 21% disagree), or it

doesn't interest someone (80% agree, 10% disagree), while younger groups (16-24s) were typically more open to benefits continuing in each circumstance (65% when a job doesn't fit around childcare for school-age children, 46% when it doesn't pay enough, and 16% when it doesn't interest them).

Views on receipt of out-of-work benefits among the UK general public: trends by age

Question: Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person's out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons:

Option 1: It doesn't fit with their responsibilities caring for another adult full-time

Age	Should no longer receive their out of work benefit (%)	Should continue to receive their out of work benefit (%)	Don't know/not sure (%)	Total (%)
16-24	18	74	8	100%
25-34	23	65	12	100%
35-44	17	76	7	100%
45-54	22	69	9	100%
55-75	22	70	8	100%

Option 2: It doesn't fit around childcare for their child who is too young to attend school (4 or under)

Age	Should no longer receive their out of	Should continue to receive their out of work	Don't know/not	Total (%)
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	work benefit (%)	benefit (%)	sure (%)	
16-24	16	73	10	100%
25-34	23	68	9	100%
35-44	23	68	9	100%
45-54	26	63	11	100%
55-75	27	63	9	100%

Option 3: It doesn't fit around childcare for their school-aged child (4 or over)

Age	Should no longer receive their out of work benefit (%)	Should continue to receive their out of work benefit (%)	Don't know/not sure (%)	Total (%)
16-24	24	65	12	100%
25-34	31	60	9	100%
35-44	30	59	10	100%
45-54	36	51	13	100%
55-75	41	49	10	100%

Option 4: It doesn't pay them enough

Age	Should no longer receive their out of	Should continue to receive their out of work	Don't know/not	Total (%)
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	work benefit (%)	benefit (%)	sure (%)	
16-24	43	46	11	100%
25-34	53	38	9	100%
35-44	59	30	11	100%
45-54	59	27	14	100%
55-75	70	21	9	100%

Option 5: It doesn't interest them

Age	Should no longer receive their out of work benefit (%)	Should continue to receive their out of work benefit (%)	Don't know/not sure (%)	Total (%)
16-24	70	16	14	100%
25-34	66	25	9	100%
35-44	76	16	9	100%
45-54	75	13	12	100%
55-75	80	10	9	100%

Option 6: It is not a job they feel they can do because of a health condition or disability

Age	Should no longer receive their out of	Should continue to receive their out of work	Don't know/not	Total (%)
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	work benefit (%)	benefit (%)	sure (%)	
16-24	15	75	9	100%
25-34	23	67	11	100%
35-44	19	71	9	100%
45-54	22	64	14	100%
55-75	30	59	11	100%

Base (all options): All UK adults aged 16-75 (2,031)

Disclosure of health conditions at work

Over half of workers said they would be concerned about telling an employer if they had a health condition or disability (51% concerned, including 14% very concerned), while 2 in 5 would not be concerned (42%, including 17% not at all concerned). Concern was higher among ethnic minority workers (64% concerned versus 49% white employees).

Who should receive additional support

While a majority (55%) said all young people should have access to the same opportunities, many also prioritised targeted support for people with physical disabilities (23%), people with learning disabilities (22%), people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds (18%), individuals experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges (17%), individuals on the autism spectrum (17%) and individuals diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (15%). Just 7% thought refugees and asylum seekers should have access to additional support to help them into work, education or training.

Younger groups (16-24s) were typically more open to targeted support for specific groups (51%), while older adults (55-75s) were more inclined to suggest that all young people should have access to the same opportunities (64%).

Annex

A total of 47 questions were asked in the survey. Responses by question are provided below.

Are you, or is there someone you know personally, who is aged between 16 and 24 and currently not in work, education or training?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
Yes, myself	3%
Yes, someone in my immediate family	13%
Yes, a close friend	9%
Yes, a colleague or acquaintance	3%
Yes, someone else I know (not close)	9%
No, I don't think so	60%
Don't know	2%

How important, if at all, do you think it is that government takes action to address each of the following: Rising numbers of young people not in work, education or training	All participants
--	-------------------------

Base (all participants)	2,031
Very important	66%
Fairly important	28%
Not very important	4%

Not at all important	1%
Don't know	2%
How important, if at all, do you think it is that government takes action to address each of the following: Increases in the cost of living affecting family budgets	All participants
Base (all participants)	2,031
Very important	69%
Fairly important	24%
Not very important	4%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	2%
How important, if at all, do you think it is that government takes action to address each of the following: Availability and cost of childcare	All participants
Base (all participants)	2,031
Very important	47%
Fairly important	38%
Not very important	9%
Not at all important	3%
Don't know	4%
How important, if at all, do you think it is that government takes action to address each of the following: Rising housing costs	All participants
Base (all participants)	2,031

Very important	61%
Fairly important	31%
Not very important	6%
Not at all important	2%
Don't know	1%

How important, if at all, do you think it is that government takes action to address each of the following: Access to quality education for children and young people **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Very important	67%
Fairly important	27%
Not very important	4%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	1%

How important, if at all, do you think it is that government takes action to address each of the following: Availability of support programmes for families in need **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Very important	51%
Fairly important	38%
Not very important	7%
Not at all important	2%
Don't know	3%

To what extent, if at all, do you feel that young people today will have better or worse job prospects than their parents' generation, or will it be about the same?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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Much better	4%
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Slightly better	8%
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About the same	16%
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Slightly worse	34%
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Much worse	32%
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Don't know	5%
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Before today, had you heard about the rise in recent years in the number of young people not in work, education or training?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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Yes, I'd definitely heard about it	46%
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Yes, I think I'd heard about it	33%
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No, I hadn't heard about it	18%
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Don't know	3%
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Which, if any, of the following do you think has contributed most to the rise in recent years in the number of young people not in work, education or training?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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Young people lacking motivation or desire to work	41%
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Limited access to apprenticeships and entry-level jobs	37%
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Broader economic conditions (e.g., the cost of living, job market)	33%
Fewer opportunities for part-time or early work experience like Saturday jobs	33%
The education system not preparing young people for work	28%
Mental health challenges among young people	28%
A welfare and benefit system that does not support re-entry into work	25%
It being too costly or risky for employers to hire young people	24%
Government policy	15%
None of the above	1%
Don't know	3%

Which, if any, of the following concerns you most about the rise in recent years in the number of young people not in work, education or training? **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Skills shortages in the UK workforce and increased reliance on foreign labour in the future	43%
Young people feeling disconnected from work and work opportunities	40%
Increased demand for welfare and public services among young people specifically	39%
Higher risk of crime or antisocial behaviour	39%
Impacts on young people's mental health	34%
Impacts on the economy, including reduced productivity	33%
Increased inequality / reduced social mobility for young people	26%
None of the above	1%

Don't know	3%
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Which of these, if any, do you think is most responsible for addressing the rise in recent years in the number of young people not in work, education or training?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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The UK government	38%
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Young people themselves	12%
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Wider economic conditions	10%
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The welfare and benefits system	10%
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Employers and businesses	9%
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Parents and families	8%
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Schools, colleges and universities	5%
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Local community organisations	1%
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Social media	<0.5%
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Immigration	<0.5%
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All of the above	<0.5%
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Lack of job opportunities	<0.5%
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Automation/ artificial intelligence (AI) taking away jobs	<0.5%
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Covid-19	<0.5%
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Rise of pension age limit/ older people getting their jobs	<0.5%
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People wanting low skill/ easy jobs	<0.5%
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Other (please specify)	<0.5%
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None of the above	1%
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Don't know	5%
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Which 2 or 3, if any, of the following do you think would help to address the recent rise in the number of young people not in work, education or training?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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Reducing the cost and risk for employers of hiring young people (e.g., lower National Insurance, wage subsidies)	33%
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Making education more closely linked to work and careers	28%
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Reforming benefits and employment support so it actively helps young people move into work	26%
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The government increasing the availability of apprenticeship schemes	24%
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Government-backed paid placements or internships for young people	23%
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Creating more part-time and early work opportunities for young people	22%
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More high-quality entry-level jobs	18%
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Raising expectations and support so young people are encouraged to enter work earlier	17%
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Addressing housing costs and insecurity that make it harder for young people to take jobs	16%
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Helping young people gain the skills needed to work alongside AI and automation	14%
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Managing the impact of AI and automation on entry-level jobs traditionally done by young people	13%
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Improving access to mental health support that supports young people to work or train	12%
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Improving transport and local mobility so that young people can	12%
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reach jobs and training	
None of the above	1%
Don't know	4%
Are there any particular groups of young people you think should have access to additional support to help them into work, education or training?	All participants
Base (all participants)	2,031
People with physical disabilities	23%
People with learning disabilities	22%
Individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds	18%
Individuals experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges	17%
Individuals on the autism spectrum	17%
Individuals diagnosed with ADHD	15%
Refugees and asylum seekers	7%
All young people should have access to the same opportunities	55%
Don't know/not sure	8%
How important, if at all, do you think work experience at a young age (such as part-time or weekend jobs while studying) is for young people's long-term success in the labour market?	All participants
Base (all participants)	2,031
Very important	54%
Fairly important	37%
Not very important	5%

Not at all important	1%
Don't know	3%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Young people (aged 16-24) should be in work, education or training **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	61%
Tend to agree	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	7%
Tend to disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	2%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Apprenticeships are a good route into a career **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	60%
Tend to agree	31%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%
Tend to disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	2%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following **All**

statements: The government should prioritise increasing the availability of apprenticeship schemes **participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	47%
Tend to agree	39%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%
Tend to disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	2%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The education system fails to prepare young people for the world of work **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	33%
Tend to agree	40%
Neither agree nor disagree	15%
Tend to disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	3%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The current school curriculum is too focused on children and young people passing exams rather than preparing them for work **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
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Strongly agree	44%
Tend to agree	36%
Neither agree nor disagree	11%
Tend to disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	4%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The current benefits system discourages young people from working **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	33%
Tend to agree	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%
Tend to disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	5%
Don't know	7%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The current benefits system doesn't help young people back into work quickly enough **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	30%
Tend to agree	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%

Tend to disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	10%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The government should focus on supporting young people into work, education or training before it supports them through benefits **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	49%
Tend to agree	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%
Tend to disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	2%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: There are not enough good jobs for young people to move into when they leave school or college **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	29%
Tend to agree	36%
Neither agree nor disagree	17%
Tend to disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	4%
Don't know	4%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: All young people should have the opportunity to work or study, regardless of their circumstances **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	58%
Tend to agree	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%
Tend to disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	1%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Work is fundamentally good for young people **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	63%
Tend to agree	28%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%
Tend to disagree	1%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	1%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Employers benefit from experienced workers but avoid investing in young talent **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
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Strongly agree	27%
Tend to agree	40%
Neither agree nor disagree	20%
Tend to disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	7%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Too many young people are unprepared for the realities of work **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	41%
Tend to agree	38%
Neither agree nor disagree	11%
Tend to disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	3%

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Employers should play a bigger role offering work experience **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Strongly agree	32%
Tend to agree	46%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%

Tend to disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	3%

Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person’s out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons: It doesn’t fit with their responsibilities caring for another adult full-time

Base (all participants)	2,031
They should definitely no longer receive their out of work benefit	7%
They should probably no longer receive their out of work benefit	14%
They should probably continue to receive their out of work benefit	38%
They should definitely continue to receive their out of work benefit	32%
Don't know/not sure	9%

Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person’s out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons: It doesn’t fit around childcare for their child who is too young to attend school (4 or under)

Base (all participants)	2,031
They should definitely no longer receive their out of work benefit	7%
They should probably no longer receive their out of work benefit	16%
They should probably continue to receive their out of work benefit	36%
They should definitely continue to receive their out of work benefit	30%
Don't know/not sure	10%

Don't know/not sure	10%
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Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person's out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons: It doesn't fit around childcare for their school-aged child (4 or over)	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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They should definitely no longer receive their out of work benefit	12%
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They should probably no longer receive their out of work benefit	22%
--	-----

They should probably continue to receive their out of work benefit	35%
--	-----

They should definitely continue to receive their out of work benefit	21%
--	-----

Don't know/not sure	11%
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Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person's out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons: It doesn't pay them enough	All participants
--	-------------------------

Base (all participants)	2,031
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They should definitely no longer receive their out of work benefit	27%
--	-----

They should probably no longer receive their out of work benefit	32%
--	-----

They should probably continue to receive their out of work benefit	21%
--	-----

They should definitely continue to receive their out of work benefit	10%
--	-----

Don't know/not sure	11%
---------------------	-----

Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which	All participants
--	-------------------------

they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person's out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons: It doesn't interest them

Base (all participants)	2,031
They should definitely no longer receive their out of work benefit	46%
They should probably no longer receive their out of work benefit	29%
They should probably continue to receive their out of work benefit	11%
They should definitely continue to receive their out of work benefit	4%
Don't know/not sure	10%

Imagine a scenario where a young person is out of work and receiving out of work benefits. They are offered a job which they turn down. Please tell us what you think should happen to this young person's out of work benefits if they turn it down for any of the following reasons: It is not a job they feel they can do because of a health condition or disability

All participants

Base (all participants)	2,031
They should definitely no longer receive their out of work benefit	6%
They should probably no longer receive their out of work benefit	18%
They should probably continue to receive their out of work benefit	38%
They should definitely continue to receive their out of work benefit	28%
Don't know/not sure	11%

Which one of these 2 statements best describes your view about what young people should consider when looking for their first job?

All participants

Base (all participants)	2,031
It is more important a young person get any job for their first job	68%

rather than a good job

It is more important a young person get a good job for their first job rather than getting any job 23%

I'm not sure/don't know 9%

Which, if any, of the following do you think stop young people from getting a 'good job'? **All participants**

Base (all participants) 2,031

Lack of experience 67%

Limited job opportunities in the desired field 54%

Lack of relevant qualifications 49%

They aren't available locally 36%

Lack of mentorship or guidance 35%

Discrimination or bias in workplaces 20%

Concerns about work-life balance 19%

Family or personal commitments 15%

Attitude (can't be bothered/disinterested/lazy/low work ethic) 3%

Benefits are too good/ reliance on benefits 1%

Expectations are not realistic/ too high/ their ideas of "a good job" 1%

Immigration <0.5%

They see too much easy money being made online <0.5%

Cost to the employer/ increased NI/ minimum wage <0.5%

High requirements for entry level jobs <0.5%

DEI quotas <0.5%

Government policies	<0.5%
Other (please specify)	1%
Don't know	4%

To what extent do you think that doing a job which is unrelated to the career you would like to have in the long-term would be a barrier to working in that career in the future? **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
To a great extent	7%
To some extent	34%
Not very much	31%
Not at all	21%
Don't know	8%

Before today, had you heard of either of the following? - An independent investigation into young people and work announced by the UK Government (the Milburn Review) **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Yes, I definitely have	5%
Yes, I think I have	17%
No	71%
Don't know/not sure	6%

Before today, had you heard of either of the following? - The Government's Youth Guarantee **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
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Yes, I definitely have	4%
Yes, I think I have	14%
No	74%
Don't know/not sure	8%

Which one of these 3 statements best describes your view about what young people should prioritise while they are: At school (before age 16) **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Young people should focus on their education	69%
Young people should try and balance both	27%
Young people should focus on part time work	4%

Which one of these 3 statements best describes your view about what young people should prioritise while they are: At college or sixth form **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Young people should focus on their education	30%
Young people should try and balance both	65%
Young people should focus on part time work	5%

Which one of these 3 statements best describes your view about what young people should prioritise while they are: At university **All participants**

Base (all participants)	2,031
Young people should focus on their education	27%
Young people should try and balance both	66%

Young people should focus on part time work	7%
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Who do you think plays the biggest role in helping young people make a successful transition from education into work?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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Parents and families	42%
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Young people themselves	39%
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Schools, colleges and universities	35%
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Employers	28%
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Government and public services	20%
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Responsibility is shared across all these groups	36%
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Other (please specify)	<0.5%
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Don't know	3%
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When do you think is the most challenging point for young people moving into work?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
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Finding a first job or placement	68%
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Leaving school or college	15%
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Progressing after their initial job	7%
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I don't think young people face challenges moving into work	5%
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Don't know	5%
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What, if anything, do you think is harder for young people now than it was for their parents' generation?	All participants
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Base (all participants)	2,031
Finding a first job or work experience	60%
Affording housing while working or training	55%
Managing mental health alongside work or study	27%
Progressing from entry-level work	26%
Education preparing people for work	22%
Navigating benefits and employment support	12%
I don't think things have become harder	10%

Which of these, if any, do you trust most to make practical suggestions about what would encourage young people into work, education or training? **All participants**

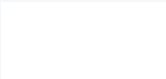
Base (all participants)	2,031
Young people themselves	33%
Employers and business leaders	32%
Educators and training providers	31%
Family members	29%
Charities and youth organisations	12%
Government ministers or officials	9%
Local community organisations	7%
Economists or policy experts	4%
Media and journalists	2%
Other	<0.5%
Don't know	13%

How concerned, if at all, would you be to tell your employer about a health condition or disability, if you had one?	All participants
Base (all in work)	1,319
Very concerned	14%
Fairly concerned	37%
Not very concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	17%
Don't know	6%
Prefer not to say	1%

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