

STEP SKILLS NEWS

The home of adult learning and employment support



Issue 15
July to September 2025

**BRINGING SMILES TO
THE FACES OF MORE
HERTFORDSHIRE
RESIDENTS**



**Now offering
CONNECT TO WORK**

Funded by **UK Government**

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www.step2skills.org.uk

#Step2Skills

FOREWORD

CHANTAL LOMMEL, HEAD OF SERVICE

“As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person”.

Paul Shane Spear, British actor and comedian



Time and time again, as a Hertfordshire resident leaves a Step2Skills project, with what is officially known as an ‘outcome’, in that they have entered work, education or training, they thank their Advisor for helping them believe the seemingly impossible, possible.

Indeed, what makes many of our employment support programmes unique is the assignment of an Employment Advisor who is deemed most suitable for that person, based on their own skills, experiences and expertise.

From Employment Advisors who have previously owned, or continue to own their own businesses, to those who have had lived experience with disabilities or neurodivergences, we will, where possible, assign someone to the agent most suited to them.

From that point on, the assignee is dedicated to the journey of their participant and will support as necessary, arranging training, providing counsel and meeting with potential employers to help break down the unique barriers to work that their participant has.

It’s a proven formula for successful ‘outcomes’, where the participant ends up in a long-term, sustainable job.

Therefore we’re delighted to be getting our latest employment support project off the ground; the UK Government-funded, Connect To Work, which will run alongside our other employment support programmes and begins this summer. This will help us support more individuals like John into jobs with supportive local employers, such as Samsic Cleaning. Read about John’s journey on page 3.

In other news, our Early Years and Education Skills Bootcamp is off to a flying start and is now accepting applications for July and September start dates - find out more on page 4.

Finally, as ever, we bring you stories of success across the service, including a focus on why our collaborations with local businesses like Kent Brushes (p11) are so important to the success of our employment support services.

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Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives: John's Journey with Samsic UK



At Samsic UK, people are at the heart of everything they do. As a Disability Confident Employer, the company is committed to creating inclusive opportunities and supporting individuals of all backgrounds and abilities.

Through their partnership with Hertfordshire County Council's Step2Skills service, Samsic actively recruits within local communities to help remove barriers to employment.

John, who joined Samsic UK in February 2025 through this programme, is one such success story—now a valued member of the cleaning team at Berkhamsted Fire Station.



A Role That Makes a Difference

John has a learning disability and mobility challenges while awaiting a hip replacement. His role as a Cleaning Operative at Berkhamsted Fire Station, where he works one hour per week, has been an excellent reintroduction to work following a long period of unemployment. Despite initial challenges, John's journey is a powerful example of what's possible with the right support.

Collaboration in Action

With the guidance of his manager, Katie Szura, John was supported through every stage of the onboarding process. Katie adapted his training to suit his learning needs and remains just a phone call away to offer reassurance and help whenever needed. Her approach reflects Samsic's inclusive recruitment practices and their commitment to supporting each individual.

Real Impact for Individuals and Employers

Through regular site visits and positive reinforcement, John's confidence has grown enormously. His dedication and work ethic have earned him praise from both Samsic management and the team at Berkhamsted Fire Station. Today, John is recognised as a dependable, hardworking member of the team.

Looking ahead, Katie is now working with John to explore increasing his working hours. Samsic UK is also expanding its partnership with Step2Skills, offering more opportunities to people with barriers to work in the Hertfordshire area.

"John is an incredibly hardworking member of the team and is one of our star cleaning operatives – nothing is ever too much for him," says Katie. "Taking the time to support John through his early days has shown just how valuable it is to invest in people. By removing barriers, we've not only helped John rebuild his confidence, but also gained a loyal and dedicated team member who delivers service excellence."

John's story is a powerful reminder of what inclusive employment can achieve. When employers take the time to understand and support individual needs, everyone benefits.



Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives (continued):

John's Testimonial

"I worked as a care assistant for 21 years. Unfortunately, when my supportive manager left, I was eventually dismissed from my role. After nearly two years out of work, I visited the Job Centre and was introduced to Steps2Skills. Through this program, I received support from Alison, my Employment Advisor, who helped me find a new job. When I first started working at Berkhamsted Fire Station, I was very anxious. My manager was patient, understanding, and very supportive. After a few weeks, I gained confidence and began to see that I could perform my duties independently. I now feel relaxed and happy in my role. Since starting work with Samsic, I've grown in confidence and now know that I'm capable of taking on more hours and further responsibilities. This experience has truly shown me that, with the right support, I can succeed and thrive in a working environment."



Skills Bootcamps in Early Years & Education begin!

With our new Skills Bootcamps offer underway, we recently welcomed Holly to our team, whose sole focus will be teaching these learners. Born and raised in Hertfordshire, Holly spent ten years working in local nurseries, five of which were as a nursery manager, before moving into teaching the next generation of Early Years Practitioners on our 16-week fully-funded, accredited course. The course equips learners with the skills needed to thrive in this rewarding field including:

- Understanding child development stages
- How to create educational activities
- Safeguarding practices
- Managing early years settings
- How to support children with special educational needs
- Emergency Paediatric First Aid certification



Early Years Skills Bootcamp Paediatric First Aid session at Stevenage library

Our next Skills Bootcamp will begin on **Tuesday 1st July** and will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9.30am to 12pm. Following this, the next Skills Bootcamp will begin on **Monday 1st September**, with one class weekly from 9am to 2.30pm.

For more information, visit www.step2skills.org.uk/SkillsBootcamps.

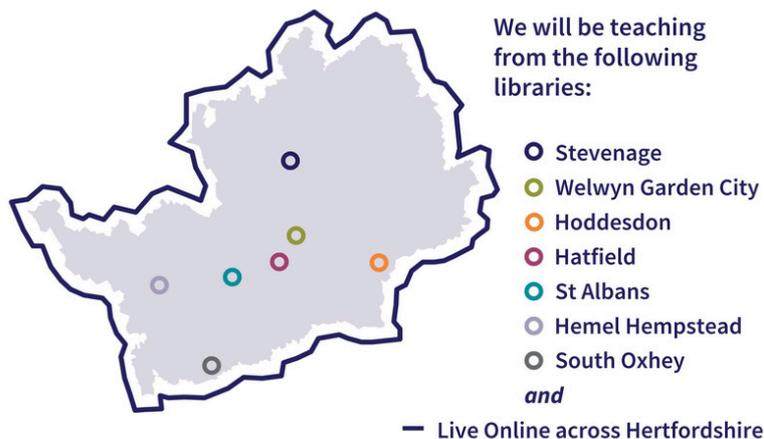


Practice Makes Perfect!

A big thanks to Natasha, Local Specialist in Customer Care, from Barclays Bank who supported Employment Support participants with mock interviews practice and guidance at a community centre in Stevenage this week. After each mock interview finished, Step2Skills team member Sarah was then able to offer information, advice and guidance (IAG) to the participant as to their potential next steps.

STEP SKILLS

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS



In 2025 to 2026, the Step2Skills team of teachers will begin delivering courses and workshops from libraries across the county.

This is in addition to our online learning opportunities. Meanwhile, we work with a selection of partner organisations to deliver Step2Skills-funded learning opportunities, details of whom are below.

Our network of learning providers across Hertfordshire

Our fantastic network of partners also deliver Step2Skills-funded courses and workshops across Hertfordshire. Get in touch with them today.

Community Action Dacorum
Telephone: 01442 253935
Email: learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk
Website: www.communityactiondacorum.org

SPS Training Solutions
Telephone: 01438 537699
Email: enquiries@sps-training.com
Website: www.sps-training.com

Watford Women's Centre
Telephone: 01923 816229
Email: general@watfordwomenscentre.org.uk
Website: www.wwcplus.org.uk

Be Positive
Telephone: 01462 287808
Website: www.bepositivenow.co.uk
Email: info@bepositivenow.co.uk

Communities 1st
Telephone: 01727 649960
Website: www.communities1st.org.uk
Email: training@communities1st.org.uk

Impact Mental Health Peer Support
Telephone: 01582 797596
Website: www.impactmh.org.uk

Sunnyside Rural Trust
Telephone: 01442 863364
Website: www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk

Community Learning Partnership
Telephone: 020 8421 5544
Facebook page: CLP Arts and Crafts courses

SSG Education & Training
Telephone: 01234 340782
Website: www.ssgservices.co.uk
Email: courses@ssgservices.co.uk

Digital Skills Courses & Workshops



Scan me with your phone camera for our latest **Digital Skills** courses & workshops

- Understanding Your Smart Device** - 13/08/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Staying Safe Online** - 26/08/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Understanding Your Smart Device** - 03/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Protecting Children online** - 10/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Content Writing for Profit** - 16/09/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Hatfield - £25
- Job search in an Online World** - 17/09/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Stevenage - £25
- Introduction to Digital Marketing** - 19/09/2025 - Fri - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Social Media for Business** - 19/09/2025 - Fri - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Job search in an Online World** - 22/09/2025 - Mon - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Staying Safe online** - 24/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Smart Living with AI** - 30/09/2025 - Tue - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Understanding Your Smart Device** - 01/10/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Protecting Children Online** - 08/10/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Staying safe online** - 15/10/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Hatfield - £5
- Smart Living with AI** - 28/10/2025 - Tue - 5 hours - Online - £10
- L1 Award in Progression - Social Media Marketing** - 30/10/2025 - Thu - 9 weeks - Online - £25
- Digital Photography** - 04/11/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Hatfield - £25
- Introduction to Digital Marketing** - 05/11/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Stevenage - £25
- Introduction to Digital Marketing** - 06/11/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Level 2 Award in Digital Marketing** - 07/11/2025 - Fri - 6 weeks - online - £25
- Job search in an Online World** - 11/11/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Improving Your Skills in MS PowerPoint** - 11/11/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Job searching and online applications** - 27/11/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Protecting Children Online** - 11/12/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Staying Safe Online** - 11/12/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5

Family Learning Courses & Workshops



Scan me with your phone camera for our latest **Family Learning** courses & workshops

Helping Your Child Learn Through Stories - 16/09/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Hemel - £25

Helping Your Child Learn Through Stories - 16/09/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Oxhey - £25

Helping Your Child with KS2 Maths - 21/10/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Hemel - £5

Helping Your Child with Phonics - 21/10/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Oxhey - £5

Helping your child with Phonics - 04/11/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Oxhey - £25

English skills Courses & Workshops



Scan me with your phone camera for our latest **English & ESOL** information

We run Functional Skills qualification courses in English all year round.

Functional Skills qualifications are intended for anyone wishing to develop their English. They focus on both the underpinning skills as well as the ability to apply English to different contexts. We offer Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 qualification courses.

We also offer ESOL courses for speakers of other languages.

You can apply at www.step2skills.org.uk/englishandmaths

If English is not your first language, we have courses available to improve your English and gain a qualification. Come and study with Step2Skills, make new connections, friendships and improve your understanding of the English language, like these learners below.



Skills for Work

Courses & Workshops



Scan me with your camera for our latest
Skills for Work
courses & workshops

- Motivation and Time Management** - 07/08/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- CV Writing & Cover Letters** - 12/08/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Interview Skills** - 12/08/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Online Job search and Applications** - 14/08/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Grow Your Mind** - 14/08/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Exploring Work in Schools** - 19/08/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Public Speaking and Presentation Skills** - 21/08/2025 - Thu - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Exploring Work in Schools** - 22/08/2025 - Fri - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Public Speaking and Presentation Skills** - 27/08/2025 - Wed - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Helping Your Child with Phonics** - 28/08/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- How to Write a Business Plan** - 03/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Oxhey - £5
- How to Write a Business Plan** - 05/09/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- How to Fund Your Business** - 10/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Oxhey - £5
- CV Writing & Cover Letters** - 10/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Stevenage - £5
- Grow Your Mind** - 10/09/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Stevenage - £5
- How to Fund Your Business** - 12/09/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Content Writing for Profit** - 15/09/2025 - Mon - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Grow Your Mind** - 15/09/2025 - Mon - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Introduction to IAG** - 15/09/2025 - Mon - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Digital Photography** - 15/09/2025 - Mon - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Grow Your Mind** - 16/09/2025 - Tue - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Smart Living with AI** - 16/09/2025 - Tue - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Introduction to MS Word** - 17/09/2025 - Wed - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Boost Your Confidence** - 17/09/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Oxhey - £25
- Grow Your Mind** - 17/09/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Stevenage - £25
- Assertiveness & Communication Skills** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Boost Your Confidence** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Content Writing for Profit** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- How to Publish a Book** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Introduction to MS Excel** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Introduction to Working in Schools** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Level 1 Award in Understanding and Displaying British Values** - 18/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Intro to Working in Health & Social Care** - 19/09/2025 - Fri - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Intro to Working in Early Years Settings** - 19/09/2025 - Fri - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Introduction to IAG** - 22/09/2025 - Mon - 2.5 hours - Online - £5

Skills for Work (ctd)

Courses & Workshops



Scan me with your camera for our latest
Skills for Work
courses & workshops

- AI in the Workplace** - 23/09/2025 - Tue - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Improving Your Skills in MS Word** - 24/09/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Improving your skills in MS Excel** - 25/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Improving Your Skills in MS PowerPoint** - 25/09/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- L2 Certificate in Information, Advice or Guidance** - 29/09/2025 - Mon - 9 weeks - Online - £25
- AI in the Workplace** - 21/10/2025 - Tue - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Interview Skills** - 21/10/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- CV Writing & Cover Letters** - 22/10/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Oxhey - £5
- Interview Skills** - 22/10/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Stevenage - £5
- CV Writing & Cover Letters** - 23/10/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- CV Writing & Cover Letters** - 23/10/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Job search and Online Applications** - 28/10/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Interview Skills** - 29/10/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Oxhey - £5
- Interview Skills** - 30/10/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Interview Skills** - 30/10/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Grow Your Mind** - 03/11/2025 - Mon - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Level 1 Award in Equality and Diversity in Everyday Life** - 03/11/2025 - Mon - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Level 1 Award in Understanding and Displaying British Values** - 03/11/2025 - Mon - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Grow Your Mind** - 04/11/2025 - Tue - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Grow Your Mind** - 05/11/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Hatfield - £25
- Job search in an Online World** - 05/11/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Assertiveness and Communication Skills** - 05/11/2025 - Wed - 5 wks - Oxhey - £25
- Introduction to MS Word** - 05/11/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours - Stevenage - £5
- Public Speaking and Presentation Skills** - 06/11/2025 - Thu - 5 hours - Online - £10
- Grow Your Mind** - 06/11/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5
- Improving Your Skills in Ms Excel** - 06/11/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- Content Writing for Profit** - 07/11/2025 - Fri - 5 weeks - Online - £25
- L1 Award in An Introduction to Early Years Settings** - 07/11/2025 - Fri - 10 weeks - Online - £25
- L1 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care** - 07/11/2025 - Fri - 11 weeks - Online - £25
- Level 1 Award in Personal Resilience & Perseverance** - 12/11/2025 - Wed - 5 weeks - Online - £25

Skills for Work (ctd) Courses & Workshops

Improving Your Skills in MS Word - 12/11/2025 -

Wed - 5 weeks - Stevenage - £25

Boost Your Confidence - 13/11/2025 - Thu - 5

weeks - Online - £25

CV Writing & Cover Letters - 13/11/2025 - Thu - 2.5

hours - Online - £5

L1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools -

13/11/2025 - Thu - 10 weeks - Online - £25

L1 Award in Setting and Achieving Personal

Goals - 13/11/2025 - Thu - 5 weeks - Online - £25

Interview Skills - 20/11/2025 - Thu - 2.5 hours -

Online - £5

Motivation and Time Management - 04/12/2025 -

Thu - 2.5 hours - Online - £5

Grow Your Mind - 10/12/2025 - Wed - 2.5 hours -

Online - £5

Motivation and Time Management - 10/12/2025 -

Wed - 2.5 hours - Oxhey - £5

CV Writing & Cover Letters - 16/12/2025 - Tue - 2.5

hours - Online - £5

Public Speaking and Presentation Skills -

18/12/2025 - Thu - 5 hours - Online - £10



Scan me with your camera for our latest Skills for Work courses & workshops

Do you know someone who would like to learn how to read?



Read Easy Stevenage and North Herts is a volunteer organisation which helps adults learn to read.

We provide free, confidential, one-to-one coaching with fully trained volunteers.

Please contact Ali or Sara at:

- Tel: 07493 723781
- Email: Sgnhnetworker@readeasy.org.uk



Find out more at readeasy.org.uk



Read Easy
Helping adults learn to read

The King's Trust TEAM 12-week programme is recruiting throughout the year, for 16-25 year olds



Join the Team programme, our 12-week personal development course, for the chance to gain new skills, take a qualification and meet new people.

- Take on your own group community project
- Take part in a residential trip
- Get two weeks' work experience
- Develop your English and maths skills
- Spend some time developing your CV and interview skills

Apply via our website:

www.step2skills.org.uk/employmentsupport

JOINING THE DOTS

How combining with Hertfordshire Futures will boost the job opportunities for Hertfordshire residents

As of January 2025, Step2Skills joined Hertfordshire Futures, allowing us to further enhance our impact on the local economy and community.

By aligning with Hertfordshire Futures' strategic goals, we continue to provide vital support to residents, helping them overcome barriers to learning and employment. Meanwhile our support to local employers in making their businesses more accessible and inclusive allows them to reach the pool of talent which exists in Hertfordshire, therefore contributing to local overall growth and prosperity.

The story of local manufacturer, Kent Brushes, illustrates the power of collaboration to support a business in strengthening their resilience and growing the talent within their workforce.



Founded in 1777, Kent Brushes is the oldest brush manufacturer in the world. Combining high-tech processes with traditional techniques, this historic company produces a wide range of products for national and international markets.

Over many generations, Kent Brushes has carefully built a reputation for quality and craftsmanship and recently earned its 10th prestigious royal warrant – the first of which dates back to the reign of George III.

Kent Brushes faced challenges with recruitment and retention, experiencing a higher-than-average turnover among production and warehousing staff. This situation posed concerns for productivity and morale across the company, with experienced employees finding it difficult to pass on their valuable skills. Andy Harris, the Production and Warehouse Manager, received an email invitation to a 'Recruitment and Retention Workshop' hosted by Hertfordshire Growth Hub and their partners. Taking the initiative to attend proved pivotal in transforming the company's approach.

At the workshop, Andy Harris met with members of our team, who explained that importantly, Step2Skills not only links employers with employees but also provides the help companies need to adapt their recruitment and training processes and support employees in the workplace.

HERTFORDSHIRE FUTURES

Hertfordshire Futures is an umbrella organisation, formerly known as the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), with several flagship brands, including;

- Hertfordshire Growth Hub
- HOP Into
- Invest Hertfordshire
- Visit Herts
- Hertfordshire Film Office



...Joining the dots (ctd.)

Andy also connected with the Economic Development Officer at Dacorum Borough Council, which opened up several opportunities directly with the local Job Centre, and with Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal, again part of Hertfordshire Futures. This helped Kent Brushes create an apprenticeship, find a local apprentice and connect them to a remote woodwork course provided by a college in Darlington.

In partnership with the Job Centre and Step2Skills, Andy took part in a Step2Skills Inclusive Job Fair that attracted new employees.

This powerful blend of tailored support has had a transformative impact on Kent Brushes.

Through the new connections Andy made, the company has taken on seven employees in the past year, and he says each one of them works incredibly hard, is highly motivated and is keen to learn. One has been promoted, the apprentice is learning their trade at the side of a skilled craftsman with almost five decades of experience and another is using her art degree to create a line of limited-edition products.



“Kent Brushes were asked by a top designer brand to produce a bespoke hairbrush range for them and that they were looking for something a bit different. After some discussion with the brand, the idea was that they would look to have some hand-painted artwork designs featured on the brushes. Steve spoke to Andy about how they could bring the expertise into the business. To Steve’s complete surprise, Andy informed him that he believed he already had this talent in-house. One of his hand workers who makes the brushes by hand has a fine art degree.

After a conversation with K, she did some research, put forward a presentation to the Kent Brushes Board and then met with the customer requesting the bespoke work. Her knowledge in this area has bowled everyone over. K is now part of on the R&D team developing this new business for Kent Brushes.

I was fortunate enough to see K working on her designs and she is now leading this area of production. A big shout out to Alison who has supported K through her journey with Step2Skills, I know how proud she’ll be.”

Georgina De-Allie, Employer Liaison Officer, Step2Skills

Furthermore, the new employees’ determination rubs off on others around them, improving teamwork, morale and the overall culture, improving efficiency by more than 10%.

On a fundamental level, Kent has changed the way it approaches recruitment, becoming a more inclusive employer and receiving support from us to become a Disability Confident Level 2 employer. The business also joined our Inclusive Employment Forum to help other businesses realise the benefits of employing people who can often be stigmatised or disadvantaged by traditional recruitment methods.

“It’s easy for companies to get stuck in a rut when it comes to recruitment. But there are a lot of highly skilled people out there who will work hard and are determined to succeed if you just give them a chance. By changing the recruitment methods we use, we’ve opened up opportunities to so many people and the benefits to us have been huge. I can’t speak highly enough of the ecosystem of support I’ve had from so many different organisations and I’m grateful to Hertfordshire Growth Hub for connecting us with them.”

Andy Harris, Production and Warehouse Manager, Kent Brushes

Step2Skills Achievement Awards 2025

The category nominees

On Thursday 17th July, residents across Hertfordshire will come together, at Tewinbury Farm to celebrate the successes of participants, learners, staff and employers. Let's take a moment to celebrate the Category Finalists!

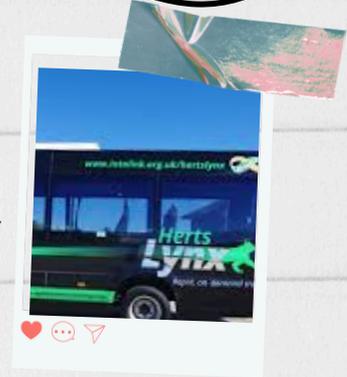


Employer of the Year



Herts Lynx Transport

For supporting unemployed colleagues by helping to tailor a course that would help fast track applicants straight into interviews.



Europe Snacks

For supporting the recruitment of local communities.

Star Achiever

Mehdi

'His journey is a testament to the power of preparation, dedication, and the willingness to go above and beyond.'



Mehdi



Stephanie

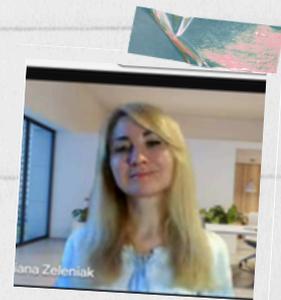
Stephanie

'Stephanie deserves this award because she demonstrated nothing but determination to better herself for her future.'

Inspirational Learner of the Year

Tetiana

'She embodies hope amidst pain, determination amidst uncertainty, and resilience in the face of loss.'



Tetiana



Faiza

Faiza

'She has shown remarkable courage and resilience which has led to her transforming her life.'

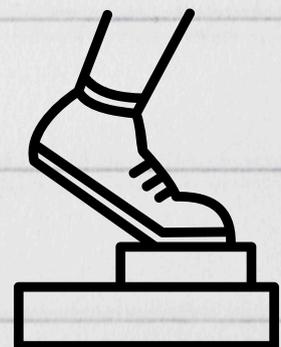
Step to Employment

Elfjona

Elfjona's journey to secure a role in schools is a testament to her patience and resilience.

John

'To say I am grateful is to woefully understate how I feel. Already John seems more confident and happier.' (John's Dad)



Lifelong Learning

Arulkamaran

'Arul exemplifies the spirit of lifelong learning through his remarkable journey back to education after a 21-year-long hiatus'.

Zoe

'Zoe has not only developed great English skills throughout her time with Step2Skills, but we have worked on her resilience to challenges and this is what I think she should feel the most proud of.'

Joeuma

'Through her dedication to learning, she transformed herself from a mother struggling with isolation and low confidence into a confident and skilled professional'.



Arul

Tutor/Coach or Advisor of the Year



Natalie

Alison

'She has worked with those that would hardly leave their house but here they are in sustained employment. I believe she is an absolute asset to the service.'

Natalie

"Nothing makes me happier than when learners develop and pass on these skills. I'm now part of something special and, just like our learners, I have also found a sense of belonging. It has changed my life and is a part of my life."



Alison

Essential Skills Learner of the Year

Jack

'He is dedicated and determined to get his full L2 in Maths soon so that he can progress onto the next stage of his qualifications'.

Phil

'Phil remained determined not to let his challenges define him. As he puts it, "You can never be a quitter in life. Fight with the mind."'

Mehreen

'Her journey exemplifies remarkable resilience and determination in developing these essential skills - the ability to speak, read and write in English.'



Mehreen

Volunteer of the Year

Sue

She is passionate about instilling a sense of self-worth in others and advocates that adversity doesn't define you, whatever barriers you face you can overcome them, unlock your potential and turn your life around.

Ravi

His kindness to support others in their journey and his passion for learning and progress make him a deserved winner.



**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**

**SKILLS
BOOTCAMPS**

Early Years

FREE ACCREDITED COURSE



Do you want work in the Early Years Sector?

Perhaps you might like to work in a nursery or support an established childminder as their assistant. Kickstart your career in Early Years on this FREE 16-week Skills Bootcamp covering:

- Child development
- Food and nutrition
- Safeguarding

Please note eligibility criteria apply and learners must commit to 5 hours of online learning per week.

Kickstart your career

Scan the QR code or visit our website to get more details and apply:

www.step2skills.org.uk/SkillsBootcamps



- ✓ Level 2 certificate
- ✓ 1:1 Careers Advice
- ✓ Paediatric Emergency First Aid Certificate