

Internships Work

National Legacy Conference:

Securing the Future of Proven Pathways for Young People with SEND.

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Date: Tuesday 4th March 2025,

Timetable: 11 am to 1 pm.

Location: Online–Microsoft TEAMS, live-stream from the Department for Education.

Booking: [Free to register–Book Here](#)

Why Join?

Supported Internships (SIs) in England have doubled through the DfE's Internships Work programme, showing that with the right support, young people with SEND can thrive in work. Aligned with government goals on inclusion and disability employment, SIs have proven to be a valuable, meaningful, and successful employment pathway for young people with SEND.

Yet, with no assured future funding post-March 2025, **SIs provisions are at risks.**

We believe the unmatched progress made by the programme **shouldn't be the casualty of budget cuts.**

For the system, it's policy. For educators, it's a programme. For organisations, it's inclusion.

For young people with SEND, it's a future.

This event is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come together to find practical solutions and make a proven pathway sustainable for young people with SEND.

About Internships Work

Commissioned and funded by the DfE, Internships Work launched in 2022 to double supported internships in England, enabling 4,500 young people with SEND annually to access life-changing work opportunities by 2025. The programme has provided employers, providers, and local authorities with strategic support, tools, and training to create real opportunities and choice for young people, helping them achieve independence and prepare for adult life and meaningful employment.

National Legacy Conference's Agenda

Opening Remarks

- Internships Work programme' success highlights.
- Supported Internships: achieving government goals for social inclusion and employment.

Panel 1: Real-World Impact of Supported Internships

- The real-world benefits of supported internships.
- How SIs enhance workplace diversity and drive innovation.
- A sustainable employment pathway for young people with SEND.
- Positive impact on local communities and economic inclusion.

Panel 2: Challenges & Opportunities for Sustainability

- Partnerships, cross-sector and cross-department collaboration remaining challenges.
- Employer engagement.
- Quality Assurance: A missed opportunity to seize for sustainability.
- Graduates long-term support gaps.
- SEND employment long-term vision gaps.

Ministerial Keynote (TBC)

- **SIs & Government Priorities:** *How SIs align with the government's objectives on social inclusion, disability employment, employment growth.*
- **Driving Sustainable SEND Employment Pathways:** *Government initiatives creating equitable opportunities for young people with SEND.*
- **Holistic Sustainable Future:** *How mission-led spending will shape cross-department strategies for sustainable SEND employment.*

Panel 3: Practical Solutions & Best Practices

- Sustaining Supported Internships Post-Internships Work's funding.
- Examples of best practices from educational providers, employment partners, and other stakeholders.
- Cross-sector partnerships, peer reviews, and quality assurance.
- Actionable funding opportunities and sustainability solutions.

Closing Remarks & Call to Action

- Key takeaways.
- Collective call to action for continued efforts in ensuring the sustainable success of Supported Internships and Supported Employment for young people with SEND.

ACCESSIBLE FORMAT

Internships Work National Legacy Conference

Date: Tuesday, 4th March 2025

Time: 11 AM–1 PM

Location: Online–Hosted on Microsoft TEAMS

Why Join?

More young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are getting jobs!

This is because of the **Internships Work** programme, which has helped **double** the number of Supported Internships in England.

With the **right support**, young people with SEND **can do well** in work.

Supported Internships help young people with SEND get real jobs.

But there is a problem.

There is **no promise of money** to keep the programme running after **March 2025**.

If the government stops the money, these opportunities **might disappear**.

This would be a big **loss**.

For the government, it is about rules. For teachers, it is a programme.

For businesses, it is about including people.

But for young people with SEND, it is about their future.

This event is a **big chance** for people to come together, share ideas, and find **ways to keep Supported Internships going**.

Let's work together to make sure young people with SEND **have a future in work**.

What Will Happen?

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Celebrate how Supported Internships have helped young people with SEND get jobs.
- Talk about how Supported Internships are making workplaces more inclusive.

2. Panel 1: How Supported Internships Help

- Hear real stories about the difference Supported Internships make.
- Learn how they bring diversity and new ideas to workplaces.
- Discover how they provide a clear path to jobs for young people with SEND.
- Find out how they benefit local communities and the economy.

3. Panel 2: Challenges and Opportunities

- Discuss how different groups can work together to keep improving Supported Internships.
- Talk about making sure graduates have the support they need after the programme.
- Explore ways to ensure the long-term success of Supported Internships.

4. Ministerial Keynote Speech (Panel and topics TBC)

- Learn how Supported Internships fit with government plans for social inclusion and disability employment.
- Hear about cross-departments and government strategies for supporting young people with SEND.

5. Panel 3: Practical Ideas That Work

- Get tips on how to keep Supported Internships going after funding ends.
- See examples of great work by schools, employers, and other groups.
- Learn about other funding options and partnership opportunities.

6. Closing and Call to Action

- Key messages to take away.
- A big reminder to everyone: Keep working together to support young people with SEND.

Logistics:

Everyone watching the conference will have their microphones turned off.

This means you **cannot talk** with other participants during the event.

You can **ask questions** or make comments in the **chat box** during the conference.

A **British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter** will be there to help translate the conference into BSL.

[In the booking form](#), please tell if you need any additional adjustments to help you attend this session comfortable.

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