



# Understanding Your Local Authority's Role in Supported Internships

**Local Authorities play a crucial role in supporting young people with special educational needs and disabilities as they move on from education to employment.**



Here's what young people and their families need to know about their Local Authority's role.



Supported Internships are designed to help young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) progress into the workplace.

They are all about discovering their potential and gaining valuable skills.

## Participation in the Internships Work Programme:



Every Local Authority in England is part of the Internships Work programme, which aims to increase the number of Supported Internships to 4,500 by March 2025 across England.

## Formation of Employment Forums:



In each Local Authority area, an employment forum is set up to oversee this work. These forums bring together individuals responsible for promoting employment opportunities and supporting young people in their employment journey after education.

## Local Authority's Responsibilities:



Local Authorities have several key responsibilities, including planning and using the Internships Work grant effectively.



They appoint individuals to lead the programme and make an action plan to guide their efforts.



Setting up an employment forum with clear rules.

Making sure that the forum includes representatives from the special educational needs and disabilities and employment world to support young people into work effectively.



The forum will also include young people and parent carer voices.

## The Role of the SEND Employment Forum:



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Employment forums are working groups actively involved in delivering the action plan.



The Local Authority makes sure that forum members understand what they are supposed to be aiming for, and the programme's long-term future.



Forums should consider the needs of all young people, including care leavers, those with additional needs or facing other disadvantages.

## The Action Plan:



The Internships Work action plan includes twelve goals each led by individuals or teams within the forum.

These goals focus on effective ways to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities into employment.



Forums look at their Local Authority's position in relation to these goals and develop steps to achieve them.



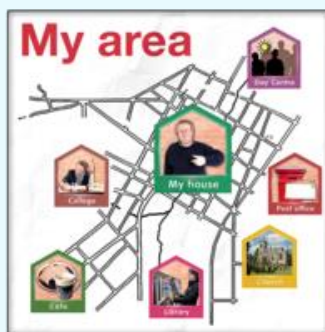
Young people's voices and experiences are very important to these discussions, and forums decide how to include them effectively. They'll explain what to expect and how to apply.

## Quality Assurance and Sustainability:



Forums decide the number of Supported Internships needed in their area and set annual targets.

Quality is a very important, and the Supported Internships Quality Assurance Framework (SIQAF) helps make sure standards are met.



Forums explore opportunities within the local area, such as partnerships with local councils, hospitals, or universities, to offer Supported Internships.



Many Local Authorities aim to be host employers for Supported Internships themselves, promoting diversity and showcasing the valuable contributions of disabled young people to our communities.



Through delivering the Internships Work programme, Local Authorities are committed to ensuring that young people with SEND have the support they need to succeed in their journey towards employment.



Through collaborative efforts with developing employment forums, they aim to create inclusive opportunities that benefit all young people.

This resource was created in September 2023 by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) as part of the Internships Work programme



**Doubling supported internship provision in England.**

