

The Youth Voice Census shows us that the vast majority of young people aren't receiving the full range of options available to them.

THE YOUTH VOICE HAS SPOKEN



**LAURA-JANE
RAWLINGS
OF YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT UK
REPORTS ON THEIR
ANNUAL YOUTH
VOICE CENSUS**

The Youth Voice Census Report is Youth Employment UK's annual survey, benchmarking the experiences of young people as they transition between education and employment. 1,498 14-24 years old shared their views on issues related to education, employment and skills in this year's report.

The Youth Voice Census has been devised to assimilate information on the experiences young people have in school, college, university, and in and out of work. It has set out to determine how much education, support careers and work experience they receive and how they are feeling about skills, careers and their future. Information and insight on the survey build was fed into by young people, AELP, the Department for Education, Collab Group, The Edge Foundation, Education and Employers, Impetus PEF, NYA, SLQ and WorldSkills UK.

The survey is supported by the Careers & Enterprise Company and was shared throughout their schools network; approximately half of responses collected came through this network. We have also partnered with Pearson and have received valuable insight and support.



The survey was designed to engage 14–25 year-olds, asking all young people the same set of questions around careers education and work experience in school, employability skills and social action, as well as additional questions for young people depending on their journey to date. Subsections investigated college and sixth form, university, traineeships, apprenticeships, those in work, those who were currently or had spent time NEET, and those who had set up their own business.

Analysis of age and gender has been completed by Dr Emily Rainsford at Newcastle University. We recognise that the data isn't statistically representative of every young person in the UK but it gives us a good indication of how young people in our network are feeling on a number of issues surrounding employability, education and careers.

Key findings:

1. Young people want personalised careers advice and information

Where they were receiving careers and skills information, young people felt that information was generic and rarely related to them. This point was made and reiterated for careers advice or the lack of available in schools, colleges, universities and for those on apprenticeships too.

2. Young people are not getting sufficient opportunities to develop their skills

Whilst 76% of young people recognised that work experience was valuable in developing relevant work skills, only 51% of young people get access to work experience in school. There was a call for more variety and choice such as access to industries and employers.

3. Young people are not hearing about all of their choices

Young people were five times more likely to hear about going to university than apprenticeship routes. Young people asked for more information on all pathways with personalised support.

4. Young people are not getting employer engagements

80% of young people had never received a visit from an employer whilst in school. The number of employability experiences are low overall, especially for young women.

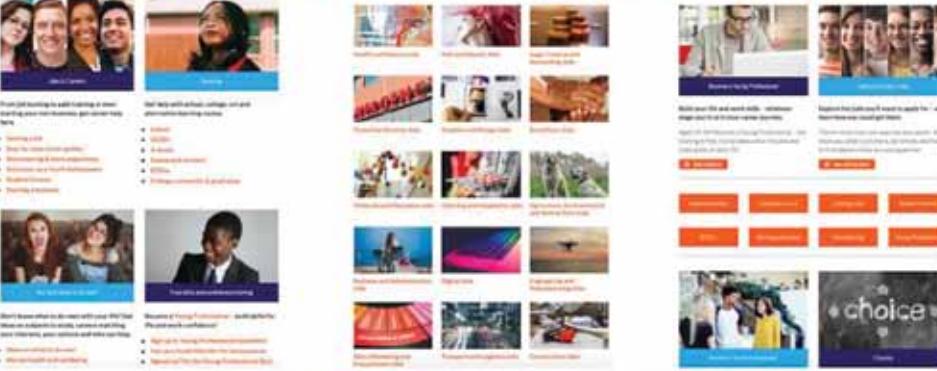
5. Young people thought a lack of skills was, or was likely to become, a barrier to finding work

The biggest barriers highlighted were lack of experience, anxiety and lack of skills. Only 38% of those looking for work believed they understood the skills employers are looking for, with many worried that they had not been able to build up the level of skills required.

The Youth Voice Census shows us that the vast majority of young people aren't receiving the full range of options available to them; they are not getting the access to opportunities to grow and develop work skills and they are not receiving impartial, personalised careers support to help support them at key transition points.



We've put inspiring and impartial careers and skills information in the hands of over 300,000 young people so far this year!



Thanks to our Youth Friendly Employers, partners, patrons and our ever growing network of Young Professionals

www.youthemployment.org.uk





Different groups will engage with careers and skills content in different ways. It seems that with a number of initiatives out there young people are struggling to navigate all of them and to know which are offering a

quality product and quality materials.

We must ensure that key information and support is reaching all young people and their influencers. As our Youth Voice Census is an annual survey, we will be able to measure the impact of policy and society on our young people, and ensure their voices continue to be heard.

The Youth Voice Census will run annually from February 2019. We will be using the Census as our measure of what services young people are receiving; what they are finding useful and what they want more of. We will continue our important work in ensuring that young people receive impartial skills and careers information and that employers are doing more to be youth friendly and that policy is geared to the needs of young people.

The 2018 Census reinforces the investment we have made in developing a consistent and high-quality resource for young people. The Young Professional resource offers insight into essential skills and careers information at every stage of a young person's transition into employment. With more than 300,000 views so far this year, it is clearly responding to a growing need.

As the Youth Voice Census opens in February 2019 we would encourage all career professionals to ask the young people in their network to complete the census. As the number of respondents grows so it will the impact and reach of this important piece of work. Please register with (www.youthemployment.org.uk/organisations-support-our-work/teachers-resources/) for up-to-date information about the launch of the 2019 Youth Voice Census.

Youth Employment UK is a leading voice and expert on youth employment issues in the UK. A not-for-profit organisation set up in 2012 to reduce youth unemployment and support every young person to progress. We work with all stakeholders invested in youth employment and champion collaboration; working to engage employers in quality youth-friendly practice, provide young people with the tools to explore and develop their skills and career options as well as providing a voice on policy.

References

Youth Voice Census Report
www.youthemployment.org.uk/youth-voice-census/

Young Professional
www.youthemployment.org.uk/young-professional-training/

Youth Employment UK
www.youthemployment.org.uk/

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