

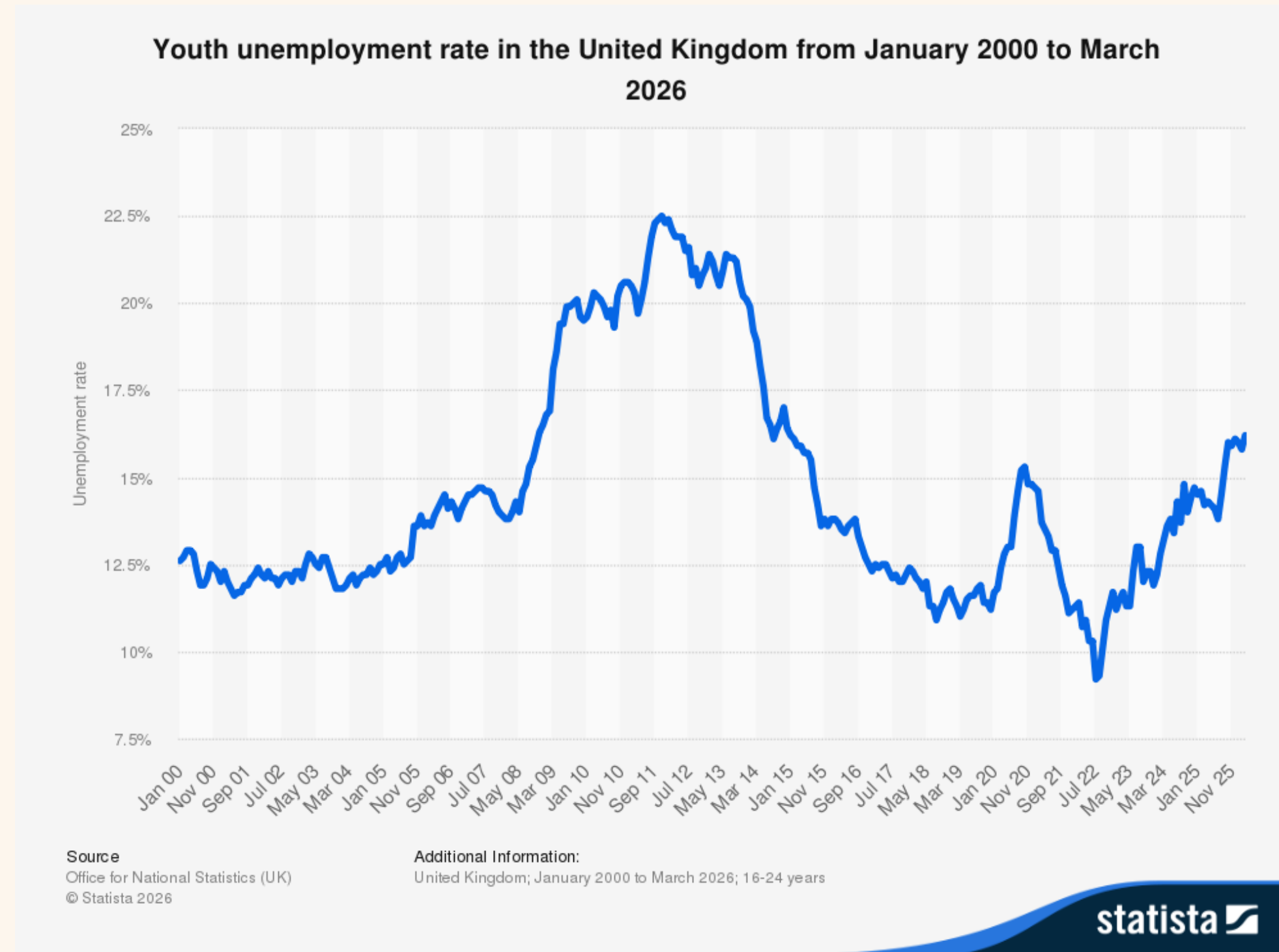
Skillsprint

From no experience to first
opportunity

Nia Bolatbekova



“Almost one million UK youth not in work or education”



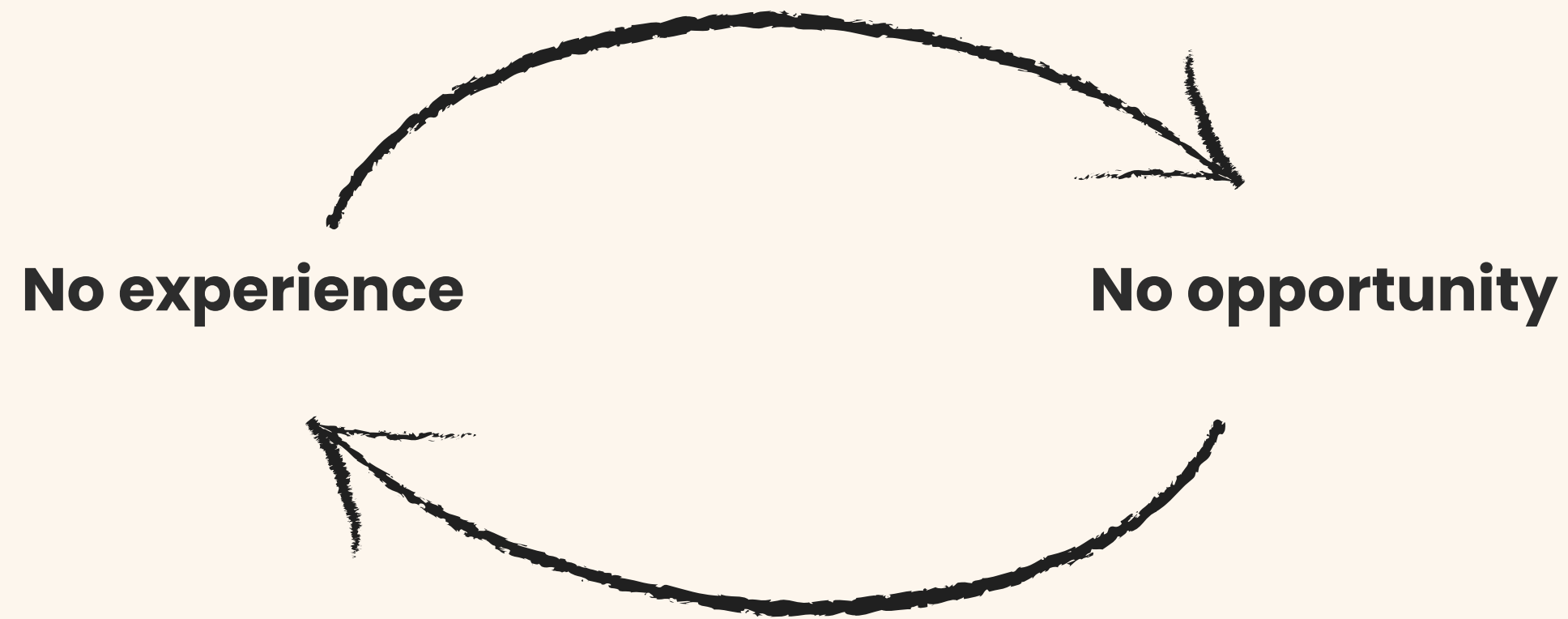
Why?

“A lack in skills needed for work, with employers choosing more experienced candidates.”

youthunemployment.org.uk



Students are stuck in the “loop”



Current solutions

Internships → “competitive”

Volunteering → “limited impact”

Job boards → “experience required”

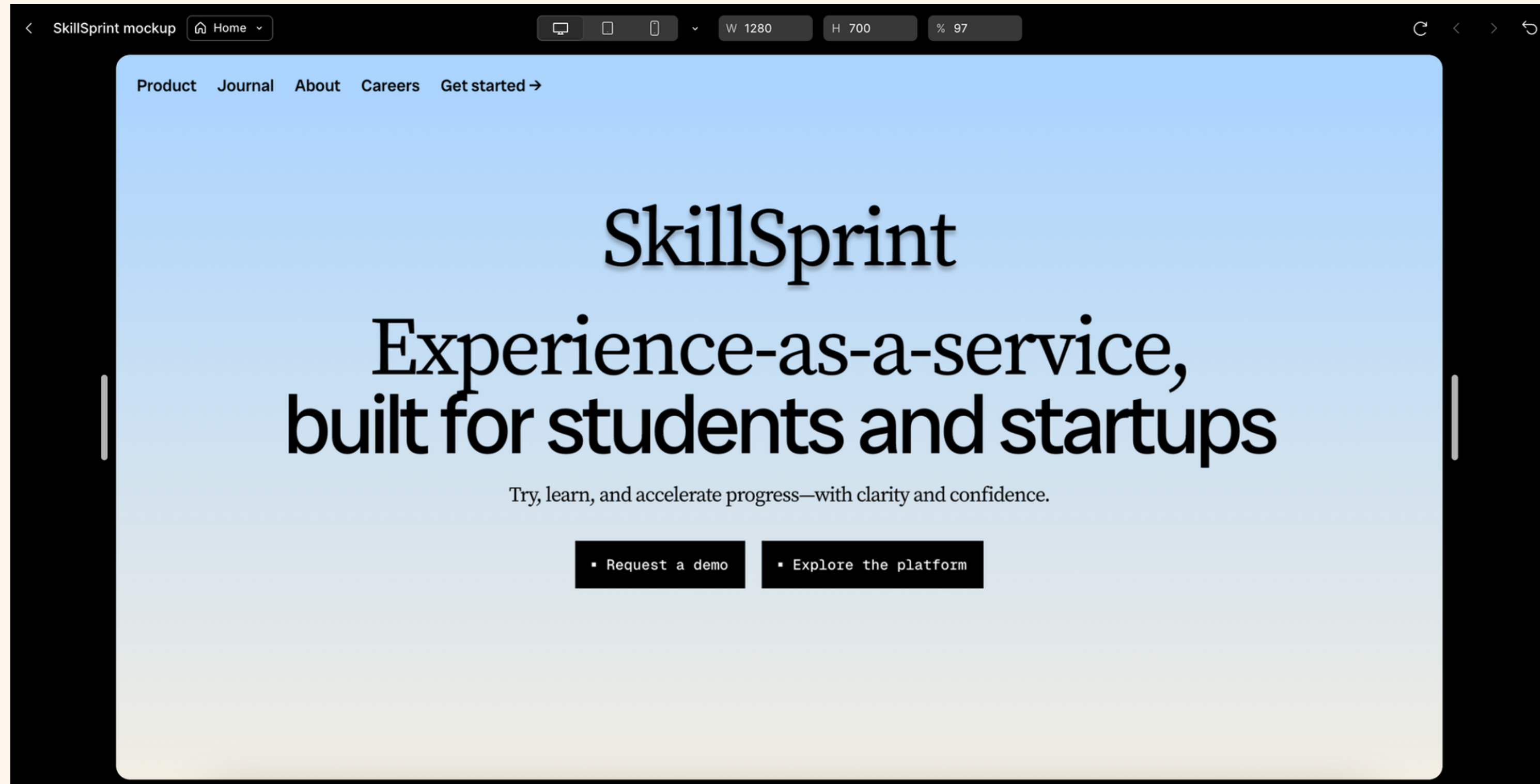


Meanwhile:

Startups and SMEs need help

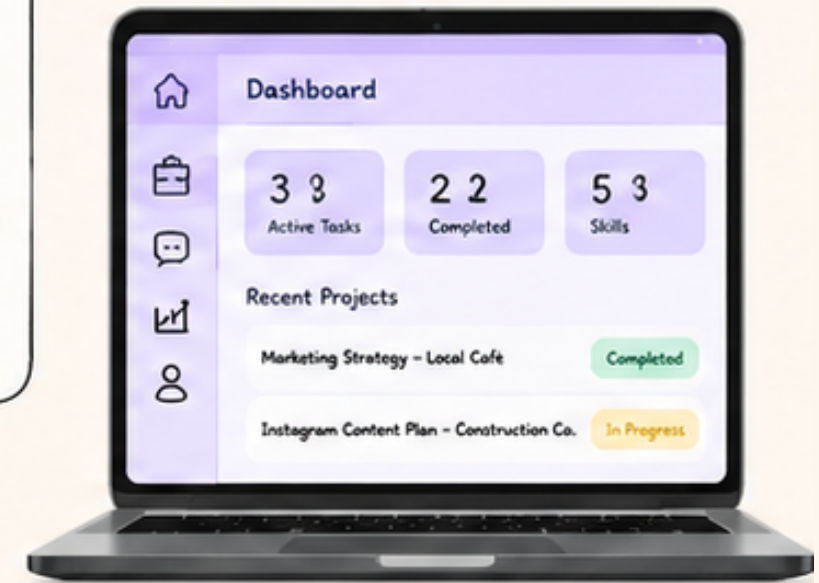
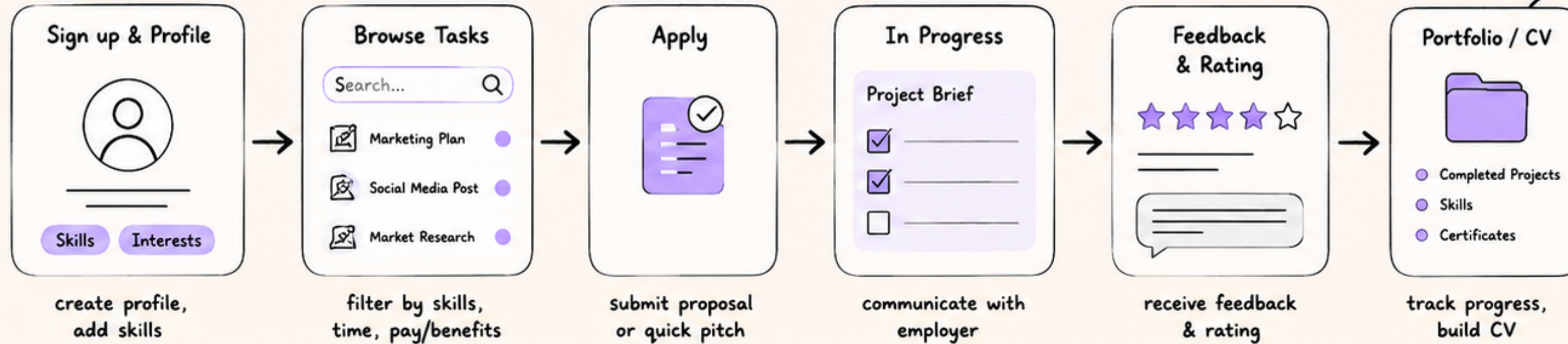


Solution – a “micro-internship” matching platform

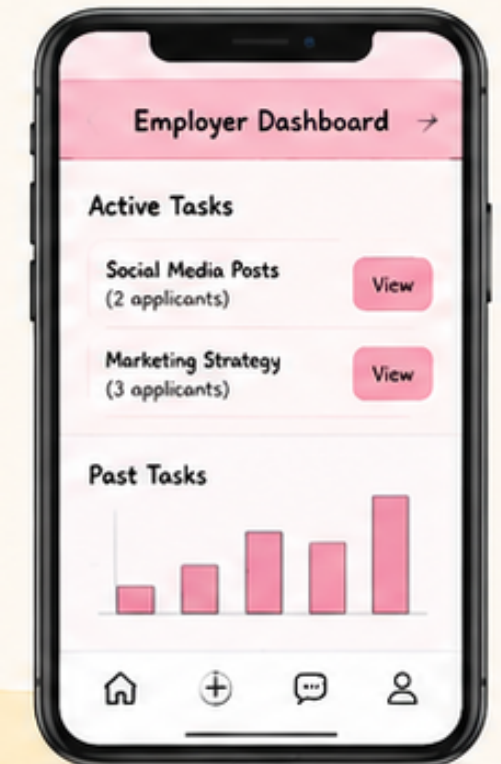
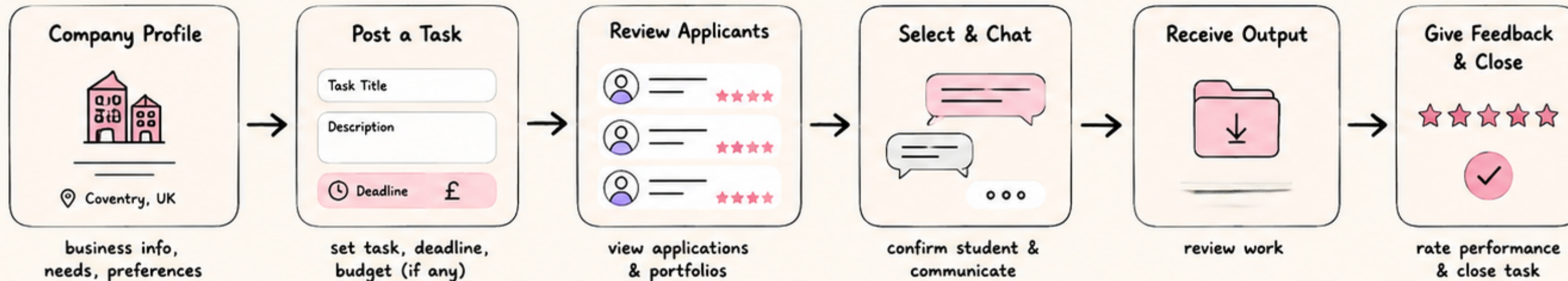


Platform scheme

STUDENT JOURNEY



EMPLOYER JOURNEY



MATCHING & TASK FLOW

COMMUNICATION



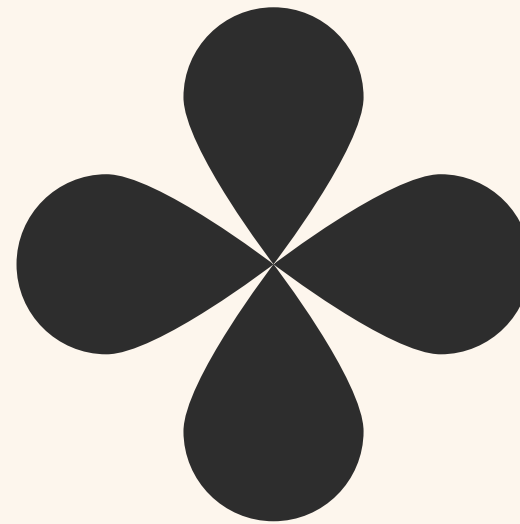
KEY FEATURES

- ✓ Verified profiles
- ✓ Task matching
- ✓ Progress tracking
- ✓ Feedback system
- ✓ Portfolio / CV builder
- ✓ Secure & simple

Win-Win

For businesses

- affordable support on short tasks
- fresh student ideas
- access to motivated early-career talent
- potential future recruitment pipeline
- clearer, smaller-scale support than a full internship



For students:

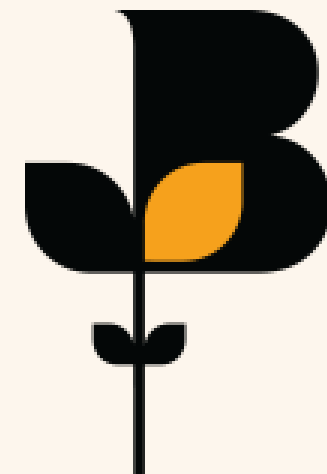
- real-world project experience
- portfolio-worthy deliverables
- direct feedback from employers
- professional references
- networking opportunities
- potential vouchers or incentives

The employers

- Local startups
- Technology SMEs (SaaS companies, digital agencies, software firms)
- Sustainability businesses (renewable energy, green consulting, environmental services)
- Social enterprises
- Fast-growing local businesses



Business Buzz Coventry



Coventry & Warwickshire
Chamber of
Commerce

Students

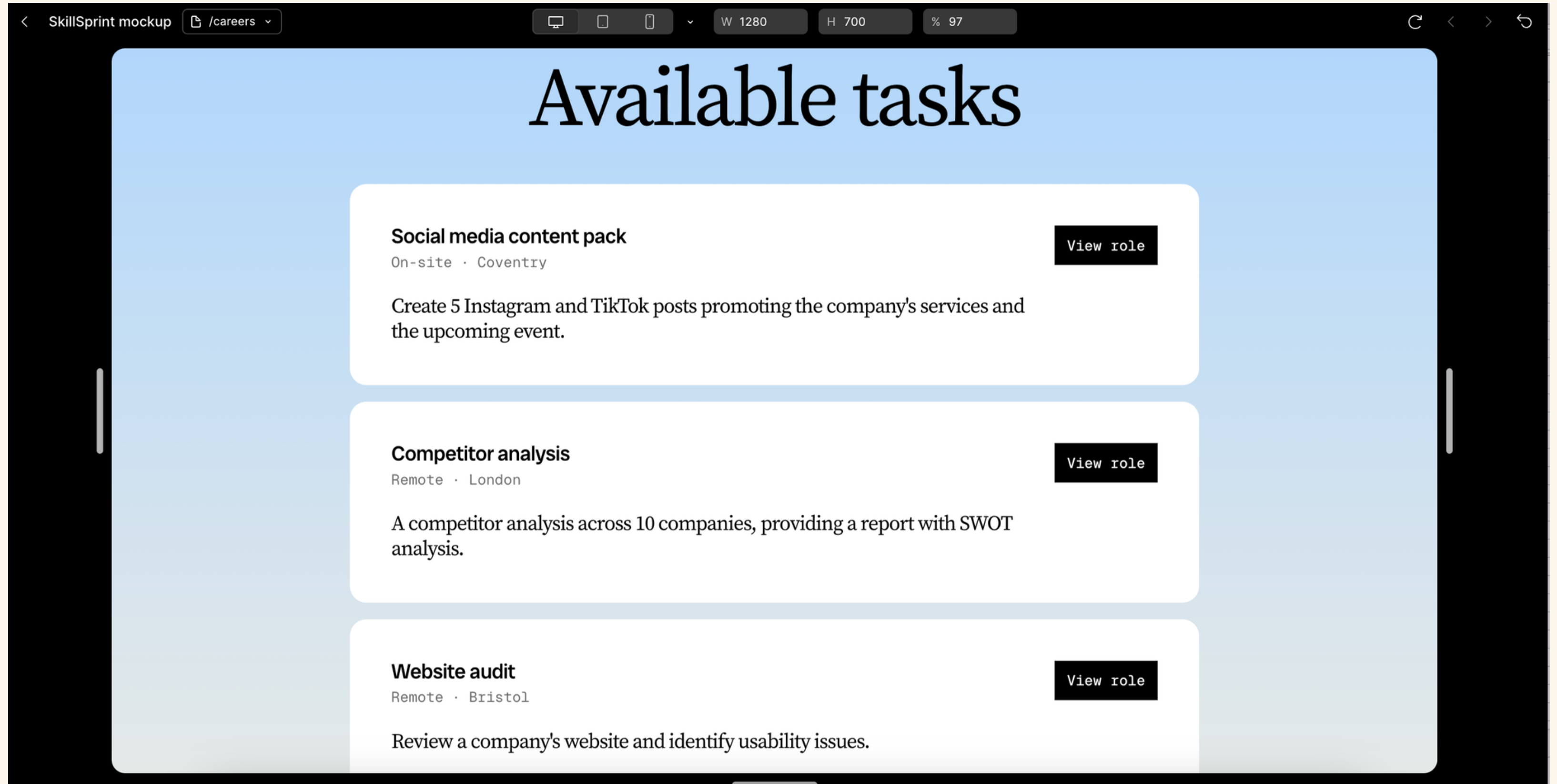
Instagram TikTok LinkedIn university
mailing lists,
posters careers
centre

Promotion

direct email
outreach LinkedIn local business directories
and networks/communities

Employers

Platform choice: Base44



Roadmap

Platform design and validation

July

- Finalise platform concept and user journey
- Build a working mockup
- Conduct informal interviews with 5–10 students and 3–5 local businesses



Business & Student Recruitment

July–August

- To secure initial pilot participants
- Promotion and recruitment of students and businesses



Pilot delivery

August–September

- To monitor students/employer satisfaction
- Completion rate and feedback



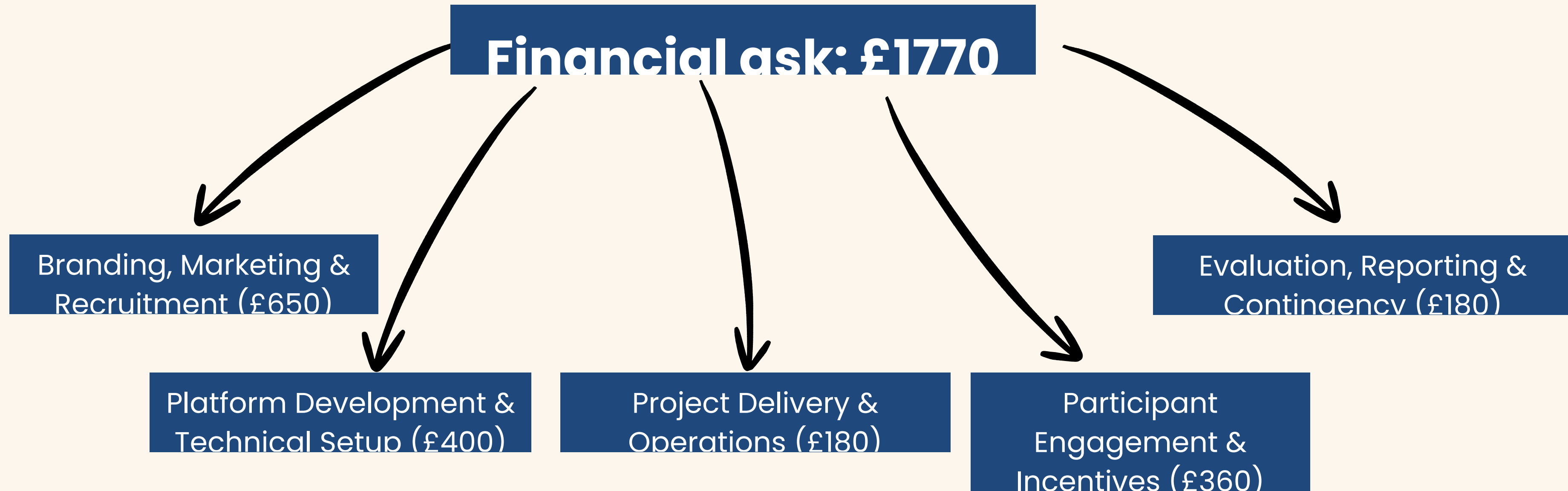
Evaluation and Recommendations

September–October

- To measure impact and future potential
- To collect feedback and recommendations



Cost breakdown



What is also needed to make this pilot successful?

- ✓ Connections to local SMEs and startups willing to participate in the pilot
- ✓ Feedback on refining the model and coaching to validate the platform, outreach strategy, and long-term sustainability
- ✓ Opportunities to connect with students interested in employability, entrepreneurship, and early-career development
- ✓ Advice on building partnerships with universities and local businesses



Thank you!
Any questions?

Appendix A

Category	Item	Details	Amount (£)
Platform Build & Technical Setup	No-code builder buffer	Base44 pro version	260
Platform Build & Technical Setup	Domain name	Professional web address	15
Platform Build & Technical Setup	Forms/database/integrations	Task submission and tracking tools	60
Platform Build & Technical Setup	Technical contingency	Minor add-ons or extra month access	60
Branding & Pitch Materials	Canva/design contingency	Pro upgrade or templates	20
Branding & Pitch Materials	Icons/stock media	Visual assets for mockups and slides	20
Branding & Pitch Materials	Printing/export	Presentation materials and screenshots	40
Outreach & Recruitment	Social media promotion	Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn promotion (considering average price for reels/video/post)	500
Outreach & Recruitment	Flyers/posters	Campus and local recruitment materials	35
Outreach & Recruitment	Direct outreach costs	Phone data, email/admin tools	35
Participant Incentives	Student task vouchers	12 students × £15 vouchers	180
Participant Incentives	Employer thank-you vouchers	3 businesses × £20 vouchers	60
Participant Incentives	Follow-up feedback incentives	6 participants × £20 incentives	120
Travel	Local return trips	Meetings/interviews/pilot sessions	120
Subsistence	Refreshments	Meetings and pilot sessions	60
Evaluation & Reporting	Survey/analysis tools	Survey or transcription support	30
Evaluation & Reporting	Report formatting	Visualisation and document production	20
Evaluation & Reporting	Printouts/presentation materials	Final report materials	30
Contingency	Unexpected costs	Extra travel/software/incentives	100
		Total Requested	1765

