

VET 2050

Blog post

Youth Perspectives: What Does a High-Quality VET System Look Like for Young People?

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VET2050's broad goal is to articulate a long-term, durable vision for a high-quality VET system which enables England to lead the OECD in youth participation in education and employment. As the VET2050 project continues the vision-building phase, the final vision workshop centres around the perspectives of young people. If VET2050 is to be future-facing, credible and sustainable, it must be shaped around the experiences, needs, and aspirations of young people who sit at the heart of the system. This workshop asks a fundamental question: **what would a VET system look like for young people to thrive and succeed?**

This workshop will bring youth representatives, youth organisations, youth workers and advocates, policy actors, and researchers, to explore how a future VET system can better support young people's participation, progression, wellbeing and long-term outcomes/opportunities.

Why youth perspectives matter

The VET2050 scoping paper identified significant challenges in England's skills system related to access, inclusion, equity, learner pathways and progression, transitions to work, mobility, and lifelong learning. Despite these challenges having already surfaced in many sectoral conversations, the perspectives of young people, particularly their lived experiences navigating the VET system, need further investigation.

The scoping paper and literature in the field have identified that young people experience:

- A complex, fragmented and confusing post-16 landscape to navigate
- Unequal access to high-quality VET provision
- Differences in status between academic and vocational routes
- Relevance and timeliness of curriculum, knowledge and skills
- Lack of clarity and support in terms of learning and professional trajectories
- Inconsistent quality of workplace-based learning
- Challenges in their transitions between education, training and employment and
- And the wider structural challenges in relation to intergenerational inequality, mobility, technological changes, and well-being

Questions guiding this workshop

To support forward-looking and youth-centred thinking, this workshop will explore a series of open-ended questions aimed at articulating a high-quality VET system from the perspectives of young people, identifying the appropriate system supports and considering how youth perspectives align with other VET2050 themes.

1. Where does the current VET system work well, and where does it create barriers for young people?
2. What does high-quality VET look like from a young person's perspective?
3. How do youth perspectives on high-quality VET align or differ from other perspectives?
4. How should young people be involved in designing and shaping the VET system in the future?

Connecting evidence, policy and practice

The session will bring together youth representatives, youth workers, researchers and policy actors. This will enable a shared understanding of what high-quality VET looks like from the perspectives of young people and how young people's needs and aspirations can potentially align with those of other stakeholders.

Participants will be encouraged to reflect not only on current barriers but also on promising local and international practices that may inspire new approaches in England's VET system. Insights from the session and broader feedback from the public will play a direct role in shaping the VET2050 vision and the creation of its implementation workshop.

Invitation to Engage

While participation in the workshop is limited to ensure meaningful opportunities for participation among those in the room, we welcome input from anyone through the project website. TO learn more about the project, read the full scoping paper, or see more about this and other workshops, please visit the project website.

Be sure to take the opportunity to share your input, by letting the project team know what you think is more significant as we work to craft a vision for a high-quality VET system for England.

 [Share your input](#)

To stay up to date about project activities and have an opportunity to participate in future workshops, please join the mailing list.

 [Join the VET2050 mailing list](#)

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Project Team

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Website

[Project homepage:](#)

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier/researchthemesoverview/researchprojects/vet2050/>

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