

WORKFORCE SKILLS, TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR BUSINESSES IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND























The West of England Combined Authority's Growth Hub is a free and impartial business service for SMEs based in Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.









The Growth Hub combines national and local business support, and has a dedicated team of Enterprise Advisors to help you find what you need.










No matter what stage your business is at, our team can help you achieve your ambitions with tailored advice and guidance and access to funding, support programmes and networks – **visit our website** for more information, or get in touch today **by completing this form**.







Service		Description	Eligibility	Contact	Where is it available			
					Bristol	BANES	S. Glos	N. Somerset
West of England Growth Hub		Fully funded 1-2-1 business support for SME's and scale up businesses. The team of Enterprise Executives will assess your needs, share a wide range of services and help to support your business.	None	www.wearegrowth.co.uk AND www.wearegrowth.co.uk/supplier-directory	●	●	●	●
Workforce for the Future (WTF)		Working with SMEs to help them develop their future workforce, meeting their current and future needs. The programme will help SMEs understand, navigate and benefit from the region's developing skills system, connecting them to the future workforce through apprenticeships, internships and placements.	Check with individual delivery partner	www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/workforce-for-the-future	●	●	●	●
T Levels		T Levels are a new, 2-year qualification for 16 to 19 year olds. Designed with employers, each T Level is equivalent to 3 A levels and helps young people develop the knowledge, attitude and practical skills to thrive in the workplace. At the heart of each course, a 45-day industry placement will give your business early access to the brightest talent entering your market.	None	www.tlevels.gov.uk/employers				
Skills Support for Business (Business West)		Free impartial support helping to identify and tackle skills gaps in your business. We'll connect you with local and national training providers to ensure you get the most relevant, quality training.	Available to businesses	www.businesswest.co.uk/grow/skills/skills-for-business	●	●	●	●









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Kickstart		Funding for employers to create a 6-month job placement for young people currently on universal credit and at risk of longer-term unemployment. Local Gateways in the West of England are Adviza, Bristol City Council, Business West, Weston College. Bath & North East Somerset Council (TBC)	Aged 16-24 www.gov.uk/guidance/find-someone-to-apply-for-a-kickstart-scheme-grant-on-your-behalf#south-west	www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme#guidance-about-the-kickstart-scheme-for-employers	●	●	●	●
KickstartGo		User-friendly and comprehensive platform to enable smaller businesses to apply to the government's recently launched Kickstart Scheme and for individuals to apply for Kickstart opportunities with an SME.	SME's. Individuals aged 16-24.	www.kickstartgo.co.uk	●	●	●	●
Find a Traineeship		National portal providing information on traineeships. Traineeships are courses with work experience, getting you ready for work or an apprenticeship. Lasting up to 6 months and includes help with English and Maths (where required).	Aged 16-24. Need to be eligible to work in England, unemployed and have little or no work experience and qualified below Level 3.	www.gov.uk/find-traineeship	●	●	●	●
Find an Apprenticeship		National portal providing information on apprenticeships.	Aged 16 or over, living in England and not in full-time education.	www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship	●	●	●	●
Citizens Advice		If your business has been affected by coronavirus you might be able to get money from the government (up to 3 months). Can claim up to 70% of average profits up to a maximum of £2,190 per month from the government. This is called the Self-employment Income Support Scheme.	Profits must be less than £50,000. Also need to have: - have been affected by coronavirus, have done self-employed work in the tax year 2019-20 or be planning to do self-employed work in the tax year 2020-21.	www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/coronavirus-if-youre-self-employed	●	●	●	●
Professional Apprenticeship		Service for both apprentices and employers. With an emphasis on recruitment and matching the perfect apprentice with an employer. Also includes vacancy promotion, candidate shortlisting, gov. funded training, free training consultation and access to 8,000 local businesses & talent pool.	18+	https://www.professionalapprenticeships.co.uk/	●	●	●	●
Rapid Response Service (via JCP)		Supporting businesses who are making people redundant. Support includes: helping employees to write CVs and find jobs, finding training and learning new skills and help with travel to work expenses.	Enquire via website	www.gov.uk/staff-redundant/getting-help	●	●	●	●








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Redundancy Support Service for Apprentices (ReSSA)		Help to find an apprentice another apprenticeship opportunity. This also includes local and national support services offering financial, health and wellbeing, legal and careers advice.	Aged 18+ For apprentices made redundant by an employer due to Covid-19	engage.apprenticeships.gov.uk/redundancy-apprentice	●	●	●	●
Skills Support for the Workforce (SSW)		Skills training to support progression within work – training must result in a progression within work or onto an apprenticeship.	19+ and in work. Must be able to evidence progression as a result of the training.	www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce	●	●	●	●
Skills Support for the Redundant (SSR)		Support for businesses who are making individuals redundant. Skills training for those 'at risk' or redundancy or those made redundant in last 3 months.	Aged 16+ At risk of redundancy. Been made redundant in last 3 months	www.serco-ese.com/skills-support-for-the-workforce/SSR	●	●	●	●
Self-employment with New Enterprise Allowance (NEA)		Following on from the 12-week business mentoring programme, those going on to start a business are able to access to an Allowance to support them in the early stages of trading, worth £65 per week for the first 13 weeks and £33 per week for the following 13 weeks, as well as support from their Advisor for the first 12 months.	Aged 19+ Must have completed the initial NEA programme and have started a business.	www.peopleplusenterprise.co.uk/new-enterprise-allowance	●	●	●	●
Ways2Work Network Job Match Service		Contact with employers who may have vacancies caused by Covid and the advertising of their vacancies through the Ways 2 Work Network, social media and other internal and external channels.	Service is a direct response to Covid 19	www.ways2work.org.uk	●			
Western Training Provider Network (WTPN)		Not for profit membership network organisation supplying a large proportion of all post 16 training and education in the region (excluding schools) and delivering well over 60% of all Apprenticeships and work-based training to employers.	Contact WTPN for details	www.wtpn.org.uk/for-employers	●	●	●	●
Health Tech Accelerator Programme (HTAP)		12 hours of free business support to small and medium-sized enterprises in the health and life science sector. Includes business coaching and mentoring for businesses	Founders/managers of SMEs including start-ups	www.wearegrowth.co.uk/services/west-of-england-academic-health-science-network/health-tech-accelerator-programme-htap	●	●	●	●
North Somerset Enterprise Agency (NSEA)		Advice, coaching, mentoring to help start-ups and SME's including low-cost training and clinics with business experts.	Contact NSEA to check eligibility	www.northsomersetenterpriseagency.co.uk/business-growth	●	●	●	●
FSB Skills Hub		FSB Skills Hub provides resources, advice and experts to help businesses with gaps in knowledge and skills e.g. accountancy, marketing, HR, Legal etc. Access to resources, events, training and portal.	Must be an FSB member to access full range of services on offer.	www.fsb.org.uk/skills-hub.html	●	●	●	●






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Skills Builder		Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills in outreach, recruitment and staff development. It includes help with identifying essential skills needed for your business, reviewing strengths, developing a skills journey and access to expert tools and materials	18+ Businesses must be a member to access the full range of tools and materials.	www.skillsbuilder.org/employers	●	●	●	●
Rose Female Entrepreneur Mentoring		12-week free mentoring programme giving female SME leaders and entrepreneurs access to advice and guidance to build their business.	Female leader or Entrepreneur, running an established SME in WECA and/or living in WECA.	www.bethebusiness.com/rose-review-mentoring	●	●	●	●
Enterprise Adviser Network		Enterprise Advisers are volunteers drawn from businesses who work directly with the school's leadership team to develop effective employer engagement plans. They work with other local businesses to equip young people with the skills they need.	None	www.wearegrowth.co.uk/services/west-of-england-local-enterprise-partnership-lep/the-enterprise-adviser-network	●	●	●	●
West of England Young Enterprise		Entrepreneurial training (all school ages) to introduce careers within the world of work. Company Programme helps secondary school aged pupils to set up and run a company, with mentoring, coaching and careers support from a business leader	Business must be located within the West of England.	www.young-enterprise.org.uk/what-we-do/where-we-work/region/southwest/west-of-england	●	●	●	●
South Bristol Enterprise Support (YTKO)		The South Bristol Enterprise Support Project delivers a programme of tailored advice, coaching and grants to individuals and businesses across the South Bristol area (Knowle West, Hartcliffe and Withywood, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park, Knowle, Bedminster, Windmill Hill, Bishopsworth and Stockwood.)	Available in South Bristol (see opposite)	www.westofengland.ytko.com/south-bristol	●			
Universal Business Support		Fully funded business support for start-ups	Start-up business	www.wearegrowth.co.uk	●	●	●	●
Peer Networking		Peer Networking Support for SMEs (cohorts)	Operational for at least 1 year. 5+ employees and £100,000+ turnover	www.wearegrowth.co.uk/covid-19/peer-networks	●	●	●	●
Productivity Through People (P2P)		The programme is an innovative leadership development programme designed to support and invest in business leaders (including research, techniques, development of management and leadership capability and workforce development. 75% of training fees covered. Programme designed by Bath University School of Management and Be the Business.	Business must have been operational for 1 year or more.	edo@management.bath.ac.uk	●	●	●	●

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Mentoring for Growth		This is a 12 month Mentoring Programme available to SME's with 5+ FTE staff.	SME's with 5+ FTE staff.		●	●	●	●
Cool Ventures		Providing business support to start-ups and growing small businesses. Services include business planning and coaching, mentoring, advice sessions and workshops.	Self-employed and small businesses, based Bristol, Bath or Gloucestershire.	www.coolventures.co.uk	●	●	●	
Achieve in BANES		Provides a job and course search service, signposting for businesses looking for skills including apprentices and graduates and skills training for employees.	None	www.achieveinbathnes.co.uk/about-achieve		●		
Invest in Bath		Portal of business support information including talent and skills development, workforce, apprenticeships and economic skills information and profiles.	None	www.investinbath.co.uk/bath-for-business/talent		●		
In North Somerset		North Somerset Economic Development team provides an impartial skills advice, guidance and recruitment support as well as signposting to local provision and initiatives.	None	www.innorthsomerset.co.uk/why-north-somerset/talent-and-skills				●
In South Glos		Is your business expanding or are you thinking of locating to South Gloucestershire? We can signpost you to our partners, who can help you find the right workforce to help your business flourish and grow.	None	www.insouthglos.co.uk/contact			●	
Business Support in Bristol		Portal of business support including talent and skills, Kickstart, employing an apprentice, workplace health and wellbeing Covid-19 support and starting a business.	None	www.bristol.gov.uk/business-support-advice	●			
BTQEZ Employment & Skills Hub		A key aim of BTQEZ is to attract businesses and jobs with a focus on hi-tech, low carbon, creative and digital and professional services industries. Several businesses in the Enterprise Zone also offer training and mentoring relating to the key sectors. See website for a full list.	Businesses located in Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone (BTQEZ)	www.bristoltemplequarter.com/portfolio-items/skills-and-training	●	●	●	●
Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation (DETI)		The DETI Programme will coordinate and deliver on key 'Industry Challenges' and initiate a comprehensive 'Skills' and workforce development programme to ensure the current/future workforce is digital-ready and equipped with work-ready skills.	Any size business can join – Expressions of Interest must be submitted through the website.	www.nccuk.com/deti	●	●	●	●

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West of England Institute of Technology (IoT)		The IoT supports employers to create training, learning and professional development in the key area of Technical Education focused on Levels 4 and 5. These higher technical skills will enable more employers to embrace the changes brought by digitalisation and the industrial 4.0 revolution.	Contact the IoT for further details.	www.weston.ac.uk/weiot	●	●	●	●
Bath Spa University		Bath Spa University can offer your business access to highly qualified students and graduates, the opportunity to work with world class academics to gain innovative consultancy and commissioned research and/or partnerships to benefit both your business and Bath Spa University.	See website for further details.	www.bathspa.ac.uk/business	●	●	●	●
University of Bath		Helping organisation address its challenges, make a social impact and achieve competitive advantage through employer training, professional development, student engagement/employability/recruitment, research partnerships enterprise and innovation.	See website for further details.	www.bath.ac.uk/topics/collaborate-with-us	●	●	●	●
University of Bristol		The university offers a range of business support and partnership opportunities including academic partnerships and collaborations, use of specialist equipment and facilities, contract research, consultancy, work placements and coaching.	See website for further details.	www.bristol.ac.uk/business	●	●	●	●
University of the West of England (UWE)		Supporting businesses with Executive Education, innovation and funding, professional development, working with students and graduate entrepreneurs, cooperative research and more.	See website for further details.	www.uwe.ac.uk/business/business-services	●	●	●	●
University Centre Weston (UCW)		UCW works in partnership with other universities, businesses and commercial partners to ensure that students are offered real-life work placements and project briefs so that they develop the skills businesses need. Business can engage through project briefs, mentoring, guest lecturing and providing real-life case studies.	See specific course details for eligibility.	www.ucw.ac.uk/about/great-graduate-prospects	●	●	●	●

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OutSet Micro-Business COVID-19 Support programme		The OutSet Micro-Business Covid-19 programme will be offering a tailored support and after-care service through a series of activities including workshops and masterclasses; guest sessions with local experts; Thursday Online Elevenses to engage with your community and 1:1 expert advice. Access to the GrowSmart e-learning platform	Micro business (less than 10 employees), including self-employed and freelancers operating in Bristol	www.outset.org/bristolcovidresponse	●			
Recruiting for Recovery - Covid 19 Employer Service		Supporting employers with recruitment of individuals who have been pre-screened, trained and ready to work. Support with sifting CVs, screening, coordinating interviews, supporting onboarding and advice on recruitment and retention post-lockdown.	Employers need to register via an online form.	www.seetecpluss.co.uk/employers/recruiting-for-recovery	●	●	●	●
Lifetime Training		Providing employers with advice, information and support with launching a new apprenticeship, reviewing current provision or getting more out of the levy.	Levy paying employers and/or employers considering taking on an apprentice.	www.lifetimetraining.co.uk/apprenticeships/employers	●	●	●	●
Business Support Helpline (BEIS)		Fully Funded 1-2-1 business support for pre-starts, start-ups and SMEs. Businesses can access help about Covid, business planning, links to Jobcentre Plus and the local growth hub.	Self-help portal	www.gov.uk/business-support-helpline	●	●	●	●
Business in the Community (BITC)		Bringing businesses closer to schools and colleges - helping them to support young people to develop the essential skills they need to succeed in the workplace - mentoring opportunities for employees.	None	www.bitc.org.uk/employment/	●	●	●	●
West of England Mentoring (WEM)		Independent charity tackling inequality of opportunity for young people on the West of England. Volunteer businesses mentors help students (12-15) to raise aspirations, follow their interests and make plans for the world of work.	None		●	●	●	●
Career Ready		Building networks of employers, educators and volunteers across the UK to give young people career support, experiences and insights. Programmes include: Career Starter, Career Builder and Career Ready.	None	www.careerready.org.uk	●	●	●	●
LiketoBe		Platform offering real life career insights. Employers can create their own profile and promote career insights, work experience and job opportunities to students	None	www.liketobe.org	●	●	●	●

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My Future Choice		Employer volunteering opportunity supporting primary and secondary schools. Volunteering, workshops and other activities help to raise the awareness of a range of careers and gives employers the chance to fill work experience placements.	None	www.myfuturemychoice.co.uk	●			
Springboard		For employers in the hospitality and tourism sectors. Access to a wide pool of talent to fill skills shortages. Mentoring opportunities also available.	Membership required (annual fee)	www.springboard.uk.net	●	●	●	●
globalbridge		globalbridge is a digital platform tool that connects employers to future talent and education. Businesses can engage with education to expand their talent network and recruit the right talent.	None	www.myglobalbridge.com/employers	●	●	●	●
CWS		Working with businesses to help them create greater exposure to their job opportunities, align skills to needs more effectively, and support workforce development. Helping young people to carve careers in developing sectors and help businesses to develop and harness the skills needed to grow their business.	For businesses and individuals (both currently in work or seeking employment).	www.cswgroup.co.uk/what-we-do/young-people-csw-group	●	●	●	●
Engineering UK		The EngineeringUK Skills Partnership is a network of employers working together to raise the profile of UK engineering with young people, schools and parents. Employers participate in the Skills Partnership at different levels and in ways that best meet their needs	Up to the age of 14 in education	www.engineeringuk.com	●	●	●	●
Cogent Skills		Focused on skills and supporting the skills needs and ambitions of individual employers and their employees. Sector based, working across the Science Industries embracing Life Sciences, Industrial Sciences and Nuclear.	Aged 16 – 65+ Operating in the STEM sector in STEM business.	www.cogentskills.com	●	●	●	●
BeReady		Online learning platform, programmes and courses for schools, universities and employers to help individuals achieve their potential and businesses to thrive.		www.bereadygroup.org	●	●	●	●

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Construction Talent Retention Scheme		National portal for the construction industry. Helping individuals and businesses to both promote job opportunities and search permanent and contract roles (inc apprenticeships). Individuals can promote their skills, talent and experience to employers who are looking to recruit, whilst employers can promote opportunities.	16+ either in work or out of work	www.trs-system.co.uk/construction	●	●	●	●
Bristol WORKS		Bespoke experience of work in school setting (7 schools each year). Helping employers to engage with local schools including strategic partnerships, mentoring, visits, skills development and work experience opportunities.	Aged 13-16	www.bristol.works	●			
Mid Life MOT		The mid-life MOT is a free online support package being delivered jointly by three agencies. It supports individuals (50+) and their employers to actively plan in the key areas of work, wellbeing and finances through 1) taking a skills assessment 2) accessing a free health check, and 3) checking their state pension. Local pilots to also be run during spring 2021	50+ either in work or not in work	https://www.yourpension.gov.uk/mid-life-mot/	●	●	●	●
Amazon Small Business Accelerator		Amazon Small Business Accelerator is a free, online educational programme for anyone who wants to start a new online business or grow an existing one. The online learning is tailored to your experience level, with a comprehensive curriculum covering website building, selling online, social media, marketing, managing cashflow, selling on Amazon, and identifying growth opportunities. Not only is the training free, but by taking part you can access events and offers from partners, and join an intensive bootcamp experience.	You need to be over 18 years old to access the programme, apart from this it is open to all (students, small businesses, individuals looking to learn something new). It's main audience is small business owners/teams looking to start or grow their business.	https://www.enterprisenation.com/accelerator/	●	●	●	●
Opportunity North Somerset		Opportunity North Somerset is open to all North Somerset residents (no restrictions) to help identify and outline a personalised employment and skills pathway, acting as a single point of access to find out more about: career development, youth opportunities, digital service access, apprenticeship and work experience, business start-up guidance and wellbeing support services. This support is available remotely and through Employment & Skills Hubs based in library spaces across North Somerset.	N/A	https://innorthsomerset.co.uk/skills-support/opportunitynorthsomerset/				●

Please note that the above list is a summary of key services available in the West of England. It is not intended to be a full list of all services, websites and information available within the region. Professionals delivering the services listed above will also be able to signpost to additional support where relevant and applicable.

These guides bring together the local, regional and national skills, training and employment services available to residents and businesses in the West of England.

The West of England Combined Authority has produced similar guides for the following areas:

- Careers Advice, Guidance, Coaching and Support Services for Individuals;
- Career Platforms and Skills Information Portals (Aged 11-18 and 18+);
- Employability, Job Search, CV and Interview Preparation and Support for Gaining Employment;
- Traineeships, Kickstart, T-Levels and Apprenticeships;
- Upskilling, Reskilling and Progression within Work;
- Redundancy Support for Individuals; and
- Wellbeing, Mental Health, Neurodiversity, SEND and Individualised Support.

For further information or to notify us of any service, training and/or online tool to be included in future listings, please email skills@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

The organisations shown in the table are divided into the following categories:



