



JobsPlus

JobsPlus: Learning in Action Event

Thursday 11 June 2026 | 9.45am – 4.00pm

**Manchester Pendulum Hotel
and Conference Centre**

Sackville St, Manchester M1 3BB

Led by

L&W LEARNING AND
WORK INSTITUTE



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Agenda

Thursday 11 June 2026 | 9.45 am – 4.00 pm

9.45 am

Arrival

Delegates arrive and settle into the day. This time is also an opportunity to connect with fellow attendees.

Refreshments will be served.

10.15 am

Welcome and opening

This session will set the agenda for the day and purpose of the event.

Speaker

Elizabeth Gerard, Deputy Director, Learning and Work Institute (L&W)

10.30 am

Evaluation: Headline findings

L&W and Institute of Employment Studies (IES) will share the headline findings from the evaluation followed by an audience Q&A.

Speakers

Amy Fox, Senior Research Fellow, IES

Mags Bexon, Research Manager, L&W

Rakhee Patel, Principal Research Fellow, IES

Chair

Naomi Clayton, CEO, IES

11.00 am

JobsPlus: The policy context

This segment will explore the current policy focus on reducing economic inactivity through integrated, place-based approaches, as set out in the government's [Get Britain Working](#) agenda and reinforced by initiatives like [Pride in Place](#). JobsPlus reflects this shift by combining community-led engagement with employment support in local settings. The panel discussion will explore how this model aligns with national priorities, what the evaluation is showing about effective delivery, and how learning from the pilot could inform future employment policy. The panel discussion with guest speakers, will be followed by audience Q&A.

Speakers

Julia Gault, Senior Responsible Officer & Deputy Director, Disability Opportunities and Employment Support Policy Division, DWP

Ann-Marie Soyinka, Assistant Director – Skills & Employment Policy Communities and Skills, Greater London Authority (joining remotely)

Chair

Elizabeth Gerard, Deputy Director, L&W

11.30 Site showcases: Lightning Talks (part I)

Each housing association will showcase:

- One change they have made to delivery since October 2025, why that change and what impact it has had
- A recent lesson learned
- One change they will make for 2026–27

Community Champions will also share their experiences of the JobsPlus pilot and supporting fellow residents to engage.

Speakers

- Great Places
- Thirteen Group
- L&Q Housing
- Barnet Homes
- Plus Dane Housing
- Southern Housing
- South Yorkshire Housing Association

Chair

Iona McArdle, JobsPlus Programme Manager, L&W

12.45 pm

Group photo followed by lunch

A hot and cold buffet lunch will be served.

1.30 pm

Site showcases: Lightning Talks (part II)

- Clarion Futures
- Magenta

2.00 pm

Roundtable discussions: Turning Insight into Action

This is a participatory session where attendees will break out into site specific groups to reflect on the evaluation findings and what they mean for Year 3 delivery in their area.

Chair

Elizabeth Gerard, Deputy Director, L&W

3.50 pm

Reflection and event close

Elizabeth Gerard, Deputy Director at L&W, will summarise the day and what to expect for the year ahead.

Social media

We'd love to see your reflections on social media! Don't forget to use the hashtag #jobsplus. Feel free to adapt the draft post below:

"Thrilled to be celebrating #jobsplus today in Manchester!

It's fantastic to hear from housing associations, community champions and researchers involved in the evaluation of the programme.

Stay tuned for more from us as the pilot progresses."