



Supporting care experienced
young people to access the
world of work



include
YOUTH



The number of children and young people in care in Northern Ireland is at its **highest in over 30 years**, with inequality of entry into care widening.

Children from the most deprived areas are nine times more likely to enter care here.

Children who've been in care experience **much higher levels of unemployment** and are **more likely to receive benefits** in the eight years after leaving school.



Business in the Community, the Responsible Business Network, has supported businesses and communities for 35+ years in Northern Ireland. With more than 270 members, it is the largest business-led coalition dedicated to responsible business.

PEOPLE | PLANET | PLACE

BITC drives best practice by convening, sharing learning and recognising great performance across its influential network.



Include Youth has more than 45 years' experience in working with care experienced young people and those from disadvantaged communities.

It works with approximately 700-800 young people per year who are at risk of not receiving the care and support they need when it matters most.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Practical interventions **support the transition into the world of work** for care-experienced children to improve their long-term outcomes.

Young people express interest in, and benefit from, the opportunity to **make connections with role models**.

This project provides a tangible way for your business to demonstrate **social value** in action.



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Four key indicator changes



**Improvement in
communication
skills**



**Completion of a
CV and
readiness for
interview**



**Understanding
behaviours for
work**



**Improvement in
confidence and
aspirations**

1

**Four young
people
employability
sessions**

2

**Three speed
networking
sessions -
Belfast, North
West,
Fermanagh**

3

**LinkedIn
Group**

4

**Work
experience
opportunities**

5

**Care-
experienced
training for
business**

1

Four young people employability sessions

Focused on:

- Behaviours for Work
- CV Building
- Interview Skills
- Managing a Budget

Lesson plans will be created by Business in the Community, in partnership with Include Youth, to ensure they are audience appropriate. These will be delivered in-person, however, provision will be made for some online delivery.

Representatives from business will attend one of the four sessions and share their experience of the world of work, what their business does, and job opportunities available.

THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Empower several of your colleagues to attend one or more sessions in Belfast, Derry and Fermanagh.

3 places available per session
(total: 12 sessions)

BELFAST/LISBURN

1:30 – 2:30 and 2:30 - 3:30 pm

1 October 2026

Building a CV & Interview Preparation

15 October 2026

Behaviours for Work & Managing a Budget

DERRY/BALLYMENA

1:30 – 2:30 and 2:30 - 3:30 pm

7 October 2026

Building a CV & Interview Preparation

21 October 2026

Behaviours for Work & Managing a Budget

FERMANAGH

1:30 – 2:30 and 2:30 - 3:30 pm

29 September 2026

Building a CV & Interview Preparation

13 October 2026

Behaviours for Work & Managing a Budget

2

Three speed networking sessions

Belfast, North West, Fermanagh.

These will involve young people meeting 20+ business people at each session to gain further insights into the world of work and the barriers they face when entering the labour market.

THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Empower one or two of your colleagues to attend one or more sessions in Belfast, Derry and Fermanagh. Fast paced, fun and informative.

1:30 – 3:30 pm

19 November 2026 | BELFAST/LISBURN

11 November 2026 | DERRY/BALLYMENA

24 November 2026 | FERMANAGH

3

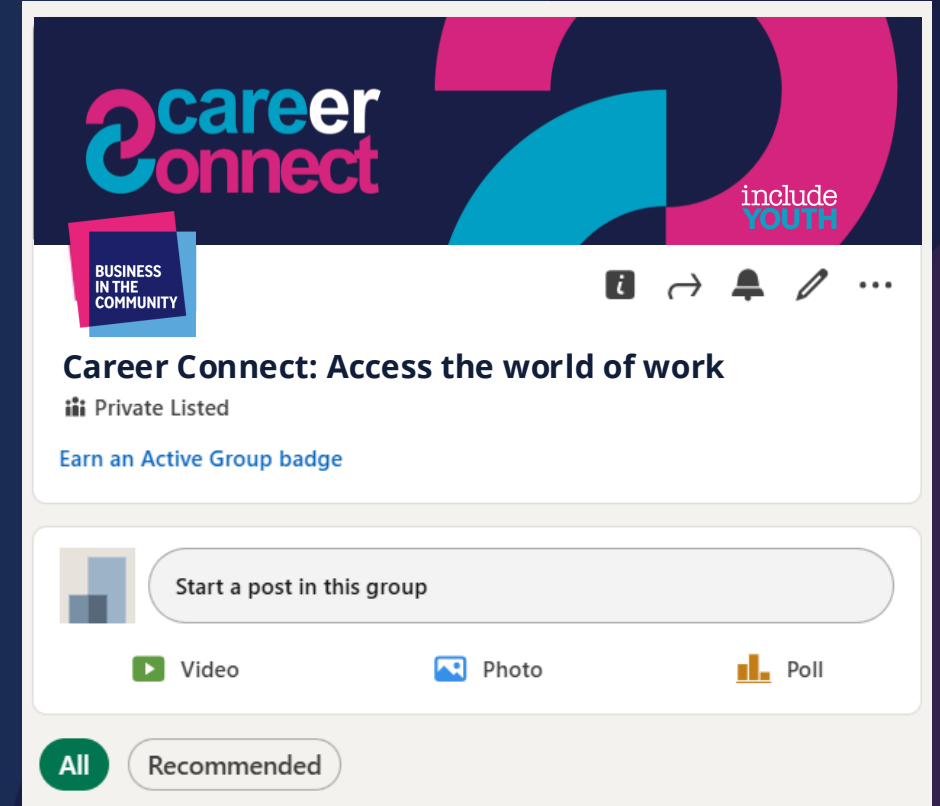
Ask Me LinkedIn Group

Creation of an online group for businesses and young people to connect, ask questions and offer advice.

Timebound: One year

THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Brand profiling on this platform. Individual profiling – share your career journey and top tips for getting and keeping a job. Share entry level routes into your business.



4

Work experience opportunities

Where possible a workplace visit would also be aligned to help young people see behind the scenes of local businesses. We would aim to provide this for every young person taking part.

Share your pathways to employment.

THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Offer one or two work experience opportunities. These could be half a day for a group up to three days for an individual. BITC will support.

5

Care-experienced training for business

A one-hour webinar (recorded) for business people involved in the project to ensure awareness of potential issues or barriers and how to manage these with care. This would include advice on how to develop trauma-informed policies.

THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Training can be made available to as many people in your organisation as you would like.

21 July | 14 August | 14 September 2026

Timeline

September - October
Delivery of facilitated sessions

29 September - Fermanagh
1 October - Belfast
7 October - Derry
13 October - Fermanagh
15 October - Belfast
21 October - Derry

May
LinkedIn Group

October - February
Work experience opportunities

February
Project review and forward recommendation

April
Launch project

Engage businesses

July - September
Training webinar for businesses

21 July
14 August
14 September

October - November
Speed networking events x 3

11 November - Derry
19 November - Belfast
24 November - Fermanagh



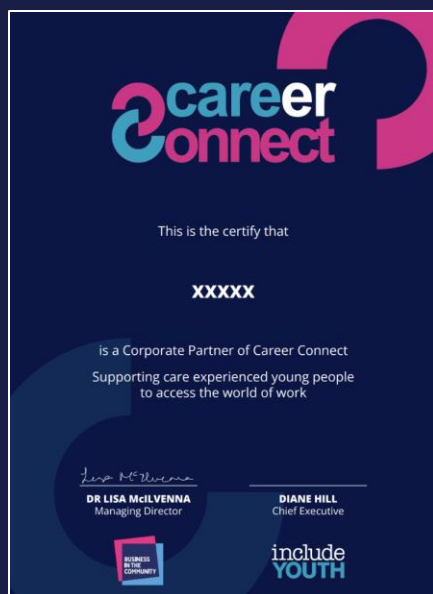
Become a corporate partner

- This opportunity comes at no financial cost to your business
- Be associated with this ground-breaking project
- Have first access to volunteering opportunities
- Have first access to the speed networking sessions
- Enable more young people to understand your pathways to employment
- Receive profile throughout the life of the project – social media campaigns, websites, LinkedIn, media opportunities
- Become a regular contributor on the LinkedIn Group
- Receive support for running a great work experience session
- Receive support for trauma-informed experience training
- Signposting to further support for business mentors





Corporate Partners will receive
a certificate endorsing their
commitment



Individual volunteers will receive a
digital badge for use on social
media and internal profiling



Digital Media Campaign

Join in during our two, one-week long digital campaigns and share key messaging and visuals for the campaign. Book these into your calendar now and think about ways you can share below:

WEEK ONE:

28 September – 2 October 2026



Internal
screens



Newsletters



HR Updates



Social Media



Listen to
the radio



Share on
websites



Listen and
share the
podcast



40 - 50

young people
supported

Every

young person to
have an experience
of work

20 - 30

businesses involved



Supporting care experienced young people to access the world of work

**BECOME A
CORPORATE
PARTNER**

**SUPPORT A
LEARNING SESSION
(1 hour)**

**SUPPORT A SPEED
NETWORKING
EVENT (2 hours)**

There is no cost for employers to participate in Career Connect.

The opportunities align with employer supported volunteering and accessing new talent into your organisation.

This project also supports social value principles and actions.

Career Connect - Supporting Care Experienced Young People

April 30th, 2026-March 31st, 2027

A business-led programme that provides practical interventions to support the transition into the world of work for care-experienced young people, helping them to improve their long-term outcomes.

Tickets

CORPORATE PARTNER
Become a corporate partner for our project. NO financial contributions are required. By becoming a corporate partner, we ask businesses to:

- 1 - Have at least one member of your team attend the Employee Training Webinar (3 options available)
- 2 - Offer volunteering opportunities for your team members to join us for a session with young people covering one of the facilitated sessions: Behaviours for Work, CV Skills, Interview Skills or Managing a Budget
- 3 - Have at least one member of your team attend the two hour Speed Networking sessions in each of our three locations - Belfast, North West, Fermanagh (this does not need to be the same person)
- 4 - Encourage someone from your HR team to join our LinkedIn Group - a valuable resource for young people to ask questions and for you to provide answers
- 5 - Participate in offering work experience opportunities - 1/2 day, 1 - 3 days. BITC will provide additional support on how to run a great session.

EMPLOYER TRAINING WEBINAR - 21 July 2026 TBC
Join us for this one hour webinar to discover valuable information about working with care experienced young people. This session will cover important aspects of trauma-informed practice.

1st option of three available dates.



**include
YOUTH**

For more information, please contact mhairi.sim@bitcni.org.uk or call 028 9046 0606 and ask for our Education Team