

No Wrong Door

SOUTH LONDON INTEGRATION HUB

Press Release January 2026

As you may know from our [bulletins](#) and social media posts on @SouthLondonNWD the [NWD South London Integration Hub](#) helps to connect residents, Skills and Employment practitioners and employers to overcome barriers to work. Read more about our work and feel free to get in touch/share info in social media.

01 SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP – South London Skills Summit –

20th November 2025

South London Skills Summit 2025 took place in November. Held at Merton College, it provided attendees a deep insight into the delivery on the South London annex of the London Local Skills Improvement Plan, as well as the innovative programmes shaping skills provision across South London. We hosted guest speakers and facilitated group discussions on skills needs in the region, with the aim of informing the refresh of the South London annex to the LSIP.

Impact

This summit served not only as an excellent opportunity for local organisations to find out more about the South London annex to the LSIP but also let them contribute valuable feedback on the greatest skills needs of the subregion beforehand, allowing the summit to host a rich discussion of the key challenges faced by South London's Skills & Employment landscape.

It was a crucial stepping stone in LSIP's delivery, informing the 2026 Refresh which we elaborate on further below.



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02 BIG SOUTH LONDON – Destination South Summit – 11th November 2025

Hosted at Chessington World of Adventures Resort in November, the event brought together more than 150 leaders from across South London’s thriving sport, culture, heritage, and hospitality sectors. It explored how the sub-region can bolster its economy and strengthen its world-class visitor and experience offer, from the All-England Club Championships in Wimbledon and Twickenham Stadium, to Kew Gardens and Hampton Court Palace.

The Destination South London summit marked the next step in the region’s long-term ambition to grow its key economic clusters – including the experience and visitor economy, health and life sciences, creative and digital, and net zero and nature – driving forward sustainable and inclusive growth across the sub-region.



Impact

BIG South London embodies the bold ambition to become the capital’s go-to destination for inclusive, sustainable growth. This was the focus of the Destination South London summit, attended by senior leaders from across business, local government and London’s visitor economy.

The success of this event not only helps realise that ambition, but in doing so demonstrates the power of working in partnership across boroughs, sectors and communities to implement the Mayor’s London Growth Plan – strengthening London’s world-class experience and visitor economy.

Speaking at the event, Councillor Gareth Roberts, Chair of the South London Partnership and Leader of Richmond Council, summed it up: “Today’s summit shows the scale of ambition across our boroughs and businesses to grow the region’s experience economy in a way that’s sustainable, inclusive and distinctly South London”.

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03 SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP – Connect to Work Launch – December 2025

CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by **UK Government**

A major new employment initiative, Connect to Work, has officially launched across South London, aiming to support people with disabilities, long-term health conditions, or complex barriers into good, secure jobs over the next five years. Backed by investment from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Connect to Work will deliver tailored, localised support across Croydon, Merton, Richmond, Kingston and Sutton.

Connect to Work will be delivered by Ingeus in Croydon, Merton, Sutton and Kingston, commissioned by Croydon Council, the accountable body on behalf of South London Partnership. Richmond Workmatch will be supporting residents in Richmond.

Impact

Connect to Work offers responsive, relevant and inclusive employment support to those who need it the most. A wide range of supportive activity, including voluntary, personalised, and flexible support, including one-to-one coaching, job matching, and in-work support for both participants and employers, ensures that nobody is left behind. It makes a huge step towards the highly integrated and functional skills and employment landscape that the SLP strives for.

04 SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP – LSIP Refresh – January 2026

As part of our LSIP refresh, SLP conducted a survey with businesses in South London, engaging employers across priority sectors to understand their emerging skills needs and the pressures shaping their workforce strategies.



Our most recent engagement highlights a region undergoing rapid transformation. Employers across South London are already preparing for an AI-first future, with 68% reporting that they will require advanced digital skills within the next 2–5 years. This demand is growing not only in tech-focused sectors but across retail, logistics, creative industries, and professional services.

In hospitality, the landscape is shifting in two distinct ways. First, 45% of hospitality employers now expect sustainability skills to form part of their core workforce capabilities, reflecting the sector’s commitment to greener operations and changing customer expectations. At the same

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time, the sector continues to face persistent recruitment challenges, with 36% citing unsociable or irregular shift patterns as a major barrier to attracting talent.

Meanwhile, our work with education and training providers revealed a particularly acute pressure point: a three-way hiring squeeze, with 67% highlighting low candidate interest, 67% identifying skills gaps, and 67% pointing to sector-wide competition as key obstacles. This challenge directly affects the pace at which the wider skills system can respond to employer needs.

Do these findings reflect what you're seeing in your organisation, sector or region? We'd welcome your perspective as we continue to shape South London's future skills landscape.

05 CHAMPIONING THE CHARTER: Your Outstanding Contribution – Diverse Futures

One of our standout Charter signatories, [Diverse Futures](#), continues to play a vital role in supporting young people across London to access high-quality employment pathways. Their commitment to widening participation and removing barriers aligns directly with the core aims of the Skills and Employment Partnership Charter, ensuring that every young person has a fair chance to develop skills, gain experience, and progress into meaningful work.



Most recently, Diverse Futures has been working closely with Westminster City Council to open a new set of apprenticeship opportunities for young people. These roles span a variety of entry points within the council, creating accessible pathways not only into public sector careers, but also into long-term professional development and progression.

Roles available can be found here:

CRS apprentice:

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC2000011375>

People and Culture Apprentice:

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC2000011377>

Project Management Apprentice:

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC2000011376>

Housing Apprentice:

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC2000011366>

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Diverse Futures efforts embody exactly what our Charter aims to encourage — collaboration that leads to tangible outcomes for young people and employers alike. We celebrate their work, their dedication, and their continued leadership in creating pathways that transform futures.

For more information, please contact: Amar Sangha asangha@diversefutures.com

06 USEFUL LINKS

[No Wrong Door homepage](#)

[Sign the Skills and Employment Partnership Charter](#)

[Access Support for SME businesses](#)

[Access Inclusive Recruitment support](#)

[Connect with organisations that support people into work or training](#)

[Connect with SLP Hubs and Programmes](#)

[Trailblazers – Life Reworked](#)

[Connect to Work](#)