HOW MOTIV8 IS ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES SET OUT IN THE 2026 MILBURN REVIEW

'FROM A WELFARE STATE TO A WORKING STATE: A NEW SETTLEMENT FOR THE NEXTGENERATION'

Prevention needs to start earlier.

The Review reinforces Motiv8's existing approach of working with young people before they become NEET or experience long-term unemployment. Our work with children and young people from age 9 means we can identify barriers early and build confidence, resilience, skills, and aspirations before they reach the labour market.

Youth Futures has the potential to become a stronger part of Motiv8's offer. With the Government's Youth Guarantee aiming to help nearly one million young people into earning or learning and create up to 500,000 opportunities, there is a clear opportunity to strengthen our Youth Futures pathway across Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport, and Fareham.

Motiv8 can be the bridge between young people and the Youth Guarantee. Some of the young people we support will not independently access Jobcentre Plus, colleges, training providers, or mainstream employment programmes. Our trusted relationships can help them take that next step.

Motiv8's Youth Hubs are becoming increasingly important. The Government intends to expand the network of Youth Hubs across Great Britain. Motiv8 already operates trusted community-based youth provision, so we should explore how our existing hubs and Youth Futures activity can connect with, complement or potentially form part of emerging local Youth Hub arrangements.

Employment support needs to be delivered where young people feel comfortable. Formal employment services will not work equally well for every young person. Motiv8's community hubs and youth workers can provide the relationship-based environment needed to engage young people who are furthest from employment. – Toronto Place, Fratton Hub, Broadlaw Hub, Havant Hub

Health, wellbeing and employment need to be viewed together. The overlap between the Milburn and Timms Reviews recognises that poor health, disability, mental health, benefits, and economic inactivity are closely connected. This strongly supports Motiv8's whole-person approach rather than separating wellbeing from employability – Motiv8's Youth and Wellbeing Strands overlaop with Youth Futures/Skills

SEND should be an increasingly important part of our Youth Futures thinking. Government investment in SEND reform, including £1.8 billion for specialist community support and £1.6 billion for earlier support in schools, reinforces the need for accessible and flexible pathways. Motiv8 already works with young people with additional needs, including support up to age 25, so this is an area where our experience is particularly relevant.

The Jobs Guarantee creates an important progression opportunity for the young people we support. Eligible 18 to 24-year-olds claiming Universal Credit and looking for work will be guaranteed a fully funded six-month job, with access being brought forward from 18 months to 12 months. Motiv8 could help young people become ready to take up and sustain these opportunities.

Technical and vocational education will have greater status. The Government's intention to put technical and academic routes on a more equal footing fits well with Motiv8's approach. Our role can include helping young people understand the full range of options available rather than assuming university or purely academic education is the right pathway for everyone.

Local delivery presents a significant strategic opportunity. The Government intends to use regional devolution to give local leaders greater responsibility for joining up services around young people. Motiv8 should ensure the voluntary and community youth sector is represented as these arrangements develop across Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham, Havant and the wider Hampshire area.

Motiv8 should be involved at the design stage, not simply as a future delivery provider. Decisions about local implementation and funding have still to be confirmed. This gives us an opportunity to influence how services are designed and demonstrate why trusted voluntary-sector youth organisations need to be part of the local system.

Partnership will be essential. A young person might simultaneously need support with mental health, housing or family circumstances, confidence, SEND, qualifications, benefits, skills and employment. Motiv8 can play an important coordinating role alongside local authorities, schools, colleges, DWP/Jobcentre Plus, employers, health services, and other voluntary organisations.



motiv 8
life chances for young people



Motiv8's Youth Voice and Influence must remain central. As national and local systems are redesigned, Motiv8 can ensure that services are shaped with young people rather than for them. Our existing youth engagement provides an opportunity to ask young people directly what prevents them accessing education, training and employment and what would make services work better.

We should strengthen how we evidence progression. Alongside Outcome Star measures around confidence and wellbeing, we should increasingly capture progression into work experience, qualifications, further education, training, apprenticeships and employment, and whether those outcomes are sustained.

There is a potential new role for our corporate partnerships. Employers supporting Motiv8 could offer more than funding. They could provide mentors, workplace visits, skills sessions, work experience, apprenticeships, six-month job opportunities and permanent employment. This creates a natural link between fundraising, corporate engagement, and Youth Futures.

Place-based delivery is one of Motiv8's strongest assets. Our established presence within communities means we understand the circumstances surrounding the young person as well as their employment needs. That becomes increasingly valuable within a system intended to join up local services.

The Review reinforces rather than should change Motiv8's fundamental approach. Trusted relationships, early intervention, youth work, wellbeing, confidence, practical skills and opportunities are precisely the foundations young people need if they are going to progress successfully into learning and work.

Our ambition should not simply be getting young people into jobs. It should be helping young people overcome the barriers that prevent them participating, identify a pathway that is right for them and have the support needed to sustain it.



For us, the message is simple:

- Start early. Prevention should begin long before a young person becomes NEET.
- Trusted relationships matter. Young people need support in places where they feel safe and comfortable.
- Wellbeing and employment go hand in hand. Confidence, mental health, skills, and employment cannot be treated separately.
- Our Youth Hubs matter. Toronto Place, Fratton, Broadlaw and Havant give us strong roots in our communities.
- Youth Futures can be the bridge between young people and training, apprenticeships, work experience, and jobs.
- SEND and additional needs must be part of the picture.
- Young people must have a voice in designing the support they receive.
- Partnership is essential. Youth organisations, employers, colleges, health services, and local authorities need to work together.



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