ebp south

Impact Report 2025/26

CEO Message



As CEO of EBP South, I am proud to lead an organisation with a long-standing commitment to helping young people develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in an increasingly complex world of work.

The 2025/26 academic year has reinforced just how vital high-quality careers education and employer engagement are for young people. The findings of the Alan Milburn Review highlighted the growing challenge of young people becoming disconnected from education, employment and training and called for greater emphasis on work readiness, employer engagement and meaningful careers education as part of preparing young people for adult life.

At the same time, the Youth Voice Census 2026 showed that many young people continue to face barriers to accessing careers guidance, work experience and employer encounters, with growing concerns about their future opportunities and preparedness for work.

Against this backdrop, EBP South has continued to expand its work across Hampshire and the surrounding areas.

Working in partnership with schools, colleges, employers and local authorities, we have delivered thousands of meaningful encounters between young people and the world of work. From Careers Guidance and Work Experience Placements to Work Related Learning and Career Inspiration Events, our work helps bridge the gap between education and employment.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, trustees, partners and volunteers. Their commitment ensures that young people across our communities can access the opportunities, networks and experiences that help turn potential into achievement.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on our vision, that every young person, regardless of background, has access to the inspiration, guidance and opportunities needed to make informed decisions and realise their potential. Together, we will continue to play our part in creating a future where all young people can thrive.

Sammy Ward, CEO of EBP South

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Message



In my first year as Chair of the Board of Trustees, it has been a privilege to witness the difference EBP South makes to young people across Hampshire. The 2025/26 academic year has been one of significant achievement at a time when high-quality careers education and meaningful employer engagement have never been more important.

Over the year, EBP South reached 30,902 young people, up from 29,409 the previous year. The team delivered over 7,305 one-to-one Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Meetings, helping students make informed choices about their next steps, and placed 5,746 students on Work Experience with local employers. Our Work Related Learning programme grew by a quarter, engaging 5,645 students through events that bring the world of work into the classroom.

This year also saw the conclusion of the Employer Engagement Project, funded by The Hearn Foundation, which reached 8,952 young people over eight years. We extend our sincere thanks to The Hearn Foundation for their generosity and long-standing belief in our work.

We are also grateful to the wonderful organisations who have provided partnership and sponsorship funding, to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the Garfield Weston Foundation for their ongoing support, and to all the businesses and volunteers who have given their time to inspire the next generation.

Behind the scenes, the Board and leadership team have worked closely together to strengthen the organisation's foundations, ensuring EBP South is well placed to continue supporting young people for many years to come. I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their commitment and Sammy for her leadership.

Finally, I would like to thank the team at EBP South. Their passion for supporting young people is evident in everything they do, and it is a true reflection of the culture of the organisation. It is their dedication that lies behind every one of these numbers, and on behalf of the Board, thank you.

Jennie Mead, Chair of the Board of Trustees

30,902

CAREER INTERACTIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE DURING 2025/26.

A year of impact and inspiration.

In 2025/26, EBP South delivered **30,902** career interactions, helping young people explore opportunities, build confidence and develop key skills for the future.

Through Careers Guidance, Work Experience and Employer Engagement programmes, we connected students with valuable insights into the world of work.

Our Career Inspiration and Work-Related Learning events broadened aspirations, developed employability skills and empowered young people to take their next steps with confidence.









Results



7,305

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Meetings

7,857

Other Career Related Interactions by Career Practitioners

5,746

Students placed on Work Experience

81

Extended Work Experience Placements arranged



1,395

Students took part in the Employer Engagement Project

5,645

Students attended Work-Related Learning Events

2,873

Students attended Career Inspiration and STEM Events

30,902

Career Interactions with young people

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance



7,305

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Meetings

7,857

Other Career Related Interactions by Career Practitioners

147

Group sessions were delivered to 1,373 students

Throughout the year, our Level 6 qualified Career Practitioners provided high-quality, impartial Careers Information, Advice and Guidance, helping young people make informed choices about their futures. Through tailored one-to-one support, students gained the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to progress into education, training or employment.

At a time when 13.3% of 16 to 24-year-olds are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), we are proud to have helped more young people realise their potential, raise their aspirations and take positive steps towards rewarding futures.







Work Experience



5,746

Students placed on Work Experience

81

Extended Work Experience Placements arranged

91%

Student respondants felt more confident in the workplace

During the 2025/26 academic year, EBP South delivered a comprehensive Work Experience Placement (WEX) service for students, schools and employers across Hampshire. Through high-quality placements, we helped young people gain valuable insight into the world of work, develop essential employability skills and build confidence in their future aspirations.

At a time when practical experience remains a key barrier to employment, these opportunities helped bridge the gap between education and the workplace, supporting young people to take their next steps with confidence.







Work Experience Feedback



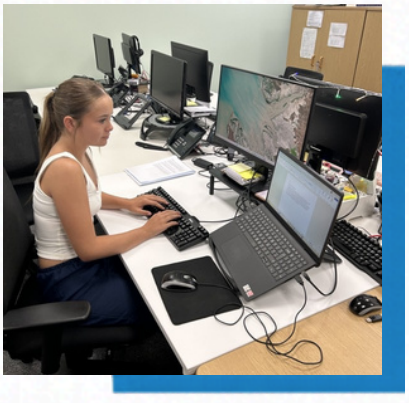
“I’ve volunteered with children before, but this Work Experience Placement at Highfield CE Primary School gave me the chance to feel like a real teacher.”
Mimi: Work Experience Placement



"Working at the Bioinformatics Cancer Research Lab at the University of Southampton made me feel like a real biology researcher.”
Nathan: Work Experience Placement



“My work experience helped point me in the right direction. I now really want to get into product design and working in a jewellery and silversmithing school helped me to consider my career path.”
Lucas: Work Experience Placement



"Work experience at EBP South has given me an opportunity to understand a professional work environment, which has helped me develop essential skills like team work, communication, and time management.”
Ava: Work Experience Placement

Get Inspired

2,470
Students attended three Get Inspired events

90
Participating organisations hosted interactive activities

96%
Student respondents learned about careers they did not know before

Over the past year, our Get Inspired events brought together employers from across Hampshire to inspire the next generation. Designed for 11 to 16-year-olds, these engaging events helped students explore a wide range of careers, connect with local employers, and gain valuable insights into the world of work.



"You got to try out everything and find out about jobs you might not have known about."
Pupil: The Vyne School



"The event helped me see possible routes for my career and helped me understand how to get there."
Pupil: Brighton Hill School





Inspiring STEM



During the last academic year, Inspiring STEM inspired secondary school students to discover the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and maths, helping them connect classroom learning with future careers.

90

Students attended Inspiring STEM Basingstoke.

9

Participating organisations hosted STEM activities

100%

Student respondents learned about careers they did not know before









"I really enjoyed today. There was lots of activities to do. I would definitely come here again."
Pupil: Everest Community Academy

"Today has been really good. I've had lots of fun learning about the many different careers I didn't know about before today. It's been amazing!"
Pupil: Bishop Challoner School

Primary Schools' STEM FAIR



242
Students attended two STEM Fairs

25
Participating organisations hosted STEM activities

81%
Student respondents learned about careers that they did not know about

Throughout the year, Primary Schools' STEM Fairs provided an exciting day of hands-on discovery for pupils aged 9-11. Businesses delivered interactive 25-minute sessions in the Solent and Basingstoke area, guiding teams of up to 10 students through real-world challenges. Activities included water challenges, motor engine repairs, robot programming and many more engaging experiences that helped bring STEM subjects to life.







"I really like how we got to make an aeroplane to see how far the wind resistance of the plane could go. I liked how we got to do CPR for when you need it in real life. I'm very glad to be here."
Pupil: Grange Junior School

"Today was one of the best days that we've ever had. It was so much fun and we learnt so much. "
Pupil: Bramley C of E Primary School

Construct and Create



71

Students attended this inaugral event

5

Participating organisations delivered construction activities

100%

Student respondents learned about careers that they did not know about

During the 2025/26 academic year, EBP South launched the first Construct and Create event in partnership with Barratt David Wilson Homes. The event gave students an engaging insight into careers in construction, inspiring future aspirations and challenging perceptions of the industry. Following its successful debut and overwhelmingly positive feedback, we are delighted to be bringing the event back in 2027.



"This event was very inspirational and beneficial for my future. I have learnt new skills and explored new possible careers in construction."
Pupil: St Mark's C of E School







"This has given us a better insight into job roles that we hadn't been interested in before."
Pupil: Park Community School

Employer Engagement Project



1,395
Students attended EEP sessions

66
Sessions were delivered by employers

Funded by The Hearn Foundation, the Employer Engagement Project made a positive impact throughout the year by connecting local businesses with schools and colleges to highlight career pathways. Through meaningful employer engagement, the project helped bring learning to life and strengthened young people's understanding of the opportunities available to them in the world of work.

Excellent, knowledgeable content from an industry specialist. Clearly linked to the curriculum and to careers teaching. Well pitched and delivered."

Ms Beasley - Teacher of Geography: Priory Community School





"We are always thrilled to interact with students, as it allows them to see how what they're studying can be so helpful with their course work and future career choices."

Sue Goff: Taylor Wimpey

Work Related Learning



5,645
Students attended Work Related Learning events

29
In school events were delivered across Hampshire

14
Schools took part in the Work Related Learning events

216
Volunteers supported the delivery of these events

Throughout the year, we delivered a wide range of Work Related Learning events, providing students with valuable opportunities to develop their employability skills, engage with employers, and explore a variety of career pathways. Activities included Interview Ready Sessions, Employer Interviews, Business Speed Networking, Who Dunit, Careers Fairs, and Careers Super Days, all helping to build confidence, develop employability skills, and prepare young people for their future careers.



"Do what you're passionate about."
Pupil: Havant Academy - Business Speed Networking

"A great initiative that presents the vast options open to students going into further education!"
Corey Lane: South Hampshire College Group
Saint George Catholic School: Careers Super Day



Student feedback



“I am now feeling confident in looking into all educational and career pathways. I am now more knowledgeable in all my options and how I will achieve my goals.”
Pupil: Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Meeting



"My experience here has been totally amazing and inspiring. It’s given me a lot of different ideas on what I could do.”
Get Inspired Portsmouth
Pupil: The Petersfield School



“That there are a lot of options for my future career.”
Careers Super Day
Saint George Catholic College



"That no matter what, I will always push myself to the best of my ability and be the nicest and most helpful person when needed.”
Employer Interviews
Pupil: Weston Secondary School



“This experience has shown me different paths I never considered, leading to an interesting and inspiring session with EBP South.”
Inspiring STEM Basingstoke
Pupil: The Costello School

Thank you



To our partners, sponsors, supporters and business volunteers for helping to inspire and prepare the next generation prepare for the world of work.









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