



# Apprenticeships Newsletter

SHAPE TALENT

BUILD SUCCESS

INVEST IN THE  
FUTURE



## Liverpool Hope University joins the APAR Register

Liverpool Hope University was proud to celebrate a significant milestone during National Apprenticeships Week (10th - 16th February) as they confirmed their new Apprenticeship Provider status.

The University is embarking on an exciting new direction, offering apprenticeship courses in key areas such as **Youth Work, Physiotherapy, Teaching, and Social Work**. These new opportunities align with Hope University's commitment to improving social mobility, advancing social justice, and creating pathways for a more inclusive future.

Thurs  
**27**  
MARCH

Liverpool Hope University will be celebrating this milestone at their Apprenticeships Employer Launch Event on Thursday 27th March. If you are an employer in the Social Work, Youth Work, Teaching of Physiotherapy sector and are interested in attending, please email [apprenticeships@hope.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@hope.ac.uk) for further details. Let's celebrate!



## Apprenticeship Alerts!

What you need to know. > The latest updates impacting apprenticeships...

### Changes to Functional Skills Requirements - what does this mean?

During National Apprenticeships Week in February, The Department for Education (DfE) announced a significant relaxation of the functional skills for apprenticeships rules, a change that is expected to have a significant effect on the apprenticeship landscape.



In a significant policy shift, the DfE has removed the mandatory requirement for English and Maths functional skills as exit criteria for apprentices over the age of 19. This change is anticipated to improve apprenticeship completion rates, increase accessibility, and transform the apprenticeship system overall, removing barriers to completion.

## What are the changes?

**Under the existing rules**, apprentices are required to achieve level 1 functional skills in English and maths if they are on a level 2 apprenticeship and have not passed these subjects at GCSE. For those on level 3 or higher apprenticeships, achieving functional skills at level 2 is mandatory.

However, **the new rules** make these requirements optional for apprentices aged 19 and over. This opens up opportunities for many adults who previously avoided apprenticeships due to these requirements, allowing them to pursue apprenticeship programmes without this barrier.

## Why Is This Important?

**Removing Barriers** - Both employers and adult learners have been discouraged from pursuing apprenticeships due to the time and effort required to meet functional skills requirements. The new change removes this obstacle, addressing one of the key reasons for high dropout rates.

**Increasing Social Mobility** - Functional skills have posed a significant barrier to social mobility, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds who may have struggled with traditional academic subjects. By removing this obstacle, the new rules can help more individuals from diverse backgrounds successfully complete apprenticeships, improving their career prospects.

**Reducing time and costs** - The process of completing functional skills for apprenticeships can take several months, depending on the individual's starting level and the intensity of their training. The cost can vary, but it typically includes registration fees, assessment fees, and potentially additional costs for tutoring or study materials.

## Functional Skills are still important

While the relaxation of these requirements is expected to improve apprenticeship completion rates, there may be concerns about the overall skill levels of apprentices. The responsibility now lies with employers and training providers to ensure apprentices continue to receive adequate support to develop their literacy and numeracy skills, even if passing functional skills tests is no longer mandatory.

It is also important that employers and applicants understand that those applying to the Level 6 apprenticeship programmes at Liverpool Hope University are still expected to meet the minimum entry requirements for their specific course, many of which include functional skills.



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SUPERHEROES...”

Sue Cronin,  
Director of  
Apprenticeships



## ISE Conference

Our Director of Apprenticeship, Sue Cronin, and Business Development Manager, Kim Dean, attended an insightful conference hosted by the Institute of Student Employers in London this week, to expand their knowledge of the changing landscape in the workplace and the growth of Skills-Based Organisations. It was a wonderful opportunity for the team to participate in meaningful discussions with employers.

Sue commented, “A key takeaway for me was the importance of active engagement by employers throughout the apprentice's journey. The employer's interest in the apprentice's learning and support for their wellbeing are critical. A key person in this is the workplace mentor - they are a key influencer on the apprentice's development. They are superheroes often unrecognised for the significance of their role and something we will be supporting our Employer Partners to champion at Hope University.”



## Social Work Focus



## Safeguarding Greenlandic Children: A Collaborative Journey

Dan Allen, Principal Lecturer of Social Work at Liverpool Hope University, is currently involved in an exciting project, having been awarded a United Kingdom-Greenland Arctic Research Bursary. This unique opportunity allows Dan to partner with Associate Professor Bonnie Jensen at Ilisimatusarfik Grønlands Universitet (University of Greenland) on a critical project: SafeHarbour Greenland: Safely Reducing the Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care.

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Dan had the privilege of officially launching Safeharbour Greenland at a national conference in Nuuk this month. Among the attendees were two professional dancers, both with lived experience of social work involvement. To close the event, they performed a powerful dance piece that beautifully captured the essence of the team's work.

At the start of the piece, the dancers each hold a symbolic object. One carries a drum, representing power and dominance, held by the dancer embodying the social worker. The other cradles an igloo fire lamp, an ancestral object passed down from mother to daughter, symbolising the sanctity of life and the strength of womanhood. This dancer starts by portraying a mother, holding the lamp as a beacon of resilience and heritage.



[Watch Performance](#)

At Liverpool Hope University, we pride ourselves on the delivery of high quality education, with a staff body that is immersed in practice. Apprentices embarking on our Social Work programme will directly benefit from this knowledge and access to opportunity throughout the programme.

Dan has written a series of blogs, documenting his journey to Greenland and the project developments. You can read the first entry via the button below:

[Read more](#)

[View details of our Social Work Apprenticeship on our website.](#)



## Youth Work **Focus**



### Building the Future of Youth Work: Apprenticeships, Strategy, and Support for Tomorrow's Youth Workers

During National Apprenticeship Week (10th – 16th Feb) [The National Youth Agency \(NYA\)](#) celebrated the recruitment of 160 apprentices onto Level 3 and Level 6 Youth Work apprenticeships.



LEVEL 6 YOUTH  
WORKER DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIP  
IS ONE OF THE  
WAYS TO  
SAFEGUARD  
PATHWAYS INTO  
TRAINING

According to data from the [National Youth Sector Census and Workforce Survey \(2023\)](#), the NYA estimates that there are approximately 21,150 paid youth workers in England. Of these, only 4,350 hold a Level 6 qualification or above (professional youth worker status), while 4,200 are qualified to Level 2 or 3 (youth support worker). The [NYA's latest Workforce Survey \(2023\)](#) reveals that more than half of respondents have been working in the sector for over a decade, yet only slightly more than a third hold a Level 6 or degree-level qualification (NYA, 2025).

In this context, the Level 6 Youth Worker Degree Apprenticeship presents an invaluable opportunity to bring together formal education with the skills and knowledge apprentices gain through hands-on experience. Apprenticeships enable individuals to gain the necessary academic foundations alongside the development of their practical skills through real-world youth work settings. We are very clear of the impact youth workers can have, playing an essential role in supporting vulnerable young people, especially in these challenging times.

**The Level 6 Youth Worker Degree Apprenticeship is one of the ways to safeguard pathways into training for the development of skilled professionals** capable of addressing the unique needs of young people and their futures.

We are delighted to offer the Level 6 Youth Worker Degree Apprenticeship to add to the opportunities for JNC accredited Youth Work training at Liverpool Hope University. Over the last decade Liverpool Hope University has seen the graduation of over 100 fully qualified youth workers through the postgraduate provision. The teaching team are embedded within face to face practice, have a breadth of skills and knowledge of working with trainee youth workers and facilitating learning about the city, the subject and the sector through dynamic learning environments.

This is an exciting time for Youth Work. We have seen the development of proposals for a National Youth strategy with new energy for a re-invigorated youth work sector. [The UK National Youth Strategy \(2024\)](#) is a pivotal step toward shaping a more inclusive, skilled, and well-supported youth work sector. Its focus on developing competent and professional youth workers is essential, as they are key in empowering young people to overcome challenges and realise their potential. By emphasising the need for high-quality training, continuous professional development, and a robust framework for practice, the strategy recognises that youth workers can make lasting impacts on young lives.

**The strategy outlines;**

- Plans launched to create new National Youth Strategy by young people, for young people, as part of the government's mission to improve opportunity
- An initial £85 million from government and £100 million from the Dormant Assets Scheme committed to improving youth outcomes



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With an aim to segregate from a 'one a size fits all approach' the strategy looks to not only invest in young people but look to 'rebuild a thriving and sustainable sector' ([Gov.uk, 2024](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/youth-work-strategy)).

Which is why here at Liverpool Hope we seek to nurture a social justice value-based approach to youth work, and create supportive environments, ensuring that youth workers can thrive and be valued within their communities. It aligns with the need for a comprehensive and adaptable workforce that can respond to the diverse needs of today's young people, particularly in navigating the complexities of the modern world.

[View details of our Youth Work Apprenticeship on our website.](#)



## Physiotherapy **Focus**



Our Physiotherapist Degree Apprenticeship programme provides a unique blend of top-tier academic learning and hands-on practical experience. Tailored to equip apprentices with the skills and knowledge they need, this programme ensures they meet the rigorous standards set by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), setting them on a path to success in the physiotherapy field.

**A new video recently shared by the CSP highlights how successful physiotherapy apprenticeship models are transforming workforce development across England and Wales.**

This video explores how physiotherapy degree apprenticeships can help employers to unlock potential in their existing staff members or help them to attract new talent, and showcases how the apprenticeship model works successfully in a number of locations across England and Wales.



[Watch CSP Video](#)



[View details of our Physiotherapy Apprenticeship on our website.](#)



PHYSIOTHERAPY  
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## Teaching Focus



Liverpool Hope University BA QTS students had a wonderful opportunity this month when Dr Alistair Bryce Clegg, international EYFS Consultant from ABC Does joined us to host training sessions across all three year groups. It was an insightful session that has equipped the students involved with lots of new knowledge and techniques.

Apprentices enrolling on the newly launched degree apprenticeship programme for Primary Teaching, will have access to similar opportunities to enhance their knowledge and experience throughout the time of their course, as well as benefitting from the experiences and skills developed through their place of work. The knowledge and skills they develop will positively impact their day-to-day practice as they develop throughout the course, helping them to make a difference, transform lives and shape the future.

[View details of our Teaching Apprenticeship on our website.](#)



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Kate Brown, Marketing Coordinator

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