

# Webinar: Internships Work Year 4 - Priorities, Expectations and Strengthening Delivery

10:30am, Wednesday 7 May 2025

## 1. Programme Extension

Funding has been confirmed for a fourth year of Internships Works (2025/26). Each authority will receive a grant of £21,307.18 to **continue activities** and **build in sustainability into their local offer and employment forums**. This will involve:

- Regional lead support for local authorities, focusing on:
  - SEND Employment Forums
  - Follow on support

Most regional leads will stay the same - details to come of changes.

- Employer engagement and facilitation by the **Employer Ambassador Network**.
- **60 peer reviews** using the Supported Internships Quality Assurance Framework ([SIQAF](#)).
- **Employment forums**, with a focus on follow on support and how Employer Ambassadors can be used to build relationships with businesses.
- **400 job coach training places**, prioritising local authorities that had limited training uptake and providers identified as needing support through SIQAF.
- **Quarterly reports** remain the same.
- **Quarterly webinars** and an **end of year conference**.

A formal announcement from the Department for Education is expected soon, after which the extension can be shared publicly and with providers.

## 2. Grant information

- Grant letters will be sent by **Friday 16th May 2025**.
- To receive payment by the end of June, local authorities must return signed grant letters by **Monday 9th June 2025**.
- To access the grant, local authority leads need to
  - Complete their grant claim form which will be provided by NDTi
  - Return any outstanding forms from the 2024/25 period.
- The 12 non-EHCP pilot areas will continue to receive funding and will be contacted directly.

### 3. Research

- The Department for Education has published an interim evaluation by Cooper Gibson showing improvements in the quality of intern placements with employers and interns progressing into employment. You can find the report here: [Supported internship programme: evaluation of investment - GOV.UK](#)
- Research will continue on the pilot sites but not on the main programme as 3 years of data has been collected.
- Cooper Gibson has launched a sported internships costing survey for providers. Please remind providers to complete this 10-minute survey.

### 4. For more information

- If you have concerns reach out to your regional leads, you can find contact details here: [Internships Work: NDTi Regional Leads](#).
- If you are waiting to hear information about your new regional lead you can contact [Slgrants@ndti.org.uk](mailto:Slgrants@ndti.org.uk).
- You can find resources on our webpage [Internships Work: All Tools & Resources](#)
- There is a Lunch and Learn for providers to find out more on 4th June, 12:30 – 13:30. To register, please click: [Registration](#)

### 5. Questions and Answers

#### 5.1. Can grant funding cover job coach training?

This is currently being reviewed by the Department for Education.

#### 5.2. Will the cost saving analysis include wider system savings (e.g. NHS, local authority)?

The cost saving analysis tool survey should provide a range of how much internships cost. It has had to be cut back so it might not go into depth about the overall savings.

#### 5.3. What is the average expected for element 3 for project search programmes and for supported internships in general?

Department for Education have taken this on notice and will update. There is potential that this will vary. Cooper Gibsons work on cost will also provide information around this.

#### 5.4. How can we expand supported internships if local colleges are full?

Local authorities aren't expected to expand significantly this year – the focus is on sustaining current provision. However, suggestions include:

- Working with smaller training providers.

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- Linking with Connect to Work.
- Using study programmes to deliver supported internships.

Some colleges run 5–6 programmes – your regional lead can help identify examples.

### **5.5. Can local authorities use grant funding to commission a third party to do some of this work?**

This is given some local authorities no longer have a person in the role due to the gap in funding and are looking to avoid 2-3 months of recruitment.

There are specific rules on consultancy in the terms of the grant. If you are unsure, email [Slgrants@ndti.org.uk](mailto:Slgrants@ndti.org.uk) with details of your query.

### **5.6. Given follow on support is a focus for this year four extension, can the consortium support local authorities to share ideas?**

Yes. We will be running webinars to share good practice and get case studies.

### **5.7. What can the grant be used for?**

Any activity to support the aims of the programme. For example:

- staffing costs
- celebration and promotional events
- engaging young people, parents and carers
- developing resources
- developing new supported internships
- exploring vocational profiling
- supporting SEMH needs of interns

If you are unsure of something you are putting into your grant letter, speak to your regional leads or email [Slgrants@ndti.org.uk](mailto:Slgrants@ndti.org.uk). This will help avoiding any delay of your funding.

### **5.8. What will the process be for the pilot sites to apply for funding?**

The regional leads are meeting with each pilot site and will discuss in detail the options for funding this year.

### **5.9. Who should we send case studies to?**

You can send case studies to regional lead, or [Slgrants@ndti.org.uk](mailto:Slgrants@ndti.org.uk).

### **5.10. Can Connect to Work be used alongside supported internships?**

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Young people cannot be on Connect to Work and then do a supported internship. However, if they have done a supported internship and not successfully moved into employment you can refer them to Connect to Work.

We hope to have a webinar on this topic to support local authorities navigating this.

#### **5.11. Can we have the list of employer ambassadors?**

DFN PS, is working with current ambassadors to connect them with local SEND Employment forums.

#### **5.12. Any updates on Access to Work support?**

We hope to have a webinar on this topic to support local authorities navigating this.

#### **5.13. Some good potential providers aren't ESFA-funded. Can we still use them to expand options beyond college-based provision?**

Supported Internships are study programmes which are funded via the 16 to 19 participation budget. Education providers need to have a 16-19 allocation budget to deliver study programmes. They may subcontract provision so long as they follow the rules as set out in paragraph 6 of [Advice: funding rules for 16 to 19 provision 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

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