

NEXT STEPS BORDERS

Working together through the Borders Career Collaborative, organisations from across the Scottish Borders have created this guide to make it easier to find the right support.

With so many services available, there's something to help almost everyone take their next step.

Find the right support by simply clicking on any organisation or service in the table below to jump directly to that section and discover more about the support available and who it's for.

ORGANISATION	SERVICE	WHO IT'S FOR
Borders Additional Needs Group	Branching Forwards	Suitable for neurodivergent people, and anyone aged 16 and over who is keen to explore new opportunities.
Borders Book Festival	Bloom Media Story Lab Programme	Young people aged 16 to 25 across the Scottish Borders who want to develop skills and experience in media and the wider creative industries.
Borders College	Care Aware	Care experienced students and student carers who require support to access, succeed in, and progress throughout their learner journey.
Borders College	Rural Skills	Residents of Scottish Borders aged 16 to 67 who are experiencing barriers to employment, including those affected by mental health challenges, disabilities, child poverty, or young parenthood.
Borders College	Skills for Work and Study	Anyone who is unemployed or economically inactive and needs support to build confidence, develop core and digital skills, and progress into employment or further learning.
Borders College	Work Ready Visitor Economy	Adults living in the Scottish Borders who are unemployed or economically inactive and need support to build the skills, confidence and experience to progress into hospitality and visitor economy roles.
Borders Community Action	Volunteering & Employability	Third Sector Organisations generating volunteering and employment opportunities or those supporting people into employment and/or skills development.
Department of Work and Pensions	Jobcentre Plus	Anyone claiming UK government benefits with specific support for under 25s and over 50s.
DYW Borders	Connecting Education and Employers	School age students, schools, colleges, employers and partners looking to develop skills, careers and workforce opportunities.
Impact Arts	Impactful Parents	Parents with dependents, from communities in and around Eyemouth and Galashiels, who are unemployed and lack confidence in progressing to meaningful employment.
Newcastleton Trust	Newcastleton Employability Support	Anyone aged 16 and over in the Newcastleton area who are unemployed / underemployed, facing barriers like low confidence, limited skills, or access issues, seeking support into work or training.

ORGANISATION	SERVICE	WHO IT'S FOR
NHS Borders	Employability Wellbeing Support	People aged 16 and over who are ready to engage and are registered on the No One Left Behind programme.
R-Evolve	Train, Work, Job!	Young people aged 16 to 24 who need support to engage with education, training or employment, particularly those experiencing barriers such as poverty, neurodivergence, challenging life experiences or low educational attainment.
Recovery Coaching	Launchpad	People aged 16 and over living in the Scottish Borders who are facing barriers to employment and need support to build confidence, develop skills and move towards work.
Scottish Borders Council	Borders Family Firm	Individuals between 16 to 26 years who are care experienced.
Scottish Borders Council	Community Learning and Development (CLD)	People of all ages across the Scottish Borders, including children, young people, adults, families and community groups seeking support to build skills, confidence and opportunities.
Scottish Borders Council	DFN Project SEARCH	People between 16 to 29 years with an additional support need and/or disability.
Scottish Borders Council	Parents Employability Support	Parents and carers living in the Scottish Borders who are facing barriers to employment, education or wellbeing.
Scottish Borders Council	Pre-Employability Support	Anyone in the Scottish Borders facing barriers to education, training and employment.
Scottish Borders Council	Specialist Supported Employment	People of working age who are experiencing longer term barriers to finding and sustaining paid employment.
Skills Development Scotland	Career Information, Advice and Guidance	People of all ages across the Scottish Borders needing career guidance, employability support, or help to access education, training or work.
South of Scotland Enterprise		People aged 16 and over including underrepresented groups (including women, young people, ND people and people with disability).
Stable Life	Equine Connections	Young people aged 16 to 18 years referred through the Youth Justice Team and Community Police.
TD1 Youth Hub	TD1 Pathways	Young people aged 16 to 26 who are seeking employment or support to help them re-engage with work, education or training.
Tweed Foundation	TweedStart	People aged 16 and over in the Scottish Borders who are facing barriers to employment, education or training.
Works+	Your Future Starts Here	People aged 16 and over who live in the Scottish Borders.


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BORDERS ADDITIONAL NEEDS GROUP — Branching Forwards

Not sure what comes next? Whether you have a clear goal or are still exploring your options, Branching Forwards gives you the opportunity to try new experiences, develop skills and build confidence.

You'll be supported to discover your strengths, make connections and explore pathways that match your interests and ambitions. Our support is flexible and designed to work at a pace that works for you.

 info@bordersadditionalneeds.org

 Facebook



WHO IT'S FOR

Suitable for neurodivergent people, and anyone aged 16 and over who is keen to explore new opportunities.

 [Watch video](#)



BORDERS BOOK FESTIVAL — Bloom Media Story Lab Programme

Bloom Media is a creative media employability programme embedded within Borders Book Festival. Delivered across a series of hands-on sessions, it supports young people to develop practical skills in filmmaking, journalism, and digital content production. Participants work with experienced media professionals, access industry networks, and produce real content for a live audience.

The programme builds confidence and employability, with progression routes into further education, training, and employment in the media and wider creative industries.

 07572 971238

 bloom@bordersbookfestival.org

 bordersbookfestival.org



WHO IT'S FOR

Young people aged 16 to 25 across the Scottish Borders who want to develop skills and experience in media and the wider creative industries.



BORDERS COLLEGE — Care Aware

College can bring additional challenges when you're care experienced or have unpaid caring responsibilities. Through Care Aware you'll have a named contact who understands your situation and can offer advice, practical help, and someone to talk to. We'll support you with applying, settling in, managing challenges, and planning your future. We can also guide you through funding and link you with other helpful services. Our aim is to create a safe, supportive environment where you feel confident, included, and able to succeed.

 01896 662516
(student advice centre)

 careaware@borderscollege.ac.uk

 borderscollege.ac.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Care experienced students and student carers who require support to access, succeed in, and progress throughout their learner journey.



BORDERS COLLEGE — Rural Skills

Gain practical experience and develop skills valued by rural employers through hands-on training in tractor driving, ATV operation and welding. Alongside learning new skills, you'll build confidence, teamwork and communication skills.

You'll also receive a Borders College certificate of attendance to strengthen your CV and support your next step towards employment or further training.

 07500127872

 enquiries@borderscollege.ac.uk

 borderscollege.ac.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Residents of Scottish Borders aged 16 to 67 who are experiencing barriers to employment, including those affected by mental health challenges, disabilities, child poverty, or young parenthood.

 [Watch video](#)



BORDERS COLLEGE — Skills for Work and Study

Develop the essential skills employers and colleges are looking for. Through supportive learning and practical activities, you'll strengthen your communication, numeracy and digital skills while building confidence and gaining recognised qualifications.

The programme provides a positive route into further learning, training and employment.

 01896 662566

 enquiries@borderscollege.ac.uk

 borderscollege.ac.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Anyone who is unemployed or economically inactive and needs support to build confidence, develop core and digital skills, and progress into employment or further learning.



BORDERS COLLEGE — Work Ready Visitor Economy

Interested in a career in hospitality or the visitor economy? You'll gain practical skills, industry-recognised qualifications and valuable work experience while receiving support to overcome barriers that may be holding you back.

The programme is designed to help you become job ready and progress into employment, further training or college study.

 01896 662538

 enquiries@borderscollege.ac.uk

 borderscollege.ac.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Adults living in the Scottish Borders who are unemployed or economically inactive and need support to build the skills, confidence and experience to progress into hospitality and visitor economy roles.



BORDERS COMMUNITY ACTION — Volunteering & Employability

Volunteering can be a valuable route towards employment. Borders Community Action works with charities and community organisations to strengthen opportunities that can help you develop skills, gain experience and build confidence.



WHO IT'S FOR

Third Sector Organisations generating volunteering and employment opportunities or those supporting people into employment and/or skills development.

[Watch video](#)

0300 1247522

info@borderscommunityaction.org.uk
volunteering@borderscommunityaction.org.uk

borderscommunityaction.org.uk



Department for Work & Pensions

DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND PENSIONS — Job Centre Plus

Looking for work or needing financial support while you find employment? Jobcentre Plus can help you access benefits, explore job opportunities and connect with training and employment support.

Our Work Coaches can help you understand your options, identify your next steps and access the support available to help you move closer to work.



WHO IT'S FOR

Anyone claiming UK government benefits with specific support for under 25s and over 50s.

0800 055 6688

gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus



DYW BORDERS — Connecting Education and Employers

Exploring career options is easier when you can see what's possible. DYW Borders creates opportunities for you to connect with employers, experience workplaces and develop skills for the future.

Through activities, events and careers information, you'll gain a better understanding of the opportunities available and the routes you can take to achieve your goals.



WHO IT'S FOR

School-age students, schools, colleges, employers and partners looking to develop skills, careers and workforce opportunities.

07767 380893

dyw@dywborders.co.uk

dywborders.co.uk



IMPACTFUL ARTS — Impactful Parents

Returning to work after time away can feel daunting. Impactful Parents is a fun, creative, social space for parents like you who need support and guidance about how to get back into work. There is no requirement to be 'artistic' or 'good at art'.

All activities are fun, craft-based, and often making small items for the home or your children. You will also take part in wellbeing activities, consider your strengths and interests in different career paths, prepare your CV and develop skills for interview. You will also take part in 1:1 meetings where you will co-design a plan and will get practical support to help you find a positive progression pathway.

0141 575 3001

Fin.russell@impactarts.co.uk

impactarts.co.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Parents with dependents, from communities in and around Eyemouth and Galashiels, who are unemployed and lack confidence in progressing to meaningful employment.



NEWCASTLETON TRUST — Newcastleton Employability Support

Sometimes a little support can make all the difference. You'll receive friendly, one-to-one support to help build confidence, develop skills and overcome challenges.

Support is flexible, locally delivered and tailored to your goals, helping you explore opportunities and move towards training, volunteering or employment.

013873 75908

admin@newcastletoncommunitytrust.co.uk

livenewcastleton.com



WHO IT'S FOR

Anyone aged 16+ who are unemployed / underemployed, facing barriers like low confidence, limited skills, or access issues, seeking support into work or training in Newcastleton or surrounding area.



NHS BORDERS — Employability Wellbeing Support

If you are engaging with Employability Services and are experiencing barriers due to poor mental health the NHS Borders Employability Wellbeing Support could help.

We offer emotional support and a range of holistic health and wellbeing 1:1 interventions. Support for loneliness, isolation, sleep problems, low self-esteem, mild anxiety, stress, worry and low mood and CBT techniques for challenging unhelpful thoughts.

01896 824 502

wellbeing@borders.scot.nhs.uk

nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

People aged 16 and over who are ready to engage, are working, and are registered on the No One Left Behind programme.

TRAIN. WORK. JOB!

R-EVOLVE — Train, Work, Job!

Train, Work, Job! is a programme designed around the expectations of a real workplace while receiving the support you need to succeed.

You'll develop practical skills, build confidence and work towards recognised qualifications, helping you progress into work experience, further training and employment opportunities within your chosen area.

 07834000893

 aegir@r-evolve.uk

 r-evolve.org.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Young people aged 16 to 24 who need support to engage with education, training or employment, particularly those experiencing barriers such as poverty, neurodivergence, challenging life experiences or low educational attainment.

 [Watch video](#)



RECOVERY COACHING — Launchpad

Launchpad is an 11-week personal growth and employability programme that could help you build confidence, improve wellbeing, develop life and work skills, and take positive steps towards training, education or employment.

Through group sessions, practical activities and individual support, we support participants to create personal action plans and identify realistic progression pathways.

 rod@recoverycoachingscotland.org

 recoverycoachingscotland.org



WHO IT'S FOR

People aged 16 and over living in the Scottish Borders who are facing barriers to employment and need support to build confidence, develop skills and move towards work.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL — Borders Family Firm

Moving towards education, training or employment can feel easier when you have the right support around you.

Borders Family Firm provides care-experienced people with one dedicated support worker who will work alongside you, helping you explore opportunities, build confidence and progress towards a positive and sustainable future.

 01835 824000

 employability@scotborders.gov.uk

 scotborders.gov.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Individuals between 16 – 26 years who are care experienced.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL — Community Learning and Development (CLD)

Whatever your goal, Community Learning and Development can help you take positive steps forward. Whether you want to build confidence, gain qualifications, develop skills, find volunteering, support your family or become more involved in your community, you'll receive support tailored to your needs.

Together, we'll help you identify opportunities and work towards what matters most to you.

 01835 824000

 cld@scotborders.gov.uk

 scotborders.gov.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

People of all ages across the Scottish Borders, including children, young people, adults, families and community groups seeking support to build skills, confidence and opportunities.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL — DFN Project Search

Supported by a tutor and job coach, you'll complete three real life work placements with local employers while also developing your independent living skills and gaining qualifications.

The programme is designed to help individuals with additional needs to move into sustainable employment and is delivered in partnership with NHS Borders and Borders College.

 01835 824000

 employability@scotborders.gov.uk

 scotborders.gov.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

People between 16 – 29 years with an additional support need and/or disability.



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL — Parents Employability Support

Balancing family life with employment, education or training can be challenging. Through person-centred support from a dedicated Key Worker, you'll receive help to build skills, gain qualifications, access opportunities and improve financial wellbeing.

Support is tailored to your family's circumstances and focused on helping you achieve positive, long-term and sustainable outcomes.

 0300 100 1800
ask for employability service

 employability@scotborders.gov.uk

 scotborders.gov.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Parents and carers living in the Scottish Borders who are facing barriers to employment, education or wellbeing.

 [Watch video](#)



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL — Pre-Employability Support

Everyone's journey into employment looks different. You'll work with a dedicated Key Worker who can help you build confidence, gain experience and overcome barriers along the way.

Support is tailored to your circumstances and delivered at a pace that works for you, helping you move towards education, training or employment, and support once you get there. We cover all the Borders and can meet you where you are.

 01835 824000

 employability@scotborders.gov.uk

 scotborders.gov.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Anyone in the Scottish Borders facing barriers to education, training and employment.

 [Watch video](#)



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL — Specialist Supported Employment

Finding and keeping a job can feel challenging when additional barriers are involved. You'll receive personalised support, from a dedicated Employability Worker to assist with job searching, applications, CVs and interviews, as well as ongoing support once you're in work, where needed.

We also provide opportunities to gain accredited and industry recognised qualifications which will help build your confidence, develop skills and strengthen your future career prospects.

 01835 824000

 employability@scotborders.gov.uk

 scotborders.gov.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

People of working age who are experiencing longer term barriers to finding and sustaining paid employment.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND — Career Information, Advice and Guidance

Whether you're looking for work, thinking about a career change, returning to learning, or unsure about your next step, Skills Development Scotland is here to help. Our qualified Careers Advisers provide free, impartial support tailored to you.

We can help you explore your options, build confidence, develop your skills, improve your CV, prepare for interviews, and connect you with opportunities in education, training and employment. Whatever your starting point, we'll work with you to create a plan for your future.

 01450 372724 (Hawick)

 01896 754884 (Galashiels)

 myworldofwork.co.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

People of all ages across the Scottish Borders needing career guidance, employability support, or help to access education, training or work.

 [Watch video](#)



SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ENTERPRISE

Thinking about starting a business or becoming self-employed? Whether you have an idea, are just getting started or already run a business, you'll receive tailored advice, coaching and practical support.

We'll help you develop your ideas, overcome challenges and build the confidence needed to take your business forward.

 0300 304 8888

 clienthub@sose.scot

 southofscotlandenterprise.com



WHO IT'S FOR

16+ including underrepresented groups (including women, young people, ND people and people with disability).



STABLE LIFE — Equine Connections

Equine Connections offers a safe, welcoming space where you can build confidence, learn new skills and take positive steps towards your future. Through working with horses, supported volunteering and access to counselling support, we help young people improve wellbeing, develop routine and gain practical experience in a calm outdoor environment.

We work at your pace and focus on building trust, confidence and skills that can help you move towards volunteering, training, education or employment.

 01750 32277

 magspowell@stablelife.org.uk

 stablelife.org.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Young people aged 16 to 18 years referred through the Youth Justice Team and Community Police.



TD1 YOUTH HUB — TD1 Pathways

If you're aged 16–26 and feeling stuck, unsure about work, training or your next step, TD1 Pathways can support you at your pace. You'll get one-to-one support from a trusted worker who will help you build confidence, develop skills, and work through barriers that might be getting in the way.

You can access support with CVs, applications, interviews, qualifications, volunteering, and finding work or training opportunities. There are also chances to gain real experience through youth work traineeships and practical activities.

 01896 752 442

 chas@td1.org.uk

 td1.org.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

Young people aged 16 to 26 who are seeking employment or support to help them re-engage with work, education or training.



TWEED FOUNDATION — TweedStart

If you're struggling to access work or training, TweedStart can help you take the next step. We offer practical, hands-on learning in outdoor and environmental activities, helping you build skills, confidence and experience in a supportive setting.

You can gain recognised qualifications and get help moving into volunteering, further training or employment. We work at your pace and understand the challenges of living in rural areas, low confidence, or limited opportunities.

Whether you're starting out, changing direction, or getting back into work, we'll support you to develop skills, open up new pathways, and move towards stable, meaningful employment.

 01896 848294

 bmccallum@tweedfoundation.org.uk

 rivertweed.org.uk



WHO IT'S FOR

People aged 16 and over in the Scottish Borders who are facing barriers to employment, education or training.



WORKS+ — Your Future Starts Here

Taking the next step can feel challenging, especially when barriers get in the way. Works+ offers personalised support to help you build confidence, develop skills and move towards employment, education, training or volunteering.

Support includes CV writing, job searching, interview preparation, and access to training opportunities. We also offer wellbeing support to help you achieve your goals and reach your potential.

 enquiries@worksplus.works

 worksplus.works



WHO IT'S FOR

People aged 16 and over who live in the Scottish Borders.

 [Watch video](#)

Whatever your next step looks like, we hope this guide helps you find the right support to achieve your goals.