



May opportunities for adults 25+ in Plymouth!

Plymouth is a city of opportunity. Whether you are at a crossroads because you are facing redundancy, or transitioning from HM Armed Forces, you're thinking about returning to work after some time away, or even if you are considering training and education options and looking to gain experience to find your dream job or career, our goal is to help you access the local support on offer.

Below are some of the latest opportunities – including some great events that you can attend for free! If anything catches your eye, simply get in touch by emailing skillslaunchpad@plymouth.gov.uk.

You can also help yourself to localised information, advice and guidance through our Adult Hub Resource Bank here: www.skillslaunchpadplym.co.uk/adult-hub-resource-bank which includes specific support for Plymouth's veterans and the military community, those facing redundancy, career changers and adults aged 50+.

Weekly Delivery

Each week at Skills Launchpad Plymouth brings a brand-new opportunity to move your future forward. Whether you're exploring careers in construction and the built environment, health and social care, hospitality, retail and tourism, or looking across wider sectors, there's something for everyone.

Discover what's happening each day and take your next step with confidence.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

at Cobourg House, Mayflower Street

MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	CONNECT TO WORK Funded by UK Government
FRIDAY	

Sector Drop-in Sessions

For anyone interested in Plymouth's growth sectors (the ones where there are lots of job opportunities), Skills Launchpad Plymouth hosts weekly sector drop-in sessions. Join our experienced sector co-ordinators for practical advice and guidance, and to discuss the latest skills, training, and job opportunities.

As part of our relocation, we have updated our delivery of sector sessions, these will run as follows:

- Mondays are focused on childcare, health and social care
- Tuesdays are focused on construction and the built environment.
- Fridays are focused on Hospitality retail and tourism.

Adult Hub – Support for 25+ at Skills Launchpad Plymouth

If you're aged 25 or over and looking for work, facing redundancy, changing careers, or part of the armed forces community, support is available to help you take your next step.

You can explore our online Resource Bank for free tools, advice and guidance on CVs, job searching, training opportunities, career changes and building confidence. It's available anytime to help you move forward at your own pace.

We also encourage you to connect with our sector skills partners: Building Plymouth, Caring Plymouth and Welcoming Plymouth, who offer tailored support, local opportunities and expert guidance across key industries in the city. Whatever your next step looks like, there's support available to help you progress with confidence.

National Careers Service Employability Workshop – Online

Join Ian from the National Careers Service for an employability workshop designed to support you with CV writing, interviews, and the job application process.

During the session, you will cover:

- Application processes – how to tailor applications to you
- The do's and don'ts of job applications
- Job boards and agencies – how to use them effectively
- CVs – what makes an effective CV, including format, structure, and tailoring
- AI and ATS tracking – what this is and how to manage it
- Cover letters – templates and what is required
- Online application forms – how to enhance your chances of success
- The STAR method for interviews
- The National Careers Service website and how it can support you
- Abintegro – interview preparation and AI-supported resources
- Digital training and development (CPD) – why this is important

When: Tuesday 5 May and Tuesday 2 June

Time: 10am to 12pm

Where: Skills Launchpad Plymouth, First Floor, Cobourg House, Mayflower Street

Sign up for the workshop here: [Information and advice workshop registration - CV's/AI/Interviews and more.](#)

Further Education

Upcoming events

City College Plymouth – Open Days and Career Events 2026

City College Plymouth is one of the region's leading further education providers, offering a wide range of vocational courses, apprenticeships, adult learning and career-focused training. Their open days are ideal for prospective students of all ages, whether you're finishing school, thinking about retraining, or exploring new career opportunities.

- **Open Day (10am to 1pm) - Saturday 9 May 2026**

Another great opportunity to explore the college's facilities, support services and course options if you're planning your next step after school or thinking about further skills development.

What to Expect at City College Plymouth Events:

- Information sessions and one-to-one advice on courses and entry requirements
- Tours of the campus and vocational facilities
- Support on funding, applications and career pathways
- Opportunities to meet employers and explore apprenticeships

[Click here](#) for more information and to register your attendance

Arts University Plymouth – Open Days 2026

If you're exploring creative-focused higher education, Arts University Plymouth offers excellent opportunities to visit campus, explore its specialist facilities, and speak directly with lecturers, current students and admissions staff. These events are ideal for students considering undergraduate, postgraduate or foundation diploma study in arts, design, media and related fields.

- **Open Day – Saturday 20 June**

Join the admissions team on the on-campus open day and explore the state-of-the-art facilities, talk to expert staff and tour local affordable accommodation.

Register your attendance [here](#)

University of Plymouth – Open Days and Events 2026

Thinking about studying at the University of Plymouth? These events are great opportunities to explore campus life, meet lecturers and students, get course information, and ask questions about careers and future pathways.

- **Undergraduate Open Day – Saturday 20 June 2026**

Another full day for prospective undergraduates to visit, attend talks, and discover what it's like to study and live in Plymouth.

Highlights of attending:

- Guided campus tours and facility tours
- Course talks and subject-specific advice
- Insight from current students about study and careers
- Opportunities to ask about applications, finance and accommodation

[Click here](#) for more information and to register your attendance

University of St Mark and St John (Plymouth Marjon University) – Open Days and Events 2026

Plymouth Marjon University (officially the University of St Mark and St John) is a welcoming, student-centred university offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Its open days and experience events give you a chance to explore the campus, meet lecturers and students, and find out about courses, careers and student life.

- **Full Open Day - Saturday 20 June 2026**

The main campus Open Day of the year where prospective students can tour facilities, attend course talks, meet staff and explore accommodation and support services.

What Happens at a Marjon Open Day:

- Campus tours and facility walkthroughs
- Subject-specific talks and Q&A sessions with lecturers
- Insight into student life, clubs and societies
- Advice on admissions, support services and career pathways

[Click here](#) for more information and to register your attendance

Achievement Training

Join the team at Achievement Training to explore career options and learn about the courses available. Meet tutors, explore facilities and learn more about the courses and career pathways: [Open Days - Achievement Training](#)

Access Pre-Employability Support

We work with great organisations that support adults to prepare for work or changing careers, so if you would like some impartial careers advice and guidance, support with your CV, cover letters and/or interview prep, we can help.

City College Plymouth

City College Plymouth is inviting aspiring public service professionals (aged 19+) to enrol on a *free* two-week pre-employment course designed to prepare individuals for rewarding careers in sectors such as the Police, Prison Service, and Ministry of Defence Civil Service.

Course Highlights:

- Personal and Social Development
- Conflict Management
- Mock Interviews
- Experienced Tutor Support

When: Weekdays

Timings: 9am to 4pm various each day (with breaks)

Location: City College Plymouth, Kings Road

[Click here to register.](#)

For more information, email adulthoodeducation@cityplym.ac.uk.

On Course Southwest

Get job-ready with “Work Ready”, a tailored suite of courses for adult learners covering everything from CV writing, interview skills and customer-service qualifications, through to life-skills like budgeting and confidence-building. Whether you’re returning to work or looking to make a career change, this is your launchpad to succeed.

Explore the full range of courses and take the next step today.

[Click here](#) to find out more and register

Salvation Army

Working alongside job seekers, the team at the Salvation Army work to understand the needs and goals of the individual to support with future steps and explore training opportunities to guide them into work. Participants benefit from 1:1 support and group workshops enabling them to use resources that best fit their needs.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the service and to get involved.

National Careers Service

For help preparing for jobs, you may like to get started by booking a free appointment with the local National Careers Service team.

Barbora and Ian support the Skills Launchpad Plymouth team in providing face-to-face support for anyone 19+. They can help you to make decisions on learning, training, and work at ALL stages of your career and best of all... it's FREE!

[Click here](#) to find out more about the service and to get involved.

Gifted Women Employability Programme

The local team at Gifted Women are all about unlocking doors to employment for women overcoming multiple disadvantages and rebuilding their lives.

If you feel unable to access employment because of your life experiences and would like to get into work but aren't sure where to start, this charity is able to support with creating CVs, supportive work experience placements through their collaboration with employers in Plymouth and Tavistock.

To find out more email Emily at emily@giftedwomen.co.uk

Digital Natives with Real Ideas

Real Ideas is offering a fantastic chance for anyone aged 18+ and living in Plymouth to gain digital skills - for FREE! As part of their Devonport Futures Real Pathways offer, Digital Natives supports the exploration of digital skills, content creation, digital essentials and exploring progression and employment opportunities.

Hosted at Market Hall on Duke Street in Devonport, the Digital Natives Programme is a collection of sessions, which will be fun and boost your employability. Being set at Market Hall, the home of Real Ideas' immersive 3D dome, it also includes an introduction to 360 filmmaking and VR!

Key details:

Who? Anyone aged 18+ living in Plymouth (PL1 to PL9)

What? Six days of digital skills sessions spread over two days a week for three weeks

Cost? FREE! *This programme is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund*

How? Email yes@realideas.org or [register your interest here](#)

Upskill through training or education

It's never too late to learn new skills. Whether your motivation is to get a job or start a hobby, Plymouth has several providers offering adult education - and the courses are quite often free.

Courses range from business and coding to hair and beauty, animal care, sport and fitness, cooking, and some can even help you to access university-level study.

Training delivered in person

To get started take a look at short courses with [Achievement Training](#), [City College Plymouth, On Course South West](#), [WEA](#), [Skilltec Training](#) and [South Devon College](#), as these are just a few of the providers delivering courses face-to-face throughout the year.

[Shekinah](#) can also help with short courses around wellbeing including opportunities to work through anger and stress issues, and employability related skills such as English, maths and using computers, as well as mentoring and carpentry. Find out more about their Learning Exchange Programmes, [here](#).

Skills Bootcamps are intensive nine-week skills accelerator courses, which will enable adults to build up specific sector skills and fast track to an interview with a local employer. They are currently delivered locally by [City College Plymouth](#), [On Course South West](#), [BIT Training](#), [Bootcamps - Train 4 Tomorrow](#) and [Building Growth South West](#). Or if you are looking to engage online, [The Skills Network](#) offers opportunities.

Skills Bootcamps cover specialisms including cyber security, project management, digital marketing, early years education, welding, green skills and retrofit and more.

The King's Trust (formerly named *The Prince's Trust*)

From 'Get Into' and 'Get Started' programmes to help you explore job opportunities in particular sectors, to support to start your own business and more, **if you are aged up to 30** and not in full-time training or employment, the King's Trust can help.

King's Trust: Get started with Animal Care

The King's Trust is partnering with Dartmoor Zoo to offer a **free Get Started with Animal Care course**. Learn from industry experts, gain invaluable hands-on experience, and get a real taste of what it's like to work in animal care.

On the course, you will:

- Learn about animal training
- Care for reptiles and invertebrates
- Take part in enrichment making and enclosure design
- Gain fascinating insight into animal behaviour and research

Taster Date: 18 June 2026

Course Dates: 22 June to 26 June 2026

Express interest by: 8 June 2026

Location: Dartmoor Zoo, Plymouth

Eligibility criteria: Aged 16 to 30 and not in full-time employment, education, or training.

Interested? Contact: hannah.ainsworth@kingstrust.org.uk or 07484 078892

[Click here](#) to find out more about other upcoming courses.

Training delivered online

Several of our partners also offer free online courses, so why not gain a new qualification or skill from the comfort of your own home?

Courses range from computer essentials, professional development, and digital design and marketing to business admin, specialist care courses, and interview skills.

Get started with the links below:

- [Achievement Training online courses](#)
- [City College Plymouth online courses](#)
- [Clarion online courses](#)
- [National Careers Service online courses](#)
- [On Course South West online courses](#)
- [Skilltec Training online courses](#)
- [WEA adult learning courses](#)

Brush up on your English and maths

If you haven't already achieved a grade C/4 or above in GCSE English or maths (or a Level 2 pass), you can train for free! These qualifications can make a big difference, helping you access better jobs, improve confidence, and increase earning potential.

In Plymouth, local providers offer flexible options:

- study as part of a full-time course or alongside an apprenticeship
- complete English and maths as standalone courses – both evening and daytime courses are available
- learn online from home (please note online courses typically have a cost).

Ready to boost your skills? Ask us how to get started today

Apply for jobs

There are many reasons why you might be looking for a new job, but the great news is that there are thousands of jobs available, right now, in Plymouth.

For advice on where to apply and things to consider, [click here](#).

Explore self-employment

Have you always dreamt of starting your own business? It can be both an exciting adventure and daunting, especially if you have additional barriers to overcome, such as disability or being long-term unemployed.

We have added lots of information and links to support you in setting up your own business in our Resource Bank [here](#) and we also suggest checking out the upcoming courses with the [National Careers Service, On Course South West, the King's Trust](#) and [City College Plymouth](#) that can help you with starting your own business.

Apply for apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs with training. They start all year round and are not just for school leavers! You learn, gain a nationally recognised qualification, and study from Level 2 right up to degree-level, depending on the role you are working towards.

If you are worried about the financial side of an Apprenticeship salary, you could be entitled to claim universal credit to top you up, so don't rule it out as an option.

In the latest edition of Plymouth's exclusive apprenticeship bulletin, there are hundreds of apprenticeship vacancies. Find out more [here](#)

Access mental health support or boost your confidence

Improving Lives Plymouth

This is a great support organisation offering various peer support groups including one to help people manage long term health conditions and one for people with learning disabilities to develop independence in a safe space. Find out more [here](#).

Routes to Grow

Loneliness can affect us all, at any time of our lives. We might live in a busy city or a rural location, on our own or with others and still feel isolated. Routeways has set up a drop-in service to help combat loneliness – a cuppa and some company and a chance to get involved with their lovely garden within Devonport Park. Explore Routes to Grow [here](#).

Andy's Man Club

Aiming to end the stigma surrounding mental health, Andy's Man Club has created a judgment-free, confidential space where men can be open about the storms in their lives. For information on this free, weekly, peer support group for men, [click here](#).

Headspace

Headspace is a peer-led mental health support service that is hosted at a different location every night of the week. If you are looking for someone to have a coffee and a chat with, or a 1:1 with a volunteer who has lived experienced, you may like to check this out – [information here](#).

Devon Mind

Do you struggle with anxiety? If so, why not sign up to take part in a session to help with understanding anxiety and to learn tips and tools for managing anxiety with Devon Mind? Take a look at the [upcoming courses and workshops here](#).

You could also join a monthly support group. [Take a look here](#) at the different groups you can attend or click here for [wellbeing activities](#).

Shekinah

The team at Shekinah can help with short courses around personal development, handling stress and anger, mentoring and coaching, mental health, sexual health, as well as more employability related skills such as English, maths and using computers. For a safe and friendly place to find out about jobs, courses, and benefits you can drop in and see the team at Stonehouse Creek, PL1 3SF every Friday, 12.30-3.30pm

Gifted Women

Women across the UK can be caught up in a cycle of addiction, homelessness, and crime, with a lack of opportunities and often a complex history of trauma and abuse at the foundation. Even when working hard to break the cycle, women can struggle to find work and support to reach their full potential.

Gifted Women works to help women break this cycle, recognising meaningful employment, training, and further education as key factors in lasting change.

Through weekly group work sessions, learn about all aspects of employability, from recruitment to resilience in the workplace and everything in between. With a significant focus on life skills, confidence building, exploring passions and ambitions and discovering the value you have to offer. [Get in touch](#) to find out more about this programme.

Art, Craft and Laughter

Life can sometimes be overwhelming and having a space to be able to go, take timeout and breathe might just be what you need.

Art, craft, and laughter are offering mental health, wellbeing art and craft groups. Search 'Art, craft and laughter' on Facebook or Instagram.

For more information on accessing mental health support in Plymouth, [click here](#).

Theatre Royal, Our Space

This programme works with adults with lived experience of homelessness, mental health issues, substance misuse, reoffending, or those who feel socially isolated to provide free, regular and meaningful activity that contributes to recovery and rehabilitation.

With taster sessions, community residencies, prison and probation focused groups, and a specific armed forces Our Space offering creative opportunities and weekly workshops for service personnel, veterans and long-term wounded, injured and sick individuals, this is a great programme for individuals looking to build connections.

Interested in finding out more? Email ourspace@theatreroyal.com

Volunteer

Volunteering is a fantastic way to try out different jobs to find out what you prefer, as well as helping you to gain experience and develop soft skills that are useful in all careers. You may also choose to volunteer to give back and share your skills and experience with others.

Plymouth has lots of great volunteering opportunities with organisations including: University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, St John Ambulance, Age UK Plymouth, Elder Tree Befriending, Trevi, Shekinah, The Box, Barnardo's, Devon Mind, The Zone, Devon Wildlife Trust, Gables, Devon and Cornwall Police, Ocean Discovery Rangers, National Marine Aquarium, Clean Our Patch, Nature Plymouth, Citizens Advice Plymouth and Moor Trees.

Plymouth City Council also has a big push on Good Neighbour Support Volunteers right now - [details here](#).

Have you ever considered becoming a mentor to a young person? The My Future mentoring programme with YMCA Plymouth could be a great opportunity for you – and support your own development whether you are currently employed or not. Email sarah.newberry@ymcaplymouth.org.uk to find out more.



You can also explore vacancies broadly by visiting [Volunteering | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.volunteering-PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK) or <https://govolunteering.co.uk/>. Opportunities vary from helping people, animals, and children, to admin, retail, and customer Service. There are also environmental opportunities outdoors, or in nature/gardening, right through to media, history, and fundraising. What a fantastic way to develop your skills and meet new people?!

As part of Plymouth's Volunteering Passport, which is recognised by many organisations hosting volunteers across the city, on the last Friday of every month, On Course South West provides a day of emerging course delivery to help volunteers achieve a digital badge acknowledging training that supports their volunteering. You can also click [here](#) for more links about volunteering via our resource bank.

Explore Green Careers

Curious about the green economy? You should be! It affects multiple job sectors and is a big priority here in Plymouth. Explore the [Green Economy page here](#) to access the Green Horizons guide and resources.

Tinside Cove: Coastal Clean

This monthly gathering open to anyone who wants to help care for the beautiful Tinside area with a clean-up led by Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Rangers and volunteers. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just dipping your toes into community action, there's a spot for you. Volunteering not only helps keep the area clean and welcoming, but it also boosts your wellbeing—think blue mind, that calming, connected feeling we get from being near the sea. Come and help make shore a healthy place to live for all creatures whether human or marine and learn about some of the biggest threats facing the marine environment from pollution and plastic. We will provide tea, coffee and biscuits after!

Where: Tinside Cove, PL1 3DE

When: Wednesday 6 April and Wednesday 3 June

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Book a space [here](#)

The Rock Pool Project – BioBlitz Challenge

Be part of this exciting marine conservation initiative at the stunning Plymouth coastline. The [Big Rock Pool Challenge](#) is a fun, competitive rock-pooling event where participants race against time to discover and find local marine species. As part of our community-driven project, you'll help gather valuable data supporting UK marine biodiversity conservation.

Where: Mount Batten Beach, PL9 9XH

When: Saturday 16 May

Time: 11am

Opportunities in construction

The construction industry is booming. If you want to find out about the latest skills, training, education, apprenticeships, and jobs available locally, your first stop should be Building Plymouth's **Construction, and the Built Environment**. Available on a Tuesday and located in Cobourg House, this session is open to anyone, [sign up here](#) to book a 1:1 appointment.

You may also like to look at upcoming short courses and accreditations for new and experienced tradespeople with:

- [City College Plymouth](#)
- [Greenlight Training](#)
- [Focus Training](#)
- [Skills Group](#)

New to construction?

- Complete the [Sherford Skills CSCS Onsite Experience](#) course to get up-to-date with construction health and safety, gain your Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card which includes the LI Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment and CITB health and safety touch screen test, and take part in occupational hands-on training.
- Why not check out [Greenlight Training](#) or [CTSW's](#) two-week pre-employment courses? Both will give you the opportunity to develop your skills and get a feel for what you enjoy.
- Check out [City College Plymouth's](#) Skills Bootcamps in 'Welding', 'Renewables and Solar Energy' and 'EV and Charging Infrastructure' – Click [here](#)

Get Hard Hat Ready with Kier and City College Plymouth

Like the idea of being part of the South West's booming construction industry? Kier and City College Plymouth are running a five-week Hard Hat Ready programme.

The course will cover:

- Bricklaying
- Plastering
- Painting and Decorating
- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Health and Safety
- CSCS card

These courses start monthly. If you would like to take advantage of this fantastic **FREE** programme, please click [here](#).

For more information on the latest opportunities in the construction and built environment sector, [check out the Building Plymouth landing page here](#).

Opportunities in health and social care

There has never been a more important time for the health and social care sector, and there continues to be a shortage of workers, particularly in the home care sector. Whether you have a background in care or a feeling that you may be good at it, there are lots of ways to find out more.

- Take a look at the 'Work in Care' campaign page for opportunities [here](#).
- Explore the jobs and volunteering opportunities available with Livewell South West [here](#).
- It's also worth exploring the e-learning section above, as there are lots of free online courses you can do to develop skills for the health and social care sector.
- For more information on all things health and social care, check out [the Caring Plymouth landing page here](#).

Come in and meet our [Caring Plymouth](#) team on a Monday 10am to 3pm to explore your next steps into a career in Health and Social. Located in Cobourg House, this session is open to anyone, [sign up here](#) to book a 1:1 appointment.

Opportunities in tourism, hospitality, retail and leisure

The visitor economy is one of Plymouth's largest sectors, contributing over £300 million to the city's economy. Such a large sector presents many opportunities for work, training and volunteering. Whether you are great with people or are proud of your city and want to share that feeling, there are lots of ways to get involved and find out more.

- Explore work opportunities through [Caterer.com](#), [Leisure Jobs](#) or [Retail Choice](#).
- Explore the volunteering opportunities available with The Box [here](#).
- Look at [Visit Plymouth](#) to get an idea of the sort of businesses and careers you could get involved with.
- City College Plymouth provide plenty of learning opportunities for development in the sector, whether you're a school leaver or an adult learner (aged 19+):
 - [Hospitality & Catering](#)
 - [Adult Skills Guide](#)
- [On Course South West](#) offers a wealth of courses to explore, including [Customer Service Level 2](#).

Come in and meet our [Welcoming Plymouth](#) team on a Friday 10am to 3pm to explore your next steps into a career in the Visitor Economy. Located in Cobourg House, this session is open to anyone, [sign up here](#) to book a 1:1 appointment.

Skills Support for Higher Education

Connecting local higher education students connect with local opportunities for skills, training, education, careers and jobs. Located in Cobourg House [sign up here](#) to book a 1:1 appointment.

Working closely with

- University of Plymouth
- Arts University Plymouth
- Marjon University
- City College Plymouth

There are lots of great opportunities right on your doorstep, book an appointment with our Skills and Workforce Coordinator to find out more.

Skills support for Plymouth's armed forces community

We are working to connect the armed forces community with opportunities for skills, training, education, careers and jobs.

Whether you are:

- transitioning from HM services and planning the next steps towards a career in Plymouth
- a working-age veteran seeking employment in the city or retraining
- a military spouse, partner or young person seeking new opportunities.

You can talk to us about training and apprenticeships, further education and university, where to look and apply for jobs and volunteering, and connecting with local support services.

Check out our free online resources here - <https://www.skillslaunchpadplym.co.uk/armedforces>

Find out more...

For more information about any of our sector interests, simply e-mail

skillslaunchpad@plymouth.gov.uk, or visit <http://www.skillslaunchpadplym.co.uk> to sign up as a member and one of the team will contact you.