

**Now is the time to invest  
in the future of our young  
people.**

**It's our future too.**

## **An Open Letter to UK Employers**

**As leaders of major businesses, business organisations and trades unions in the United Kingdom, we are committed to investing in the future of our young people.**

There are signs that an economic recovery is under way. But it is likely to be a long haul. For young people who are unemployed, that can be very bad news.

Unemployment can be isolating, damaging to self-esteem and threatening to health and mental well-being. Long-term unemployment among young people is of special concern because it can blight the prosperity and depress the spirit of communities for decades.

We are writing this open letter to you as employers because employers are best placed to create opportunities for opening young minds to the world of employment, maybe even leading to sustainable jobs as the economy recovers.

There are many practical things employers can do. We can provide work experience to help young people learn about work, make contacts and boost their CV. We can offer them apprenticeships. We can offer them internships. We can provide work trials, or ask our staff to mentor school or university leavers. We can tap into government schemes assisting work-focused training or even new jobs. We can join together with other employers to advertise job vacancies to unemployed people.

None of us is naive about the difficult decisions which recession thrusts upon employers. But we believe that the price of large-scale youth unemployment is far too high a price to pay in either social or economic terms.

Taking the actions above could be one of the best investments employers can make in challenging times.

Each of our organisations has signed up to 'Backing Young Britain', and we hope you will too.

**Sir Mike Rake**  
Chairman, UK Commission  
for Employment and Skills  
Chairman, BT Group plc

**Richard Lambert**  
Director General, CBI

**Brendan Barber**  
General Secretary,  
Trades Union Congress

**Sir Stuart Rose**  
Chairman, Business in  
the Community  
Chairman, Marks and  
Spencer plc

**David Frost**  
Director General,  
British Chambers of  
Commerce

**Miles Templeman**  
Director General,  
Institute of Directors

**John Wright**  
Chairman, Federation of  
Small Businesses

**John McNamara**  
Chief Executive,  
The Alliance of  
Sector Skills Councils

**Jackie Orme**  
Chief Executive,  
Chartered Institute of  
Personnel Development

**Ruth Spellman**  
Chief Executive,  
Chartered Management  
Institute

For further information,  
visit [www.hmg.gov.uk/backingyoungbritain](http://www.hmg.gov.uk/backingyoungbritain)

Skills and training are devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland so some information on this site may apply to England only.

**UKCES**

UK COMMISSION FOR  
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS