

## Essex Connector Briefing Note 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Following publication of the LSIP in 2023, Essex Chambers of Commerce and Essex County Council are exploring opportunities to deliver against the priorities within the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), an employer-led articulation of local skills system priorities for the County.

We are excited to start the exploration and development of a new initiative, the Essex Connector. In collaboration with GetMyFirstJob and supported by Microsoft we are starting the work to scope the premise of the tool and build on the vision. We invite you to be part of that journey.

Essex Connector is a centralised ecosystem intelligently connecting work and learning opportunities enabling Essex residents to make informed decisions on their skills and employment journey.

Essex Connector will seek to resolve the currently disjointed Careers and Skills advice and guidance that exists in Essex and bring it together in one cohesive and user-friendly space, by tailoring unique career pathways based on the individuals, interests' locations, and skills.

Essex Connector will become the centralised support mechanism for Essex Employers, FE Colleges and Independent Training and Providers, allowing employment and skills opportunities to be shared and signposted, supporting frictionless recruitment.

Underpinning the Essex Connector is trusted, ethical, intuitive AI and smart technology that includes features such as Artificial Career Copilot, offering a tailored skills and employment signposting and support function for the user.

Through our partnership we will utilise Gist Impact and report the social impact for every step, providing us with vital performance metrics.

A launch event took place on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to introduce the concept to over 50 partners, allowing them to share their insights and knowledge to help inform and design the concept.

Over the coming months relevant key stakeholders will be invited to a series of workshops focusing on core aspects of launching and delivering the platform.

### **Late Summer 2024:**

We are planning follow up event for everyone that will enable the team to share updates and advise on progress.

### **Winter 2024:**

The first iteration of Essex Connector will be piloted with a finalised and complete product ready in 2025.

### **Help Required:**

To help us with the project would you kindly complete the short survey <https://forms.office.com/e/CjEXPsjKuN> to help us ensure that Essex Connector achieves its objective: to enable Essex residents to make informed decisions on their skills and employment journey.

If you want to be kept informed and updated, please let us know: [Essex.Connector@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Essex.Connector@essex.gov.uk)

***Essex Connector: Unlocking Connectivity - Empowering Communities***