

Report Title	Pendle YES Hub update
Meeting	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Meeting Date	13 October 2026
Report Author	Gill Dickson
Directorate	Chief Executive's
Lead Executive Member(s)	Leader
Wards Affected	All Wards
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	None

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Pendle YES Hub, including an overview of how the service operates, its performance and throughput, and the funding and budget arrangements that support delivery. The report demonstrates how the project contributes towards Council Plan Priority 3: Good Growth by supporting young people into employment, education and training and reducing economic inactivity.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Overview & Scrutiny is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the progress made by the Pendle YES Hub, the performance achieved during Quarter 1 of 2026/27, and the contribution the project is making towards the Good Growth priority within the Council Plan.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

Background

- 3.1 The Pendle YES (Youth Employment Support) Hub was established in March 2021 and is based at 39-41 Scotland Road, Nelson. The Hub provides dedicated support for young people aged 16-24 who face barriers to

employment, education and training. The service is delivered by Active Lancashire in partnership with Pendle Borough Council, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), local colleges, employers and community organisations.

3.2 The Hub provides a welcoming and accessible environment that combines:

- One-to-one employability support.
- Personal action planning.
- Job search, CV writing and interview preparation.
- Skills development opportunities.
- Mental health and wellbeing support.
- Housing and tenancy advice.
- Financial awareness and budgeting support.
- Routes into education, apprenticeships and employment.
- Employer engagement activities and job fairs.

The project particularly targets young people living in Pendle's most deprived communities and seeks to address barriers that can prevent long-term participation in the labour market.

How the YES Hub Works

3.3 The Hub operates five days per week and offers both appointment-based and drop-in support. Young people access the service through:

- DWP referrals.
- Schools and colleges.
- Community organisations.
- Job fairs and outreach events.
- Self-referrals and walk-ins.

3.4 Once engaged, young people receive an assessment and personalised action plan designed to address their individual barriers to progression. Depending on need, support may include:

- Employability coaching.
- Confidence building.
- Skills training.
- Functional Skills provision.
- Wellbeing support.
- Employer introductions.
- Access to specialist partners.

- 3.5 The Hub works closely with DWP work coaches and other partners to track outcomes and ensure that participants sustain employment, education or training opportunities wherever possible. Regular case conferencing and data sharing arrangements support this approach.

Performance

Annual Targets 2026/27

- 3.6 Under the Nelson Pride in Place funding agreement, the YES Hub is expected to engage with approximately 300 young people during 2026/27 through referrals, walk-ins, job fairs and workshops. Target outcomes include:

Outcome	Annual Target
Young people supported	150
Action plans completed	150
Into certified training	40
Into further education	13
Into apprenticeships	20
Into employment	40
Financial awareness support	150
Functional Skills completions	20
Neurodiverse young people supported	20
Neurodiverse young people into employment	6

Progress at Quarter 1 (April-June 2026)

- 3.7 The Quarter 1 monitoring report highlights positive progress.

Key achievements include:

- The Hub has already achieved its annual DWP Flexible Support Fund referral target of 150 referrals through strengthened partnership working with DWP work coaches

- Since April 2026, 25 young people have moved into employment. This represents 62.5% of the annual employment target of 40 within the first quarter of the year
- Improved partnership arrangements have strengthened communication and outcome tracking between agencies.
- New employer and partner engagement continues to grow through word-of-mouth referrals and the Hub's increasing local reputation.
- Additional programmes are being delivered during school and college holidays, including sports and engagement activities to maintain positive participation among young people.
- Delivery of financial awareness and budgeting workshops through a partnership with NatWest is supporting broader life skills development.
- There has been a significant increase in demand for adult learning, particularly ESOL, Functional Skills English and Functional Skills Maths courses.

Overall, performance is reported as Green, meaning the project is on track, operating within budget and achieving planned outcomes.

Budget and Funding

Project Cost

3.8 The total 2026/27 running costs, including staffing, operational and building costs is £162,500.

The YES Hub operates through a blended funding model. Current funding sources include:

Funding Source	Amount	Purpose
Nelson Pride in Place	£42,500	Staffing support
Pendle Borough Council	£20,000	Building costs
DWP Flexible Support Fund	£90,000	Staffing
Lancashire Mind	£10,000	Staffing (mental health project)

Potential additional funding 2027-29 is the Crisis & Resilience Fund, which has ringfenced a total budget of £120,000 up until 2029 for the YES Hub, equating to up to £60,000 each year 2027-29

Challenges and Risks

3.9 The monitoring report identifies a small number of challenges:

- Staff retention remains a key risk
- Demand for support continues to increase, particularly around learning, employment support and wellbeing services.

However, the delivery partner reports that strong relationships with DWP and local stakeholders, together with regular performance monitoring, are helping to mitigate these risks.

Conclusion

3.10 The YES Hub continues to demonstrate strong performance. Quarter 1 monitoring shows that referral targets have already been achieved, employment outcomes are progressing ahead of profile, and partnership working continues to strengthen. The project is operating within budget and is making a positive contribution to youth employment, skills development and social inclusion.

Members can therefore be assured that the YES Hub is delivering against its objectives and making a tangible contribution to Council Plan Priority 3: Good Growth.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth, Housing and Healthy Communities and Preparing for Local Government Reorganisation)

4.1 The YES Hub makes a direct contribution to Council Plan Priority 3: Good Growth by:

- Reducing youth unemployment and economic inactivity.
- Supporting residents into sustained employment.
- Increasing access to skills and qualifications.

- Strengthening links between education providers, employers and support services.
- Supporting local employers to recruit job-ready young people.
- Improving confidence, wellbeing and independence among young residents.
- Addressing inequality through targeted support in deprived neighbourhoods.

The project also helps create a pipeline of skilled local residents able to contribute to Pendle's longer-term economic growth ambitions.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

The YES Hub is currently operating within its approved budget and existing funding allocations. Delivery is dependent on a range of external funding sources, including Nelson Pride in Place funding, the Department for Work and Pensions Flexible Support Fund, and Pendle Borough Council contributions towards accommodation costs. Funding through the Crisis & Resilience Fund for the period 2027-2029 represents a potential opportunity to support continued delivery up until 2029.

However, securing a long-term sustainable funding model remains a significant challenge. The current reliance on time-limited external funding streams does not provide certainty for the future of the service, and further work will be required to identify sustainable funding arrangements beyond existing commitments.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The YES Hub operates through established partnership arrangements with Active Lancashire, the Department for Work and Pensions and other stakeholders. Appropriate data sharing and information governance arrangements are in place to support service delivery and outcome monitoring.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

There are no direct climate or biodiversity implications arising directly from this report.

5.4 Human Resources Implications

There are no direct human resources implications for Pendle Borough Council arising from this report. Staffing is delivered through the existing service

model managed by Active Lancashire. Staff retention within the project has been identified as an operational risk and will continue to be monitored through contract management and performance review arrangements.

5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

No implications in relation to this update report.

The YES Hub has positive equality and diversity impacts. The service provides targeted support for young people aged 16-24, particularly those facing barriers to employment, education and training, including individuals from disadvantaged communities and neurodiverse residents. The project helps address inequalities by improving access to employment, skills development, training opportunities and wider support service.

6. Consultation

Engagement and consultation have been undertaken through partnership structures including:

- Active Lancashire
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Local schools and colleges
- Employers and business representatives
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Young people accessing the service

Feedback from partners and service users continues to inform service development and delivery arrangements.

7. Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered as this report is provided for information only. Members are asked to note the progress and performance of the YES Hub and its contribution to the delivery of Council Plan Priority 3: Good Growth.

8. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	X

9. Background Documents

None

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