



Submit your nomination for the Get the Nation Learning Awards

Nomination guidance



getthenationlearning.org.uk



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About the Get the Nation Learning Awards

The Get the Nation Learning Awards are the biggest celebration of lifelong learning in England. They shine a light on people and organisations getting the nation learning and recognise examples of adult learning that support healthier futures, stronger communities, more opportunities, regional growth, and richer lives. Last year's winners included BBC Studios Drama Productions, Manchester City Council, and Ed Balls.

Learners, employers, community organisations, local and regional governments, all are eligible. Winners and finalists will be selected by an expert panel convened by Learning and Work Institute. They will be presented with the award at a high-profile award ceremony hosted at The Royal Society on Wednesday 4 November 2026. Learning and Work Institute will also work with winners and finalists on press and communications opportunities attached to their award win.

The awards form a key part of the Get the Nation Learning campaign to help make and win the case for lifelong learning in all its forms. The awards take place during the annual high point of the campaign, Get the Nation Learning Week, which runs this year from 2-6 November 2026.

All nominations must be submitted online.

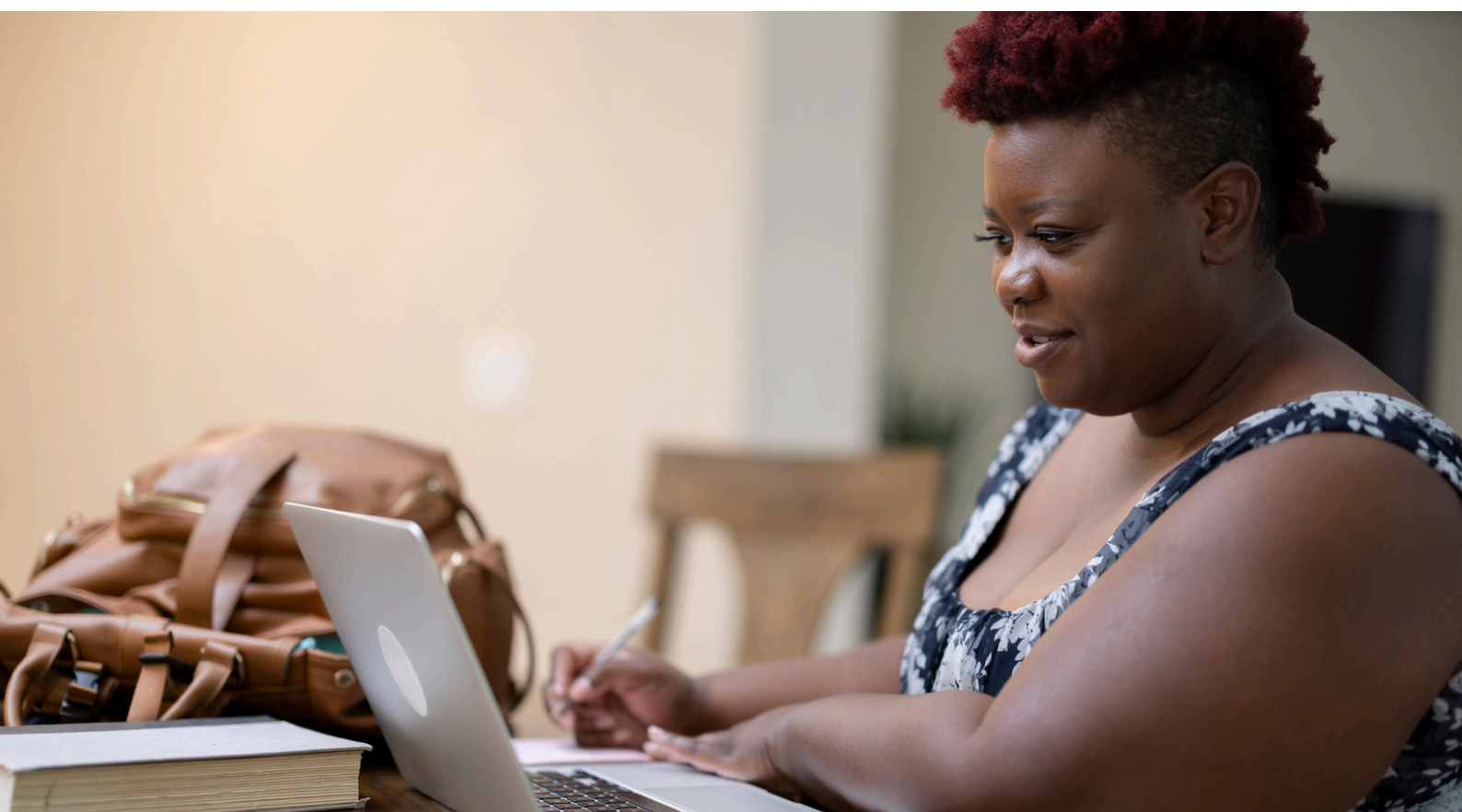
Key dates

- **13 April 2026** Nominations open
- **4 June 2026** Nominations close
- **July** Judging panel
- **July/August** Winners and finalists are notified and invited to the award ceremony
- **4 November 2026** Get the Nation Learning award ceremony

Eligibility criteria

- Awards are open to people and organisations in England only.
- There is no limit to the number of nominations someone can make. However, we do not accept multiple nominations concerning the same person or organisation.
- Nominations must be authorised before being submitted. It is not appropriate to nominate people or organisations without their knowing.
- An organisation (i.e. adult learning provider, community organisation, employer or local authority) is able to nominate themselves for an award or be nominated by another person or organisation. In both cases, the nomination should include a statement from a learner who has benefited from their work.
- Individual learners cannot nominate themselves for awards and should be nominated by others. However, the individual being nominated will be required to provide a supporting statement. Please share the [information sheet](#) for learners being nominated.

Further specific eligibility criteria can be found in the guidelines for each award category below.



Healthier Futures Award

The award: Celebrates organisations improving health and wellbeing through learning in workplaces and communities across the UK, as well as individuals who have transformed their mental and/or physical health through learning.

Why this matters: Learning for any reason and none is good for mental health and wellbeing. Over 1.3m adults in England are currently in contact with NHS mental health services, while 2.8m working age UK adults are not seeking employment due to ill health.

The award is open to:

- Employers investing in skills and training that supports a healthier workplace.
- Adult learning providers combatting ill health, mental health conditions, isolation or loneliness.
- Community organisations involved in social prescribing and supporting better health through learning.
- Adults who have improved their health as a result of learning.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to invest in skills and training that supports a healthier workforce. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to combat ill health, mental health conditions, isolation or loneliness. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done in relation to social prescribing or supporting better health through learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a learner:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done, and how they have improved their health as a result of engaging with learning. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.

Stronger Communities Award

The award: Celebrates organisations creating stronger, more inclusive communities through adult learning provision.

Why this matters: Recent social unrest shows the need to build a more cohesive and integrated society, with stronger and more resilient communities. Levels of loneliness and social isolation are also on the rise among all age groups. Adult learning of all types reduces social isolation and makes people more confident, trusting, and resilient. It also increases levels of social interaction between people from different backgrounds.

The award is open to:

- Adult learning providers engaging with marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach.
- Community organisations using learning to engage with marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach.

Your nomination should:

- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to engage marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach in learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to engage marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach in learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

Talent is Everywhere Award (sponsored by Kaplan)

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The award: Celebrates organisations breaking down barriers to learning for people of all backgrounds.

Why this matters: Place, social class, ethnicity, age, employment status, prior learning – all these things shape adults' ability to access learning, build successful careers and lead fulfilling lives. There are persistent and significant inequalities in access to learning across different geographies and groups. Where opportunity is thwarted, employers and our economy also suffer, missing out on the diverse skillsets people possess or have the potential to develop.

The award is open to:

- Employers combatting disadvantage and inequalities and promoting learning opportunities for all.
- Adult learning providers combatting disadvantage and inequalities and promoting opportunities for all.
- Community organisations combatting disadvantage and inequalities and promoting opportunities for all.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to combat disadvantage and inequalities and promote learning opportunities for all. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to combat disadvantage and inequalities and promote learning opportunities for all. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to combat disadvantage and inequalities and promote learning opportunities for all. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

The award: Celebrates employers, adult learning providers, or community organisations equipping people with the essential skills needed for life and work, or adults who have engaged with learning to gain literacy, numeracy, or digital skills.

Why this matters: There are an estimated 8.5 million working age adults in England with low proficiency in literacy and/or numeracy. Digital skills deficits are also striking, with less than half of adults able to complete the 20 tasks of the Essential Digital Skills Framework. As well as impacting people's ability to get into the labour market and get on in their career, lacking these skills can also hamper people's ability to navigate, access, and engage with public services.

The award is open to:

- Employers equipping people with the essential skills needed for life and work
- Adult learning providers equipping people with the essential skills needed for life and work
- Community organisations equipping people with the essential skills needed for life and work
- Learners who have engaged with learning to gain literacy, numeracy, or digital skills

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to equip people with essential skills needed for life and work. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to equip people with the essential skills for life and work. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to equip people with the essential skills needed for life and work. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a learner:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done to engage with learning and gain literacy, numeracy, or digital skills. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.



Net Zero Hero Award (sponsored by NOCN Group)

The award: Celebrates employers, adult learning providers, or community organisations equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy, or adults who have engaged with learning to gain 'green skills', upskill or retrain.

Why this matters: For the UK to reach net zero and reap the rewards, a truly national effort is required. Be it skilled workers deploying clean energy infrastructure, or consumers lowering energy use and emissions, we all have a role to play.

The award is open to:

- Employers equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy.
- Adult learning providers equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy.
- Community organisations equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy.
- Learners who have upskilled or retrained to gain 'green skills'.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a learner:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done to engage upskill or retrain to gain green skills. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.



Learning with Technology Award (sponsored by Ufi VocTech Trust)

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The award: Celebrates organisations, projects, or provision using technologies to enable and enhance learning for work and extend the reach of learning opportunities.

Why this matters: Technology is constantly changing the world of work, and the skills people need to succeed. The same is true for how we teach and learn, with new technologies providing opportunities to help people gain skills more flexibly in innovative and imaginative ways.

The award is open to:

- Employers using technology to enable and enhance learning and empower people to gain the skills for work.
- Adult learning providers using technology to enable and enhance learning and empower people to gain the skills for work.
- Community organisations using technology to enable and enhance learning and empower people to gain the skills for work.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation, project or provision you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of how technology was used to empower people to gain the skills for work. Please provide a statement on why you think your nomination should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on how technology was central to learning. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation, project or provision you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of how technology was used to empower people to gain the skills for work. Please provide a statement on why you think your nomination should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on how technology was central to learning. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation, project or provision you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of how technology was used to empower people to gain the skills for work. Please provide a statement on why you think your nomination should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on how technology was central to learning. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

New Directions Award (sponsored by City Lit)

The award: Celebrates a learner who has taken a first step or new direction in their career or re-entered the world of work.

Why this matters: As working lives get longer, lifelong learning needs to both be and feel possible for everyone, particularly for those lacking confidence and essential skills. Too many people lack the essential skills for life and work, and feeling too old is the most common barrier to learning.

The award is open to:

- Learners who have taken a first step or new direction in their career or re-entered the world of work.

Your nomination should:

- Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done, and how they have taken a first step or new direction in their career or re-entered the world of work. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including the difference has made to them and their life or career. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.

Regional Growth Award

The award: Celebrates Strategic Authorities, Combined Authorities, and Local Authorities integrating adult learning into local and regional growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.

Why this matters: More powers are being devolved to English regions to engage adults in learning and create programmes that respond to local need. Regional skills inequalities are larger in England than most other countries, contributing to substantial regional inequalities in GDP per capita, productivity and disposable income.

The award is open to:

- Strategic authorities integrating adult learning into local growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.
- Combined authorities integrating adult learning into regional growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.
- Local authorities integrating adult learning into regional growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.

Your nomination should:

- Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to integrate adult learning into regional growth plans and support great outcomes for people of all backgrounds. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

Employer of the Year Award (sponsored by NOCN Group)

The award: Celebrates employers boosting investment in skills and reducing inequalities in access to workplace learning.

Why this matters: Investing in skills and training helps employers increase productivity, harness new technologies, and build happier workplaces. The best firms know this, but total employer investment has fallen sharply, and the UK is lagging behind internationally. This is holding people, businesses, and our economy back, with the lowest paid most likely to miss out on training.

The award is open to:

- Employers transforming the lives of people in their workplace, community and/or local economy through learning; employers looking for talent in underexplored areas; employers helping people back into the world of work and investing in their potential.

Your nomination should:

- Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to boost investment in skills and reduce inequalities in access to workplace learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.



Learning Provider of the Year Award (sponsored by UVAC & HOLEX)

The award: Celebrates adult learning providers of all types delivering life changing adult education and/or training.

Why this matters: Community-based adult learning providers, universities, colleges, independent training providers all have a vitally important role to play in getting the nation learning and narrowing inequalities in access to learning between groups. Be it helping people gain the skills for life and work, or enabling people to lead healthier, happier lives, learning providers are on the front-line, delivering for individuals and communities, day-in day-out.

The award is open to:

- Learning providers changing lives, boosting and widening adult participation in learning, breaking down barriers, and unlocking people's potential.

Your nomination should:

- Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to boost and widen adult participation in learning, break down barriers, unlock people's potential, and change lives for the better. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence and data on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the adult learners who has benefited from the provision on offer, helping to bring the nomination to life.

Patron's Award

The award: HRH Princess Anne is L&W's Patron. This award celebrates inspirational adult learners.

The award is open to:

- Adults who have transformed their life through learning.

Your nomination should:

- Provide an overview of how your nominated person has transformed their life through learning. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including the learning they have done, what they have achieved and challenges they have overcome. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.



How to submit a nomination

Please read through the following guidance carefully.

- The Get the Nation Learning awards nominations process is online.
- We strongly advise that you prepare and draft your nomination using the nomination questions word documents on our website in advance. This will:
 - Enable you to review all questions on the nomination form before completing any answers. The online form requires you to complete one section before moving to the next.
 - Retrieve your nomination should you encounter any technical difficulties
 - Keep a copy of your final nomination for your own records.We cannot accept nomination that are sent to us using the Word document. It has been provided to help you to draft your nomination only.
- You can save a partially completed nomination form online and return to it later if needed. To do this, select 'Saved responses'. You will be taken to a page with a link to resume the survey.
- We ask you to tailor your nomination to the award your nomination is most suitable for. However, we reserve the right to consider your nomination for all categories to which it is eligible. For example, if your nomination is for an employer, it will be considered for all categories to which employers are eligible.
- An organisation (i.e. adult learning provider, community organisation, employer or local authority) can nominate themselves for an award or be nominated by another person or organisation. In both cases, the nomination should include a statement from a learner who has benefited from their work.
- Individual learners cannot nominate themselves for awards and should be nominated by others. However, the individual being nominated will be required to provide a supporting statement. Please share the information sheet for learners being nominated.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the nominations process, please contact the Get the Nation Learning awards team at getthenationlearning@learningandwork.org.uk. We will respond to emails as soon as possible (usually within two working days).

