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Download full report and film of authors sharing their vision at www.face.work/agenda

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FACEWORK PUBLISHES
“YOUTH EMPLOYMENT – AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE”
AT LAST, A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY FROM A YOUNG PERSON!

SUMMARY:

Facework, the social enterprise that equips young people to face a changing world of work, has published **“YOUTH EMPLOYMENT – AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE”**, an essential strategy document for those involved in education, careers planning, youth engagement and tackling the dramatic talent shortages affecting the workplace today. Crucially, it has largely been written by Lauren Roberts-Turner, herself 19 years old and new to the workplace.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION:

- We live in troubled and unpredictable times. The cost-of-living crisis and other hang-overs from COVID have made us all insecure about the future and the role work plays in our lives.
- Our young people should be a crucial focus: they have the least security in terms of earned income, yet they are the engine of our future success and security – willing and able to work and contribute to society.
- The report outlines 5 ‘Game Changers’ affecting young people, including the 4th Industrial Revolution, Climate Change, young people’s experience of Mental Health and shows how careers counsellors, and all those working with young people, can better adapt their practice, and co-design their guidance and approach with young people.
- *Facework* has always championed youth employment, and in our new report, **“YOUTH EMPLOYMENT – AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE”**, we present a workable roadmap to better prospects for young people and employers alike.
- Nineteen-year-old Lauren Roberts-Turner, (co-author of the report) gives employers and policy-makers an optimistic yet realistic insight into how they can effectively engage with young people for the benefit of business and society as a whole.

Continued...

Key lessons include:

- Many schools are under-resourced to provide even the statutory level of careers guidance. But as we recognise “it takes a village to raise a child” – parents, government, business and other stakeholders all have a shared responsibility and shared interest in tackling access to work in the face of great societal change.
- There is plenty of hope – new models like peer-career support, on-the-job learning through ‘gigs’ and inter-generational learning in work-spaces all present exciting informal opportunities.
- SMEs – over 99% of UK businesses – have most to gain and most to offer young people. A career may be “just round the corner” - literally. And the talent gap means businesses are alive to the challenge – they need young people now!

Key items in our manifesto include:

- More needs to be done to inspire young people to investigate emerging job roles and new industries which are desperate for capable talent.
- Employment guidance should be for everyone – those with the greatest need (e.g. SEN youth, those in care etc.) require all the more support from empathetic professionals.
- The scope of Careers Advice must be dramatically expanded and effectively managed to take advantage of coaching, mentoring, employability services and other formal and informal routes to “the right person in the right job”.
- *“Nothing about us without us”*: young people should themselves be involved in modern approaches to careers advice and motivation.
- Young people have immense agency and latent willpower. They are happy to help their peers. This is an as yet unused flywheel for improved outcomes.

Lauren Roberts-Turner co-author of the report says, *“I started working on this document as we were first emerging from the pandemic. Two years on and the world has both moved on and floundered as we moved through multiple crises that have hugely impacted young people and their work. I have tried to honour both that initial feeling of confusion and crisis but also look towards what a future of positive work for young people can be and how every stakeholder can play their part.”*

Stephen Carrick-Davies, CEO of Facework and co-author of the report, says that investment in youth careers delivers well beyond the individual: *“The more we help young people to find fulfilling work they love and to become more enterprising; the more we not only enrich the individual, but also support our local economies and help society to flourish. It's not just 'the Economy, stupid', it's Gross Domestic Purpose.”*

It has never been more important to attract the right talent to the right jobs from the youth cohort, in exchange for fair remuneration, a fulfilling experience and opportunities for career progression. “YOUTH EMPLOYMENT – AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE” is a blueprint for those outcomes.

END

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

AUTHORISED QUOTES FROM INDEPENDENT EXPERTS:

“This report should make people stop, think, and take action. Lauren and Stephen set out a compelling evidence-base which should not be ignored. The cost-of-living crisis will effect the wellbeing and prosperity of thousands of young people. These recommendations should form the basis of a national conversation on how fix a failing infrastructure, particularly for those most in need.”

Deirdre Hughes, OBE, Hon Associate Professor, University of Warwick, Institute for Employment Research (IER).

“This report highlights the positive impact of high-quality careers support for young people and where there is more to be done. By combining the wealth of evidence with the direct experience of Lauren, its young author, it delivers a powerful message.”

David Morgan, Chief Executive, Career Development Institute.

“As a trade union we have been so impressed with the way that Lauren and the Facework team have consulted with us in understanding what we do for young people's employment and training. It is refreshing to have a 360 degree approach to tackling employment.”

Andrew McGregor - Careers Advisor and Chair of UNISON National Careers Committee

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- **Funding:** This report has been independently written, without external funding. Facework provided financial support to Lauren to write the report. (London Living Wage)
- **Media resources:** see authors Stephen Carrick-Davies and Lauren Roberts-Turner on video discussing the Agenda for Change at www.face.work/agenda
- Facework is a not-for-profit organisation (Community Interest Company) that supports young people and adults to face work. We pilot youth-led approaches and new models of career support, including running our ‘Hatch’ Community Workspaces and a soft-skills curriculum co-designed with young people and workspace members.
- Facework is primarily interested in developing young people's capacities, character strengths, practical soft-skills, behaviours and mindsets, and we have begun to establish partnerships with others in different parts of the world. For example, we are working in India where we are piloting youth led Facework Chapters. This holistic approach, rooted in a highly localised, community-based approach to learning, is both essential and - we believe - replicable in a post-COVID world. We hope to seize this moment to push for better and more holistic support for young people as they transition from education into the next stage of their lives. See www.face.work for more information

Facework is seeking social investment and grants to:

Further pilot our innovative ‘Facework Chapter’ model where young people are trained to develop their own self-help groups to support peers in facing work. These could be run in community workspaces, offices, schools and universities and in partnership with other youth organisations. Facework would provide training for the leaders and once established they could be self-sustainable with different cohorts of youth taking over the running in subsequent years. Attending or running a ‘Facework’ chapter would give young people something positive to include on their CV as well as an ‘accreditation’ relevant to future employers. It would also give them valuable the new skills and in hospitality, career guidance, training, mentoring, market research and running events.

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