Richmond Partnership Conference 2025 – Agenda

9:00am	**Registration, Refreshments and Networking (30 mins)**
9:30am	**Event Welcome (25 mins)** • Councillor Nancy Baldwin, Vice-chair of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee (Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector), London Borough of Richmond upon Thames • Andrew Travers, Chief Executive, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames • Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames • Nazeya Hussain, Executive Director of Growth & Place, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
9:55am	**Panel Discussion: Unlocking Local Talent, Skills and Employment Opportunities (30 mins)** An employer, local business and VCS led panel, this session will explore: • what the current barriers to recruitment and retention are in Richmond • the unique strengths and characteristics of the borough and what makes it a good place to work • the borough's future employment needs and opportunities, focussed on creating a local skills pipeline to meets this demand • how employers can better support their current and future staff to sustain and prosper in their roles **Panellists:** • Chair: Councillor Phil Giesler • Sheryl Brand - Social Care Workforce Development Lead, South London Partnership • Rachael Prasher, Managing Director, Automotive Division - Haymarket Media Group • Fay Cannings, Chief Executive Officer, Be Richmond BID • Julie Gavin, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond CVS • Sam Olsen, Executive Director of Change and Innovation, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

10:25am	**Discussion Session (20 mins)** • *Looking ahead, what future employment needs do you anticipate, and what are the key things we need to do to meet them?* • *If we were sitting here in two years' time, what bold change would you want to see that transforms Richmond's employment landscape?*
10:45am	**Refreshment and Networking Break (20 mins)** • Refreshments in the auditorium (main hall), opportunity to network, and put up offers and asks • Attendees encouraged to move tables during the break - Cllr Baldwin to remind when bringing people back from the break
11:05am	**Panel Discussion: Making Best Use of Our Local Talent – Working in Partnership to Create a Flourishing Local Employment Economy (25 mins)** This discussion session will explore: • the challenges residents in Richmond upon Thames face when seeking or retaining employment opportunities • what key local partners are doing to address blockers to employment – what's been successful and what support is in place? • What the future looks like – what does a flourishing local employment economy look like and how do we achieve it? **Panellists:** • Chair: Cllr Piers Allen • Matthew Gurmin - Partnership Manager, Job Centre Plus, Department for Work and Pensions • Yaseen Akhtar - Managing Director of WLIoT Business Growth, Skills and Partnerships, Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges • Michael Guard - Virtual School Deputy Head, Achieving for Children • Tim Emmett – Commercial and Community Director, St Mary's University • Chantelle Daniel – Head of Employment and Skills, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

11:30am	**Workshop: Accessing And Shaping Future Employment and Skills Activity (40 mins)** *Led by Matthew Hamilton, Director, South London Partnership and Polly Persechino, Head of Employment & Skills, South London Partnership* • Matthew and Polly to set the scene with the Growth Ambition & South London Partnership Growth Plans (15 mins) This session will focus on what sub regional skills opportunities there already are for Richmond employers and businesses to access within the sub region but also ensure that the Richmond Partnership can shape the refresh of the sub regional LSIP, which will set out the priorities for employments and skills over the next three years. As part of this, participants will be asked to respond to the following questions through a workshop group session: 1. What are the new challenges for skills provision and the changing needs of employers that need to be reflected in the refreshed LSIP? 2. If we could only pick 3 priorities for in the refreshed LSIP, what would they be? 3. How do we work in partnership to create roles to support youth employment and skills provision that South London needs? What can you commit to?
12:10pm	**Plenary (20 mins)** • Councillor Nancy Baldwin, Vice-chair of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee (Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector), London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
12:30pm	**Roundup and Next Steps (5 mins)** • Councillor Nancy Baldwin, Vice-chair of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee (Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector), London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
12:35-1:35pm	**Networking Lunch (1 hour)** • Lunch and networking downstairs in the lounge