



Connecting Communities Your Bridge to Success

Central London Forward 



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



European Union
European
Social Fund

Connecting Communities - Overview

- Funded by the Greater London Authority and European Social Fund, Connecting Communities is an £18m programme operating across 12 London boroughs until June 2023.
- Connecting Communities will help identify and overcome the barriers people might face when moving into work and support them achieve their potential by:
 - Providing a wide range of services for people of working age
 - Promoting sustainable and equitable employment
 - Providing help for those who find work but need continued support

Connecting Communities - Overview

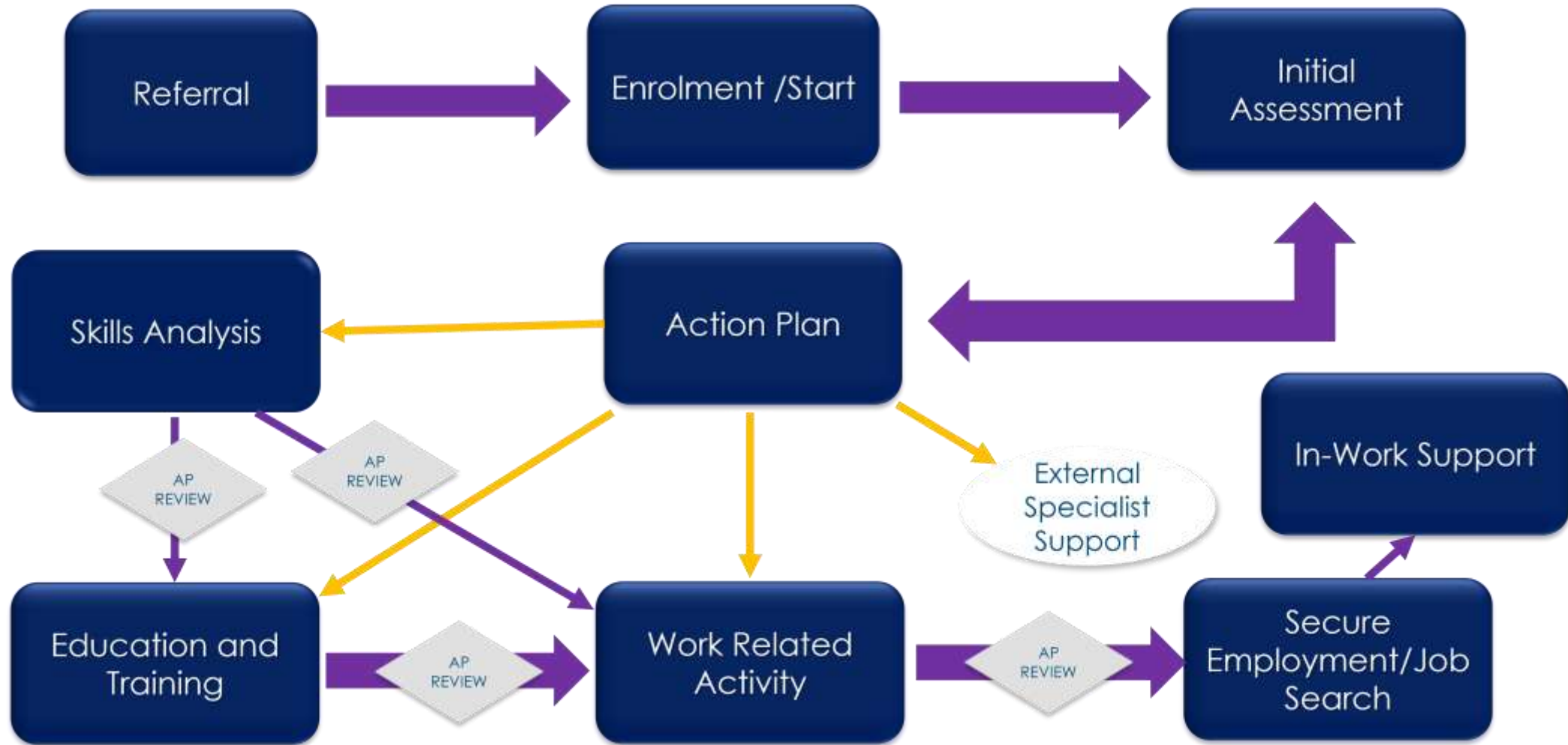
Objectives include:

- Ensure people have greater exposure to, and are better prepared for, the world of work.
- Improve relationships and understanding of London's employment opportunities by connecting London's schools, colleges and youth sectors with Livery Companies, employers, particularly SMEs and micro-businesses.
- Enable people to have the fusion skills needed for success in the world of work.
- To identify, create and support employment skills and work opportunities for young people.

Connecting Communities - Eligibility

- **Aged 18 or over**
- **Living in** Camden, the City of London, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth or Westminster;
- **Unemployed** (i.e. out of work and in receipt of Universal Credit, JSA or health related benefits) or inactive (i.e. out of work but not in receipt of any benefits or receiving non active benefits such as carers allowance);

Connecting Communities - Process



Making it real: Case study A

- A 27 year old woman currently engaged in the Connecting Communities project. As an Afghan refugee, she is highly skilled and experienced in finance. She feels positive about her future and starting a new life in the UK but has found some difficulties adapting to life and British culture.
- She reported experiencing some difficulties with motivation as well as social anxiety. Having experienced the Taliban's oppressive regime and a suicide attack she may be suffering from PTSD.
- It was agreed to prioritise her mental health needs. The case worker dedicated the first appointment to signposting her to Mind in the City and the local IAPT services.
- She has signed up to workshops delivered by the project to support participants with motivation and confidence building.
- Having updated her CV with the help of her case worker, she has been able to secure two short work placements as a finance assistant. These have proven incredibly valuable by helping to validate her skills and knowledge and giving her confidence to work in a financial role.
- As a single woman with no male relatives, she feels she has restricted opportunities to expand her social circle. Having discovered a keen interest in singing, she felt this would provide an excellent opportunity to meet people outside the refugee community and step out of her comfort zone. It was agreed that this would also help with her confidence in general.

Case study B

- A 36 year old male who was a military medical doctor in Afghanistan. When he joined the project he felt unsure of being able to continue practicing medicine outside a military environment. However he displayed a willingness to explore other options which are realistic though they might take longer to achieve as these will require access to further training.
- Although he had sufficient knowledge of English to communicate effectively, he lacked fluency and vocabulary. He has signed up for the structured conversation workshops developed specifically to support highly-skilled individuals with more intermediate to advanced language skills.
- When exploring employment options the idea of being a paramedic was suggested to which the participant responded with great enthusiasm and hopes this will provide a solid option for employment.
- As an alternative he is also exploring apprenticeships in plumbing and electrical repairs. He felt this options would be suitable as he has young children and is attracted by the idea of earning a salary whilst learning a trade with secure prospects of employment.
- With his high level of engagement, willing to work flexibly and explore the guidance offered by his case worker, a positive employment outcome within the foreseeable future is anticipated.

Case study C

- A 23 year old male currently identified as not in employment, education or training and with complex barriers to employment. He was referred by Kentish Town jobcentre following outreach activities carried out by case workers.
- The participant is currently at risk of homelessness and is living in temporary accommodation arranged by the local authority. He is also a care leaver with mental health needs.
- To support this participant more effectively, the project will draw on the experience of more than one case worker. The lead case worker will provide advocacy support whilst working with a colleague with previous lived experience and an understanding of navigating the system effectively.
- This participant has been referred to the CAMS mental health services.
- The case worker's support in dealing with the housing services has already made the participant feel better able to cope with his mental health needs and start focusing on employment for the first time in over a year.

**How City & Guilds can support
Connecting Communities creating
opportunities –**



1. The vision for **skills bridges** and what's happened so far

Skills bridges: Taking people to jobs



'Supporting all age advice retraining and reskilling to create a bridge into employment'

- Individuals will discover the breadth of jobs and opportunities in the sector, motivating them to succeed in their studies and build a career in the sector
- Gain a real sense and flavour of what it's like working in the sector and the skills, attitudes and behaviours employers are looking for when recruiting.
- Individuals will complete a self-reflection task to see if they have what it takes to start a career in the sector
- Receive job search tips from employers to help them stand out when they are ready to start looking for a job.
- Earn a **digital credential** on completion of the course to showcase achievement and interest in working in construction or social care, share on social media, put on their CV.



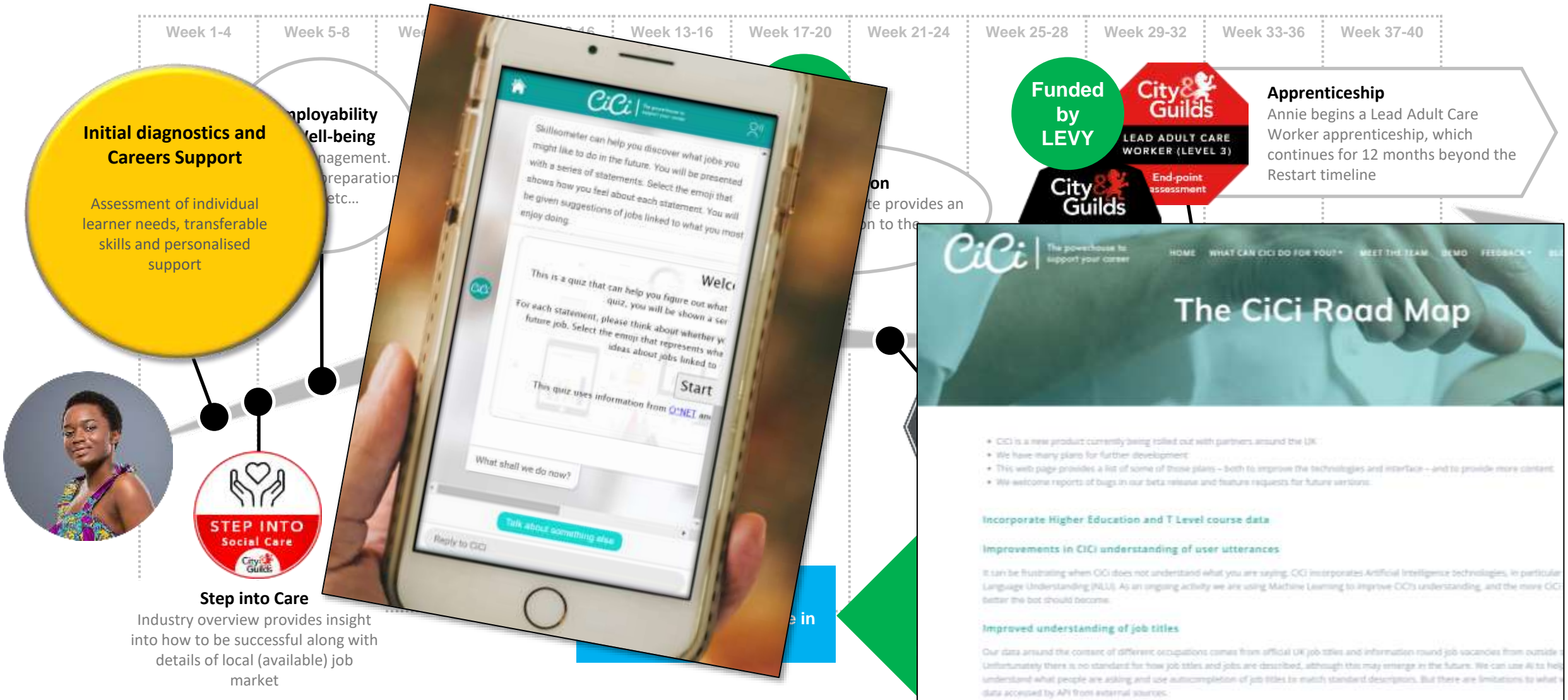
Find out more about our [Construction](#) and [Social Care](#) credentials

Discover what the course has to offer:



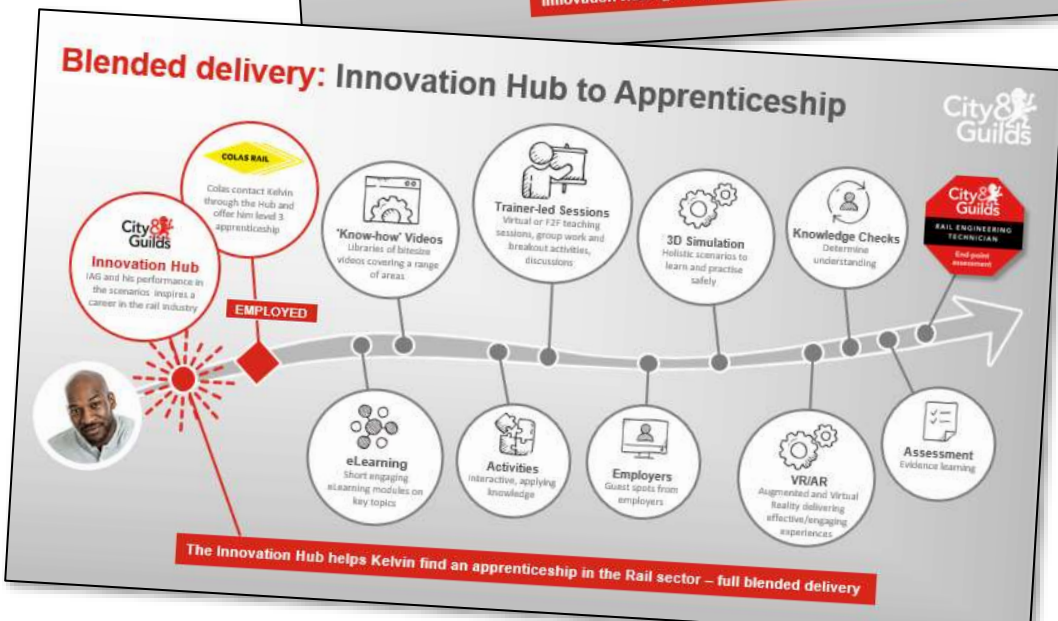
2. Connecting Communities

Enhancing careers/skills analysis Apps and maximising 'network' connections



*Labour Market Intelligence

3. How **Employment & Training Hubs** like Connecting Communities will open up opportunities to employment



Connecting Communities Building Relationships

With organisations that can:

- **help us reach Participants**
 - Schools, Housing Associations, Community Groups, Youth Groups, Livery Companies, Job Centres
- **help upskill Participants**
 - Training Providers, Colleges, Employers
- **help Participants gain employment**
 - Industry /Business Sector Groups including Livery Companies, businesses large and small

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