

## **EAST MIDLANDS PEOPLE AND SKILLS CONFERENCE 2025**

**24 JUNE 2025 (09:00 – 13:30)**

### **AGENDA**

08:00am	<b>Registration, exhibitors and networking – drinks and biscuits served</b>
09:00am (5mins)	<b>Welcome from East Midlands Chamber</b> – Dawn Whitemore, President, East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire)
09:05am (10mins)	<b>Welcome from Loughborough University</b> – Sam Grogan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), Loughborough University
09:15am (15mins)	<p><b>Overview of Skills England and the Get Britain Working White Paper</b> – Dr Gareth Thomas, MD, Skills and Employment Support Limited</p> <p>Detailing the Skills England approach to bringing together key partners to meet the skills needs of the next decade and an overview of the Get Britain Working White Paper, which is the government's proposals to reform employment, health and skills support to tackle economic inactivity and support people into good work.</p>
09:30am (15mins)	<p><b>Local Skills Improvement Plans: The future and what they mean for business</b> - Dr Gareth Thomas, LSIP Stakeholder Engagement Lead and Harsh Shah, Data Analytics Manager, East Midlands Chamber</p> <p>LSIPs provide an agreed set of actionable priorities that employers, providers and other stakeholders in a local area can get behind to drive change. We will revisit the successes so far and the direction of travel moving forward.</p>
09:45am (20mins)	<p><b>Rethinking Young People's Careers in a Changing Workforce</b> - Eva Selenko, Professor in Work Psychology and the Head of the Work and Organisation Group, Loughborough University</p> <p>Do young people have different career-values? What attracts young people to work in an organisation and how can we assure that they stay? Organisations continue to be worried about skills shortages, while simultaneously youth unemployment is dramatically on the rise.</p> <p>This keynote will offer a people-centric perspective on the career journey and highlight how organisations are crucial in offering the skills, networks and motivations for young people's careers, by referring to own and others empirical research. It will show evidence on work values and present findings on what makes people enter, grow and remain at work. Rather than stereotyping the workforce into generations, this keynote encourages to take look at the different life-stages people are in, to better understand younger (and older) people's needs and motivations to work.</p>
10:05am (30mins)	<p><b>Panel on recruitment, retention, productivity and government policy:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor Eva Selenko, Loughborough University</li> <li>2. Eileen Perry MBE DL, Managing Director ER Recruitment</li> <li>3. Carol Dixon, Director of Employer Partnerships, Derby College</li> <li>4. Chris Grocock, Head of Business Development &amp; Partnerships, Futures</li> </ol>
10:35am (35mins)	<p><b>Break, 30 minutes break then 5 mins to get to your workshop of choice.</b></p> <p><b>See separate sheet for detail of workshop content</b></p>

11:10 (40mins)	<b>Workshop Session 1</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving recruitment and retention of your Future Talent – Loughborough University - Loughborough University (<b>Room WPTH004</b>)</li> <li>2. Accessible Marketing for HR Professionals: Inclusive Communication for Recruitment and Retention - Tania Gerard Digital UK (<b>Room WPTH005</b>)</li> <li>3. Unlocking Engagement: Practical Strategies to Inspire, Retain, and Elevate Performance – PDW Group (<b>Room WPTH006</b>)</li> <li>4. Values-based recruitment for the modern workplace – Futures (<b>WPTH003</b>)</li> </ol>
11:50am 5mins	<b>Change over</b>
11:55am (40mins)	<b>Workshop session 2</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholder involvement, as engagement alone is not enough. How business can help shape skills development in the East Midlands – Pro Excellence Partnership Ltd (<b>Room WPTH004</b>)</li> <li>2. Working Well East Midlands Funded Support – East Midlands Chamber, Employment Services (<b>Room WPTH005</b>)</li> <li>3. Embracing and supporting those with congenital, acquired and episodic visible differences – Gary Parsons (<b>Room WPTH006</b>)</li> <li>4. An Employment Law Update which feeds into your recruitment and retention strategy – Freeths (<b>Room WPTH003</b>)</li> </ol>
12:35pm (5mins)	<b>Return to main room</b>
	<b>FOCUS ON Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace (EDI)</b>
12:40pm (15mins)	<p>The benefits of embedding of EDI to your business model:</p> <p><b>Capita Ability Programme: Developing Inclusive Recruitment Practices through Supported Internships</b> - Louise Dakin SEND Employability Manager, Vision West Notts College and Joseph McGeown, Capita Public Service</p>
12:55pm (35mins)	<b>Panel Discussion – Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veronica Moore - Director of Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Loughborough University</li> <li>2. Joanne Tilley, Executive Director – Corporate Services, emh</li> <li>3. Jonny Mabereley, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Apprentice, Ideagen</li> <li>4. Louise Dakin - SEND Employability Manager, Vision West Notts College and Joseph McGeown, Capita Public Service</li> </ol>
13:30pm	<b>Close for Lunch</b>