

## EAST MIDLANDS PEOPLE AND SKILLS CONFERENCE

### AGENDA

16 June 2026

08:00am	Registration, teas/coffees, biscuits, networking and exhibitors
09:00am (10mins)	<b>Welcome</b> – Dr Cham Kang, President, East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire Leicestershire)
09:10am (10mins)	<b>Welcome</b> – Professor Sam Grogan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience, Loughborough University
09:20am (20mins)	<p><b>Artificial Intelligence and Employment: Implications for Young People</b> - Professor Eva Selenko, Professor in Work Psychology, Loughborough University</p> <p>Eva Selenko is Professor of Work Psychology at Loughborough Business School, UK, and Guest Professor at Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. Her work focuses on how insecure and rapidly changing work environments affect people's wellbeing, identity, performance, and attitudes at work and beyond. She has conducted research and advisory work for organisations including the World Bank, Cumberland Lodge, and the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAUA). Eva has published widely in leading journals and was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts in 2020 for her work on precarity and wellbeing.</p>
09:40am (40mins)	<p><b>Inclusive Growth in Practice: How EDI Is Shaping Skills Investment in the East Midlands</b></p> <p>Presentation on most recent findings of the Chamber and emh Group research on EDI in the workplace aimed at ensuring that all people in skills development and employment opportunities are included – Richard Blackmore, East Midlands Chamber (10mins)</p> <p>Discussion with emh Group (30mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joanne Tilley, Executive Director of People and Strategy &amp; Company Secretary, emh Group</li> <li>• Marilla Bianco, Director &amp; Founder, Work'n'Diversity CIC</li> <li>• Pino De Rosa, Founder and Managing Director, Bridgeway Consulting – recipient of the King's Award for Enterprise: Promoting Opportunity (through Social Mobility)</li> <li>• Jamie Booth, Director of Communications, The Job Foundation</li> </ul>
10:20am (20mins)	<p><b>Economic performance and the impact of the National Living Wage in the East Midlands – Maxwell Read, Senior Researcher, Centre for Cities</b></p> <p>Exploring the link between economic performance across the East Midlands and how the National Living Wage has affected workers, businesses and regional growth. The session will consider impacts on low-paid sectors, productivity, living standards and wider regional inequality.</p> <p>Maxwell is a senior researcher with the Centre for Cities. His work with the Centre for Cities focusses on local economic performance and urban labour markets.</p>
10:40am (35mins)	Break, exhibitors, then move to choice of workshops

11:15am (40mins)	<p>Workshop Session #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WPT001 - From Graduate Potential to Workplace Agility: Building Reflective and Adaptable Talent</b> - Cheryl Travers, Reader in Organizational Psychology, Loughborough University and Susan Boon, Work Opportunities and Partnerships, Careers Network, Loughborough University</li> <li>• <b>WPT003 - Why Good People Leave: Neuro-Inclusive Approaches to Skills and Retention</b> - Marilla Bianco, Director &amp; Founder, Work'n'Diversity CIC</li> <li>• <b>WPT004 – How to build a culture that embraces AI Shared insights from 80+ interviews with real SME leaders</b> - James Ferraby, Co-Founder and Director, Digital Planning</li> <li>• <b>WPT005 - Do you need health coaching skills in your team?</b> - Dr Ollie Hart, Managing Director, Peak Health Coaching</li> </ul>
11:55am (10mins)	Swap over
12:05am (40mins)	<p>Workshop Session #2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WPT001 – Stop Training. Start Changing: Building a Learning Culture That Sticks</b> - Si Beales -Founder &amp; Learning Director of Sidedoor Studio</li> <li>• <b>WPT003 – Before the Absence: Early Intervention for Employees Under Hidden Pressure</b> - Dr Elizabeth Rozario, former GP turned qualified coach and trainer, The Caregiving Journey CIC</li> <li>• <b>WPT004 - How Working with Prisons Can Benefit Your Business</b> - Theresa Salisbury Midlands Prisons Employment Lead, New Futures Network</li> <li>• <b>WPT005 - Unlocking Talent Pipelines: T Levels, V Levels and Levy Changes Explained</b> – Nikki Slack, Assistant Principal at Vision West Notts.</li> </ul>
12:45pm (45mins)	<p><b>Employment Rights Act 2025: Ensuring compliance without compromising growth</b>          – Nick Benton, Partner, Howes Percival LLP</p> <p>The Employment Rights Act 2025 represents one of the most significant shifts in the UK employment landscape in a generation - In this plenary session, we will explore what the new legislation means for employers and how businesses can respond proactively without compromising growth strategies. Drawing on practical insight and examples, the session will focus on key risk areas, opportunities for smarter workforce planning, and practical steps HR and People teams can take now to embed compliance while maintaining agility, productivity and competitiveness (15mins)</p> <p>Panel Discussion – Recruitment, Retention, Skills and Productivity (30mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick Benton, Partner, Howes Percival LLP</li> <li>• Nikki Slack, Assistant Principal: Health, Education and Wellbeing, Vision West Notts</li> <li>• Professor Eva Selenko, Professor in Work Psychology, Loughborough University</li> <li>• Pino De Rosa, Founder and Managing Director, Bridgeway Consulting</li> </ul>
1:30pm	Close