South Midlands
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

South Midlands Careers Hub 2026 – 2027

Term 1 Kick Off



Meet the Team

South Midlands CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY



Yvonne Ashby
Strategic Hub Lead



Mandy Green
Operational Hub Lead



Samuel Baker
Operational Hub Lead



Louise Lynch
Careers Consultant



Claire Coles
Careers Consultant



Lorraine Emerton
Careers Consultant



Vikki Morton
Careers Consultant



Mandy Browning
Careers Consultant



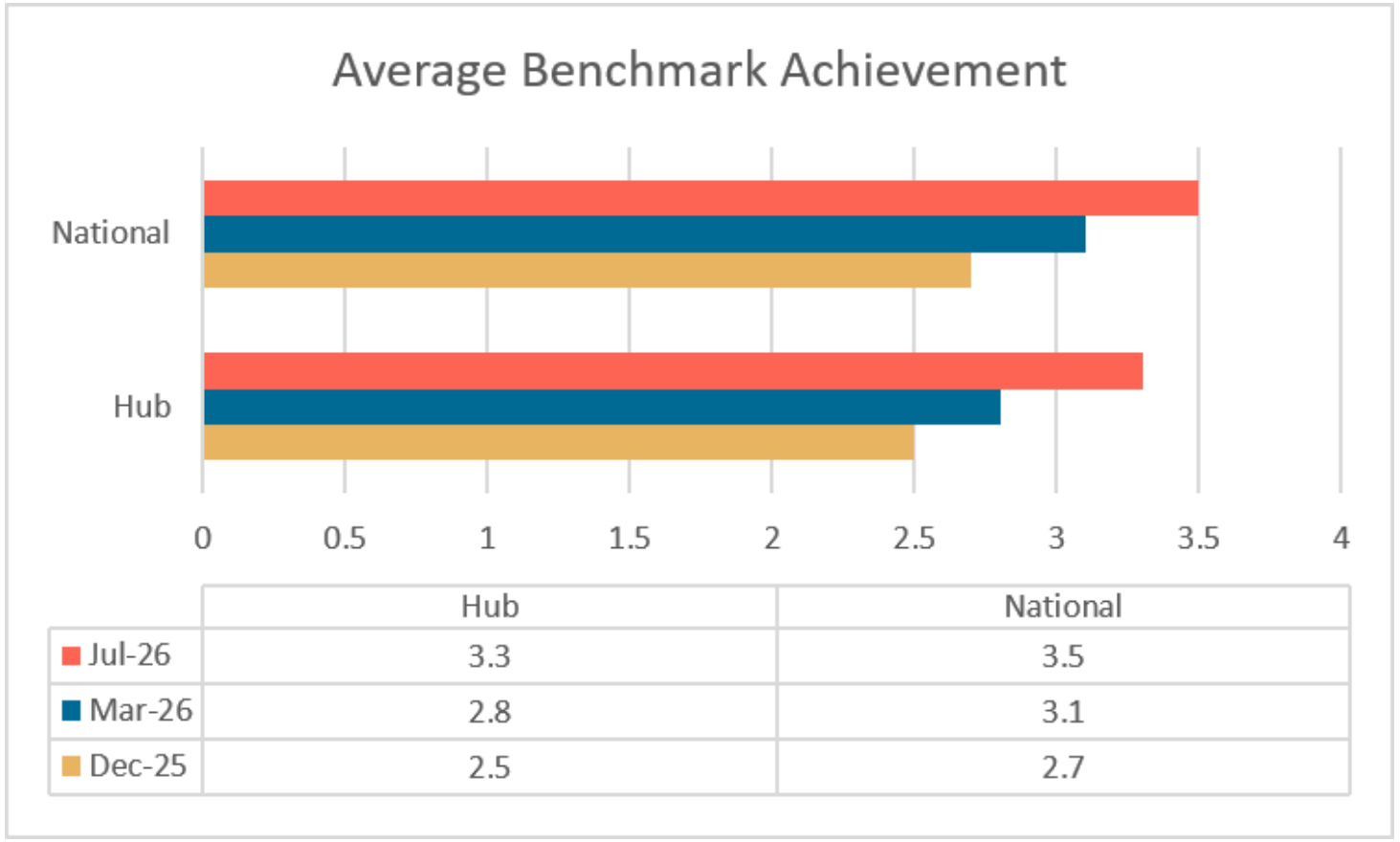
Sarah Latimer
Careers Consultant - Inclusion



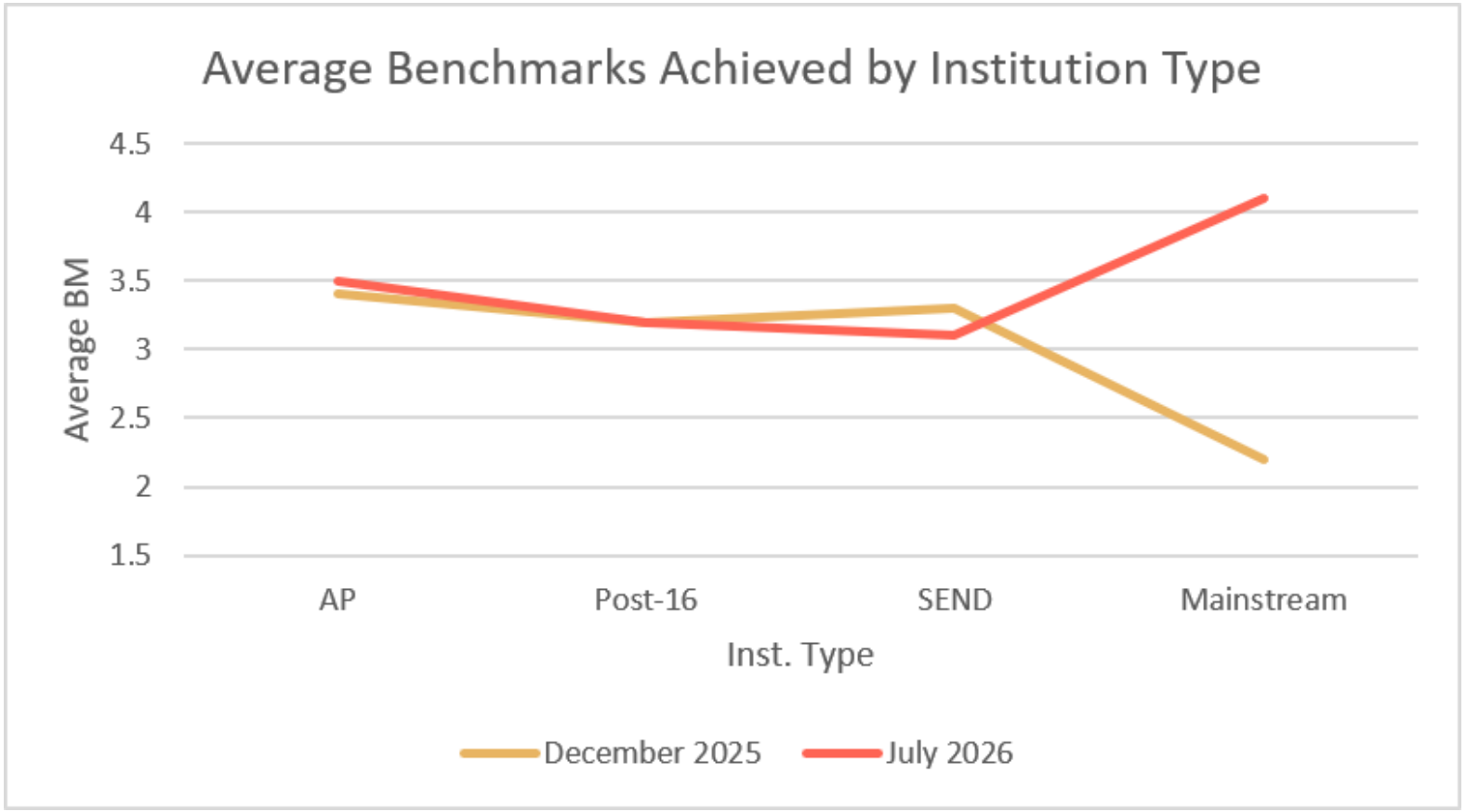
Olivia Dams
Careers Consultant – Work Experience/Inclusion

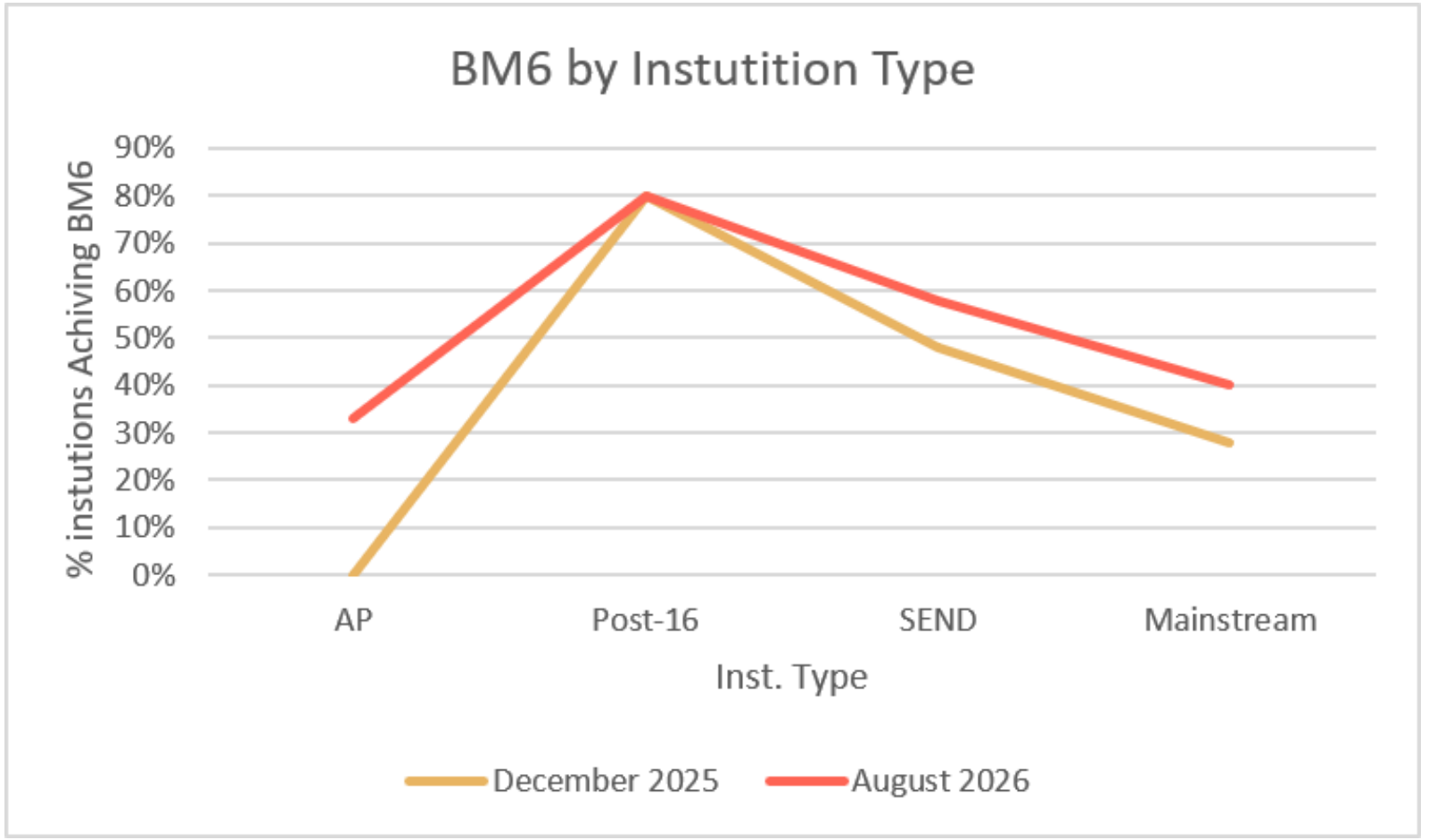
South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

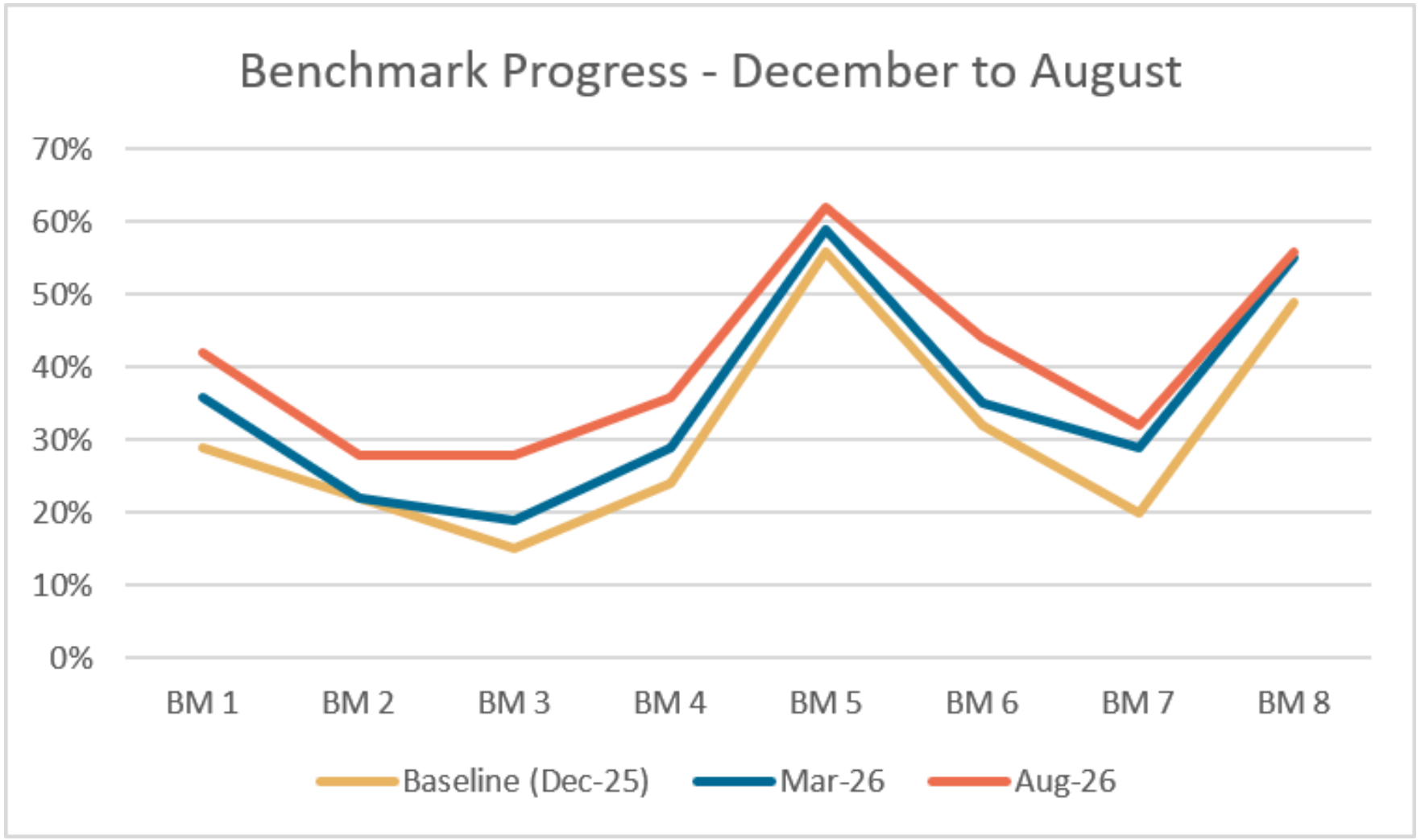
Celebrating Success

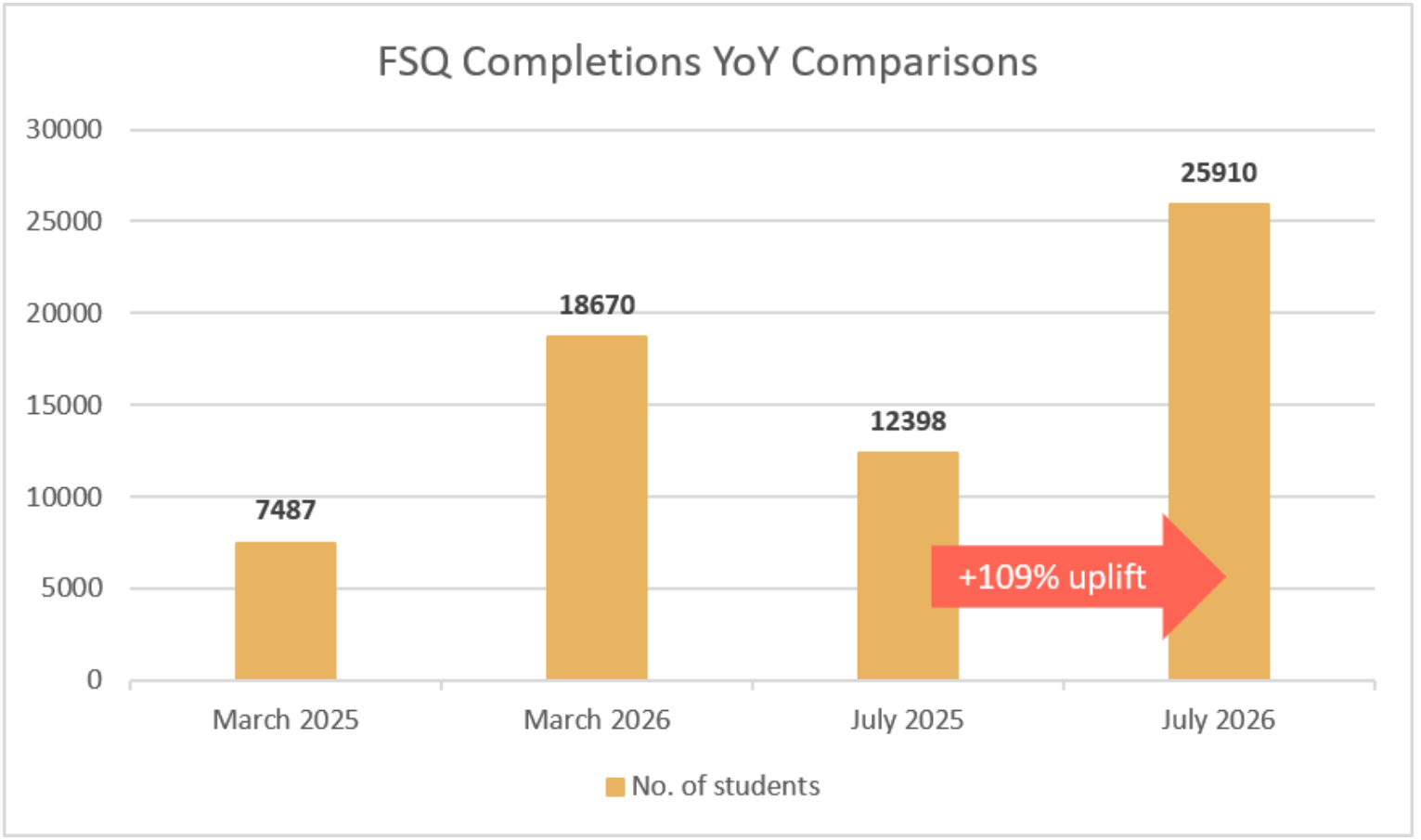


	Hub	National
Jul-26	3.3	3.5
Mar-26	2.8	3.1
Dec-25	2.5	2.7


Average Benchmarks Achieved by Institution Type
4.5
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
Average BM
AP
Post-16
SEND
Mainstream
Inst. Type
December 2025
July 2026


BM6 by Instutition Type
% instutions Achiving BM6
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
AP
Post-16
SEND
Mainstream
Inst. Type
December 2025
August 2026


Benchmark Progress - December to August
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
BM 1
BM 2
BM 3
BM 4
BM 5
BM 6
BM 7
BM 8
Baseline (Dec-25)
Mar-26
Aug-26


FSQ Completions YoY Comparisons
30000
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
7487
18670
12398
25910
+109% uplift
March 2025
March 2026
July 2025
July 2026
No. of students



Careers Maturity

- Average maturity score (SMCH) – 2.28
- Average maturity score (national) – 2.28

Theme 1 – 2.41
Theme 2 – 2.19
Theme 3 – 2.03
Theme 4 – 1.90
Theme 5 – 2.41
Theme 6 – 2.50

South Midlands CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

2026-27

South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Continuous Improvement

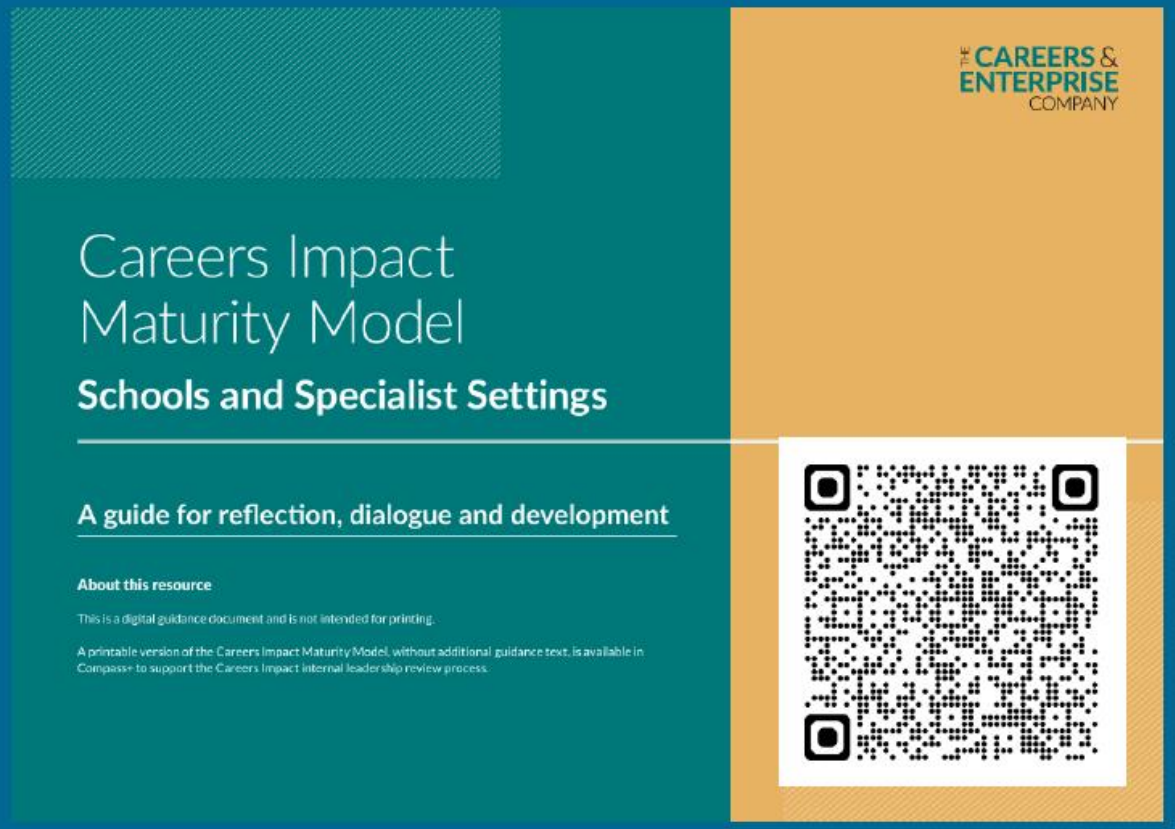
Support for Schools

South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

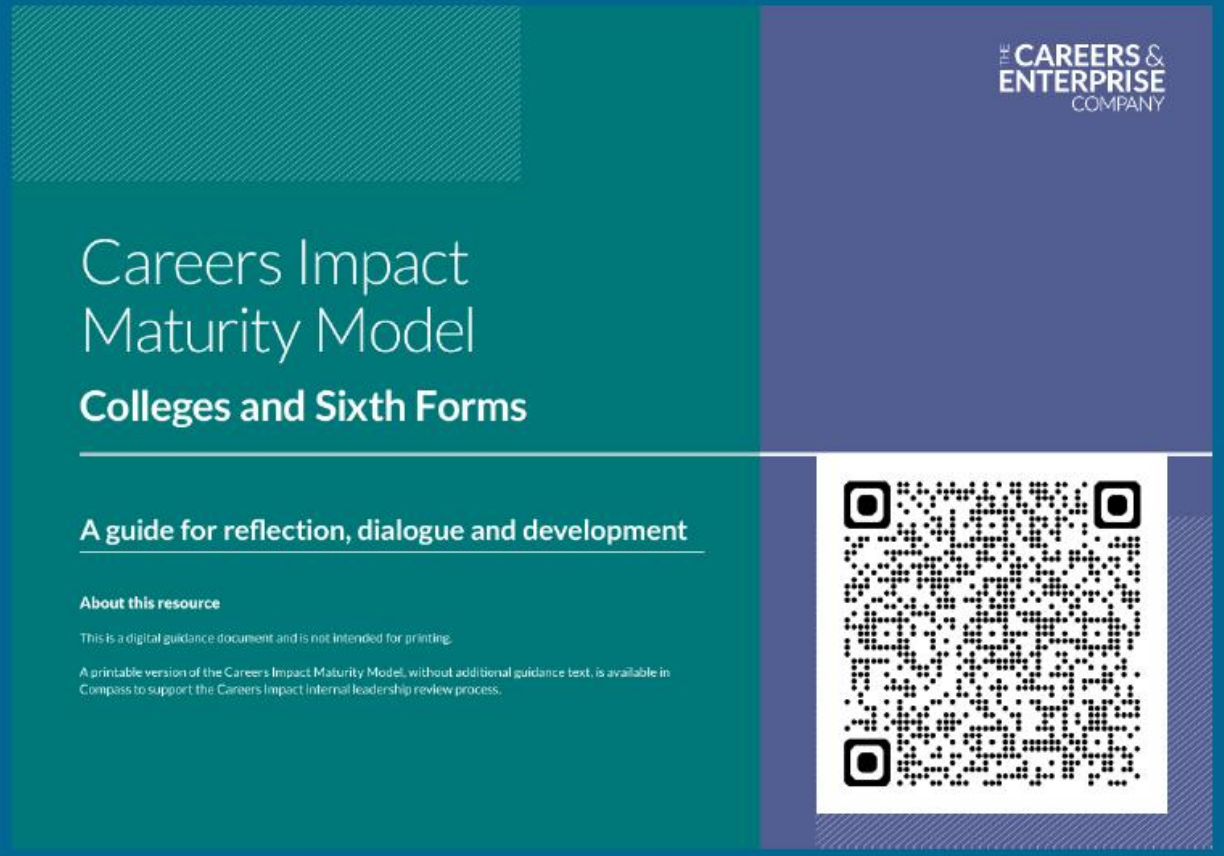
- Education newsletter
- Virtual short CPD learning sprints
- Careers & Enterprise Academy
- Compass webinars and shorts
- Small group workshops
- Inclusion, FE and Middle School CoPs
- Career Leader network meetings
- Support with Internal leadership review
- Opportunities to attend peer to peer review
- Career leader training - self fund or CEC funded training waiting list
- New Career Leader Induction
- Volunteering opportunities shared with our Employer Network



You are welcome to participate in as many sessions as you find useful. We won't assigning you to specific activities – instead, we encourage you to be proactive in identifying which areas of support will be most beneficial to your school and careers programme.



THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY



Updated internal leadership review:

1. Access via these links
2. Schedule your annual internal leadership review now with SLT and other relevant staff in your institution – not sure where to start? Ask your Careers Consultant
3. Follow up with a Peer to Peer review

Key Calendar Dates – Autumn Term

South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

September

- 22nd – Term 1 Kick Off
- 29th – Learning Sprint – Launch of SMCH Employer Network

October

- 5th – Volunteering opportunities sent to EN
- 5th – Luton Career Leader Network Meeting
- 6th – West Northamptonshire Career Leader Network Meeting
- 13th – Career Leader Training – Day 1 (Local Cohort)
- 20th – SMCH Annual Conference

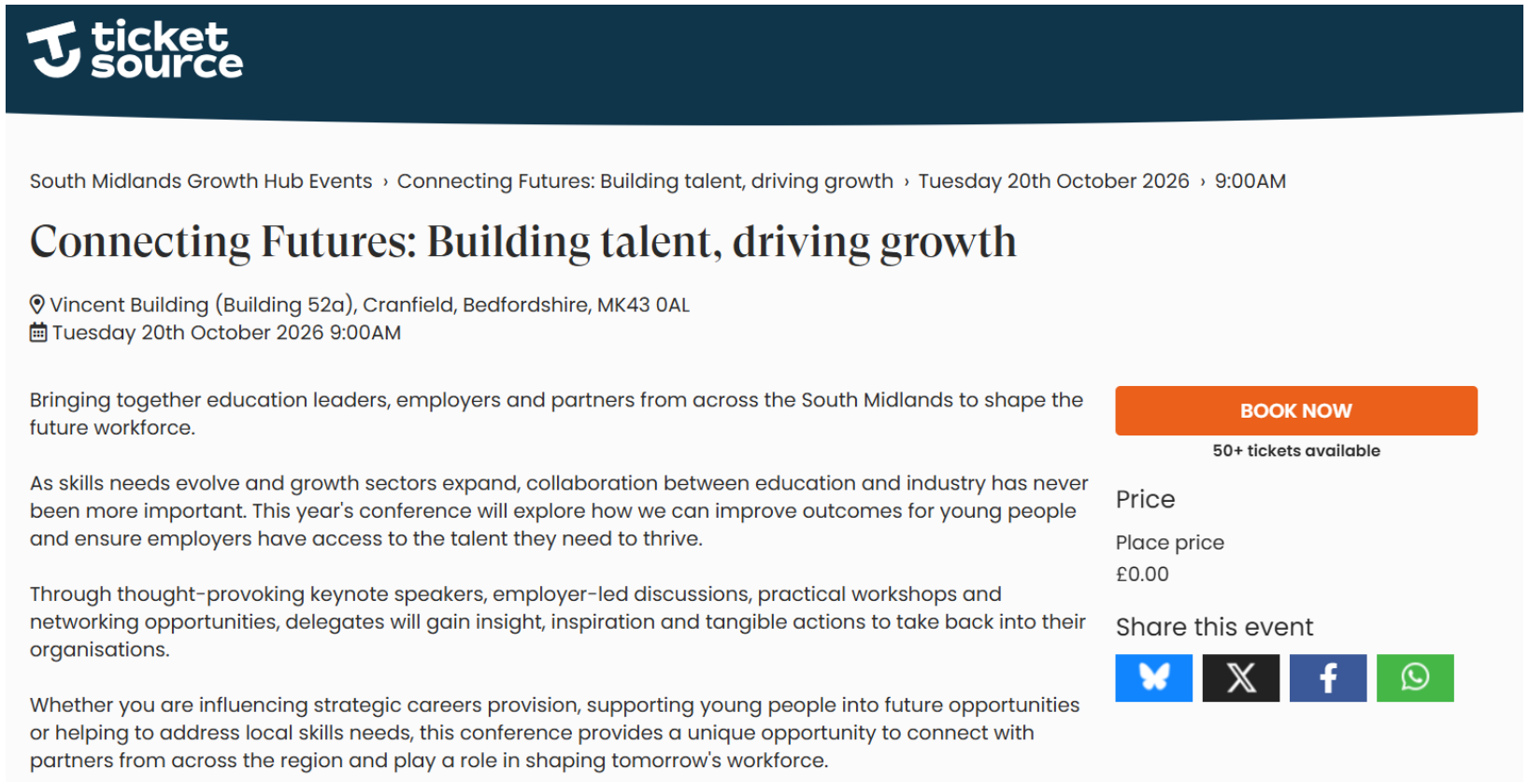
November

- 2nd – Volunteering opportunities sent to EN
- 10th – Provider Showcase
- 11th – Peer to Peer Day
- 11th – Bedfordshire Career Leader Network Meeting
- 12th – Milton Keynes Career Leader Network Meeting
- 17th – 18th - Career Leader Training – Day 2 and 3 (Local Cohort)
- 18th – Compass self-evaluation window begins
- 24th – Inclusion/SEND Community of Practice
- 25th – Education Showcase

December

- 1st – Learning Sprint – Topic TBC
- 8th – Learning Sprint – SEND/AP
- 7th – Volunteering opportunities sent to EN

SMCH Annual Conference



South Midlands Growth Hub Events › Connecting Futures: Building talent, driving growth › Tuesday 20th October 2026 › 9:00AM

Connecting Futures: Building talent, driving growth

Vincent Building (Building 52a), Cranfield, Bedfordshire, MK43 0AL
Tuesday 20th October 2026 9:00AM

Bringing together education leaders, employers and partners from across the South Midlands to shape the future workforce.

As skills needs evolve and growth sectors expand, collaboration between education and industry has never been more important. This year's conference will explore how we can improve outcomes for young people and ensure employers have access to the talent they need to thrive.

Through thought-provoking keynote speakers, employer-led discussions, practical workshops and networking opportunities, delegates will gain insight, inspiration and tangible actions to take back into their organisations.

Whether you are influencing strategic careers provision, supporting young people into future opportunities or helping to address local skills needs, this conference provides a unique opportunity to connect with partners from across the region and play a role in shaping tomorrow's workforce.

BOOK NOW

50+ tickets available

Price

Place price
£0.00

Share this event

To book your place please visit:
https://wnc.ai/smch2026conference

Goodbye Compass, Hello Compass+

We’re delighted to welcome all former Compass users to Compass+, a more stable and secure platform to evaluate, manage and report on your setting’s careers provision.

If you used Compass previously, head to the Compass+ Help Centre to find out more about using Compass+ and discover the new features you will have access to, including Your Child's Future (YCF) - a questionnaire for parents and carers.

Live Webinars

- **Evaluations in Compass+ - The Compass evaluation and the internal leadership review**
  Thursday 24th September, 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- **Your Child’s Future – a questionnaire for parents and carers**
  Tuesday 29th September, 3.30pm – 4.00pm
- **OnTrack+ in Compass+**
  Tuesday 6th October, 3.30pm – 4.15pm
- **The Future Skills Questionnaire - 5 steps to success**
  Thursday 8th October, 3.30pm – 4.15pm
- **Activities in Compass+**
  Tuesday 13th October, 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- **Learner data in Compass+**
  Thursday 15th October, 3.30pm – 4.15pm

Your Childs Future (YCF)

- Your Child's Future has been designed to help education settings understand parents’ and carers’ knowledge, confidence and awareness of careers.
- YCF enables education settings to strengthen parental engagement and use these insights to develop more informed, responsive and effective careers programmes that better support young people.
- There are 2 versions, Mainstream/AP and SEND that launched on the 1st July and the final version for FE and ITPs will launch in Sept 2026
- Parents and carers will be asked to think about their oldest child only
- Takes no more than 10 minutes to complete
- The questionnaire doesn’t ask for a name or contact details however the optional demographic questions could identify a respondent

Tackling Disadvantage

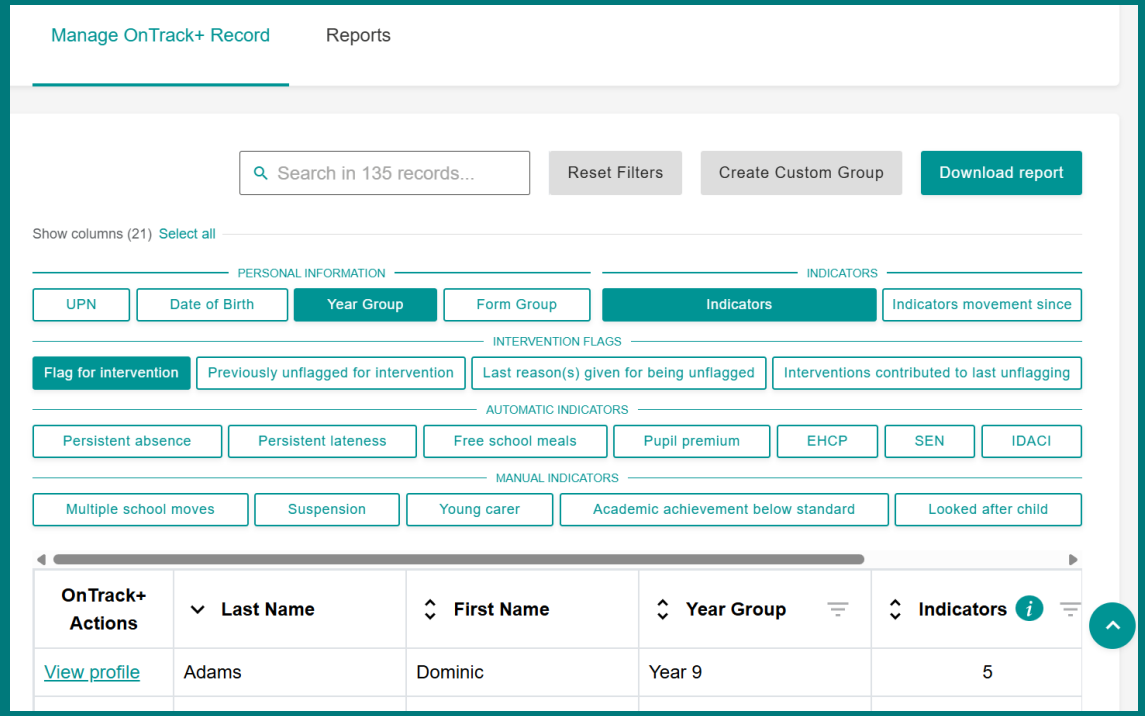
OnTrack+

OnTrack+ will allow schools to **identify, prioritise and manage activities** for learners who require enhanced intervention to help prevent them from long term disengagement or becoming NEET.

The objective of the tool is to provide the basis for early intervention from KS3 against disengagements and ultimately NEET outcomes.

The identification process works by using:

- **Automatic indicators** - Generated from the learner data shared with Compass+ from your MIS (e.g., FSM, pupil premium). These produce a statistically valid prediction.
- **Manual indicators** - Optional and must be entered and managed by the school (e.g., multiple school moves, young carer).



Users can illustrate the group through reporting and export functions, manage interventions at the group or individual level, and track the effectiveness of interventions with young people by reassessing their OnTrack+ outputs and FSQ use.

Benefit overview









- Provides early insight and a diagnostic for early intervention activities
- Helps leaders identify those who may benefit from responsive, targeted or personalised support.
- Puts careers at the heart of solutions to education leadership challenges
- Enables systemic change on the agenda – a common language and emphasis on early intervention
- Informs commissioning and facilitates multi agency approaches
- Enables accountability, equality and inclusion

South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Apprenticeships and Technical Education

6, 340 Year 10/11 responses to the Future Skills Questionnaire

Do you understand this option after Year 11? - A-levels
- No - 22.4%
- Yes - 77.6%

Do you understand this option after Year 11? – Apprenticeships
- No - 24.8%
- Yes - 75.2%

Do you understand this option after Year 11? – Other
- No - 59.4%
- Yes - 40.6%

Do you understand this option after Year 11? - T-levels
- No - 67.4%
- Yes - 32.6%

Refresh coming soon with added information on V Levels



Work Experience

Updated statutory guidance – 23rd June 2026

From September 2026, schools should be reforming their work experience programmes according to this guidance so that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities, development and learning that work experience provides.

The CEC has information on modern work experience, including a framework of structured learning outcomes to help schools implement a modern, progressive approach to work experience. To support this strategic planning, aligning progress towards the work experience guarantee to the school's priorities, school leaders and careers leaders should refer to theme 5 of the internal leadership review.

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers - GOV.UK

Keeping Children Sage in Education 2026

The Department for Education has published Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, which became statutory from 1 September 2026, and aligns with the Crime and Policing Act 2026 , removing the supervision exemption from the definition of regulated activity with children.

- CEC recognises these changes may raise questions particularly around business volunteers and work experience.
- They are working with colleagues across our networks to understand the practical implications and identify where further support may be needed.
- In the meantime, we recommend reading the additional information published by The Disclosure and Barring Service to support organisations to navigate the changes.

Summary - 5 Actions for This Term

South Midlands CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

1. **Schedule your Internal Leadership Review**
   - Bring together SLT and key colleagues to identify priorities for improvement.
   - Already completed one in the last 12 months – take the next step and book into a Peer-to-Peer review and make sure you have your next annual ILR in everyone's calendar

2. **Engage with the Parent Voice**
   - Launch Your Child's Future and use the findings to strengthen parental engagement.

3. **Explore OnTrack+**
   - Identify KS3 learners at risk of disengagement and use careers as part of your early intervention strategy.

4. **Invest in Your Development**
   - Attend at least one network meeting, learning sprint or wider CPD opportunity this term. Our conference is full of CPD all in one day – great for time poor senior leaders!

5. **Complete your Compass+ Evaluation**
   - Establish your baseline and use the data to inform planning.