



As we reflect on the past season, it's clear that collaboration and innovation continue to shape the skills landscape across the Cardiff Capital Region.

This autumn has been a time of progress and celebration - from the successful launch of HiVE in Ebbw Vale, creating a new hub for advanced engineering and future skills, to the Cardiff and Vale Green Careers event, which connected learners and jobseekers with opportunities in the growing sustainability sector.

We've also seen important steps toward shaping the future of apprenticeships with Medr's **national consultation** paving the way for a more flexible and responsive system, offering new progression routes into high-value careers.

November brought a real highlight with southeast Wales hosting the WorldSkills UK national finals. This prestigious event showcased the very best emerging talent across technical and vocational disciplines, reinforcing the importance of skills excellence and inspiring the next generation.

As we look ahead to winter and beyond, our focus remains on building an inclusive, agile skills system that meets the needs of learners, employers, and the economy.

Thank you to all our partners, cluster groups, and stakeholders for your continued commitment and collaboration.

Wishing you all a productive and positive season.

Leigh Hughes
Chair, CCRSP Employment and Skills Board





HiVE opens its doors: a new era for skills and innovation in Ebbw Vale

The official opening of HiVE (High Value Engineering) on 3 November marked a major milestone in the regeneration of Ebbw Vale.

Funded by both the Welsh and UK governments and developed through a partnership between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Coleg Gwent - through the Tech Valleys Programme - HiVE is set to become a regional hub for advanced skills, innovation, and opportunity.

The launch event brought together local leaders, government ministers, and education and industry partners to celebrate the vision behind HiVE.

Attendees heard from councillor. John Morgan, Nikki Gamlin - Coleg Gwent principal/CEO, Jo Stevens - Secretary of State for Wales, and Jack Sargeant MS, minister for culture, skills and social partnership. They then toured the state-of-the-art facility and experienced the interactive demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies.

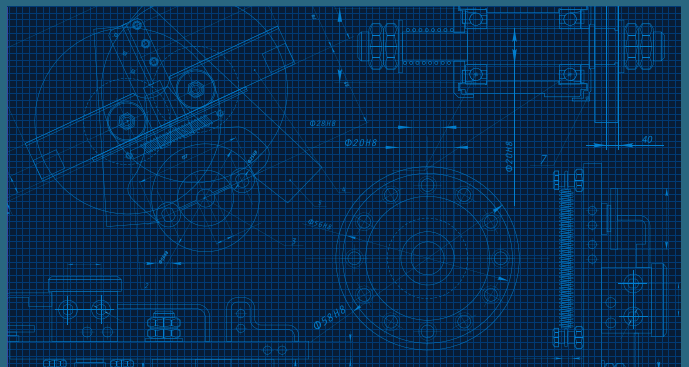
HiVE is more than a building, it's a bold step toward future-proofing the local workforce.

With a focus on engineering, robotics, cyber security, and augmented reality, the centre will deliver education from Level 2 to degree level, aligned with employer needs and Industry 4.0 standards.

The event also welcomed the WorldSkills UK national finals torch relay, symbolising HiVE's role in inspiring the next generation of skilled professionals.

As a centre of excellence, HiVE will support learners, schools, and employers alike - building brighter futures through collaboration, creativity, and cutting-edge skills.

[Read more about the opening event and HiVE](#)





Shaping the future of apprenticeships in Wales: Medr launches national consultation

As part of its commitment to building a more flexible and joined-up tertiary education system, Medr launched a national consultation to help shape the future of apprenticeships in Wales.

The consultation invited views from a wide range of stakeholders including learners, employers, training providers, and local authorities, on the design of a new Apprenticeships Programme set to launch on 1 August 2027.

Apprenticeships are recognised as a key driver of productivity and a vital route to building a skilled, inclusive workforce.

Medr's Strategic Plan outlines a vision for a system that is responsive to the needs of a changing economy and society and this consultation marks a significant step toward realising that goal.

Key themes explored in the consultation included:

- A refreshed definition of apprenticeships.
- The apprentice learner journey.
- Employer engagement and flexible delivery.
- Sector frameworks and economic responsiveness.
- Strengthening Welsh language provision.
- Promoting inclusive access and outcomes.

A series of online and in-person consultation events were held throughout September and October. These included sessions at Venue Cymru in Llandudno and Cardiff and Vale College which offered stakeholders the opportunity to share insights and shape the future of apprenticeship delivery in Wales.

Medr's Chief Executive, James Owen, described the consultation as: "a unique opportunity to co-design a system that delivers excellence, equality, and engagement for all."

To learn more about the consultation and Medr's wider work, visit www.medr.cymru



Wales Tech Week 2025: showcasing innovation, talent, and opportunity on a global stage

Wales Tech Week returned to the ICC Wales in Newport in November. It brought together global tech leaders, innovators, investors, and the 'tech-curious' for three days of inspiration, collaboration, and opportunity.

Powered by Technology Connected, Wales Tech Week is the country's largest international tech summit and is designed to spotlight Wales as a hub for enabling and emerging technologies.

The event connects people, ideas, and industries to explore how technology is transforming business, society, and the economy.

Attendees enjoyed:

- World-class speakers - including futurist Matthew Griffin, Aled Miles (CEO of Intellistack), and Welsh Government leaders.
- Hands-on tech demos, exhibitions, and interactive workshops.
- Panel sessions on AI, cyber security, compound semiconductors, green energy, and more.
- Networking opportunities with startups, scaleups, academia, and global investors.



Spotlight on skills and careers

The final day featured Talent4Tech, a dedicated careers event connecting learners and jobseekers with employers and training providers in Wales's growing tech sector.

It was a key opportunity for young people and career changers to explore high-value, high-skill pathways in digital and tech.

Celebrating Welsh innovation

New for 2025, the 10th Annual Wales Technology Awards closed the event and celebrated the individuals and organisations shaping the future of Welsh tech.

Wales Tech Week aligns with CCRSP's mission to promote digital skills, innovation, and inclusive growth across the region. It's a powerful reminder of the role technology plays in building a resilient, future-ready workforce.

For more information visit walestechweek.com



»»» Exploring green careers: Cardiff and Vale hosts sustainable jobs event

In October, the Cardiff Careers Wales Centre welcomed jobseekers, learners, and career changers to a vibrant sustainable, renewable and green careers information event, hosted by Working Wales.

The event brought together over 20 employers, training providers, and support organisations to showcase the growing opportunities in green and sustainable industries.

From renewable energy and construction to conservation and digital innovation, attendees explored a wide range of career pathways aligned with the future of work.

Highlights included:

- Employer engagement with organisations such as Bute Energy, Ecotricity, Morgan Sindall Construction, and the Civil Service.

- Training and apprenticeship opportunities from Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg y Cymoedd, ACT Training, and Aspire Shared Apprenticeships.
- Volunteering and work experience options with groups like Friends of the Earth and Cardiff Community Gardeners,
- Inclusive access with a dedicated quiet hour from 10–11am to support neurodivergent guests.

Mike Keohane, Team Manager at Careers Wales, described the event as: “a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in a career in green industries or sustainability.”

The event reflected a growing regional focus on net zero skills, sustainable development, and inclusive career pathways, which are the key themes in the CCRSP's ongoing work to align skills provision with future economic needs.





WorldSkills UK national finals 2025: celebrating skills excellence in southeast Wales

Southeast Wales proudly hosted the WorldSkills UK National Finals in November. It was a prestigious event that showcased the UK's top emerging talent across technical and vocational disciplines.

The finals provided an exceptional opportunity for employers, educators, and stakeholders to witness skills excellence in action and engage with the future workforce.

Competitions took place across five venues, featuring disciplines such as:

- **Engineering and technology** – robotics, welding, aircraft maintenance, CNC programming.
- **Digital and creative** – cloud computing, cyber security, digital media production.
- **Health and lifestyle** – health & social care, hairdressing, culinary arts, beauty and SFX make-up.
- **Construction and infrastructure** – electrical installations, landscaping, plumbing, digital construction.

To make the event accessible, sector-specific livestream sessions were offered throughout the week, enabling cluster groups to connect with competitions aligned to their industries.

Highlights included sessions for digital and creative, engineering and technology, health, hospitality and lifestyle, and construction and infrastructure.

Guided tours and interactive sessions gave attendees valuable insights into competition standards, facilities, and emerging trends.

The finals not only celebrated outstanding talent but also reinforced the importance of vocational pathways in building a skilled workforce for the future.

This landmark event demonstrated Wales's commitment to skills development and collaboration, cementing its role as a hub for innovation and excellence.

Building on the success of WorldSkills UK competitions nationally, Wales has its own thriving programme called Inspiring Skills Excellence in Wales.

This project runs Skills Competition Wales, which brings together students from colleges, training providers, and apprentices across Wales to showcase their skills in 65 different competitions each year.

While registration for this year has now closed, the competitions will take place in February and will provide a great opportunity to celebrate Welsh talent. Wales has consistently performed well in the national finals in recent years, highlighting the impact of the project on Welsh skills development.

Find out more at

<https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/>

