

Call for Evidence: Youth Unemployment

[August 2026]

The London Assembly Economy, Culture and Skills Committee has launched an investigation into youth unemployment. The investigation will aim to answer the following questions:

- Why does London have the highest youth unemployment rate in the UK?
- How does youth unemployment impact young Londoners?
- What is the impact of technology and AI on youth unemployment?
- What has been effective elsewhere in tackling high levels of youth unemployment?
- What impact will recent announcements from the Government and GLA have on youth unemployment?
- What else can Government, councils and the GLA do to address youth unemployment in London?

Below is information about the investigation and Call for Evidence, as well as key questions the Committee is interested in hearing about.

Who can submit evidence?

This Call for Evidence is open to all who would like to respond. We particularly welcome responses from those with direct experience of youth unemployment, students and recent graduates, employers, training and employment service providers, as well policy experts, academics and thinktanks working in this area.

Why is the Committee exploring this topic?

London has the highest youth unemployment rate in the UK. Between November 2025 and January 2026, 24.6 per cent of Londoners between 16 and 24 were unemployed, compared with the next highest region (North East) on 23.5 per cent. The Government has commissioned former Health Secretary, Alun Milburn,

to lead a major review into young people and work. The review published its first report in May 2026 and is expected to publish its second in the autumn. The Committee will examine the state of the jobs market in London for young people. It will hear directly from young Londoners on the challenges and barriers they face in securing work, as well as from employers and educational institutions. It will also examine the role of the Mayor in boosting opportunities and removing barriers for young Londoners seeking work, and to what degree technology and AI is making it harder for young people to enter the jobs market.

Key questions

1. What is your experience of the current levels of youth unemployment in London?
2. Why does London have the highest rates of youth unemployment in the UK?
3. How does youth unemployment impact young Londoners?
4. What is the impact of technology and AI on youth unemployment?
5. In your experience, what has been effective in addressing high levels of youth unemployment, both in London and elsewhere?
6. Are the Mayor and the GLA doing enough to tackle high levels of youth unemployment in London, and if not, what more could they be doing?

Call for Evidence: Youth Unemployment

[August 2026]

Will responses be published?

Yes, in the large majority of circumstances we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Committee has received.

Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this Call for Evidence may be used to inform recommendations to the Mayor, which will likely be in a report. These will be held as open meetings, and anyone is welcome to attend as an audience member to watch the discussion on the [Assembly webcasts page](#).

If information and/or quotations from submissions to this call for evidence are used in this output, we will cite you. We inform those who have submitted evidence about the outcome of the investigation in the form of a link to a report or output when it is published.

Where can I find your privacy notice?

The London Assembly and the GLA are committed to protecting your privacy and personal data when you contact us or submit evidence. You can find the GLA's privacy notice [here](#).

Do I need to answer all the questions?

No, you are welcome to answer the questions that are most relevant to you or your organisations and for which you have the most expertise or experience.

How do I submit evidence?

Please send evidence in a Word document format (not PDF) by email to: scrutiny@london.gov.uk

The deadline for submission is Friday 30 October 2026.

Talk London

Talk London is City Hall's online community. The Committee will also be using the Talk London platform to gather views from individual Londoners on this topic, as part of the investigation, in both a survey and online discussion forum. Individuals can take part in our Talk London discussion, as well as submitting evidence via the above method. Please visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/talk-london/> to find out more.

About the Committee

The Economy, Culture and Skills Committee examines matters relating to economic development, culture, skills, sport and tourism in London, and leads on scrutiny of any actions or decisions taken by the Mayor in these areas. To read more about our previous work, please visit our [website](#).

Call for Evidence: Youth Unemployment

[August 2026]

Committee Members

- Bassam Mahfouz AM (Chair)
- Zack Polanski AM (Deputy Chair)
- The Lord Bailey of Paddington
- Hina Bokhari OBE AM
- Anne Clarke AM
- Marina Ahmad AM
- Unmesh Desai AM
- Alessandro Georgiou AM
- Alex Wilson AM