

## Young people and work focus groups

Alan Milburn, a previous MP and health secretary, has been asked by the UK government to look at young people in the UK who are not in education, employment or training (sometimes referred to as NEET), **to see how they can better support young people and their futures.**

Shuab and Peter, who are researchers, have been asked by Alan Milburn's team to **hear from young people directly about what they think needs to change.**

To do this, they are running some workshops with young people across the UK between March and April this year. What they hear in the workshops will help shape a report due in late spring, with a final report and recommendations to the government published this autumn.

### The workshops

The researchers are running small group conversations with young people to hear about **their experiences of education, work and what life looks like growing up today, including sessions specifically for young people who are care experienced.**

The workshops will be **fairly informal and discussion-based**, designed to create space for you to share your perspectives and experiences, in your own words.

We want to make sure your voices are heard in a safe and open environment where you can speak honestly about the challenges you face and what opportunities you'd like to see. **What you share will help shape ideas about how the country can better support young people in the future.**

However, if the researchers ask any questions that you do not want to answer, you do not need to. **It is your choice how much of your experience you share with them.**

The workshops typically last around **60–90 minutes**, and you will be provided with a **£25 Amazon voucher as a thank you for sharing your thoughts.**

The workshops will take place **online** on the following dates and times:

- **Thursday 9th April, 5.30pm-7.00pm**

Please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985360258979?aff=oddtcreator>

- **Monday 13th April, 5.30pm-7.00pm |**

Please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985362125562?aff=oddtcreator>

## The researchers

### Shuab

Shuab is in his mid-twenties, from Manchester, has a 16-year-old brother, and is a **Blavatnik School of Government Scholar, researcher and youth advocate**. His work explores how young people understand **politics, identity and belonging** in a rapidly changing world. He speaks at conferences and events around the world on education, inclusion and youth participation.



### Peter

Peter is in his mid-fifties, from London, has three children, and **has worked as a political strategist for Tony Blair and Sir Keir Starmer**. Peter moved from politics to education, working first as a teaching assistant, then training as a history teacher before becoming **headteacher and co-founder of a pioneering 4 to 18 state school in East London, School 21**.

He became Co-CEO of a group of schools and co-founded - designed and built - a new primary school, School 360. He co-founded Voice 21, a charity which now works in more than 1000 schools across England, **developing speaking skills in young people**.

