

## Social Values Statement of Intent and Commitment

## Statement brief & purpose

At Portland Training, we are committed to delivering meaningful social value through our education and training services. Our approach is rooted in community engagement, support for vulnerable groups, and the promotion of lifelong learning and employability skills.

## Supporting Charitable and Community Initiatives

We actively promote and participate in charitable activities that make a tangible difference in our communities, including:

- **Shoe Box Appeals:** Encouraging learners and staff to contribute essential items for those in need.
  - **Volunteering Opportunities:** Facilitating and recognizing learner involvement in local volunteering efforts.
  - **Poppy Collections:** Supporting remembrance and fundraising efforts for veterans and their families.
  - **Walking with the Wounded Partnership:** Collaborating to support service leavers, especially those injured or wounded, by providing tailored training and pathways into employment.
  - **Military Resettlement:** Portland have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and are a bronze partner within the Employer Recognition Scheme. Portland partner with Front Foot Life, Front Foot Jobs, The Forces Transition Group and are approved suppliers for resettlement services with ELCAS (Enhanced Learning Credits Administration Scheme) and CTP (Careers Transition Partnership), helping service leavers transition into rewarding and sustainable employment.

## Tackling Digital Poverty with The Good Things Foundation

We proudly work alongside The Good Things Foundation to address digital exclusion. Through this partnership, we help bring:

- **Devices and Connectivity:** Providing equipment and mobile data to learners facing digital poverty.

- **Access to Training and Employment:** Enabling learners to engage with online training, job applications, and virtual support services.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Ensuring that all learners, regardless of background, can participate fully in the digital economy.

### **Empowering Learners Through Additionality**

We unlock additionality by offering resources that go beyond core training, helping learners develop wider social and employability skills. This includes:

- **Dedicated Learner Hub:** A central platform offering free, bitesize training modules inclusive of, but not restricted to:
- **CV Writing**
- **Interview Techniques**
- **Customer Service**
- **Financial Planning**
- **Jobs Board:** Hosting current employment opportunities to connect learners with potential employers.
- **Virtual Noticeboard:** Ensuring that all learners have access to up-to-date, personalised Information, Advice, and Guidance (IAG) to support both career and personal development needs.

### **Inclusive Learner Demographics**

Our learner community is diverse and reflective of the challenges faced across society. We support:

- Residents in areas of high deprivation
- NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Migrants and asylum seekers
- Disabled and able-bodied learners
- Individuals who are long-term unemployed, and career returners
- Ex-offenders

Our training is designed to be geographically accessible, delivered predominantly online using engaging, accessible and collaborative technology, and on occasion in community venues and at our own premises, ensuring that no learner is left behind due to location or circumstance.

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## Developing Mindsets and Bridging Social Gaps

Through our partnership with the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence, learners gain access to Mindset Masterclasses that develop personal and professional capabilities such as resilience, confidence, and communication. We recognise that many younger learners were denied vital social development opportunities due to the global pandemic. It is our mission to bridge that gap, helping them build the interpersonal and workplace skills they may have missed during school or college closures.

## Environmental Awareness

Online, on-demand learning is a powerful ally in the journey toward a greener future and achieving carbon neutrality. By embracing digital education, we can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of learners. Traditional in-person learning often requires commuting, contributing to carbon emissions. By learning online, students eliminate the need for daily travel, thereby reducing their carbon footprint. Online learning often takes place at home or in spaces that are already in use, meaning additional energy consumption for running large educational facilities is avoided. This leads to a significant decrease in energy usage and associated carbon emissions. Linked to this, online learning relies on digital resources rather than physical textbooks, paper handouts, and other printed materials. This not only conserves trees but also reduces the emissions from production and transportation of paper goods.

## Tackling Unemployment Through Intelligence-Led Training

Portland Training is committed to reducing unemployment by aligning our training with realworld labour market needs. We use insights from:

- Networks for Innovation
  - Communities of Practice
  - Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs)
  - Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)

This data-driven approach ensures our curriculum is responsive to local, regional, and national skills demands, equipping learners with the qualifications and capabilities that employers are actively seeking.

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## Our Commitment

Portland Training believes that education is a powerful tool for social change. Through our policies and practices, we aim to:

- Enhance community wellbeing
  - Support disadvantaged and underrepresented groups
  - Promote sustainable employment
  - Foster a culture of giving and social responsibility
  - Champion digital inclusion and accessibility
  - Bridge social and developmental gaps for young people
  - Align training with real labour market needs

Being a Real Living Wage Employer and a Disability Confident Committed Employer demonstrates our dedication to social values. By paying the real living wage across the UK, we ensure financial stability and well-being for our employees, which supports local economic growth and sets a positive example for other businesses. Additionally, we collaborate and work in partnership with other Living Wage employers to provide the same experience for our learners, ensuring they benefit too.

Our commitment to the Disability Confident scheme promotes inclusive hiring practices, providing necessary support and career development opportunities for people with disabilities. This fosters a diverse and supportive work environment, where all employees can thrive. By embracing these initiatives, we demonstrate our holistic approach to social responsibility, addressing economic, social, and community aspects of our operations.

We continuously evaluate and evolve our social value initiatives to ensure they remain impactful and aligned with the needs of our learners and communities.