

# THE Bulletin

Issue 53 Winter Edition 2025

## Business Confidence Falls Dramatically in South Yorkshire, Following Autumn Budget



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# Challenges and Opportunities in 2025



**As we step into another year filled with both opportunities and challenges, I am reminded of the innovation, and determination that define the businesses in Barnsley and Rotherham.**

**T**he past year has tested us in many ways, but it has also highlighted the strength of our community and the incredible potential for growth and collaboration across our region.

In this edition of The Bulletin, we reflect on key moments and look ahead to exciting initiatives in 2025. On **Page 7**, we welcome Matt Travis as the new President of the Chamber, whose vision for representing our membership and championing sustainability sets a strong foundation for the year ahead.

The spotlight then turns to our celebration of International Women’s Day 2025 on **Page 12**, an event focused on amplifying the voices of women in business and driving meaningful change through the #AccelerateAction campaign.

As detailed on **Page 20**, the results of our latest Quarterly Economic Survey reveal the significant impact of the Autumn Budget on business confidence across South Yorkshire.

Unsurprisingly, these downturns have had a knock-on effect on investment intentions, with nearly a quarter of survey respondents reporting that they have had to scale back investment in their plants or machinery. Alarming, plans for training have also hit their lowest recorded levels since the first quarter of 2023.

These worrying trends mirror those observed across the country, with the national Quarterly Economic Survey – which South Yorkshire’s results feed directly into – raising the same red flags. It’s clear that the decline in business confidence locally can be largely attributed to the Autumn Budget and other external economic pressures. The Chamber remains steadfast in advocating for our members and working closely with policymakers to ensure their voices are heard.

Head over to our recap on the 2024 Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards is must read on **Page 22**, as we came together as a region and business community to celebrate truly exemplar individuals and organisations which continue to put our region on the map as a fantastic place to do business.

Looking forward, we invite you to join us at our networking and sector specific events, including the announcement of the 2025 Chamber Means Business Expo on **Page 31** and the Barnsley and Rotherham Construction Forum’s Meet the Buyer Expo on **Page 41**. These events provide invaluable opportunities for collaboration and networking opportunities with a cross section of leading businesses and organisations that make our region so unique.

Finally, don’t miss our coverage on **Page 46** of the Business Crime Survey, shedding light on the challenges many businesses face and the steps we must take to address them.

As always, The Bulletin is your guide to everything happening in the Chamber and beyond.

**Together, let us continue to build a thriving and connected business community. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in your Chamber – let’s make 2025 a year to remember.**

Carrie Sudbury  
Chief Executive, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber

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## 31 Chamber announces date for 2025 Chamber Means Business Expo

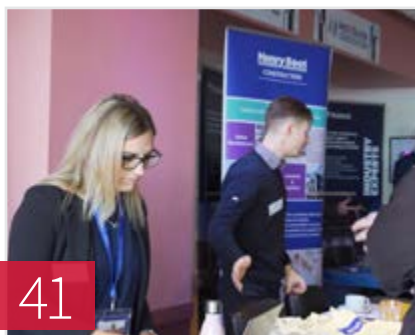
The 2025 Chamber Means Business Expo is set to take place on Thursday, 18th September 2025, at the AESSEAL New York Stadium.

## 46 Results Explore The Impact That Crime Is Having On Businesses

A Rotherham-based entrepreneur has been named as one of the most inspiring business leaders currently working in the manufacturing sector.



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# Matt Travis announced as President of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce that Matt Travis has officially taken up the role of President, a transition marked at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21st November 2024.**

**T**his significant occasion was accompanied by the Chamber's promising forecast for future growth and development across South Yorkshire.

Matt brings a wealth of experience, unmatched enthusiasm, and commitment to supporting the business community throughout the region. A passionate advocate for sustainability and innovation, Matt is poised to lead the Chamber in advancing growth, collaboration, and championing environmental responsibility. His presidency signals a new era of progress for businesses across Barnsley, Rotherham, and beyond.

The Chamber also takes this opportunity to extend its deepest gratitude to outgoing President Matthew Stephens for his exemplary leadership and vision. During his tenure, Matthew made a lasting impact, setting the foundation for this exciting next chapter.

As the Chamber builds on this momentum, Matt Travis shared his vision for the future:

“With many businesses in the region facing uncertain futures, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber will continue to do everything in its power to create an environment where businesses of all sizes can unlock their full potential.

“The budget was a difficult one for many businesses, and one of my top priorities will be to work closely with South



Yorkshire’s MPs to ensure their concerns are heard. I feel particularly proud of the steps the Chamber has made towards building stronger local supply chains, and as a direct result of this work, more than £70 million has been retained within the local economy over the past year alone.

“I am looking forward to working alongside our 1,100-strong membership and helping to create an environment

where businesses of all sizes across South Yorkshire can truly prosper.”

**With a focus on strengthening local supply chains, fostering sustainability, and advocating for businesses across the region, the Chamber is excited to work under Matt’s leadership to deliver real value for our members.**





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# Local Partnership to Boost Business Energy Efficiency

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber members Professional Energy People (PEP) and Clear Quality have joined forces to deliver structured energy efficiency solutions through the internationally recognised ISO 50001 standard.**

**P**EP, a premier business energy consultancy and Chamber Energy Partner, has a proven track record of helping organisations save thousands of pounds and reduce carbon emissions through detailed energy efficiency audits.

Meanwhile, Clear Quality, a trusted BS EN ISO consultancy and certification body, specialises in developing and implementing robust Quality Management Systems for businesses nationwide.

Together, the partnership unites their expertise to provide businesses with comprehensive energy management systems that meet ISO 50001 requirements.

Why ISO 50001?

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Linda Spencer, Managing Director of PEP, shared her enthusiasm for the collaboration



“This partnership exemplifies how businesses can come together to deliver even greater value for customers. At PEP, we’ve achieved fantastic results through our energy audits over the years. Partnering with Clear Quality allows us to offer a comprehensive, long-term solution under ISO 50001 that equips businesses to systematically manage their energy performance and sustainability goals.”

Debbie Whitehead, MD at Clear Quality comments “For seven years, we’ve had the privilege of collaborating with Linda and her team at PEP, and I’m excited to officially join forces in 2025. Together, we’ll combine our expertise to help

businesses integrate energy efficiency and sustainability, key to ISO 50001 compliance. This partnership showcases the power of collaboration - proving that meaningful progress comes from working together.”

**This strategic partnership offers a compelling opportunity for organisations looking to improve energy efficiency, save costs, and meet their sustainability targets.**

For more information contact [info@pepgb.com](mailto:info@pepgb.com) or 0330 0022180.



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# Oxley & Coward Solicitors Expands with New Offices as growth continues

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber welcomes the move as a sign of continued success and commitment to local business growth.**

**B**arnsley & Rotherham Chamber is proud to announce that Chamber Patron, Oxley & Coward Solicitors, has moved to a new, larger office location as part of its ongoing expansion plans. The move marks a significant milestone for the firm as they continue to broaden their services and enhance their presence in the region.

Oxley & Coward, a well-established name in the legal sector, has been serving clients in South Yorkshire and beyond for over 233 years, providing expert legal advice in areas ranging from family law to personal injury and corporate services. The decision to relocate to a more spacious office reflects the firm's continued growth, both in terms of its client base and team size.

The new office, located at The Point, Bradmarsh Business Park, Rotherham provides a modern, professional space that will support the growing needs of the firm and offer an improved environment for both staff and clients. The move is part of Oxley & Coward's strategic vision to remain at the forefront of the legal industry while continuing to support the local economy and create more job opportunities in the area.

Shane Young, Operations Director at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, commented, "The relocation of Oxley & Coward is a fantastic example of how local businesses continue to thrive and grow. As a valued Chamber Patron, Oxley & Coward's move to larger premises signals their success and ongoing investment in the region.



It's a great boost for Barnsley and Rotherham, showcasing the dynamic, entrepreneurial spirit that drives our local economy forward. We look forward to seeing the firm continue to flourish in its new home, and we are excited to continue working alongside them as they expand their reach and capabilities."

Richard Sheppard, Managing Partner at Oxley & Coward said, "Due to continued growth, and to allow our teams to work in more collaborative way, we have said goodbye to our old office at 34 Moorgate Street which we have been in for over 90 years. Our new offices at Bradmarsh Business Park places us right in the middle of the vibrant industrial and business centre that has developed around Sheffield Road over

the last few years. Although we will be welcoming clients to our new offices we have retained our offices at 46 Moorgate Street so that clients preferring to come into the Town centre can still do so by appointment. The new reception is just further up the street from the 34 Moorgate Street building."

Oxley & Coward's new office is now fully operational and will continue to offer the same high-quality legal services that clients have come to expect.

**For more information about Oxley & Coward, please visit: [Oxley and Coward](#)**



# Chamber Celebrates International Women's Day 2025 with

## #AccelerateAction event

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with sponsor AESSEAL, is proud to announce its celebration of International Women's Day 2025.**

**T**his event will take place on Friday, 7th March 2025, from 11:30 AM at the AESSEAL New York Stadium in Rotherham.

Themed #AccelerateAction, this year's campaign aims to advocate for change and showcase the voices of women in business throughout the Barnsley and Rotherham region. The event will feature an engaging lineup of speakers, a Q&A panel, and interactive discussions exploring the experiences and stories of women who have made significant strides in their fields.

Hosted by Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber's Vice President, Mark Smith from Make Your Mark UK, the event promises a day of exploration. Guests can expect inspiring discussions, a two-course meal, and the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women and leaders in our region.





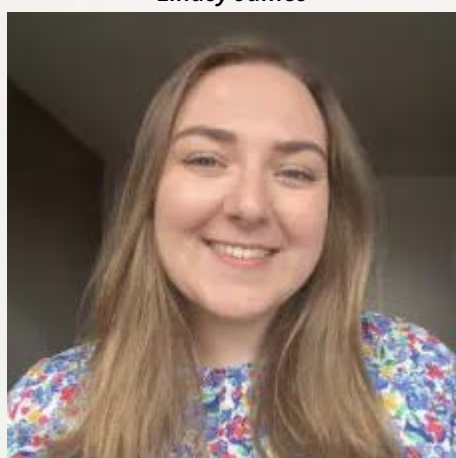
*Lindsey James*



*Ava Jones*



*Ken Perritt*



*Alicia Hewitt*



*Karen Thomas*

**Featured Speakers:**

**Lindsey James – Founder and Director, Active Fusion**

Lindsey is a dedicated advocate for children’s health and wellbeing, inspiring countless young people through her charity, which has recently received the King’s Award for Voluntary Service. As a record-holding athlete, she embodies resilience and passion, proving that ordinary individuals can achieve extraordinary outcomes.

**Alicia Hewitt – Managing Director, Secure Power**

Alicia’s journey from apprentice to Managing Director showcases her commitment to growth and innovation. Her focus on teamwork and opportunity creation reflects her belief that success is a collective effort. Recently recognised as the Businessperson of the Year at the 2024 Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards, Alicia continues to be an inspiring figure in the community.

The event will also feature a Q&A panel from local businesses and organisations, leading a discussion on advocating for women’s rights and the role of women in business in the region.

**Panel Members Include:**

**Ava Jones** – Head of Marketing and Executive Assistant, AESSEAL  
Ava’s extensive career path at AESSEAL, beginning as an apprentice, highlights her dedication to sustainability and continuous improvement across various operations.

**Karen Thomas** is a Finance Director with over 25 years of experience steering financial strategy at ASD Lighting a UK manufacturer that creates high quality lighting solutions that support safety and sustainability. Balancing this demanding role, Karen also works in the male-dominated world of football as Finance Director for Rotherham United Football Club, a position she has held for 16 years.

A graduate of The Manchester Metropolitan University with a BA in Accounting and Finance, Karen exemplifies leadership and resilience. Her dedication and ability to excel in diverse environments make her an inspiring figure for women striving to break barriers and achieve success across industries.

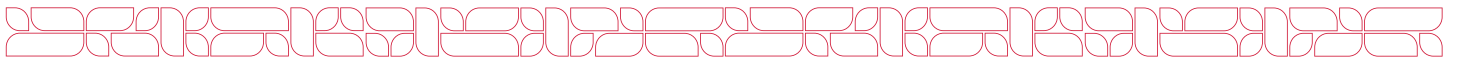
**Ken Perritt** an experienced Senior Director with a demonstrated career spanning 25 years of working in the logistics and supply chain industry.

**This event offers a great opportunity for individuals and businesses in the Barnsley and Rotherham region to come together, share experiences, and create valuable connections. By celebrating the achievements of women and advocating for ongoing change, we can accelerate progress towards gender equality.**

**For tickets and further details about the event, please [Click Here](#) or contact [events@brchamber.co.uk](mailto:events@brchamber.co.uk).**

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# Lord Blunkett opens **£422,000 digital hub** at the North's only adult residential college

Lord Blunkett has officially opened a £422,000 digital hub at the North's only adult residential college.

**T**he investment has modernised the library at Northern College, which is based within the Grade 1 listed Wentworth Castle, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Regionally, the demand for digital skills in South Yorkshire is increasing as technology becomes central to many organisations across different sectors.

The library upgrade has been funded by the government's Local Skills Improvement Fund. Next year, as part of the project, the college will also unveil an immersive digital classroom.

Immersive technology enables students to experience real world training environments across a range of industries via virtual and augmented reality.

Emma Beal, Principal and Chief Executive, Northern College, said: "We have a strong track record of raising aspirations and providing life changing education opportunities for adults.

"We are delighted to officially open our digital hub as part of a longer term project. A key aim is to ensure that under-represented groups who are often digitally excluded have access to high quality digital resources and support.

"Providing the latest digital training will equip our students with vital skills for new careers and that employers in our region need."

The library facilities and resources will



give students, such as those studying residentially, access to digital study spaces including during the evenings and weekends.

Northern College provides short courses as well as academic and vocational qualifications to adults mainly from South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

A significant number of learners are from

disadvantaged backgrounds and decide to stay residentially for part of the week so they can immerse themselves in their studies. Returning to education later in life helps to boost their knowledge, skills and employment prospects.

During the official opening on 29th November 2024, dignitaries including Lord Blunkett and Oliver Coppard, South Yorkshire Mayor, met with staff





and students and toured the college's facilities.

Lord Blunkett, a former Secretary of State for Education and Employment, and now member of the House of Lords, said: "Lifelong learning is not just vital for the wellbeing of individuals seeking to adapt to an ever-changing world, but fundamental to the government's agenda, emphasised earlier this week, of enabling people to return to work after redundancy or periods of ill health.

"Modern transformational learning resources play a critical part in enabling students to connect with the technology of the future and to access sources of learning in a way which was inconceivable even a decade ago.

"Access to these facilities and educational opportunity for those most disadvantaged or previously excluded from opportunity is an essential tenet of the work of the Northern College, and this investment will facilitate achieving the outcomes desired by everyone involved."



Staff from the Association of Colleges, Department for Education, Doncaster Chamber of Commerce, Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Colleges Partnership, South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority (SYMCA) and West Yorkshire Combined Authority attended the event.

Students from the University of Sheffield, who have been involved in a digital project capturing the history of the college, were involved in showcasing some of the facilities.

Northern College student Sarah Porter, 38, who is completing a one year Access to Health Science Professions course, said: "It is great to see the library facilities updated. Digital skills are something that I have had to develop at the college.

"Returning to studying as an adult can be an anxious time. But the environment is inclusive and the college is set in peaceful surroundings. It's good to study with other adults. I feel comfortable here."

Digital skills are increasingly important in the modern economy according to a Skills England report published in

September 2024. The report highlights that basic digital skills are important to the majority (92%) of employers. However, nationally around 7.5 million working age adults do not have basic digital skills.

The South Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) 2023 to 2026 has found that there are growing digital skills gaps regionally. Regional colleges, training providers and universities altogether secured £4.2 million from the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) last year to develop digital skills.

The LSIP and LSIF are backed by Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, as well as Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Sheffield Chamber of Commerce.

Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive, Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, commented: "The new digital hub at Northern College is a fantastic step forward for our region, giving adults the chance to develop essential digital skills that are so important in today's world. It's great to see this investment helping to modernise facilities and meet the growing demand for tech expertise in

South Yorkshire.

"Northern College does incredible work supporting adults, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to gain the skills and confidence they need to change their lives. This new hub is another brilliant example of how they're helping to drive opportunity and growth in our community."

**To find out more, visit <https://www.northern.ac.uk/>.**





# Over 3,000 Barnsley young people choose Base71 as

# Barnsley Youth Zone's name

More than 3,000 young people across Barnsley have voted to name the town's new Youth Zone 'Base71'.

**T**he state-of-the-art new youth centre, which is currently under construction, will offer a safe and vibrant space for young people aged 8-19 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs), through a range of opportunities and youth worker support seven days a week. Packed with over 20 activities every night, ranging from sports to creative arts and employability training, it's set to transform opportunities for Barnsley's young people.

The name 'Base71' emerged from a public vote after the Youth Zone's Young People's Development Group (a group of local young volunteers helping to shape Barnsley's Youth Zone) collaborated with design agency Bird to create an exciting new brand.

Two brand concepts were put forward: 'Base71' and 'The Den'. The public vote, which involved both presentations across a number of local schools and an online vote, saw Barnsley's young people overwhelmingly chose 'Base71.'

The name reflects young people's deep sense of pride in their local area, with S71 representing the



Youth Zone's postcode, and 'Base' symbolising a safe space and welcoming home where young people can feel secure, supported, and inspired. The design further adds to this, with a bold, retro feel that's full of personality, graffiti influences, giving it an edgy, urban twist and wording set on a slant, so it reflects motion and growth while looking eye-catching and lively.

Base71's Young People's Development Group has played a crucial role in shaping the Youth Zone every step of the way. From co-developing the brand to making key decisions about interior design and staff recruitment, they've been at the heart of the project.

Once opened, Base71 will become part of our growing Network of 15 existing OnSide Youth Zones which support over 50,000 young people every year. With a membership fee of just £5 per

year and 50p per visit, Base71 will offer Barnsley's young people aged 8 to 19 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs) access to world-class facilities. These include an indoor climbing wall, four-court sports hall, music room with a recording studio, fully equipped gym, dance and drama studio, 3G kick pitch, and more.

Base71's dedicated team of trained youth workers and volunteers will be available seven days a week, providing guidance, mentorship, and support to help young people thrive.

**In addition to empowering Barnsley's young people, Base71 will create jobs, boost volunteering opportunities, and become a cornerstone of the community.**





# Chamber Announces Official Fitness Partnership

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce an official partnership with Everlast Gym, Rotherham, aimed at promoting health, well-being, and fitness among Chamber members and the wider business community.**

**T**his collaboration reflects the Chamber’s commitment to encouraging a vibrant, healthy workforce that contributes positively to the local economy and community.

Through this partnership, Chamber members can benefit from exclusive discounted offers, fitness programs, and wellness initiatives designed to enhance physical activity. As part of this relationship, Everlast Gym, located at Parkgate, Rotherham, will provide a range of support for local businesses, including custom fitness packages and access to state-of-the-art facilities.

Shane Young, Operations Director at the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, “At the Chamber, we understand the vital link between health and productivity. By partnering with Everlast Gym, we’re helping our members take proactive steps towards creating a more resilient, energized, and focused workforce. This partnership is a wonderful opportunity to promote wellness and make a positive impact across our community.”

Katie Johnson, General Manager at Everlast Gym, also shared her thoughts on the collaboration. “We are thrilled to



partner with the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce and look forward to supporting the health and fitness goals of its members. Our team at Everlast Gym is passionate about creating a welcoming environment where people can enhance their

well-being and achieve their fitness aspirations. Together with the Chamber, we can make a difference in the health and vitality of Rotherham’s business community.”

This partnership marks an exciting step forward in the Chamber’s mission to provide its members with access to valuable resources and support. Both organizations are committed to inspiring and empowering individuals and businesses alike to prioritize health, recognizing the positive impact it has on workplace morale, productivity, and overall quality of life.

To kick this partnership off, we have organised a unique networking event to bring business and fitness together. SWEATworking will take place 29th January, and for more information please see this link: [SWEATworking – bringing networking and fitness together!](#)

**For more information about the partnership and how to take advantage of the unique Chamber member discounted service, please follow the link.**

## DIAMOND MEMBERS





### Active Fusion, a children and young person's sports charity based in Doncaster have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2024.

**T**his is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

Active Fusion is committed to empowering children and young people, placing them at the core of its mission to ensure every child has the best start in life. As a charity, it fosters a lifelong love of activity by delivering high-quality sports and physical programmes that unlock potential, build positive habits, and support educational growth.

With a focus on reaching those from the most disadvantaged communities, who are often facing declining mental and physical health, Active Fusion provides critical support to help these young people thrive.

By encouraging them to lead change in their communities and explore future pathways, the charity aims to create a world where young people are healthy, happy and active, prioritising those who need support the most. Volunteers are essential to this mission, receiving comprehensive support to make a meaningful difference in their communities to the lives of local

children. Active Fusion is one of 281 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year, and only 1 of 4 charities in South Yorkshire. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them. The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities.

It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Majesty The late Queen's Golden Jubilee and was continued following the accession of His Majesty The King. 2024 marks the second year of The King's Award for Voluntary Service. Recipients are announced annually on 14th November, The King's Birthday.

Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse and include volunteer groups from across the UK, such as a mental health and wellbeing support network for veterans and their families in Yorkshire; a group preserving a historic 12th century castle in south Wales; volunteers providing English lessons for

refugees in Stirling and an organisation providing opportunities to engage in the arts for people with learning disabilities in County Fermanagh. Representatives of Active Fusion will receive the award crystal and certificate from Dame Hilary Chapman, Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire.

In addition, two volunteers from Active Fusion will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May and June 2025, along with other recipients of this year's award. Founder and Director of Active Fusion, Lindsay James, commented, "This award is not just for us, but for every individual who has supported our mission, from our volunteers, donors the business community to the people we serve.

**It's a celebration of the spirit of giving and the power of community. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey. This award is a reminder of what we can achieve when we come together to create positive change."**

**You can discover more about Active Fusion and their impact here.**



# Supporting Clients Ahead of 31st Jan. Tax Deadline

With the 31st January 2025 tax deadline fast approaching, Branagans Accountancy Services is urging individuals and businesses to prepare for a range of tax-related challenges.

**F**rom managing Simple Assessment letters to spotting HMRC tax scams and understanding the Basis Period Reform, Branagans is here to guide clients through a complex tax landscape.

Donna Branagan, Director of Branagans Accountancy Services, emphasises the importance of proactive planning. “Our mission has always been to empower our clients with knowledge and solutions. Whether you’re navigating a Simple Assessment letter or preparing for the Basis Period Reform, our goal is to simplify the process and help you meet your obligations with confidence,” she states. “We understand that tax compliance can feel daunting, but with the right support, it can also be an opportunity to optimise your financial position.”

## Key Issues and How Branagans Can Help

1. **Simple Assessment Letters:** HMRC has begun issuing Simple Assessment letters to individuals who owe tax outside the traditional self-assessment process. These letters require close scrutiny, as errors in calculation could lead to overpayment. Donna advises, “Always check the figures in your letter carefully, and if you’re unsure, consult with an accountancy, like Branagans. We’re here to ensure that you only pay what you owe.”

2. **HMRC Tax Scams:** With nearly 150,000 fraud reports made to HMRC last year, Branagans is urging vigilance. Scammers often target taxpayers with fake tax rebate offers or demands for payment around this time of year. David Branagan, Director of Branagans Accountancy Services, stresses, “Don’t rush into



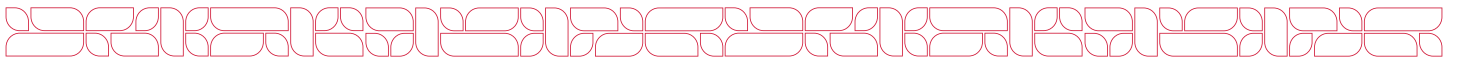
responding to unsolicited messages. If something seems suspicious, we urge our clients contact us or refer to HMRC’s official advice. Protecting your financial information is paramount.”

3. **Basis Period Reform:** The Basis Period Reform, effective from 2023/24, could result in higher-than-expected tax bills for self-employed individuals and LLP members in January 2025. Donna explains, “While this reform aims to standardise tax reporting, it’s crucial for affected individuals to act now to manage cash flow. Our team is ready to assist with spreading transitional profits and exploring overlap profit relief.”

**Whether you’re grappling with Simple Assessment letters, concerned about scams, or preparing for the Basis**

**Period Reform, Branagans Accountancy Services is here to help. Contact them today at 01709 327 215 or email [info@branagans.co.uk](mailto:info@branagans.co.uk) to ensure you’re ready for the 31st January deadline.**





# Business Confidence Falls

## Dramatically in South Yorkshire, Following Autumn Budget

**In line with national trends, business conditions and confidence levels have weakened dramatically across South Yorkshire, ever since Government's Autumn Budget was unveiled.**

**T**his is as per the findings of the region's latest Quarterly Economic Survey, which was carried out between the 11th of November (just over a week after the Budget) and the 9th of December.

Informed by approximately 300 responses — from firms of all different shapes, sizes and industries — the results paint a troubling picture of how the local economy is fairing right now, and how businesses have ultimately born the brunt of some of the more controversial measures announced by Westminster.

After charting a positive trajectory in recent surveys, key indicators like domestic sales performance, exports, and cashflow positions have all taken a sharp downward turn this quarter, while confidence in turnover and profitability levels has similarly declined. Conversely, the proportion of firms expecting the prices of goods & services to go up has increased, reaching a concerning two-year high of 59%.

Unsurprisingly, these downturns have had a knock-on effect for investment intentions as well, with nearly a quarter of survey respondents claiming that they have had to scale back on investing in their plants or machinery, while plans for training have hit their lowest recorded levels since Q1 of 2023.

All these worrying trends chime with



those being witnessed elsewhere around the country, with the nationwide Quarterly Economic Survey results (which the regional QES feeds directly into) raising the very same concerns. And, just as with that UK-wide dataset, it is clear that the blow to business confidence being observed here in South Yorkshire can largely be attributed to the Autumn Budget, as well as to a few other external factors.

Speaking about this, the respective Chief Execs for Doncaster, Sheffield and

Barnsley & Rotherham Chambers of Commerce (who conduct the QES in South Yorkshire) issued the following joint statement:

“It's evident that the Autumn Budget is already exacting a heavy toll on business owners, who are having to make some tough calls as a result; whether it's scaling back their investment intentions; putting up their prices; or potentially even thinking about reducing their workforce levels”



“Although there are undoubtedly other factors at play contributing to this collapse in optimism, it’s hard not to point at what our survey respondents told us is their biggest source of consternation right now. Ever since 2021, inflation has consistently remained the number one worry for firms here in South Yorkshire, often eclipsing any other anxieties by a wide margin. Yet, this time around, corporate taxation towered well above it, being cited as a major issue for over 63% of firms. For context, in the previous quarter leading up to the Autumn Budget, this number was at only 37%.

“In times of economic turmoil, Westminster ought to be encouraging entrepreneurialism and growth. Yet the consequences of their Autumn Budget — and specifically the corresponding hike in the National Insurance contributions paid by employers — are plain to see here. Business confidence is now falling at an alarming rate.

“With that said, while we do welcome planned interventions to restore stability in the long term, such as the forthcoming industrial strategy, something needs to be done in the here and now to convince businesses that the Government is attuned to their plight and that it indeed has their back.

“Of course, we know that South Yorkshire’s ever-resilient private sector will capably rise to whatever challenges await them in the year ahead, and can also take solace in the fact that great business always a way. No matter how tough the economic conditions may get. Not to mention, we here at the South Yorkshire Chambers will be right at a hand to offer whatever support we can to these intrepid firms, and to hopefully play a big role in their success going forward.”

The Quarterly Economic Survey is the nation’s largest independent review of business sentiment. Led by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), it asks a series of standardised questions — that are repeated every three months — to monitor if there are any fluctuations, developing trends or other points of interest that help shed light on how the UK’s private sector is currently fairing.

Conducted by the respective Chambers of Commerce for Doncaster, Sheffield and Barnsley & Rotherham, the South Yorkshire iteration of the QES is sponsored by Clear Insurance Management and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

The latest results can be found here.& Rotherham Chamber website.





# Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards 2024 – A Celebration of Business

**On Friday, 8th November, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards – A Celebration of Business, at Magna in Rotherham. The event, headline sponsored by Barnsley College, welcomed over 500 guests from across Barnsley, Rotherham, and South Yorkshire.**

**T**he evening was a spectacular blend of entertainment and recognition of leading businesses and outstanding individuals across the region, featuring live music, a DJ set, and the thrilling Cliffhanger ride to conclude the festivities.

Hosted by Look North presenter Amy Garcia, the awards ceremony included the presentation of ten prestigious awards plus the overall ‘Champion of Champions’ Business of the Year award, recognising exceptional achievements across a diverse range of organisations and industries. The awards celebrated everything from outstanding entrepreneurs vying for Business Person of the Year to apprentices demonstrating exceptional dedication to career development.

Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, said, “The Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards truly showcased our local business community. Each finalist and winner on the evening demonstrated the innovation, dedication, and hard work that make South Yorkshire such a special place to do business. We are so proud to celebrate their achievements.”

“I’d like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success.”

“A special shout out must go to Barnsley College, our headline sponsor—who truly brought something extra to the evening. To all our sponsors, your generosity made the night possible, and your commitment to South

Yorkshire businesses is incredible.”  
“Congratulations to all our winners, highly commended, and shortlisted businesses—what a fantastic achievement!”

For 2024, a new category was introduced to honour the Large Business of the Year, alongside awards recognising best practices in sustainability, commitment to staff development, customer service, and business growth.

Among the evening’s standout winners was Sky High Tree & Ground Maintenance Services, which took home the coveted Business of the Year award. The local company has seen impressive growth since its founding, expanding to serve industry leaders in both commercial and residential construction across the North of England.

The Charity of the Year award went to Barnsley FC Community Trust, recognised for its inspiring, inclusive programmes that harness the power of Barnsley Football Club to support the local community and create positive change.

A special tribute was paid to long-serving businesses that have contributed to the region’s economy, with milestone certificates awarded to Electrical Safety UK Limited (20 years), Barnsley Hospice (30 years), Brearley & Co Accountants (40 years), JC Snell (90 years), and White’s Bakery (90 years).

Reflecting on the significance of the awards, Chamber President Matthew Stephens said, “Over the past twelve months there has

been some incredible work delivered by businesses of all sizes across South Yorkshire. I would like to congratulate each and every business who supported this year’s event. The standard of entries was exceptional and every organisation who was shortlisted, highly commended and winners on the night should feel incredibly proud of their achievements.

Collectively members of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber employ more than 70,000 people across South Yorkshire. The success of events like our business awards helps to showcase and celebrate the achievements of our incredibly diverse business community – from start-ups taking the very first steps on their business journey to longstanding businesses which have collectively devoted 270 years of service to our local communities and despite many businesses preparing themselves for challenging times, at least in the short term, the Chamber will continue to offer support, advice and campaign on behalf of South Yorkshire businesses to ensure their voices are heard.”

In addition, a heartfelt tribute was made to Chris MacCormac MBE, CEO of the Morthyng Group, who was honoured for his nearly 30 years of leadership and dedication to education and community support. Starting as a youth worker in 1980, Chris transformed Morthyng into a leading national training provider, helping thousands from disadvantaged backgrounds. He retires after a distinguished career and was celebrated for his lasting impact on the local community.





**Apprentice of the Year Award**

Winner Leo Lewin, Affinity2020cic  
 Highly Commended  
 Ateeb Mughal – Equans  
 Highly Commended  
 Joshua Turver – Gala Tent  
 Shortlisted  
 Aiden Ellis – Osbourne Technologies  
 Shortlisted James Stretton – Equans

**Business Person of the Year Award**

Winner Alicia Hewitt Secure Power  
 Highly Commended  
 James Biggin Steel City Marketing  
 Highly Commended Luke Hammill – Sky  
 High Tree & Ground Maintenance Services  
 Limited  
 Shortlisted Mark Smith Make Your Mark UK  
 Shortlisted Rob Shaw Glu Recruit

**Excellence in Customer Service Award**

Winner Glu Recruit  
 Highly Commended Med-EI  
 Highly Commended IT Desk UK  
 Shortlisted Rotherham Insurance Brokers  
 Shortlisted Signum Facilities Management

**Business Community Impact Award**

Winner Cranswick Convenience Foods  
 Highly Commended Glu Recruit  
 Highly Commended Make Your Mark UK  
 Shortlisted  
 Home Instead Sheffield & Barnsley  
 Shortlisted Mway Communications

**Charity of the Year Award**

Winner Barnsley FC Community Trust  
 Highly Commended Age UK Rotherham  
 Highly Commended Weston Park Cancer  
 Charity  
 Shortlisted Rotherham Hospice  
 Shortlisted The Archer Project

**Large Business of the Year**

Winner Mace Group  
 Highly Commended Instantprint  
 Highly Commended Equi-Trek  
 Shortlisted Equans  
 Shortlisted Boohoo Group Plc

**Business Growth Award**

Winner Sky High Tree & Ground Maintenance  
 Services Limited  
 Highly Commended Airmaster  
 Highly Commended M R Machine Knives  
 Shortlisted Trust Education  
 Shortlisted Wayv

**Commitment to People Development Award**

Winner Equans  
 Highly Commended IT Desk UK  
 Highly Commended Secure Power  
 Shortlisted  
 Home Instead Sheffield & Barnsley  
 Shortlisted SMH Haywood & Co

**Most Promising New Business Award**

Winner Trust Education  
 Highly Commended  
 Grassroots Sports Academy Ltd  
 Highly Commended Morgan Wills & Trusts  
 Shortlisted Empress Building & Ballroom  
 Shortlisted AHJ Wills and Estates

**Sustainability Award Shortlist**

Winner Barnsley College  
 Highly Commended Instantprint  
 Highly Commended Equans  
 Shortlisted KCM Waste Management  
 Shortlisted Hydrov

**Thankyou to our Business Awards 2024 sponsors**







# Spotlight on South Yorkshire's Digital and Creative Talent

The latest episode of the South Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce's Knowledge and Skills Cast turned the spotlight on the region's vibrant digital and creative industries, featuring insights from two inspiring business leaders.

**J**oada Allen, Managing Director of Visualised It, and Alex Hill, Sales Director of SEO Works, shared their journeys and explored the opportunities and challenges shaping South Yorkshire's business landscape.

The discussion highlighted how both businesses are driving innovation while focusing on people and skills development. Joada's company, Visualised It, operates as a video production business that also provides alternative education programmes. The organisation supports young people who struggle in mainstream education by offering them digital media qualifications and opportunities for personal development. This unique dual-purpose model reflects Joada's belief in combining creativity with social impact.

In contrast, Alex's Sheffield-based SEO Works has grown into a leading digital marketing agency. From its origins as a small start-up, the company now employs over 90 people and specialises in search engine optimisation, digital advertising, and web design. A strong focus on adaptability, loyalty, and development has helped SEO Works build a reputation for nurturing talent and creating clear pathways for career progression.

Both Joada and Alex stressed the importance of investing in people, recognising that long-term success relies on cultivating skills from within. Visualised It works closely with Barnsley College to create opportunities for media



students, while SEO Works runs robust in-house training programmes to help employees gain technical expertise and transition into leadership roles.

The episode also explored some of the challenges businesses face in the rapidly changing digital landscape. Joada and Alex discussed how technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) are transforming their industries. While tools such as ChatGPT offer efficiency in areas like content creation, both agreed that

human creativity and critical thinking remain essential.

**The conversation emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between businesses and education providers to address skills gaps and ensure curriculums meet the demands of evolving industries. Programmes that encourage lifelong learning and practical experience will be key to preparing South Yorkshire's workforce for the future.**

# Shorts ready for growth with appointment of new Tax Partner

**Shorts are delighted to announce the appointment of Craig Walker as Tax Partner with effect from 1 December 2024, joining existing Tax Partners Chris Chambers, Scott Burkinshaw, and David Robinson in leading the firm's tax offering.**

**R**esponding to a decade of sustained growth, the appointment of Shorts' fourth Tax Partner supports their continued commitment to growing the Tax department and underpins the firm's continued development and strength.

An experienced Chartered Tax Adviser and member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Craig has over 20 years of tax experience at large regional firms and a top 15 firm, and he rejoins Shorts twelve years after previously completing his early tax training at the firm.

An enthusiastic advocate for his hometown of Chesterfield, Craig will be based out of the firm's offices at Ashgate Road and will advise clients on all areas of UK taxation with a particular focus on Private Client work. Going forward, his role will transition progressively towards taking a more active role in the leadership and strategy of the firm, in particular within the Private Client team as Chris Chambers moves towards retirement.

Craig said "I am thrilled and honoured to be joining the team at Shorts, during such an exciting time in the firm's growth and history, and I am proud to take this next step on my professional journey. I am very much looking forward to working with the leadership team, and to help drive forward the continued success of such a highly respected firm and exceptional tax team."



Chris Chambers, Senior Tax Partner at Shorts, said "Craig's passion for Chesterfield and our wider region, experience and expertise makes him a great appointment for Shorts, and it is testament to the strength of the firm that we can attract an individual of Craig's calibre. Craig will focus on Private Client advice as well as Business Tax matters as required, using his experience of having previously provided the full range of tax advice to a similar client base to ours. Craig will be a fantastic addition to our partner group whilst also forming an important part of our succession planning. I am confident that with Craig on board, the firm will continue to go from strength to strength."

Scott Burkinshaw, Tax Partner added "I am delighted that Craig has agreed to join us at Shorts. We have enjoyed significant growth over the last decade and have ambitious plans for the future, and this appointment further strengthens our position as we head into the next chapter of our long history".

**More details of Shorts' tax and Private Client services can be found by visiting [shorts.uk.com](https://shorts.uk.com), and Craig can be reached on 01246 559955.**



# BCC Economic Forecast:

# Rising Business Costs to Hit Wider Economy

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Quarterly Economic Forecast (QEF) has revised down growth expectations for 2024, but marginally improved GDP expectations for 2025 and 2026.

Increased government spending is likely to boost GDP, however business investment and trade are likely to suffer in 2025 – through the impact of the national insurance rise and major global uncertainties.

## UK Economic Outlook

The QEF, winner of the 2024 FocusEconomics award for best GDP forecast, expects the UK economy to grow by 0.8% in 2024, a downgrade from the previous forecast (1.1%). Growth has been revised upwards for the next two years – with 1.3% expected in 2025 and 1.5% in 2026, higher than previous forecast (1.0% and 1.1%). Upgrades to 2025 and 2026 are driven by increased levels of government spending, but the overall growth landscape remains relatively weak.

The rise in employer national insurance contributions, announced at the Budget, has had a small impact on the forecast – including average earnings and unemployment.

Inflation is now expected to remain above the Bank of England's target until the end of 2026, due to increased business costs and global trade uncertainties. CPI is forecast to be 2.2% in Q4 2025, unchanged from the previous forecast, and 2% in Q4 2026, slightly higher than the last forecast.

As businesses face tough decisions on costs, unemployment has been revised upwards to be 4.5% by the end of 2025 before falling to 4.2% in 2026 (previously



4.4% in 2025 and 4.1% in 2026).

## National insurance costs to impact business investment

Business investment will continue to struggle throughout the forecast period, exacerbated by the upcoming rise in employer national insurance contributions. It is expected to increase by 1.5% in 2024, but then grow only 0.9% in 2025, recovering to 2.1% by the end of 2026. That's a revision down for 2025

compared with the previous forecast of 1.4%, as firms will face a number of increasing costs next year.

The forecast picture on growth varies significantly across different sectors. Manufacturing production is expected to grow by 0.6% in 2025 and 1.2% in 2026. In comparison the construction industry will grow by 1.4% in 2025 and 1.5% in 2026.





**Trade picture remains challenging**

The outlook for trade is expected to remain challenging due to trade barriers with the EU, global conflicts and the threat of tariffs. Imports are expected to contract by 0.2% in 2025 and grow by just 0.9% in 2026. Exports are forecast to grow by 0.2% in 2025 rising to 1.1% by the end of 2026.

But net trade continues to contract with figures of -1.5% in 2024, -1.4% in 2025 and -1.5% in 2026. This a downward revision across the period on our last forecast.

**Average earnings hit by growing employment costs**

Average earnings are expected to grow more slowly next year as businesses deal with increased employment costs, including national insurance and the national living wage. Annual wage growth is expected to be 3.5% in Q4 2024, rising to 3.8% in 2025 and 4.0% in 2026. That compares to our previous forecast of 4.0% in 2024 and 2025 and 3.5% in 2026.

**Unemployment to rise as businesses face hiring decisions**

The average unemployment rate is expected to be 4.5% by the end of 2025, falling to 4.2% in 2026. That is a slight increase from last quarter’s forecast as businesses are likely to face difficult decisions on recruitment going forward due to increased employment costs.

Youth unemployment will remain stubbornly high, with the percentage out of work forecast to be 14.9% in 2025 before falling to 14.6% in 2026.

**Bank to take cautious approach on interest rates**

The BCC is forecasting the Bank of England will continue with a cautionary approach to further interest rate cuts, as some inflationary pressures persist. The forecast expects the base rate to be 4% by the end of 2025 falling to 3.50% by the end of 2026.



David Bharier, Head of Research at the British Chambers of Commerce, said:

“Our forecast expects the national insurance hike, alongside other growing cost pressures on business, to impact on several economic indicators over the coming months.

“GDP is expected to pick up slightly next year, but that’s likely to be down to more government spending. Our research continues to show that most SMEs are not increasing investment, amidst an array of rising costs and admin burdens.

“The knock-on effect of rising business costs are likely to restrict wage growth in the short term and employment, as firms struggle to pass on costs and boost recruitment. With fears of a tariff war and continued trade barriers with the EU, international trade will be challenging for many firms.

“Our surveys already showed a fall in business confidence before October’s Budget. While the full impact of the Chancellor’s statement is yet to be seen,

businesses face tough decisions as bills rise. It’s vital that business rate reform is accelerated and much anticipated strategies on industry, infrastructure and trade deliver at pace in the months to come.”

Commenting on the forecast, Vicky Pryce, Chair of the BCC Economic Advisory Council, said:

“While government spending will underpin economic growth next year, businesses will be left licking their wounds as the fallout from the tough autumn Budget continues.

**“The BCC forecast shows the likely impact of rising costs, from changes such as national insurance. This means business investment and jobs will be hit.**

**“As they face a difficult 2025, firms need reassurance the Government can very quickly outline a clearer framework to boost growth and business investment.”**



# Creating an effective wellbeing strategy

Every successful wellbeing strategy is backed up by a supportive culture.

Our free interactive e-book takes you through everything you need to know to create an effective wellbeing strategy, drive culture change and help your people build positive habits that stick.

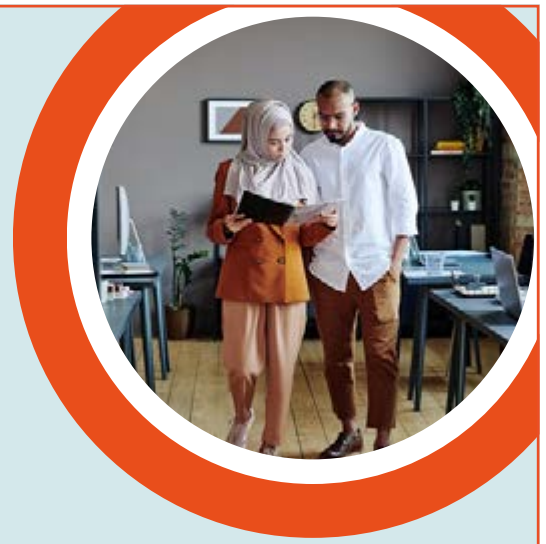
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# Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber announces date for **2025 Chamber Means Business Expo**

**The 2025 Chamber Means Business Expo is set to take place on Thursday, 18th September 2025, at the AESSEAL New York Stadium.**

**S**ponsored by KAT Communications and Entry Sign, this must-attend event offers exhibitors the opportunity to showcase their products and services whilst visitors can network with businesses from across Barnsley, Rotherham and South Yorkshire.

Stand bookings will officially open at 12 pm on Monday, 3rd February 2025, so stay tuned for updates from the Chamber. We will shortly be updating the **Chamber Means Business website**,

which will host an online form to accept stand bookings. Following the incredible success of last year's event, which saw all exhibition spaces sell out in record time, the Chamber anticipates high demand from members for this year's stands.

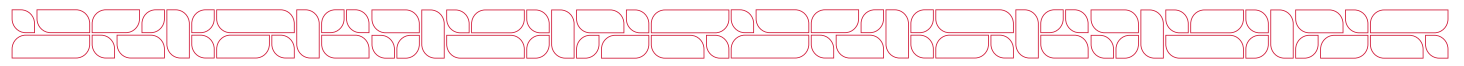
The Chamber Means Business Expo 2025 aims to shine a spotlight on the vibrant and diverse business community in Barnsley and Rotherham. With over 65 exhibitors from a wide range of industries, the event will once again highlight the exceptional businesses

that contribute to the thriving South Yorkshire economy.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, 18th September 2025. Doors open at 9:30 am at the AESSEAL New York Stadium.

**Whether you're looking to exhibit, network, or explore, the Chamber Means Business Expo 2025 promises a day filled with inspiration, opportunities, and meaningful connections.**





# NHS charity appeal to raise £250,000 to enhance the quality of life for patients living with dementia in the Rotherham community

**The Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity has launched a brand new Dementia Appeal, which aims to enhance the hospital experience for patients living with dementia and their families.**

**T**he appeal aims to raise £250,000 in 12 months to potentially redevelop three ward areas at Rotherham Hospital to ensure the environment and facilities foster dignity and independence for the thousands of dementia patients in the Rotherham community.

Gemma Cross, Head of Safeguarding at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust commented: “No one would choose to be in hospital, it can be a daunting and anxious time for many of us, but for those living with dementia, this can be amplified, and being in an unfamiliar environment can cause fear and increase confusion.

“Your generosity and support will help create an enhanced, supportive environment that will enable staff to provide personalised reminiscence through photos, songs, films and activities that help to provide familiarity, reduce any anxiety and support with creating a routine whilst in hospital.

“In Rotherham we have more than 3,000 people living with dementia and we want to ensure that if they need hospital treatment, that this is a positive experience for them and their loved ones.”

Dementia affects thousands of people in our community and as this number continues to rise, the demand for specialised care has never been greater. The money raised from the charity’s Dementia Appeal will fund:

**Enhanced safety features:** Continuous handrails, contrasted flooring and colour-coordinated walls and doors to help patients navigate the hospital environment safely and reduce confusion.

**Comforting and familiar surroundings:** Incorporating reminiscence-inspired decor, retro-style TVs, age-appropriate music and old newspapers to foster connection and reduce isolation.

**Support for families:** Creating an ensuite room with recliner chairs, beds

and amenities so families can stay close to their loved ones during challenging times.

By enhancing their facilities and investing in equipment, the Trust will create an environment that promotes independence, comfort and well-being for the most vulnerable patients, and their families.

Sally Baker, from Rotherham is a huge supporter of the Dementia Appeal and is advocating for a dementia friendly hospital environment following her dad David’s dementia diagnosis in January 2020.



**Rotherham Hospital  
& Community Charity**





Sally said: “My dad is affected by dementia in many ways. When he was first diagnosed, his symptoms were quite mild but over time his dementia has got progressively worse, to the point where I wonder whether he knows who I am now at times. He has five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and he used to enjoy spending time with them. Now when they visit he doesn’t know who they are and it can be heart-breaking to watch.

“Dad’s dementia impacts his daily life completely, he’s very confused and doesn’t like to be in unfamiliar places or crowded spaces. He gets very upset by loud noises and gets startled easily. His condition is very debilitating to the point where dad can no longer live a normal life.

“When my dad is admitted to hospital it makes me incredibly nervous. I worry so much when dad is admitted because the noisy, overstimulating and chaotic atmosphere of a hospital can be really distressing for him. He can also tend to be a bit of a wanderer. At the care home the staff know his individual needs and I can relax a bit more knowing that he is in familiar surroundings.

“I think the launch of the Dementia Appeal is fantastic. I hope it will enhance the experience that patients like my dad have when admitted to hospital.”

The charity is optimistic about raising the funds to enable the Trust to enhance dementia care for the thousands of patients in Rotherham.

Rachael Dawes, Head of Fundraising at Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity, said “Dementia touches so many lives, including my own. My dad lived with dementia and I saw first-hand how small changes in his environment and care made a world of difference to his quality of life. That’s why I’m so passionate about this appeal – it’s about creating a hospital and community where patients with dementia feel safe, understood, and valued. With the support of our wonderful community, we can make a lasting impact for people living with dementia and their families.

“Raising £250,000 is really ambitious for a small charity, but with the public’s



support we know we can do it. Together, we hope to create a brighter future for those living with dementia in our community.”

Sally Baker added: “To anyone who is thinking of donating to the appeal, please do. You never know if a member of your family is going to be affected by dementia and it affects everyone so differently. The changes to the hospital could support you and your loved ones in the future. I never thought for one minute the difficulties that dementia could cause to our family. Anything that can be done to make life easier for

patients like my dad will be amazing.”

**Donations to the Dementia Appeal can be made in person at the Charity Hub in the main entrance at Rotherham Hospital, opposite Boots, or online via Just Giving – [www.justgiving.com/campaign/rotherhamdementiaappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rotherhamdementiaappeal)**





# Recycled Christmas trees raise more than £48,000 for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice

The team at Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice has thanked everyone who supported its recent Christmas tree recycling campaign, which raised an incredible £48,018 for the charity.

The hospice's annual Christmas tree collection service, sponsored by glass container manufacturer Beatson Clark, helps families declutter at the end of the festivities with an environmentally friendly way of disposing of their Christmas trees.

A total of 2,069 trees have now been collected, with the Christmas tree campaign achieving its highest-ever amount of donations since it began in 2021.

Heidi Hawkins, Chief Executive at Bluebell Wood, said: "We are thrilled with the fantastic response to our Christmas tree campaign. The support from the public has been amazing, with so many people playing an important part in helping us to provide a more sustainable way to process Christmas trees after the festive period.

"Our wonderful staff and volunteers have given more time than ever this year, allowing us to collect more trees from across the community and achieve record income, and we've also had the support of more than 70 organisations, from recycling partners to tree collectors,



drivers and organisations that helped us spread the word."

Bluebell Wood teamed up with sustainability partners E.ON, A&A Recycling Services Limited and Eco-Power Wood Fuels to provide the service, ensuring that 100% of the trees collected are being recycled or repurposed, being either processed at E.ON's plant to power South Yorkshire homes, or turned into sustainable biomass fuel at Eco Power Wood Fuels.

Some trees are also being donated to be used in local forest schools around Doncaster and the surrounding areas.

Heidi said: "Our heartfelt thanks to

our partners, the volunteers, and the organisations who support our Christmas tree collection.

"They all do such a superb job, and we simply would not be able to run the campaign without their expertise and assistance. This is a community-led service that continues to show just what can be done when people with a shared goal come together to support others."

**Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice opened in 2008 and has supported hundreds of children from across South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and parts of North Lincolnshire.**

## PLATINUM MEMBERS



# Let's talk degree Apprenticeships

If you're new to degree apprenticeships, come and join us during National Apprenticeship Week 2025 to find out how they can benefit your business and support staff development.

**A**s part of National Apprenticeship Week 2025, Sheffield Hallam University invites businesses from across the region to join a thought-provoking event designed to shed light on the value of degree apprenticeships and their potential to transform workforce development.

This event is aimed at businesses new to degree apprenticeships or those seeking to understand how they can boost employee skills, enhance business performance, and unlock access to funding opportunities.

Attendees will hear from the University's Employer Partnerships Team alongside regional employers already reaping the rewards of apprenticeship programmes.

**Key topics include:**

**What degree-level apprenticeships are and how they operate**

**The benefits they offer to businesses of all sizes**

**Funding mechanisms to reduce financial barriers**

**Recruitment support and guidance**

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- Supply Chain and Packaging**

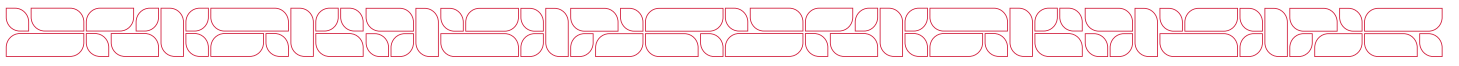
This event provides a unique opportunity

for businesses to connect with experts and peers, gain practical insights, and explore how apprenticeships can align with their strategic goals.

Secure your spot today: Register your interest here

For further details, contact the team at [business@shu.ac.uk](mailto:business@shu.ac.uk) or call 0114 225 5000.





# The Workplace Mental Health Crisis: Why Ignoring It Could Destroy Your Business in 2025

**Burnout and anxiety are at an all-time high. These three steps can transform your workplace.**

**A**s the festive season approaches, many of us prepare to unwind and enjoy some time off. But how many of your employees are heading into the holidays exhausted and not excited? How many are using their time off to recover from burnout and dreading the return to work? And how many are already feeling the strain of holiday debt after Black Friday splurges, knowing they'll have to wait until mid-January for their next paycheck because December salaries are paid early?

Mental health in the workplace isn't just an individual challenge; it's a crisis impacting entire organisations. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) report that depression and anxiety cost the global economy \$1 trillion annually, with 12 billion working days lost every year.

This isn't just a personal health issue—it's a business-critical problem. And yet, many organisations still treat mental health as an afterthought.

## The Leadership Gap: Why Transparency Matters

Imagine this: a high-performing employee who once thrived in every meeting now appears disengaged, unproductive, and absent. You might put it down to poor performance, but they're likely battling stress or anxiety—and they

don't feel safe asking for help.

This kind of silent suffering is far too common.

The Financial Times highlights how leadership engagement is vital in addressing workplace mental health. A global survey by MindForward Alliance found that when leaders openly address mental health, 85% of employees feel supported. Without leadership transparency, that figure plummets to just 31%.

As Alison Unsted, Chief Executive of MindForward Alliance, explains:

“Leaders must be prepared to have open conversations about the full spectrum of mental health issues. Building trust and a culture of support starts at the top.”

When leadership fails to act, the cost is devastating—not only for individuals but also for organisations.

## The Cost of Doing Nothing

### The numbers paint a stark picture:

Burnout affects 17% of employees in the finance and insurance sectors, costing businesses an average of £5,379 per employee per year (Financial Times).

The WHO and ILO report that 12 billion working days are lost annually due to depression and anxiety, costing the global economy \$1 trillion.

Many workplace wellbeing programmes fail to address systemic issues like excessive workloads or toxic

management, leaving stress levels at all-time highs (Financial Times).

Superficial perks like free yoga classes or gym memberships won't fix these deep-rooted problems. Companies that fail to prioritise mental health risk high turnover, absenteeism, and plummeting productivity.

## Three Little-Known but Critical Steps to Transform Workplace Mental Health

If you're serious about tackling mental health in your workplace, these three often-overlooked strategies can make a meaningful difference:

### Lead with Vulnerability

Employees take their cues from leadership. When senior leaders openly acknowledge the importance of mental health, it sends a powerful message: it's okay to ask for help. Host open forums, share your challenges, and create a safe space where employees feel seen and heard.

### Build Tailored Support Systems

Conduct an audit of your existing mental health framework. Are resources accessible and visible? Too often, organisations offer reactive, one-size-fits-all solutions. Instead, tailor your approach to meet the unique needs of your workforce, involving employees in shaping these resources.

### Invest in Mental Health Training

Equip managers with the skills to recognise and respond to signs of





distress. Programmes like Mental Health First Aid offer practical tools to help employees feel supported and understood. My next training course runs on 27–28 January—perfect timing to set your business up for success in 2025.

**Why This Matters Now**

The stakes couldn't be higher as we prepare for the New Year. The WHO, ILO, and MindForward Alliance make it clear: the mental health crisis is costing businesses billions in lost productivity. Retention, morale, and performance depend on how your employees feel supported.

For many, this season is one of the most stressful times of the year as personal and work pressures collide. Taking meaningful steps can make all the difference for your employees and your organisation's future.

**Take Action Today**

The question isn't whether your business can afford to prioritise mental health—it's whether you can afford not to.

**Ask yourself:**

**What has my company done this year to support mental health?**

**Are my managers equipped to address these challenges?**

**What practical steps can we take today to make a difference?**

Spaces are limited for my Mental Health First Aid training course on 27–28 January. Secure your spot today, and equip your team to lead confidently in 2025.

Helping organisations prioritise mental health isn't just what I do—it's what I'm passionate about. Let's start the conversation today.

The real question is: can your business afford to ignore mental health in 2025?

**P.S.**

Start 2025 strong. Join my Mental Health First Aid training on 27–28 January and take the first step toward a healthier, more supportive workplace.

**Mike Lawrence: Your Guide to Health & Wellbeing**



I'm Mike Lawrence, a passionate advocate for mental health and wellbeing. After overcoming significant health challenges, including brain surgery, I've dedicated myself to a journey of self-improvement and helping others thrive. From heart-pounding skydives for charity to soul-enriching travels in Thailand, my experiences have shaped my approach to holistic health.

I love sharing my lessons from these adventures and the powerful audiobooks I devour. Let's explore the paths to better mental and physical health together. Embrace life's adventures with enthusiasm and resilience, and remember—you're never alone on this journey!

**Feel free to email me at [hello@mikelawrence.co.uk](mailto:hello@mikelawrence.co.uk) or connect with me on LinkedIn. Please read my latest blogs here for more in-depth insights and inspiring stories. Together, let's create a healthier, happier future!**





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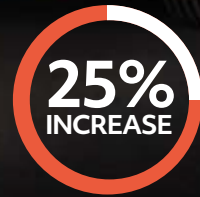
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# SMH Group appoints Jonathon Dickens as CEO, James Hartley steps into Chairman role

Yorkshire and Derbyshire based accounting and business services firm, SMH Group (“SMH”) today announces the appointment of Jonathon Dickens as CEO of the business, with James Hartley moving to the role of Chairman, effective immediately.

**H**aving been at the firm for almost 20 years after joining as an apprentice in 2005, Jonathon has been instrumental alongside James in the firm’s strategic growth in recent years, completing multiple acquisitions since 2017 and expanding the group’s service offering to include commercial finance, mortgage brokering and wealth management.

With these changes, SMH is doubling down on its already successful growth strategy and its vision of becoming the leading accounting and business adviser in the region. Key to this is continuing to attract and retain the best talent, making it the partner of choice for clients in the region, and continuing its current growth trajectory through a combination of organic growth and future M&A activity.

Jonathon Dickens, CEO said:

“Our people are what makes SMH such a fantastic place to work and an equally trusted advisor to our clients. I hope to carry on the great work James and I have done together by continuing our growth trajectory into 2025 and beyond.

On a personal note, I’d also like to thank James for being an inspirational figure, a true mentor and friend during our time to date at SMH and beyond.”

James Hartley will be moving to a



strategic advisory position in his new role as Chairman of SMH Limited.

James Hartley, Chairman added:

“Over the last 22 years, SMH has become a business we can truly be proud of, with an incredible team and clients. I look forward to supporting the business in a strategic capacity in my new role as Chairman.”

**SMH**  
Group



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# Unlock New Opportunities in the Construction sector



**Barnsley & Rotherham Construction Forum is hosting the Construction “Meet the Buyer” Expo on 12th February, at the Holiday Inn Rotherham in the Peter Elliot Suite.**

**T**his year’s expo provided a fantastic platform for networking, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among professionals across the manufacturing supply chain. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with some of the region’s top suppliers and manufacturers, explore innovative products, and discuss solutions to the latest industry challenges.

This event is all about bringing businesses together and opening new opportunities in the construction industry.

Free to attend for all businesses and contacts, join us for a morning filled with networking, you’ll have the chance to meet buyers from various construction-related companies and explore how your business can connect

with key businesses and contact within the Barnsley and Rotherham region. Whether you’re looking to establish new partnerships or simply want to find out what’s happening in the industry, this event is the perfect place to start.

Last year, the ‘Meet the Buyer’ event brought together local businesses and key players in the construction sector to the Barnsley Metrodome, bringing over 100 businesses together. Attendees explored various stands, engaged with buyers, and participated in discussions aimed at supporting the growth of businesses in the South Yorkshire region.

If you supply goods or services to the construction sector and want to showcase your offerings, there is limited exhibition space available! Reach out to our team at [events@brchamber.co.uk](mailto:events@brchamber.co.uk) for more details on how to secure your spot.

“We were thrilled with the turnout and engagement with our exhibitors at last year’s event,” said Shane Young, Operations Director at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber. “It was great to see visitors eager to explore new business opportunities and create connections within the construction industry, here in our region.”

“We want to support a key sector in the construction industry, and this event is a great way to do just that.”

**So, mark your calendars, bring your business cards, and get ready for a day of networking and making connections. This is an opportunity you won’t want to miss!**

**For more information and to register, please [click here](#) or contact us.**





# RNN Group Celebrates Featuring in the **Top 100 for Inclusivity**

**The RNN Group, which includes Rotherham College, North Notts College, Dearne Valley College and University Centre Rotherham (UCR), is featured in the National Centre for Diversity's Top 100 Inclusive UK Employers Index 2024.**

**L**ast year we reached 44th and this year we have been placed at number 36 out of 100. This is a tremendous accolade for the RNN Group which is still a new organisation having been formed eight years ago and comprising four very different campuses with nearly 1000 staff across two regions.

National Centre for Diversity UK Employers Index 2024 celebrates and champions inclusive cultures and best practice in Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement.

Jane Hartog, Exec Director of HR, OD and Marketing, for the RNN Group said, "We were delighted to be featured in this list of the top 100 most inclusive organisations.

"RNN Group has four values and one of these is 'We are Inclusive' so to be ranked on this list really demonstrates that we live by our values and continue to work hard on this as shown by being placed higher this year on this list."

Solat Chaudhry, Chief Executive at the National Centre for Diversity said:

"I send my warmest congratulations to RNN Group on successfully reaching number 36 in the Top 100 Most Inclusive UK Employers Index 2024.

The inspiring organisations that make the Top 100, demonstrate excellent levels of employee retention and recruitment and clearly demonstrate how they value and respect the people that work for them.



**What better than to be recognised by peers and those travelling in the same direction towards the common goal of Fairness in the workplace. It is hugely motivational."**





# New survey aims to unlock the secrets of **effective business communication**

**Cannon PR is inviting businesses from across South Yorkshire to take part in a new research project, aimed at understanding how companies connect, communicate and engage with others.**

**B**elieved to be the first comprehensive review of its kind, Cannon PR's business communications survey will explore how companies are responding to challenges posed by changing communications methods and the techniques used to engage with different audiences.

For many businesses, there has never been greater choice when it comes to engaging with others. Yet at the same time the communications landscape has never been more complex, particularly when it comes to embracing the many different tools, channels and techniques to stand out from the competition.

Earlier this year, data published by Ofcom revealed significant changes in the way that adults consume news. The Ofcom survey revealed that 52% of adults rely upon their social media feeds to keep up to date with current affairs, whilst seven in ten adults consume news primarily through online sources.

The survey also revealed that less than half of adults rely upon traditional news sources such as BBC News and ITV. A total of 82% of 16–24-year-olds rely upon social media feeds, with 41% turning to Instagram, 37% using YouTube and 35% relying upon their Facebook feeds. The aim of the Cannon PR business survey is to explore how businesses are responding to changing audience habits.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed here:



**Cannon PR**  
Substance with Style

<https://cannonpr.co.uk/pr-survey/>. Cannon PR is also providing the opportunity for ten businesses taking part in the survey to receive a free mini communications audit.

Matthew Ridsdale, Founder, Cannon PR, said:

“Effective communication is the cornerstone of every business. Earlier this year Ofcom published its own findings, which revealed some interesting trends in the way we all consume the news and information. Our survey aims to understand how businesses are responding to the challenges posed by a changing communications landscape.

There are no right or wrong answers in the survey, our research aims to explore current practices, techniques and tools used by businesses to ensure their messages cut through and connect with their target audiences.”

**Established in 2011, Cannon PR is an award-winning, South Yorkshire-based public relations consultancy that supports a diverse range of businesses, public sector organisations and not-**

**for-profit organisations throughout Yorkshire and the Humber.**



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# Rob Shaw Celebrates 20 Years in Recruitment

The Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a successful partnership between two of its esteemed Patron Members, CSP Systems Ltd and Russell Richardson & Son.

January marks an incredible milestone for our Managing Director, Rob Shaw, as he celebrates 20 remarkable years in the recruitment industry.

A local lad from Bramley, Rob's journey from starting as a one-man band nine years ago, to leading an award-winning business is nothing short of inspiring.

The beginning of Glu Recruit

In 2016, Rob sat at his desk with a vision and determination to make a difference in the recruitment world. What began as a solo venture has since blossomed into a thriving agency that is valued by both clients and candidates in the region. Rob's commitment to excellence and his ability to build genuine, lasting relationships have been at the heart of Glu Recruit's success.

Reflecting on his journey, Rob shared:

"I'm thrilled to celebrate a special milestone in my career — 20 incredible years in the recruitment industry!

"When I first started I never imagined the paths I would take, the incredible people I'd meet, or the opportunities I would have to impact careers and businesses.

"What started as a job has grown into a true passion — helping people find the right roles, companies find the right talent, and creating lasting connections along the way."

Award-winning leadership

Under Rob's guidance, Glu Recruit has earned an impressive array of awards including:

Winner of Excellence in Customer Service

Highly Commended for Business Person of the Year



Highly Commended for Commitment to Personal Development

These awards are a testament to Rob's vision of putting people at the centre of recruitment – whether that means supporting candidates in their career growth or helping businesses find the talent they need to thrive.

Congratulations, Rob!

The entire Glu Recruit team want to celebrate Rob's incredible achievements over the past 20 years – we're all incredibly proud of him!

Here's to many more years of success,

leadership, and making a difference in the lives of candidates and businesses alike.





# New Survey Results Explore The Impact That Crime Is Having On Businesses In South Yorkshire

**41% of South Yorkshire firms who have been targeted by crime have experienced financial loss as a direct result, according to the findings of a recent poll.**

**C**onducted by the region's three chambers of commerce (covering Doncaster, Sheffield, Barnsley & Rotherham), the Business Crime Survey was carried out between mid-November and mid-December and canvassed the views of 300 companies from across all different industries and of varying sizes. Now available to read in full, the questionnaire results outline how frequently firms in South Yorkshire are targeted by illegal activity like shoplifting, assault, fraud and blackmail, while also describing their experiences when it comes to reporting these incidents.

Cybercrime was cited as the most commonly encountered offense here, with more than a quarter of respondents indicating that they have been on the receiving end of it in the past twelve months. Yet despite this prevalence, very few businesses in the region know about the support that is available right on their doorstep to help them deal with – and protect themselves from – cybercrime. For instance, only 34% are aware of the Action Fraud website and even less (8%) are aware of the North East Business Resilience Centre.

Outside of Cybercrime, theft from motor vehicles and burglary emerged as the next most widespread offenses, affecting 26% and 22% of South Yorkshire firms respectively. As for the impact that business crime has on the region overall, 2 out of 5 survey respondents indicated



that they have suffered both financial loss and disruption as a result of illegal activity, while around a quarter of them reported a negative impact on customer wellbeing. Finally, the results also paint a mixed picture in terms of the lengths that

businesses are willing to go to help reduce re-offending in the region (by either employing prison leavers or sitting on prison employment boards).

Indeed, those respondents who indicated that they are open to these





ideas are largely cautious about it and are in the minority.

Commenting on the findings of the South Yorkshire Business Crime Survey, the respective Chief Execs for all three regional chambers of commerce issued the following joint statement:

“These results will enable us, as well as our strategic partners, to better understand the scale of the problem when it comes to business crime in South Yorkshire and it’s clear that there is a lot of work to be done here. In particular, there is an obvious need to crack down on burglaries and vehicle theft – which are causing disruption and financial loss throughout the region – as well as to signpost firms to the support that is available to help them deal with cybercrime.

“However, while the prevalence of this illegal activity is itself a problem, we are also alarmed to learn that only 58% of firms are reporting it with any degree of consistency. Indeed, two fifths of businesses told us that they do not always report a crime when they have been targeted by it, and 20% said that they have never once done so.

“The reasons cited for such inaction on their part range from them not believing that they will be taken seriously, to them simply having had negative experiences in the past. On a related note, only 30% of our survey respondents expressed that they have been at all satisfied with the response to any reports that they have filed in the past which, suffice it to say, is a very concerning statistic.

“For us to have a truly business friendly environment here in South Yorkshire – and one that is conducive to economic growth – these issues must be urgently addressed. After all, our businesses need to feel assured that the region does indeed have their best interests at heart and that somebody is fighting in their corner here; especially if we ever hope to improve the number of firms who are willing to give back by employing ex-offenders or sitting on prison employment boards.”



Offering the perspective of a business on the ground that has been affected by crime, Luke Farmor, Global Fulfilment Management at Woodland Group, added: “The findings of the South Yorkshire Business Crime Survey highlight the widespread and damaging impact of business crime on our industry. As a key player in the logistics sector, Woodland Group is acutely aware of the challenges and costs that such criminal activities impose on businesses.

“The logistics industry, in particular, faces unique vulnerabilities, with theft from motor vehicles and burglary being prevalent issues that disrupt operations, lead to significant financial losses, and impact clients and their brand reputation when stolen goods are sold in the open market.

“The rise of cybercrime has added a new layer of complexity and threat to all industries. In 2024, we witnessed the devastating effects of cyber-attacks when a company in our industry, with over 158 years of history, was forced into administration and could not recover. This incident underscores the urgent need for heightened awareness and robust cybersecurity measures to protect our businesses from such catastrophic outcomes.

“It is imperative that both industry and the public sector work together to address these challenges and offer

stronger support systems and resources to combat business crime. In doing so, we can safeguard our operations, protect financial stability, and ensure the continued growth and resilience of the logistics and surrounding sectors.!

The latest iteration of the South Yorkshire Quarterly Economic Survey (QES), the Business Crime Survey was sponsored by Clear Insurance Management and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).

Explaining how the latter organisation will use the results, South Yorkshire’s Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner, Oliver Coppard, said: “I am working with South Yorkshire Police, experts and communities across South Yorkshire to develop my first Police and Crime Plan, setting out our policing priorities for the next five years. This type of in-depth, detailed feedback will help shape that Plan.

**“Everyone in South Yorkshire has the right to feel safe and secure, that’s why I’m working with the business community, so we can understand their frustrations and concerns, and work together to make South Yorkshire a healthier, wealthier and safer place.”**

The results for the South Yorkshire Business Crime Survey can be read here.





# Events

For further event details and to book your attendance, please visit our website [www.brchamber.co.uk](http://www.brchamber.co.uk) or call 01709 386 200

**February 12 at 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Construction Meet the Buyer Expo – 2025**

*Holiday Inn Rotherham*

Barnsley & Rotherham Construction Forum are providing a great opportunity for other businesses to ‘meet the buyer’ at the next Construction Plus Network event.

Taking place in the Peter Elliot Suite at Holiday Inn Rotherham, there will be various stands representing a range of local organisations, and the event will enable visitors to meet buyers in the construction industry to develop business opportunities and support construction growth in the region.

**February 19 at 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Budget & HR Event: Navigating Key Changes in National Insurance, National Minimum Wage, and HR Practices**

*Barnsley College Business Centre*

Join us for an informative and engaging session hosted by the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, where we will dive into the key changes affecting businesses from 1st April 2025. This event will focus on the latest updates regarding National Insurance, the National Minimum Wage, and crucial HR practices that all businesses need to understand in light of the upcoming changes.

This session is a fantastic opportunity to get ahead of the curve, ensure your business remains compliant, and discuss practical strategies with fellow business owners and HR professionals.

**February 25 at 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

**Chamber’s Charity Quiz 2025**

*Holiday Inn Barnsley*

Get ready for an evening of fun and fundraising at the Holiday Inn Barnsley on Tuesday, 25th February 2025, in support of the Chamber’s Charity of the Year, Barnsley FC Community Trust.

This event is open to everyone, so gather your team of up to five players or come solo, and we’ll match you with a mixed team. Our quizmaster will cover a wide range of topics, ensuring something for all ages and interests!

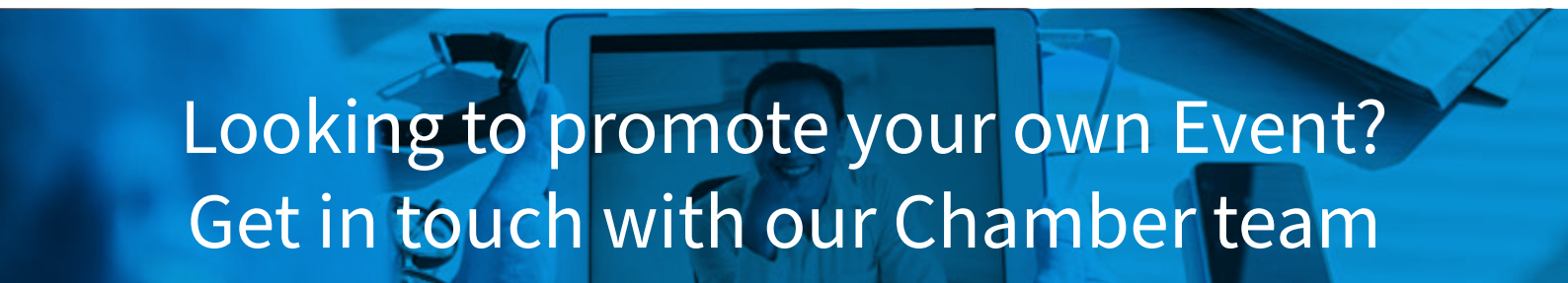
On the night, we’ll host a raffle, with all proceeds going directly to the Barnsley FC Community Trust. If you can donate a suitable prize for fund raising on the evening it would be greatly appreciated.

**February 28 at 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Creating a Clear Strategy / Plan for Small Businesses**

*Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber*

This session will be presented by Hayley Koseoglu of iekos, and will provide small business owners with the tools and techniques needed to create a clear and effective business strategy. Attendees will learn how to identify their current position and proposition, and create a roadmap for growth. They will also receive guidance on how to measure their progress and make adjustments as needed.



# Looking to promote your own Event? Get in touch with our Chamber team





# Chamber Skills Solutions

For further event details and to book your training please visit our website [www.brchamber.co.uk/chamber-skills-solutions](http://www.brchamber.co.uk/chamber-skills-solutions) or call 01709 386 200

## Selling on the Telephone

February 17 at 9:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Member price – £210.00 +VAT

Non-member price – £245.00 +VAT

Duration – 1 Day

How can you boost your business sales without drastically increasing your marketing costs? The answer lies in the effective use of the telephone.

The telephone is perhaps still the most cost-effective and efficient way of selling. Quick and direct, it saves valuable time for both salesperson and customer.

## Export Documentation

March 11 at 9:00 AM- 4:30 PM

Member price – £295.00 + VAT

Non-member price – £350.00 + VAT

Duration: 1 Day – split as 2 1/2 day sessions

Documentation required for the export sale is more complex than for a domestic sale. This course will take you through the documentation you will be expected to provide, dependent on destination country and will explain the information that needs to appear on those documents. This course will also explain in detail why documents are necessary and why accuracy is essential. It includes details on sources of information to assist the exporter.

## Microsoft Word – Introduction: Simple Documents

March 3 at 9:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Member price – £150.00 + VAT

Non-member price – £170.00 + VAT

Duration – 1 Day

This stage assumes no prior knowledge of Word. The course would be ideal for beginners or for people who are self-taught and just wish to brush up on their existing skills.

The course begins with an overview of the program, description of terminology and navigation of the screen. By the end of the course students will be able to produce, edit, save and print a variety of documents.

## Understanding Microsoft 365

April 11 at 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Member price – £100.00 + VAT

Non-member price – £120.00 + VAT

Duration – 1 Day

Have you already migrated to 365 but not using it to its fullest extent?

Our Microsoft 365 training take you through all the features of the software, making the transition straightforward for your employees and causing minimum disruption to your business.

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www.bellinghamit.co.uk

**BHF Cleaning Solutions**

Commercial Cleaning  
01226 729896  
www.bhfcleaningsolutions.co.uk

**Blokka**

Property  
07500 839640  
www.blokka.co

**Blue Box IT Ltd**

IT Services  
0114 2757905  
www.blueboxit.co.uk

**Bluebird Care Barnsley & Glossop**

Health & Wellbeing  
01226 107085  
www.bluebirdcare.co.uk

**Boohoo Group Plc**

Retail  
07976 094874  
www.boohooplc.com

**Building Plastics Online Ltd**

Construction  
0333 1214800  
plasticbuildingsupplies.com

**Burkitt Productions**

Photography  
07596 254426  
www.lanceburkitt.com

**Business Enterprise Fund**

Financial Services  
07542 600316  
www.befund.org

**CCMTec Ltd**

Business Services  
01709 873154  
www.ccmtec.co.uk

**Chef's Counter CIC**

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
07490 956517  
www.chefscounters.com

**Chirmarn**

Property  
01142 320820  
www.chirmarn.co.uk

**Citizens Advice Rotherham and District**

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
01709 515680  
citizensadvicerotherham.org.uk

**Consort Hotel**

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
01709 530022  
www.consothotel.co.uk

**Crampton and Moore**

Retail  
01226 350754  
www.cramptonandmoore.co.uk

**Datamills (Cyber Division) UK Ltd**

Cyber Security  
0114 2870510  
www.datamills.co.uk

**Dollemores**

Legal Services  
07711 169149  
www.dollemores.com

**Dynamics Fanatics**

IT Services  
0114 3521819  
www.dynamicsfanatics.com

**Ecotech Engineers Ltd**

Environmental  
01246 267720  
www.ecotechengineers.co.uk

**Eden Washroom & Hygiene Services Ltd**

Facilities Management  
01709 873100  
www.edenhygiene.co.uk

**EDGE PS Limited**

Construction  
01142 762216  
www.edgeps.co.uk

**Empress Building**

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
07432 721105  
www.empressbuilding.co.uk

**Energy Assets Limited**

Energy, Utilities, Water  
0333 9000407  
www.energyassets.co.uk

**Esh Group**

Construction  
0191 3774570  
www.eshgroup.co.uk

**Everlast Gyms, Rotherham**

Health & Wellbeing  
01709 285700  
www.everlastgyms.com

A full list of our latest Chamber members over the past 12 months

### Feeding Families Barnsley

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
07513 321360

### Firepit Rocks

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
01142 498151  
www.firepit.rocks

### Garden World Parkgate Ltd

Retail  
07544 446718  
gardenworldrotherham.co.uk

### Gleeson Homes

Construction  
07817 046248  
www.gleesonhomes.co.uk

### hanson-management limited

Business Services  
07419 374623  
www.hanson-management.com

### Helen Ferneyhough Associates

Financial Services  
0759 1356245

### Hemiko Limited

Environmental  
07834 802713  
www.hemiko.com

### High Hopes Counselling

Health & Wellbeing  
07704 501645  
highhopescounselling.co.uk

### Home Instead Sheffield & Barnsley

Health & Wellbeing  
01226 391010  
www.homeinstead.co.uk

### Homes By Honey Ltd

Construction  
07931 995135  
www.homesbyhoney.co.uk

### Hydrogen BI

IT Services  
0114 7003470  
www.hydrogenbi.com

### Hydrov Ltd

Manufacturing  
0333 3660267  
www.hydrov.co.uk

### IPM Group Ltd

Security  
0114 2180679  
ipmgroupuk.com

### IPM Group-Cleaning

Facilities Management  
0114 2180679  
www.ipmgroupuk.com

### IPM Group-Security

Security  
0114 2180679  
www.ipmgroupuk.com

### J36 Photography

Photography  
07717 572770  
www.j36photography.com

### JBM Recycling Ltd

Waste & Recycling  
01709 940094  
www.jbmrecycling.co.uk

### Jibba Jabba Internet Services Ltd

IT Services  
0114 3037130  
www.jibbavoip.com

### JJJ Group

Construction  
01709 278668  
www.JJJGroup.co.uk

### JJP Door Solutions Ltd

Business Services  
0800 1076330  
www.jjpdoorsolutions.co.uk

### Juice Personnel Limited

Recruitment  
01924 377500  
www.juicepersonnel.co.uk

### Ken Mallinson and Sons Limited

Transport/Logistics  
01226 389450  
www.kmstransport.com

### Kiveton Park & Wales Community Development Trust

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
01909 773348  
www.kpwcddt.co.uk

### Knights plc

Legal Services  
0114 2765555  
www.knightsplc.com

### Legacy Financial Ltd

Financial Services  
01226 643271  
www.legacyfinancial.co.uk

### Light The Way By Janet M

Health & Wellbeing  
0775 1120296

### LogicaModule.io

Software  
07513 176844  
www.logicmodule.io

### LPowered

Energy, Utilities, Water  
01909 281168  
www.lpoweredltd.com

### Marseb Filipino Cuisine

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
01709 296616  
www.marsebfilipinocuisine.com

### Midlands Power Networks Ltd

Engineering  
01782 313121  
midlandspowernetworks.co.uk

### Mim Training Ltd

Training  
07399 239014  
www.mimtrainingltd.co.uk

### Montgomery Hall Enterprises

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
01709 513160  
www.montgomery-hall.com

### MRMK Ltd

Manufacturing  
01909 776637  
mrmk.co.uk

### Mway Communications Ltd

Construction  
01709 720550  
www.mwaycomms.co.uk

### NCL Limited

Retail  
07729 022555  
www.cheesemongery.com

### Nexus 360 Limited

IT Services  
07701 345524  
www.nexus360.digital

### nineteen47 Ltd

Business Services  
0330 8181947  
www.nineteen47.co.uk

### North West Aerospace Alliance

Business Services  
01772 648800  
www.aerospace.co.uk

### Open House Pictures Ltd

Videography  
0114 2051516  
www.openhousepictures.co.uk

### Optimise Cyber Solutions

Cyber Security  
01226 694040

## New Members

### **Panenka Bar & Grill**

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
07535 401256  
www.panenkasheffield.com

### **Pass Logistics**

Transport/Logistics  
01302 249012  
www.passlogistics.co.uk

### **Peterman Fork Lift Trucks**

Construction  
0114 2488180  
www.petermanforklifts.com

### **PIB Insurance Brokers**

Insurance/Risk Management  
01777 869900  
www.pib-insurance.com

### **Pickup Accounting Ltd**

Accountancy  
07794 031020  
www.pickupaccounting.co.uk

### **Pink Spaghetti Personal/Virtual Assistant**

Business Services  
07580 203802  
www.pink-spaghetti.co.uk

### **Platinum Travel Barnsley Ltd**

Leisure, Tourism & Hospitality  
01226 105109  
platinumtravelbarnsley.co.uk

### **PMP Surfacing Limited**

Construction  
01226 447292  
www.pmpsurfacing.co.uk

### **Precision Timber Ltd**

Manufacturing  
01709 820191  
www.precision-timber.co.uk

### **PRL Logistics Limited**

Transport/Logistics  
0208 9636900  
prl-logistics.com

### **Rebel Research UK**

Ancestry and Research  
07842 193521  
www.rebelresearchuk.co.uk

### **RH Plastering Contractors Ltd**

Construction  
01226 345862  
www.rhplastering.co.uk

### **Rider Levett Bucknall**

Construction  
0114 2733300  
www.rlb.com

### **Roasting House**

Retail  
07305 810677  
www.roastinghouse.co.uk

### **Rolley Ltd**

Software  
01226 596967  
www.rolley.io

### **Rotherham Doncaster & South Humber NHS Foundation Trust**

Health & Wellbeing  
01302 796000  
www.rdash.nhs.uk

### **Safeway Fork Lift Training**

Training  
07497 201382  
safewayforklifttraining.co.uk

### **Scuderia Car Parts Ltd**

Retail  
07713 902450

### **Secure Power Renewable Energy**

Energy, Utilities, Water  
0114 3493480  
www.securepower.com

### **Sen Home Ed**

Education  
07572 819108  
senhomeed.co.uk

### **Severn Trent Connect**

Energy, Utilities, Water  
07384 450701  
www.st-connect.co.uk

### **Sidekick PR**

PR  
0114 2270006  
www.sidekickpr.com

### **Sills & Betteridge LLP**

Legal Services  
0800 5424245  
www.sillslegal.co.uk

### **Sky High Tree and Ground Maintenance Services Ltd**

Construction  
07544 446718  
www.skyhighservices.co.uk

### **Special Melted Products Ltd**

Manufacturing  
specialmeltedproducts.com

### **Spero Solutions**

Business Coaching  
07846 754747  
www.sperohero.co.uk

### **Sterling Capitol**

Property  
0113 3945560  
www.sterlingcapitol.co.uk

### **Strata**

Construction  
01302 308508  
www.strata.co.uk

# Thinking of upgrading your Membership?

A full list of our latest Chamber members A - Z

### Swallow Sky Tech

Videography  
0114 3984150  
www.swallowskytech.com

### Swing Buddy

Manufacturing  
07702 446601  
www.swingbuddy.co.uk

### Tapton Hall

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
0114 2660051  
www.taptonhall.com

### The Charity Hub

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
0773 8066987  
www.thecharityhub.org.uk

### The Fun Hub CIC

Education  
01709 828989  
www.funhubactivities.co.uk

### The George Wright Boutique Hotel and Restaurant

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
01709 382898  
www.georgewrighthotel.com

### The North East Business

Resilience Centre  
Cyber Security  
www.nebrcentre.co.uk

### TMS Consultancy

Business Coaching  
07944 405569

### TQ Environmental

Manufacturing  
01924 271013  
www.tqplc.com

### Universal Flooring Specialists Ltd

Retail  
01268 760270  
universalflooringspecialist.com

### Visionary Financial Services

Financial Services  
07908 064694  
www.visionaryfs.co.uk

### Walking The Goats at Lower Coates

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
07708 931231  
walkingthegoatsatlowercoates.com

### Watson & Son Scaffolding Ltd

Construction  
0735 9756923  
watsonsc scaffolding.com

### Watson Safety Ltd

Health & Safety  
07359 756923  
www.watsonsafety.com

### Wild Accounting

Accountancy  
07561 713350

### Wildes Inns Limited

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
01246 387386  
www.wildesinns.co.uk

### Yates Drywall Ltd

Construction  
07538 153610  
www.yatesdrywall.co.uk

### Your Choice Fire and Security Limited

Security  
01977 277242  
yourchoicefireandsecurity.co.uk

Thank you for being a valued member of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber. We appreciate your commitment to growing your business through our network and are excited to support you. To further enhance your business profile and connections, we invite you to explore our Membership options.



Barnsley & Rotherham  
Chamber of Commerce  
Together We Achieve More.