

Switching track: Get into Rail Scheme

In 2022, Northern was officially recognised by Ofsted as a 'Main Provider' of apprenticeships, a status that enables them to offer their industry-leading training services to other train operators and rail industry organisations. Northern Trains has collaborated with Network rail, Carlisle Support Services and Shipley college to deliver a "Get Into Rail" scheme which is aimed at individuals 18 or over in receipt of Universal Credit.



The scheme aims to break the cycle of unemployment, by offering participants an opportunity to shadow operational colleagues at Northern and the chance to gain qualifications in employability and customer service. At the end of the course, they are guaranteed an interview for roles advertised at Northern – with the train operator hoping the experience gained will help break the cycle of unemployment.

"We're incredibly proud of our 'Get Into Rail' scheme and the opportunity it offers to people considering a career in rail. It provides valuable experience in the workplace and the chance to develop job-specific and transferrable skills in an environment that recognises ability, not just academic achievement. We hope through the 'Get Into Rail' scheme they will see for themselves how fulfilling a career in the rail industry can be whilst boosting their CV and employment credentials with some hands-on experience." - Lisa Leighton, people director at Northern

The Get Into Rail Scheme is not the only programme Northern have participated in, in an effort to help break barriers getting into employment as well as getting into a career in Rail. Ahead of the restoration and the re-opening of the Northumberland Travel Line, which will not only open up 6 new stations in the area, but also provide numerous job opportunities. Northern Trains hosted a



series of employment sessions in the area that proved extremely popular. The training modules were designed to give people in the local communities transferable skills that are going to help build confidence and apply for opportunities either with Northern or other employers in the region. As a result the majority of new employees were recruited locally and these sessions helped those who attended get to interviews for the positions.

Kerry Peters, regional director at Northern, said:

"We are determined to build stronger links with the communities we serve, and we can do that by helping local people develop skills that give them an edge when looking for and applying for jobs."