

Introductory podcast script for Planning a Better Future

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Welcome to the Planning a Better Future course. By studying this course you will be taking your first steps into developing a better future for yourself. There may be many reasons why you have chosen to study this course. It might be to help you think about where you are going in your career and what you would like to achieve, or simply for personal interest and to develop your confidence as a learner.

If you complete the short assessment at the end of each section you will be able to collect badges. These virtual badges provide a form of recognition for your learning and you can display them on your social media profiles, for example, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Planning a Better Future is made up of three sections:

- In Section 1 you will consider how you got here, reflecting on your roles in life, your confidence in those roles, the positive and negative experiences you've had and realising your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- Section 2 will look at where you want to go and the changes you want to make. This section will enable you to gather information and consider what options are available to you;
- And lastly, Section 3 covers how you get to your planned destination. This involves creating your own Action Plan, looking at possibilities of work experience, voluntary work, networking and creating contacts. It also considers how to complete job applications and prepares you for interviews. Finally you will look at using Social Media to aid networking;
- At the end of the three sections you will find information on '**Next Steps**' which will signpost you to relevant websites and resources relating to further development of your learning, in relation to planning a better future.

We do encourage you to study every section of this course as each section is relevant to the next one and often refers to activities previously carried out. The course is flexible and there's no time limit for completion. You can take it in small chunks, working whenever you like. We recommend you try to engage with all of the sections in order to receive a Statement of Participation at the end which recognises the learning outcomes you have met. You can then show this to your employer as evidence of your learning if you wish.

There are guided activities throughout the course which will help you to reflect upon your own practice, and a range of interactive quizzes at the end of each section which give you the opportunity to earn your badge for that section.

You might find it useful to talk about your work in this course with a friend, partner, work colleague – it might help you stay motivated and also give you new ideas.

I do hope you enjoy the course and I wish you luck for your future career development.