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### **Skills and Training for the Future:**

Young people should leave our education system ready for work, ready for life and ready to grasp the opportunities of better paid jobs of the future. Yet employers report that too many young people do not have basic skills and there are immense gaps in technical skills in some sectors. I am concerned the Government is leaving young people unprepared for their future.

I support calls for a review of the current curriculum to ensure it builds the knowledge, skills and attributes young people need, including digital, oracy and life skills. I also support calls for over 1,000 new careers advisers to give every young person in schools and colleges the expert support they need to make informed choices and learn about apprenticeships, T-Levels and vocational opportunities, as well as higher education options. I want Ministers to go further and introduce two weeks' worth of work experience for every young person in secondary school and college.

We need a system that gives every young person access to high quality vocational and technical training pathways and the opportunity to learn, retain or refresh their skills at every stage of their lives. My worry is that the Government has no plan to boost Britain's skills, while the skills system has become fractured and inaccessible to people who need it.

I support calls to establish a new body – Skills England – to bring together central and local government, businesses, training providers and unions, to oversee the national effort to meet the skills needs of the coming decade. Working collaboratively, Skills England would give coherence and direction to our skills landscape, ensure skills policy is aligned with the wider needs of the economy and identify levers to encourage businesses to invest in skills.

I want to see the apprenticeship levy reformed into a growth and skills levy, to give companies the flexibility to use up to 50% of their total levy contributions on non-apprenticeship training, including courses on digital and green skills, while leaving 50% reserved for apprenticeships.

We must ensure that young people are equipped with skills for jobs of the future, with learning throughout their lives.

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