



## YOUR NGN NEWS UPDATE

September 2022

### **NGN expands apprenticeship scheme as part of major social mobility drive**



We've recently provided an employment boost for the region's young job seekers after expanding and enhancing our popular apprenticeship scheme.

We regularly take on gas and maintenance operatives with a passion for problem solving and technical innovation for multi-year on the job apprentice placements.

But now for the first time in five years, we've widened the scheme to include seven new business support administrator apprentices on two-year placements as part of our commitment to increasing social mobility.

HR Director Lindsey Filer says: "Our operational apprenticeships have always been a really popular way for people to get their foot on the ladder of a career in the gas industry and train with an innovative gas network, putting steps in place for a greener energy future."

“But this year we’ve decided to include even more opportunities in the administrative side of the business. We have offered such apprenticeships in the past, but we’ve focused on operational roles in recent years. We’re now looking to widen our talent pool by recruiting a diverse range of young people to join NGN in both hands-on and office-based roles.”

The expansion of the scheme is part of a company-wide commitment we’ve made to improve social mobility and life chances by opening up career opportunities to young people without formal qualifications.

As well as an interest in low carbon energy technology, we’re looking for those with a ‘can do’ attitude who will enjoy working with customers and who probably haven’t considered an energy sector career before.

## Energy price rise prompts gas safety warning



Although this year’s Gas Safety Week 2022 – due to be held 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September – was postponed as a mark of the respect to Her Majesty the Queen, we’re continuing to bang the safety drum loudly.

We strongly believe that reminding customers about the importance of gas safety is critical – especially in times of major economic uncertainty, when soaring prices may tempt some households to try and cut corners or even attempt dangerous DIY on their domestic gas appliances in a bid to save money.

Our Customer Experience Director Eileen Brown explains: “We’re in unprecedented times when it comes to rising energy costs and we know that a lot of our customers will be understandably anxious about the financial implications for themselves and their families.

“In these challenging circumstances, it can sometimes be tempting for people to try and take matters into their own hands – but our clear message to them is that gas can be extremely dangerous and must be treated with respect at all times.

“Our constant refrain is that if people smell gas, they should call the 24-hour National Gas Emergency Service on 0800 111 999 immediately.

As a company, we’ll continue to throw our full weight behind Gas Safety Week when it’s re-scheduled for the later in the year. The annual awareness-raising event will be focusing on the steps consumers can take to ensure they stay safe, including only using professionally qualified engineers and being aware of the warning signs of unsafe appliances.

## In other news:

### Ground breaking £20,000 community support fund launches in Redcar



We are launching a new community support fund in Redcar as part of the programme of work we are undertaking developing plans for parts of Redcar to use locally produced, low carbon hydrogen from 2025.

Community groups across Redcar are being invited to bid for slice of a £20,000 funding pot set up to support social and environmental projects in the area.

Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available for projects that can demonstrate they are making a positive change in

their local community – with no requirement for matched funding.

The fund is open to projects that benefit the communities of Warrenby, Coatham or Kirkleatham and also:

- - Offer advice services for people struggling with finances, homelessness or unemployment
- - Address a pressing local social issue
- - Improve the local environment or community spaces
- - Offer support to those with physical impairments or mental health conditions
- - Provide education and training
- 

**Read more about the community support fund**

## Get Involved!

### Reviewing our recent events

Thank you to all that attended our CIVS winter readiness workshop, and our annual stakeholder conference this month! Your feedback is greatly appreciated and it helps us to shape our strategic direction for the future, and plan for the winter ahead.

The CIVS workshop was well represented by a broad range of stakeholders who came together to discuss our annual reports, the current cost of living crisis and also the preparations that we are making for winter.

At our stakeholder conference, we had some great feedback across all of our breakout rooms, and stakeholders were in mutual agreement that we have a broad range of incredibly important priorities, with 80% stakeholders satisfied we were focusing on the right ones.

We are currently preparing detailed reports from both of our events, and we will share these on our [Together Now](#) website when they are ready.

### Get in touch...

If you have any feedback about this e-bulletin or any questions about our work, we'd love to hear from you.

Just email [stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk](mailto:stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk)

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Northern Gas Networks, 1100 Century Way Thorpe Business Park, Colton  
Leeds, LS15 8TU

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